

Classic Tales



Level 3

Rapunzel



OXFORD



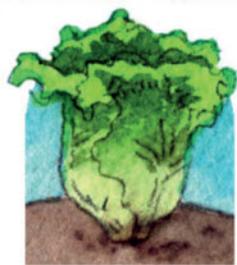
Rapunzel

Retold by Rachel Bladon
Illustrated by Alejandro O'Kif



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A woman sat at her window and looked at the beautiful garden outside. There were lettuces in the garden, and they were fresh and green.

‘I want to eat those lettuces,’ said the woman.

But the lettuces were in a witch’s garden, and the garden had a big wall. The witch was a bad woman, and everyone was afraid of her.

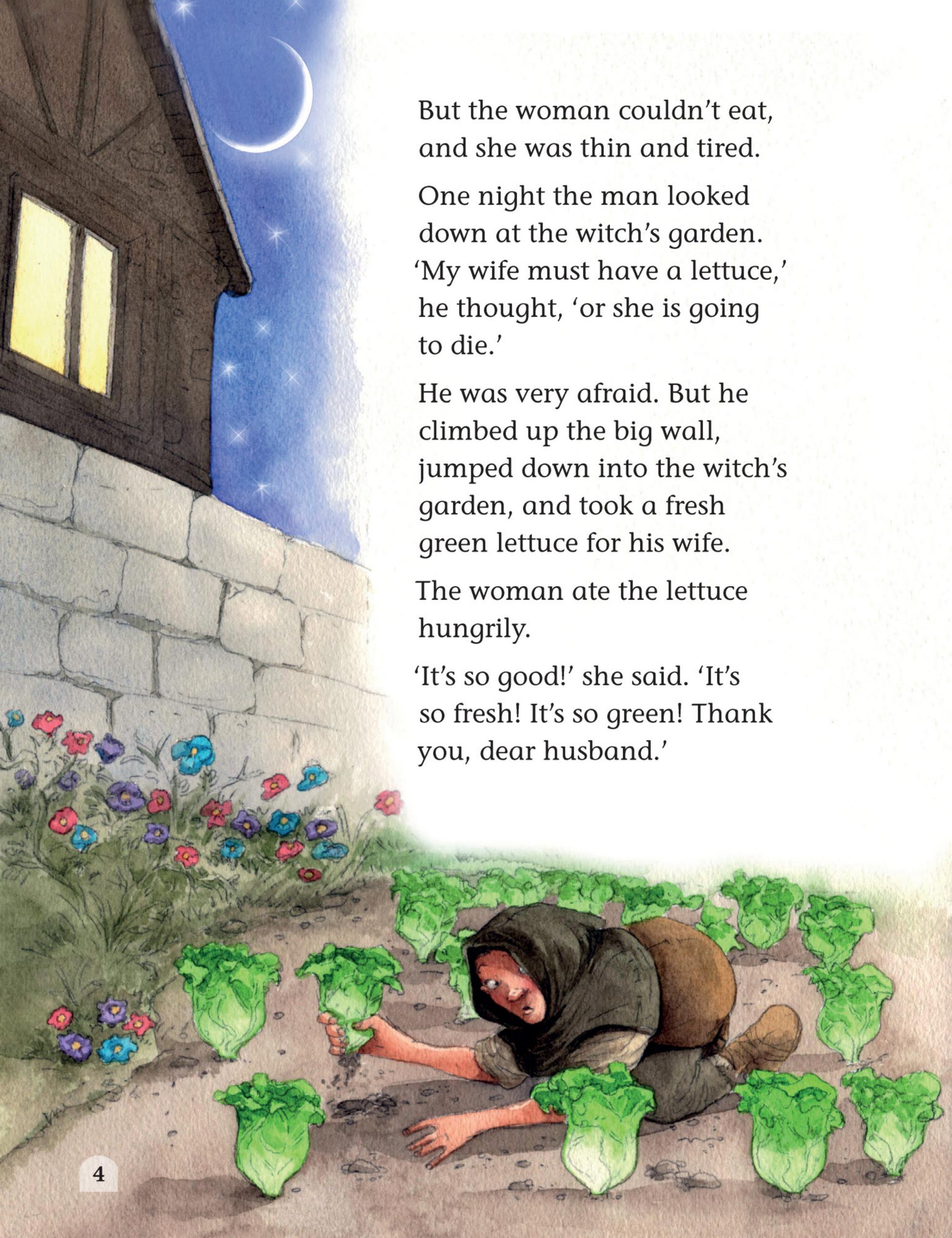
Every day the woman wanted the lettuces more and more. Soon she couldn't eat anything. She only wanted the lettuces.

'I want a lettuce from the witch's garden,' she said to her husband.

'I'm sorry,' the woman's husband said sadly.

'You can't have those lettuces.'



An illustration of a woman in a dark hooded cloak and brown tunic, kneeling in a garden at night. She is holding a head of green lettuce. The garden is filled with several other heads of lettuce. To the left, there are colorful flowers in shades of red, blue, and purple. In the background, a stone wall and a wooden building with a lit window are visible under a dark blue night sky with a crescent moon and stars.

