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opening extract from

Ruby Nettleship and the Ice Lolly Adventure

written by

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Almost immediately Ruby felt
a rumbling in the ground beneath her.

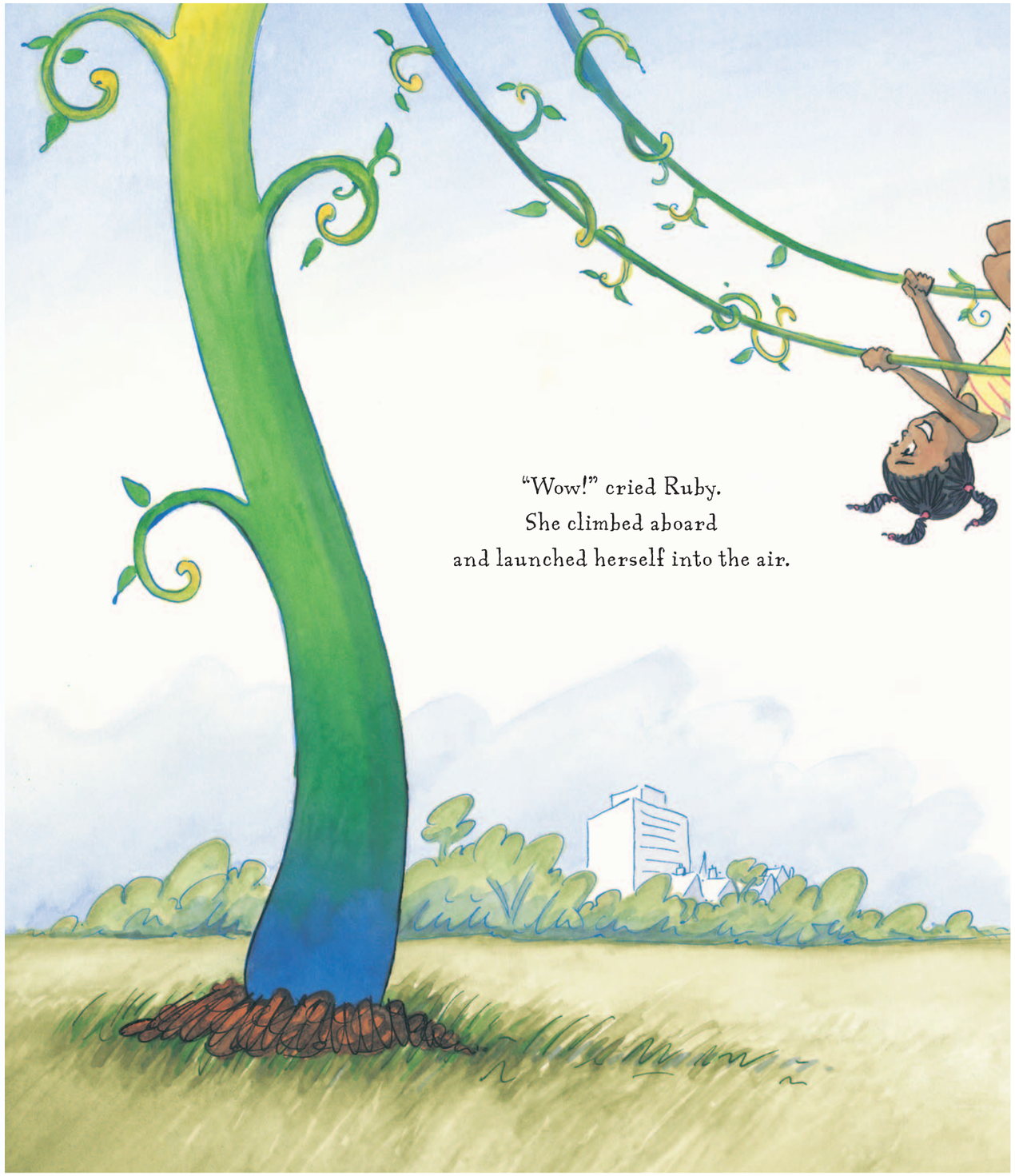
She watched in amazement
as a multicoloured shoot pushed
its way up through the soil.



