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Opening extract from

Molly Maybe and the Ghost Train

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For Poppylulu Herbertson, with love K.S.

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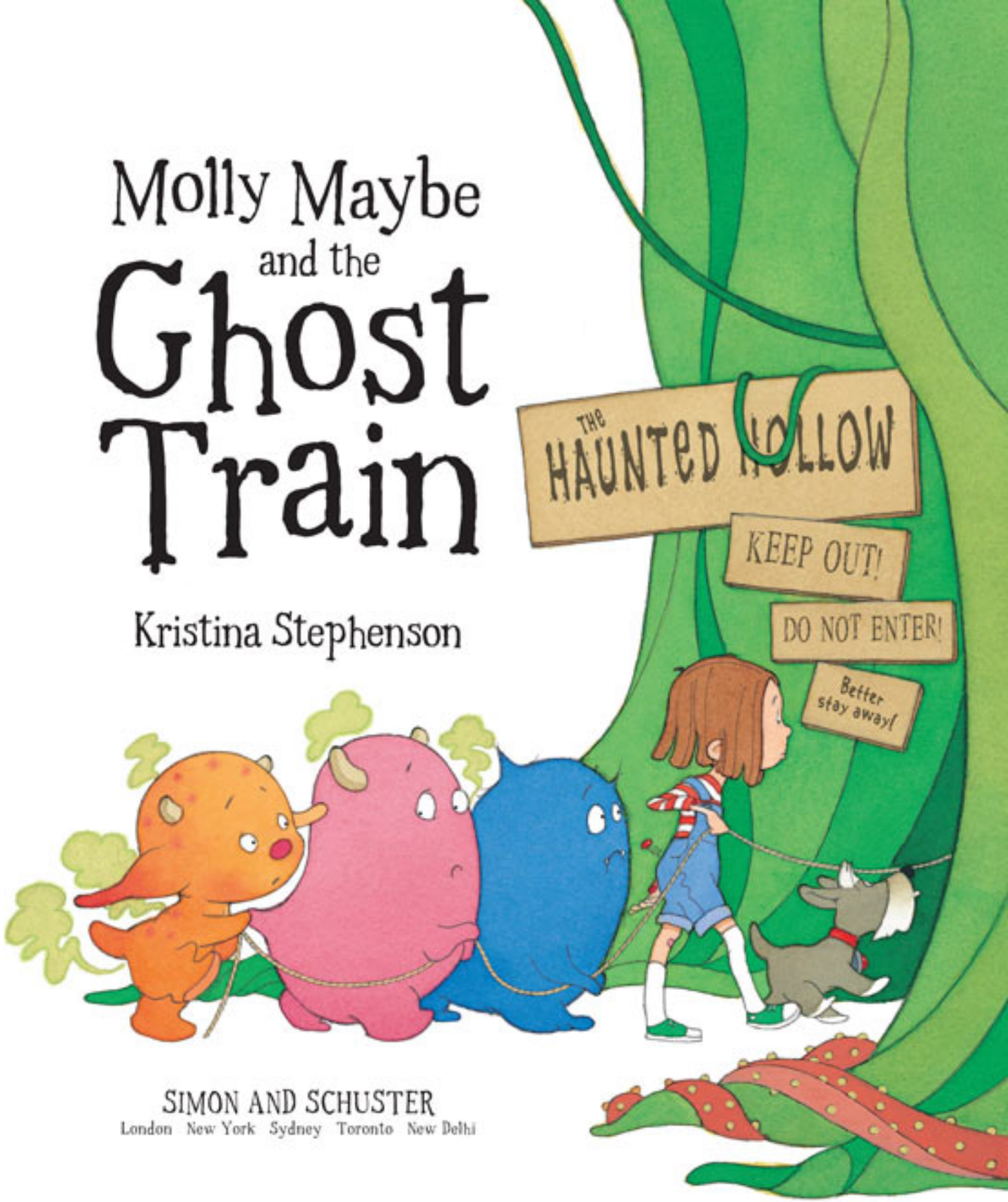
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Molly Maybe and the Ghost Train

Kristina Stephenson



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It was early morning in Smallsbury.

Molly Maybe was up in her tree house with her dog, Waggy Burns.

They were taking it in turns with a paintbrush when they smelt A TERRIBLE SMELL.