But the woman couldn't eat,
and she was thin and tired.

One night the man looked
down at the witch's garden.
'My wife must have a lettuce,'
he thought, 'or she is going
to die.'

He was very afraid. But he
climbed up the big wall,
jumped down into the witch's
garden, and took a fresh
green lettuce for his wife.

The woman ate the lettuce
hungrily.

'It's so good!' she said. 'It's
so fresh! It's so green! Thank
you, dear husband.'

The next night the man took two more lettuces from the witch's garden. The next night he took two more.

Then one night the man jumped into the witch's garden ... and saw the witch! He felt very afraid.

'Why are you taking my lettuces?' said the witch angrily.

'My wife isn't well,' the man said. 'She can only eat lettuces – your lettuces.'

The witch said, 'You can take lettuces from my garden. But you must give me your first baby. Promise me this.'

And because the man was very afraid, he promised.



Soon the man and his wife had a beautiful baby girl. They loved her, and they were very happy.

But one day the witch came to the door.

‘I have come to take your baby daughter,’ she said to the man.

‘No! No!’ he cried. ‘Take anything, but not my little girl!’

‘Remember your promise,’ said the witch.

‘You took lettuces from my garden, and now you must give me your daughter.’

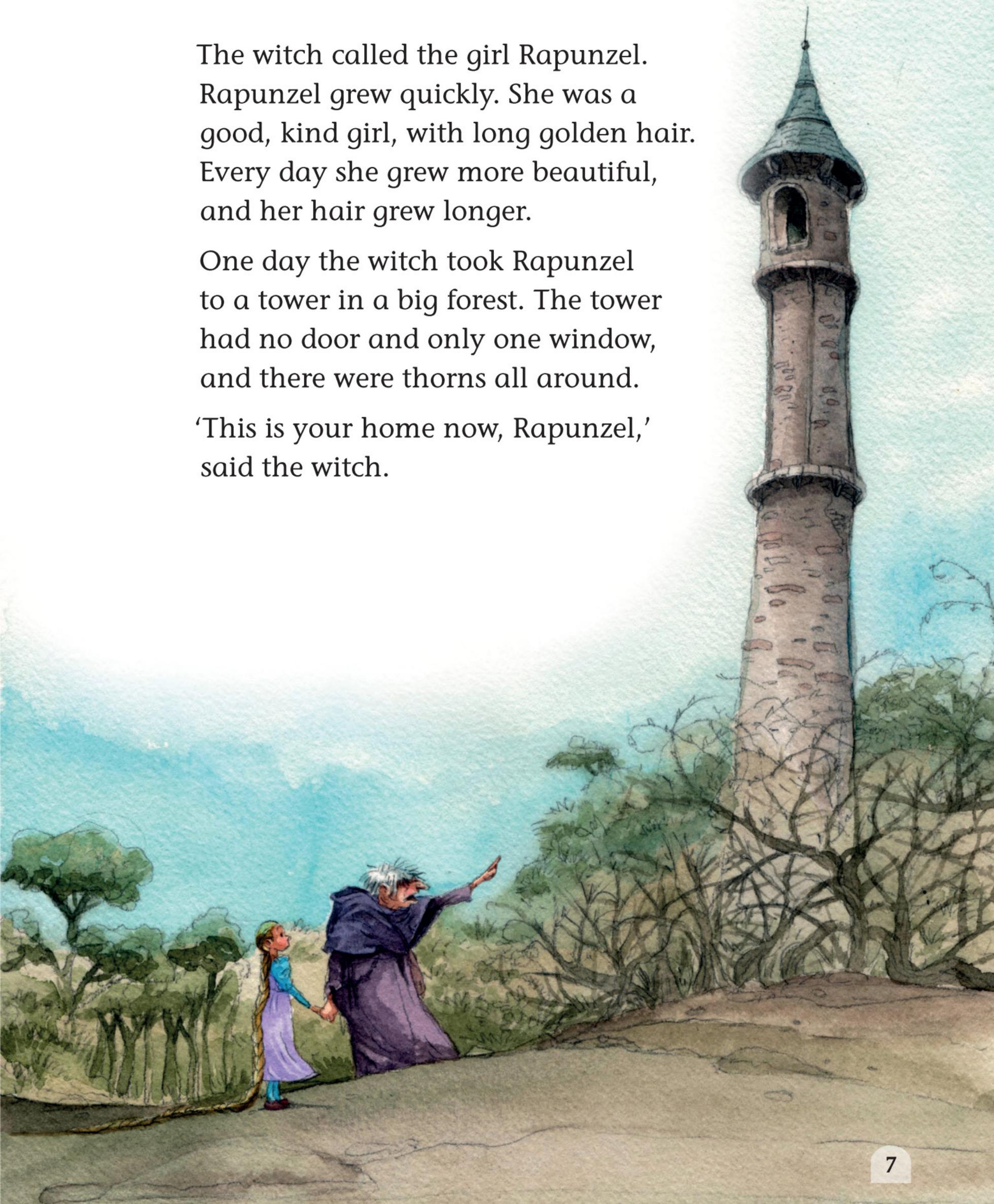
The man felt very afraid, so he gave her the beautiful little girl.

