For my cats Akira and Simone – A.F-K

For SUPER YOU, the completely marvellous reader – P.B

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP
Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide. Oxford is a registered trade mark of Oxford University Press in the UK and in certain other countries

Text copyright © Alex Falase-Koya 2023
Illustrations copyright © Paula Bowles 2023

The moral rights of the author and illustrator have been asserted

Database right Oxford University Press (maker)

First published in 2023

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press, or as expressly permitted by law, or under terms agreed with the appropriate reprographics rights organization. Enquiries concerning reproduction outside the scope of the above should be sent to the Rights Department, Oxford University Press, at the address above

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

ISBN: 978-0-19-278050-8

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in China

Paper used in the production of this book is a natural, recyclable product made from wood grown in sustainable forests. The manufacturing process conforms to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

MARV AND THE KILLER PLANTS

WRITTEN BY
ALEX FALASE-KOYA

PICTURES BY
PAULA BOWLES

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CHAPTER 1

Marvin ducked and weaved along the overgrown track, dodging the giant palm leaves.

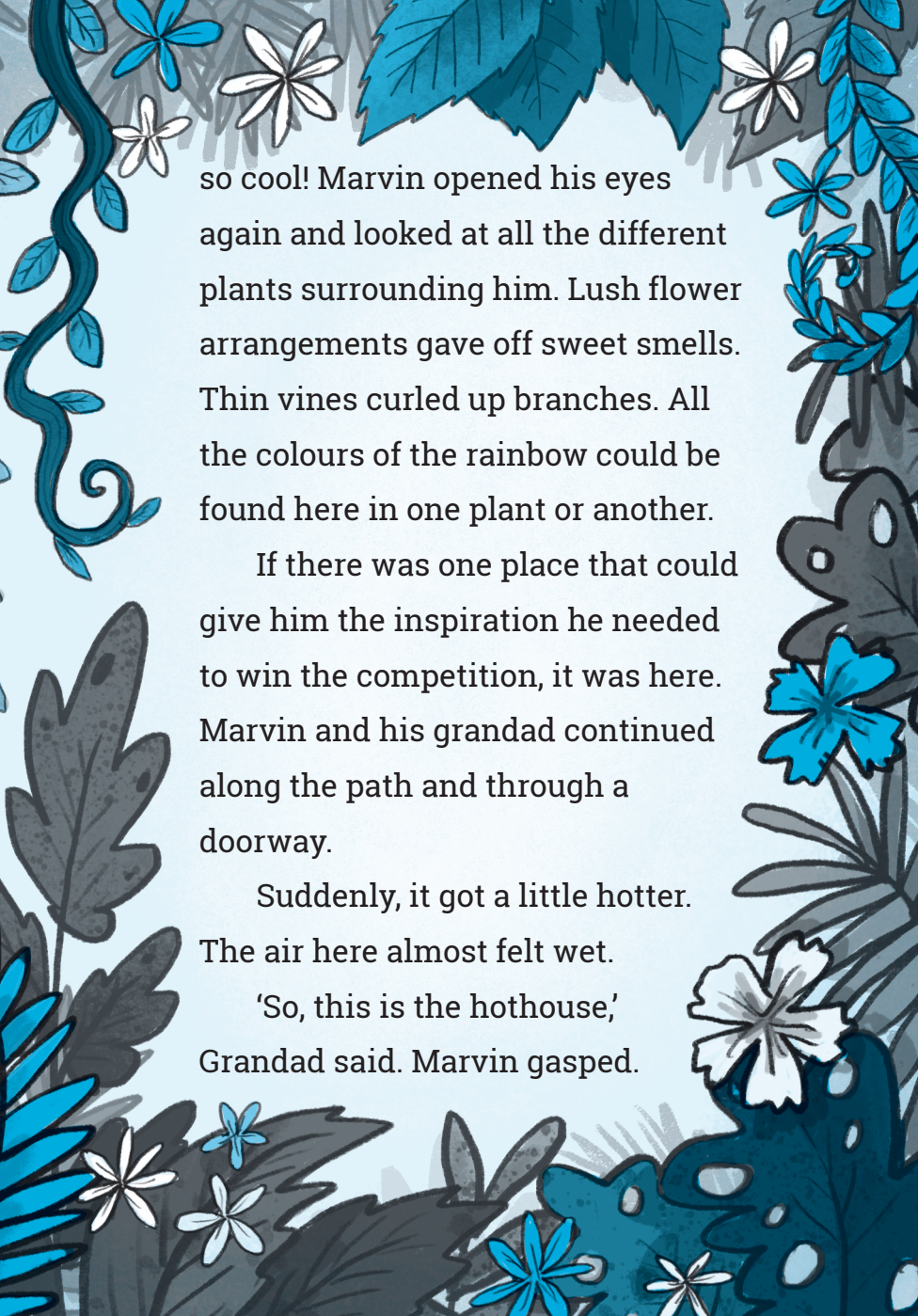
'Come on, Grandad!' Marvin called, as he hurried deeper into the botanical gardens.

‘Give me a second,’ Grandad said, moving a huge leaf out of his way so that he could see Marvin. ‘Are you sure you know where we’re going?’

The botanical gardens were heaving with stunning plants and flowers. The giant green palm leaves towered over Marvin and Grandad and made it hard to see exactly where they were heading.

‘Yep, it’s right up ahead, I think.’ Marvin replied as he went from plant to plant writing in his notebook and drawing pictures as he went.

Marvin's school were having a competition to design a brand-new garden for the school grounds, and Marvin was determined to win. He'd persuaded Grandad to take him to the botanical gardens to get some ideas for his school garden design. It was a big deal because the forest school were going to use the garden, as well as the local community. All kinds of special events would be taking place there. Marvin closed his eyes for a moment, practically vibrating with excitement. He could imagine it now; his garden design winning and becoming reality. It would be



so cool! Marvin opened his eyes again and looked at all the different plants surrounding him. Lush flower arrangements gave off sweet smells. Thin vines curled up branches. All the colours of the rainbow could be found here in one plant or another.

If there was one place that could give him the inspiration he needed to win the competition, it was here. Marvin and his grandad continued along the path and through a doorway.

Suddenly, it got a little hotter. The air here almost felt wet.

'So, this is the hothouse,' Grandad said. Marvin gasped.

Marvin had read about the different areas within the botanical gardens, and he was looking forward to visiting the hothouse most of all. It was full of tropical plants that ordinarily only grew in hot places around the world.

Big Venus flytraps with large yawning mouths stood frighteningly still, as though waiting to pounce on their next meal. Huge ferns with long flapping leaves swayed gently from side to side. Thick green vines had woven themselves across the floor reaching every corner of the hothouse.