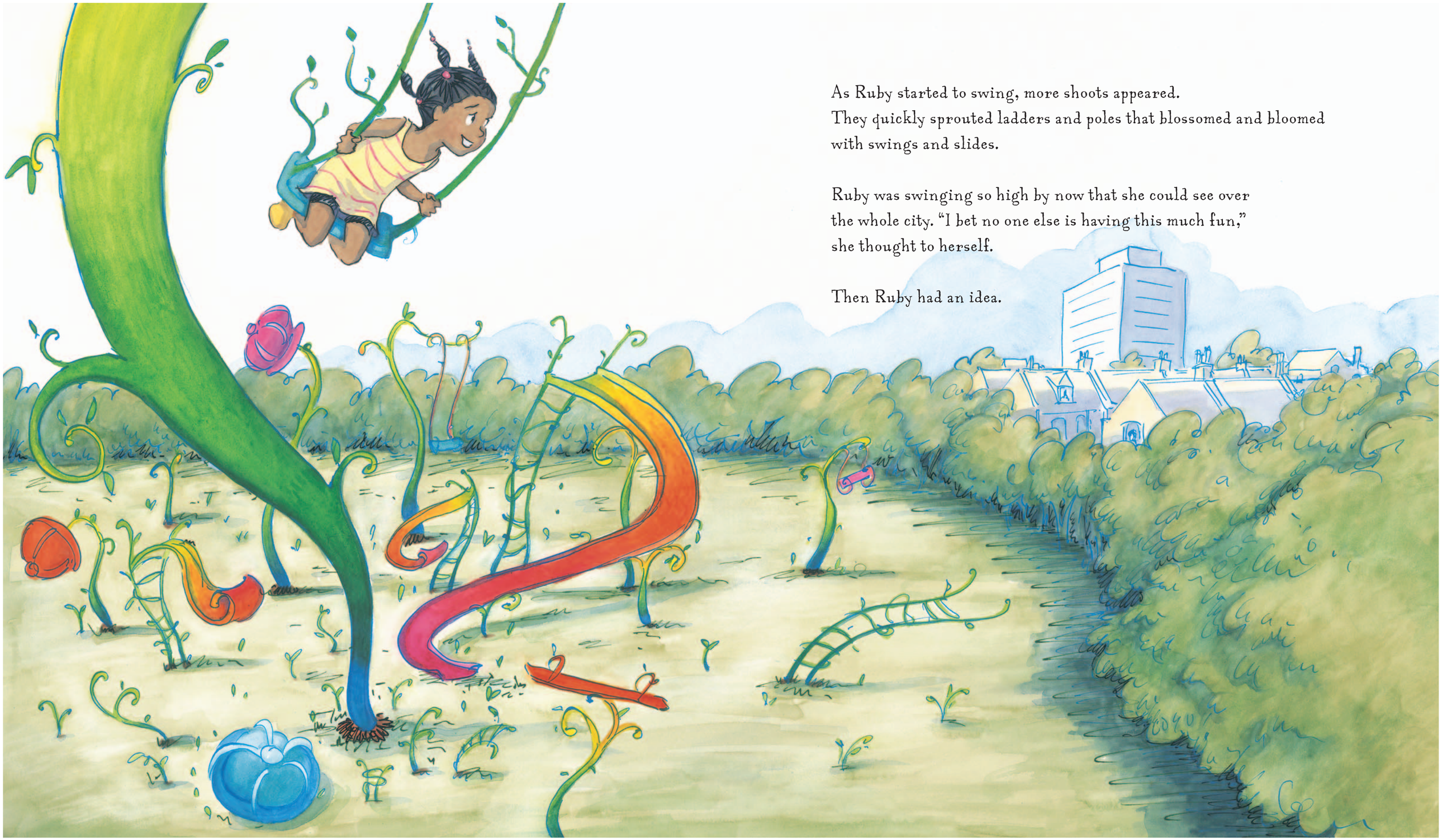


It shot up into the air,
nearly hitting her on the nose.

Once it had grown to twice Ruby's
height, it sprouted new branches
that twisted and turned into
a beautiful swing.



"Wow!" cried Ruby.
She climbed aboard
and launched herself into the air.



As Ruby started to swing, more shoots appeared.
They quickly sprouted ladders and poles that blossomed and bloomed
with swings and slides.

Ruby was swinging so high by now that she could see over
the whole city. "I bet no one else is having this much fun,"
she thought to herself.

Then Ruby had an idea.

As if it had read her thoughts, the playground flowered over the whole park and began to spill out into the street.

The first thing Ruby did was to pick up her friends and all the other children who lived nearby.

"This way!" shouted Ruby, and with that, they headed off towards town.

