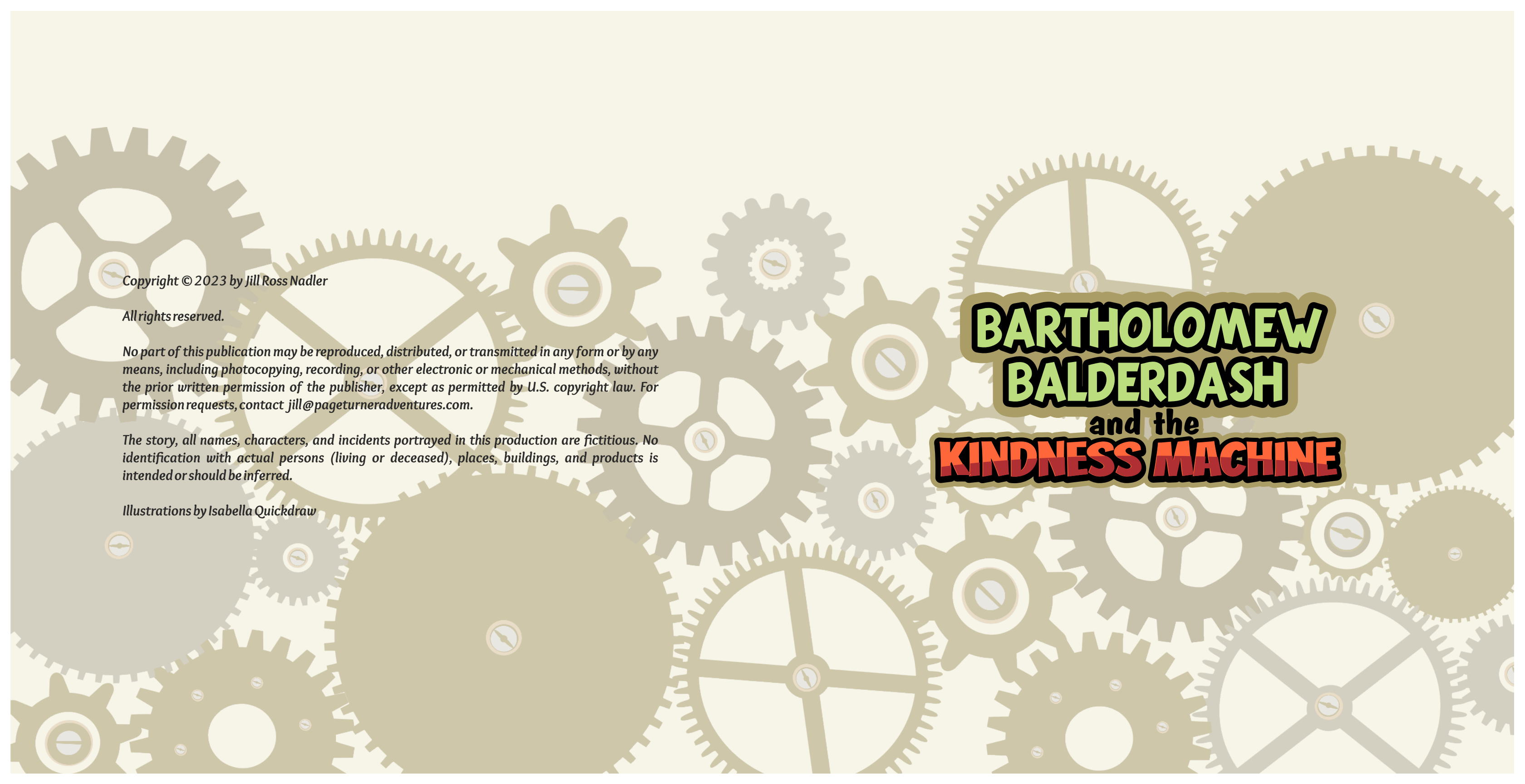


**BARTHOLOMEW  
BALDERDASH**

and the  
**KINDNESS MACHINE**

Written by  
Jill Ross Nadler

Illustrated by  
Isabella Quickdraw



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Illustrations by Isabella Quickdraw

# **BARTHOLOMEW BALDERDASH** and the **KINDNESS MACHINE**



Once Upon a Time...

A young inventor named Bartholomew Balderdash dreamed of inventing something special.