'Pooh! Was that you?' asked Molly.
'Woof, woof, woof!' said Waggy, pointing to Mr Buster-Pipe, the drain cleaner, who was driving into town.
'Oh!' said Molly. 'The drains must be blocked.'

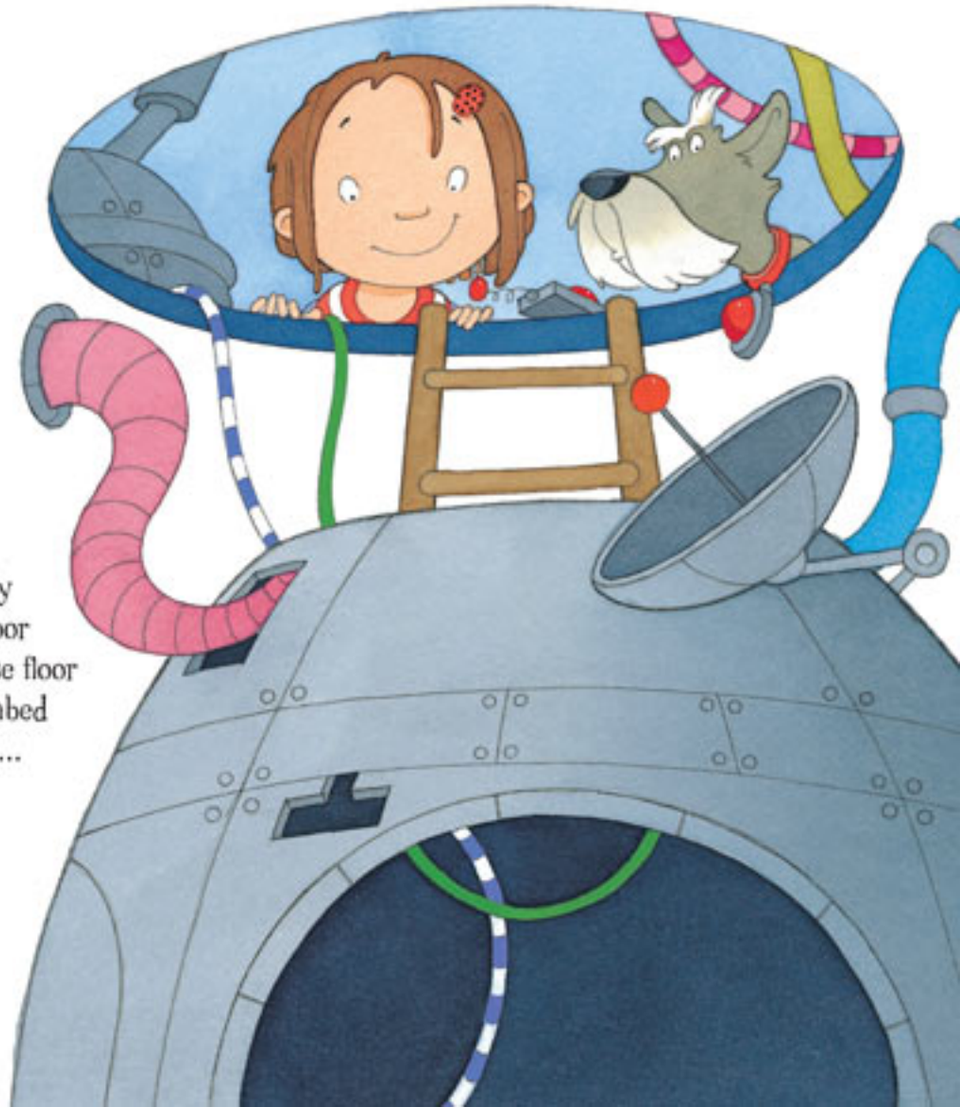
By the end of the day Mr Buster-Pipe
was finished but the smell was worse than before.

