Joy is Contagious!

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Happy Penguins

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It's the scene at the Pole: a penguin standing. Here comes another, wearing a scarf. Then another, with a cap. They stand together that way as the winter wind blows. Then comes another, passing all the others by. One that follows its beak and clearly has a goal in mind. That runs and does a cannonball splash into the blue water, just for fun! Have you ever heard of such a thing? Luckily, joy is contagious, and pretty soon all the penguins are romping around in the water, splashing and snorting. We'd love to join them.

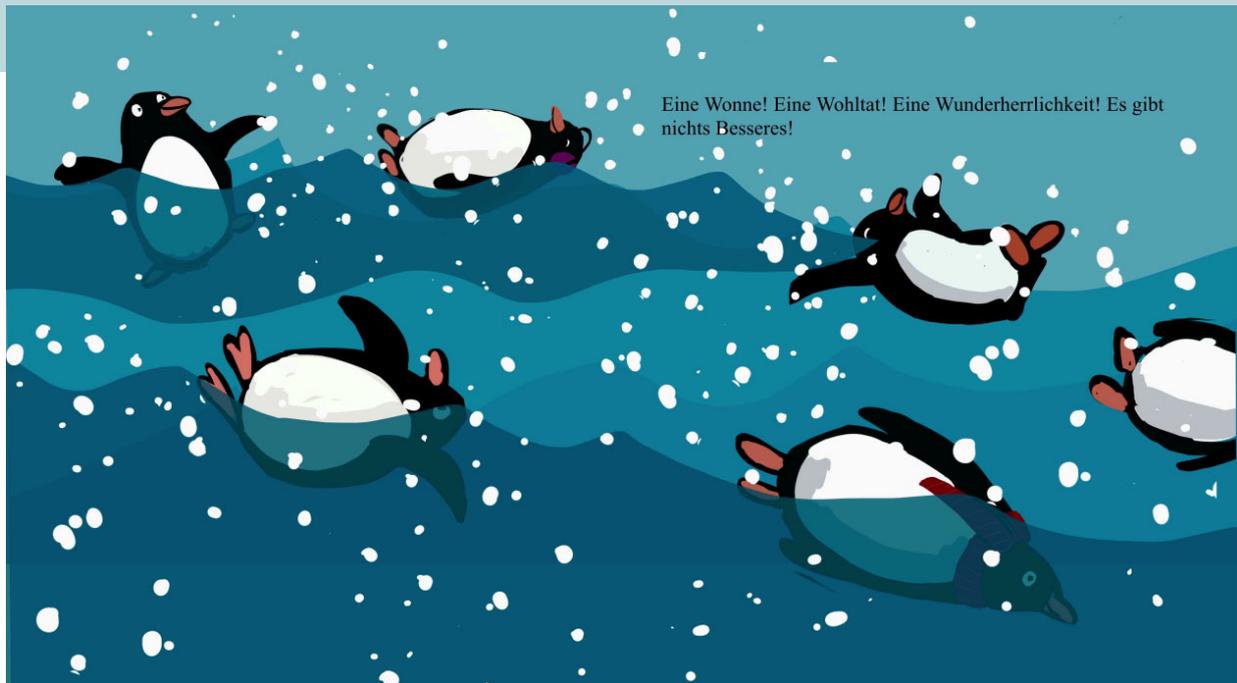It's hard to imagine a funnier, more focused depiction of a transformation from gloom into pure joy and happiness. Warning: it's contagious!

Henrike Wilson

born 1961 in Cologne, studied graphic design and painting in her hometown as well as in the USA. Today she lives and works as a freelance illustrator in Berlin. Her picture books have been translated into many languages.

Christiane Schwabbaur

worked for over twenty years as editor at a well-known children's publisher. Then she decided to become a writer and to make her contribution to publishing as an agent. She lives with her family in Munich.

Eine Wonne! Eine Wohltat! Eine Wunderherrlichkeit! Es gibt nichts Besseres!

Translation:
- Stands one in the snow - ice cold feet
- Here comes another - very thick scarf.
- And a third. Blue bobble hat.
- Number four slips. Even the earmuffs don't help.
- Bang!
- Here they are. In the winter wind.
- Suddenly, another one passes by. Always straight ahead. Following the beak.... Has a destination.
- Jumps into the fresh clear blue. Cannon ball!
- Yes, is there such a thing?
- And then he still shouts for joy. Outrageous!
- Now all after!
- A delight. A treat! A miraculous glory! There is nothing better!

- Such a beautiful day! Joy is everywhere! You just have to discover it.