“I want to create something big and important!” he told his pet chinchilla, Chi Chi.  
“Squeak!” Chi Chi agreed.



Meanwhile...

In another part of the kingdom lived a Queen with a Magic Mirror. No, not that Queen. This Queen was generous and good. Her name was Queen Beneficent.



Every morning Queen Beneficent looked in her Mirror and said, "Mirror Mirror on the wall, show me the KINDEST ones of all." And the Mirror would show her all the kind people in the kingdom.

But one day the Mirror said, "Queen, I hate to say it, but no one is acting very kind."

"Oh, dear. What can we do?" asked the Queen.



"Well," said the Mirror. "I'm just spitballing, but why don't we have a Kindness Contest?"



*“Yes!” said the Queen. “The person with the best idea for spreading kindness shall be awarded the Royal Medal of Compassion, Helpfulness, Insight, Caring, Kindness, Empathy, and Niceness.”*



*The Mirror gasped. “The Royal Chicken?”*  
*“Yes!” said the Queen. “It even comes with this snazzy hat.”*

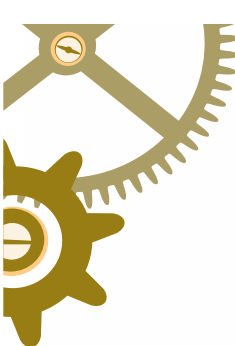


“Chi Chi, look at this poster. This is it!” said Bartholomew. “I’m going to invent a Big and Important Kindness Machine.”  
“Squeak!” said Chi Chi.

*Bartholomew built his machine with gizmos, gadgets and dohookies. He even used a thing-a-ma-bob or two.*

Kindness  
Contest  
The Royal Chicken





*“Squeak,” said Chi Chi.  
“You’re right. A Kindness Machine must use kind words.  
Where do we go to find words?”*



*“Squeak!” said Chi Chi.  
Bartholomew agreed. “Yes! The library!”*





At the library Bartholomew and Chi Chi found Miss Collywobbles the librarian balancing on a huge stack of books.

“Hello Miss Collywobbles. Can you help me collect words for my Big and Important Kindness Machine?”



“Of course,” said Miss Collywobbles. “But first I must shelve all of these books.”

“I’ll help,” said Bartholomew.

“That’s very kind,” she said.





When they were finished Miss Collywobbles climbed on top of the machine with a stack of books that included lots of kind and thoughtful words.





“Squeak!” said Chi Chi.

“You’re right,” said Bartholomew. “Kind words are important but so are kind actions. Who can perform some kind actions?”

“Squeak!” said Chi Chi.

“You’re right again. We need a kind actor. Let’s go to the theater.”



At the theater, they found the great actor Sir Reginald Flapdoodle sobbing on stage. "What's wrong Sir Flapdoodle?" Bartholomew asked. "Isn't it obvious?" Sir Flapdoodle gestured to the empty seats. "I need applause."



"We can help!" Bartholomew and Chi Chi and Miss Collywobbles clapped and whistled and cheered for Sir Flapdoodle. "Oh thank you, thank you! That's very kind," said Sir Flapdoodle, taking bow after bow.



Bartholomew told Sir Flapdoodle about his Big and Important Kindness Machine.

"I am honored to participate in this noble endeavor," he said with another bow.

Sir Flapdoodle climbed onto the machine and sat next to Miss Collywobbles.

★ To Be Kind  
or Not to Be Kind.  
That is the question.  
★



"Squeak," said Chi Chi.

"That's true," said Bartholomew. "Kind people have sweet thoughts. But where can we find someone with sweet thoughts?"

"Squeak!" said Chi Chi.

"Yes," said Bartholomew. "We'll go to the bakery!"





At the bakery, they found Chef Cannoli running this way and that.  
“One croissant!” shouted a customer.  
“Don’t forget my scones!” said another.  
“I need a dozen bagels!” said a third.



*"We can help," said Bartholomew.  
"That's very kind," responded Chef Cannoli.*

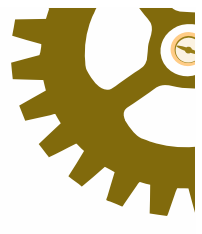




*When they'd finished serving all the customers, Chef Cannoli climbed on top of the machine with dozens of pink frosted cupcakes.*



*Bartholomew looked at his machine and grinned. He'd done it! He'd created something Big and Important that would spread kind words and actions and thoughts throughout the kingdom.*



*"I'm going to win the prize!" he said, as he joined a crowd of people on their way to the Queen's castle for the Kindness Contest.*







On the way to the castle Bartholomew came upon a group of sobbing children.