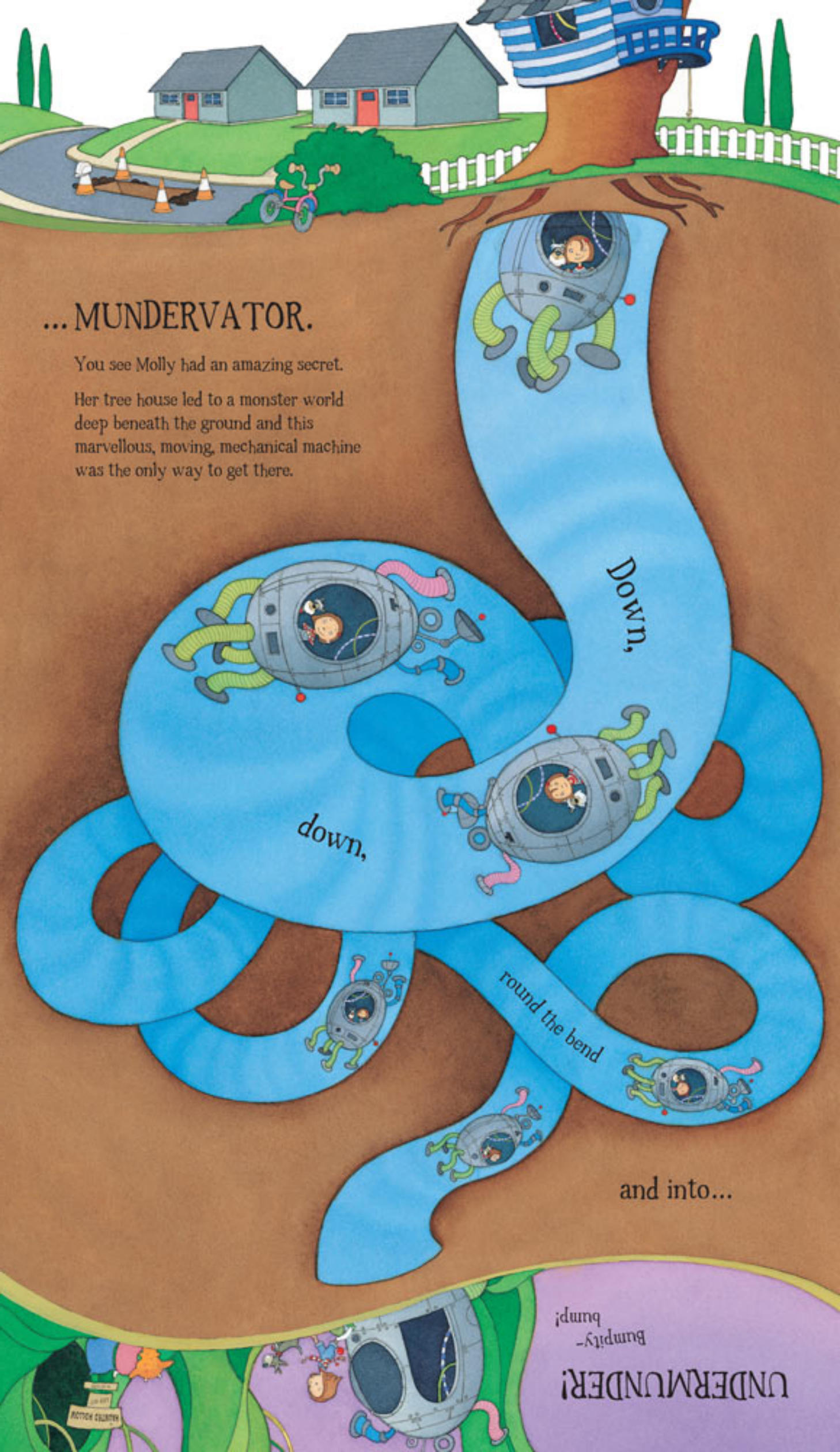
'Maybe it's not the drains,' said Molly thoughtfully.
She took down a large book and read for a few moments.
'Listen to this,' she said to Waggy Burns.
'When monsters are frightened they give off a pong.'



'If the monsters are scared,' said Molly, 'we need to find out why.
It's time to go underground Waggy Burns.'
Waggy wiggled his wiry whiskers and waggled off to fetch
his special Walkie-Talkie Collar.

Then Molly
opened a door
in the tree house floor
and they climbed
aboard the...




... MUNDERVATOR.
You see Molly had an amazing secret.
Her tree house led to a monster world deep beneath the ground and this marvellous, moving, mechanical machine was the only way to get there.
Down,
down,
round the bend
and into...
UNDERMUNDER!
Bumpity-
bump!



The Mundervator had arrived at the edge of The Haunted Hollow where three terrified little monsters were pumping out a pong.

'Woof, woof, woof,' said Waggy Burns, trying to tell Molly something.

Molly switched on his Walkie-Talkie Collar so her clever companion could speak.

'I've come to the canine conclusion,' said Waggy, 'we've found the source of the smell.'