“What’s wrong?” Bartholomew asked.

“My birthday party has been ruined,” said a little girl. “The crowd trampled my cake and crushed the presents and squashed the magician’s hat so he can’t do magic.”

Bartholomew looked at the sad children. Then he looked up at his machine. “Chi Chi, are you thinking what I’m thinking?”

“Squeak!”



“Chef Cannoli,” said Bartholomew, “Can you please give all the children cupcakes.”

“Absolutely,” said Chef Cannoli.

“Sir Flapdoodle, do you think you can entertain everyone?”

“I would be delighted,” said Sir Flapdoodle.





“Do we have any gifts?” Bartholomew asked Miss Collywobbles.

“We have books,” replied the librarian, “the best gifts of all!”

“Aren't those library books?”

“Oh, yes. They'll eventually have to be returned but stories stay with us forever!”

“Squeak!”

“You're right, Chi Chi,” said Bartholomew, “the contest starts any minute. We'd better go! Oh dear, the children are playing on my machine!”



*The children were having so much fun that Bartholomew didn't have the heart to ask them to stop playing.*

*So he left his Big and Important Kindness Machine behind and trudged to the castle.*



*“Welcome one and all to my Kindness Contest” said Queen Beneficent. “Please show me your wonderful ideas.”*

*Bartholomew sighed. He wished he could show the Queen his invention. “All that work for nothing, Chi Chi,” he groaned.*

*“Squeak!” said Chi Chi.*



*The Mirror called for the first contestant. A man stepped forward with a long rope. “We’ll wrap everyone up together until they are nice to each other,” said the man. “I call it the Kinder Winder.” “Yeah, no,” said the Mirror. “Next!”*



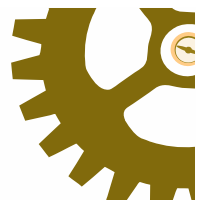
*A witch dragged a bubbling cauldron in front of the Queen. “It’s a Kindness Koncoction. Everyone who drinks it instantly turns kind...they also turn green and lose all their hair, but watchya gonna do?” “Next!” shouted the Mirror.*





*“Let me guess,” said the Mirror. “It’s a kindness contraption.”*

*“Nope. A Smile Stretcher,” said the boy. Person after person shared their ideas for spreading kindness.*



*Finally, Queen Beneficent said, “Mirror Mirror in the field, let the winner be revealed.”*

*“Queen,” said the Mirror, “The winner is...”*








*Bartholmew Balderdash!”*

*Bartholomew gasped. “But I don’t have my Big and Important Kindness Machine.”*



*“Doesn’t matter,” said the Mirror. “I’ve been watching you. Your small acts of kindness did more than any Kindness Machine or concoction or contraption could ever do.”*





*“Bartholomew Balderdash,” said the Queen. “You have won the Royal Medal of **Compassion, Helpfulness, Insight, Caring, Kindness, Empathy, and Niceness.**” She placed the Royal Medal around his neck and crowned him with the Royal Chicken Hat.*

*“Oh thank you, thank you!” Bartholomew replied.*

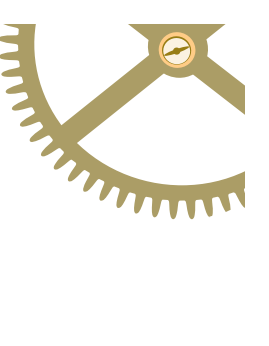


*“Boo Hoo Hoo,” cried the boy with the Smile Stretcher.*

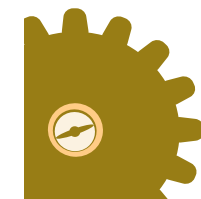




*“What’s wrong?” Bartholomew asked.  
“I wanted to win the Royal Medal,” he sniffled.*



*Bartholomew smiled. He didn't need a machine to do something big and important and he didn't need a prize to do something kind. He gave his Royal Medal to the boy.  
“Th...thank you,” said the boy.*



*The people cheered. And everyone in the kingdom lived...  
Kindly Ever After!*







*But Bartholomew did keep the snazzy hat.*



**THE END**



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