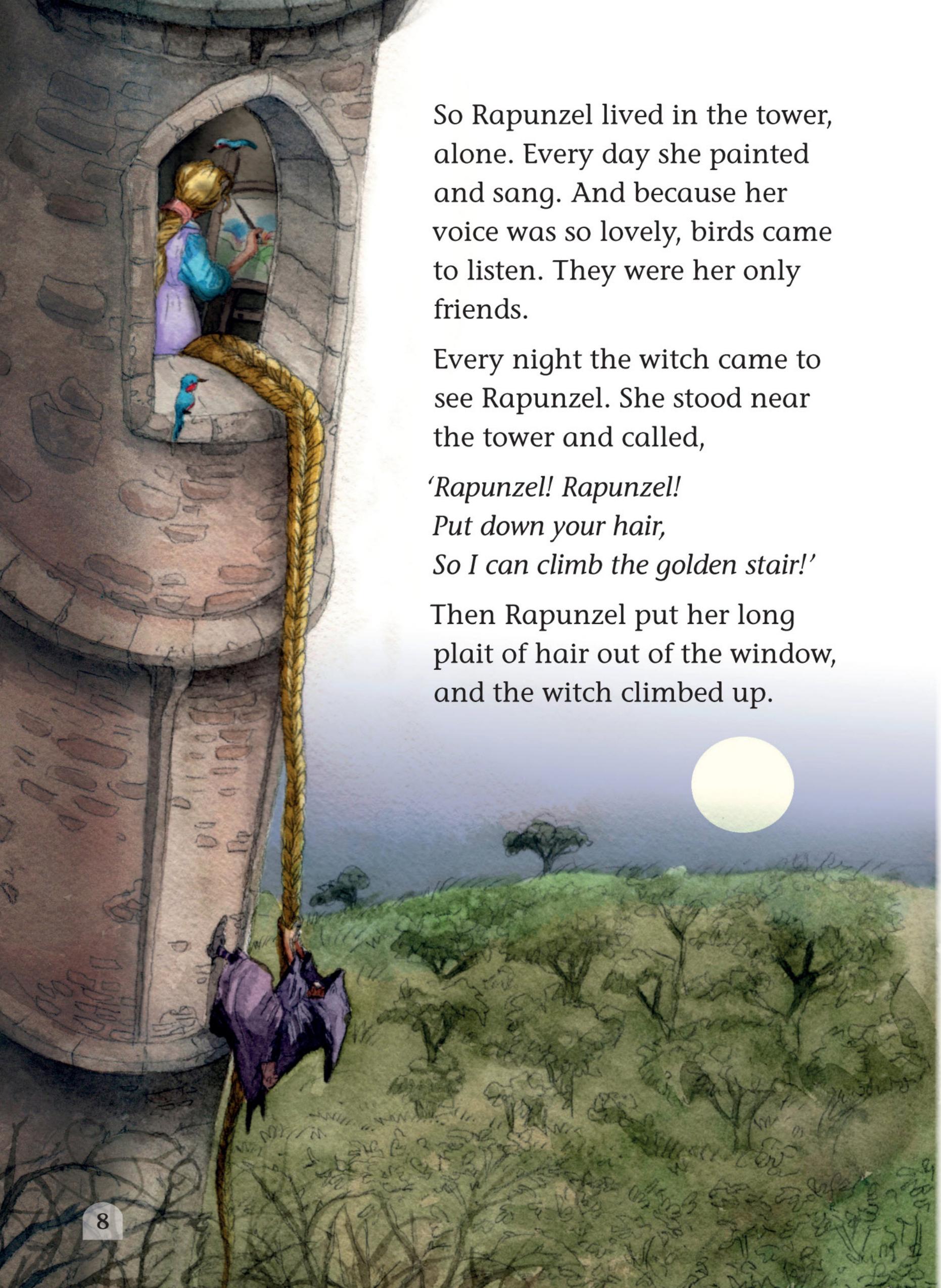


The witch called the girl Rapunzel.
Rapunzel grew quickly. She was a
good, kind girl, with long golden hair.
Every day she grew more beautiful,
and her hair grew longer.

One day the witch took Rapunzel
to a tower in a big forest. The tower
had no door and only one window,
and there were thorns all around.

‘This is your home now, Rapunzel,’
said the witch.





So Rapunzel lived in the tower, alone. Every day she painted and sang. And because her voice was so lovely, birds came to listen. They were her only friends.

Every night the witch came to see Rapunzel. She stood near the tower and called,

*'Rapunzel! Rapunzel!
Put down your hair,
So I can climb the golden stair!'*

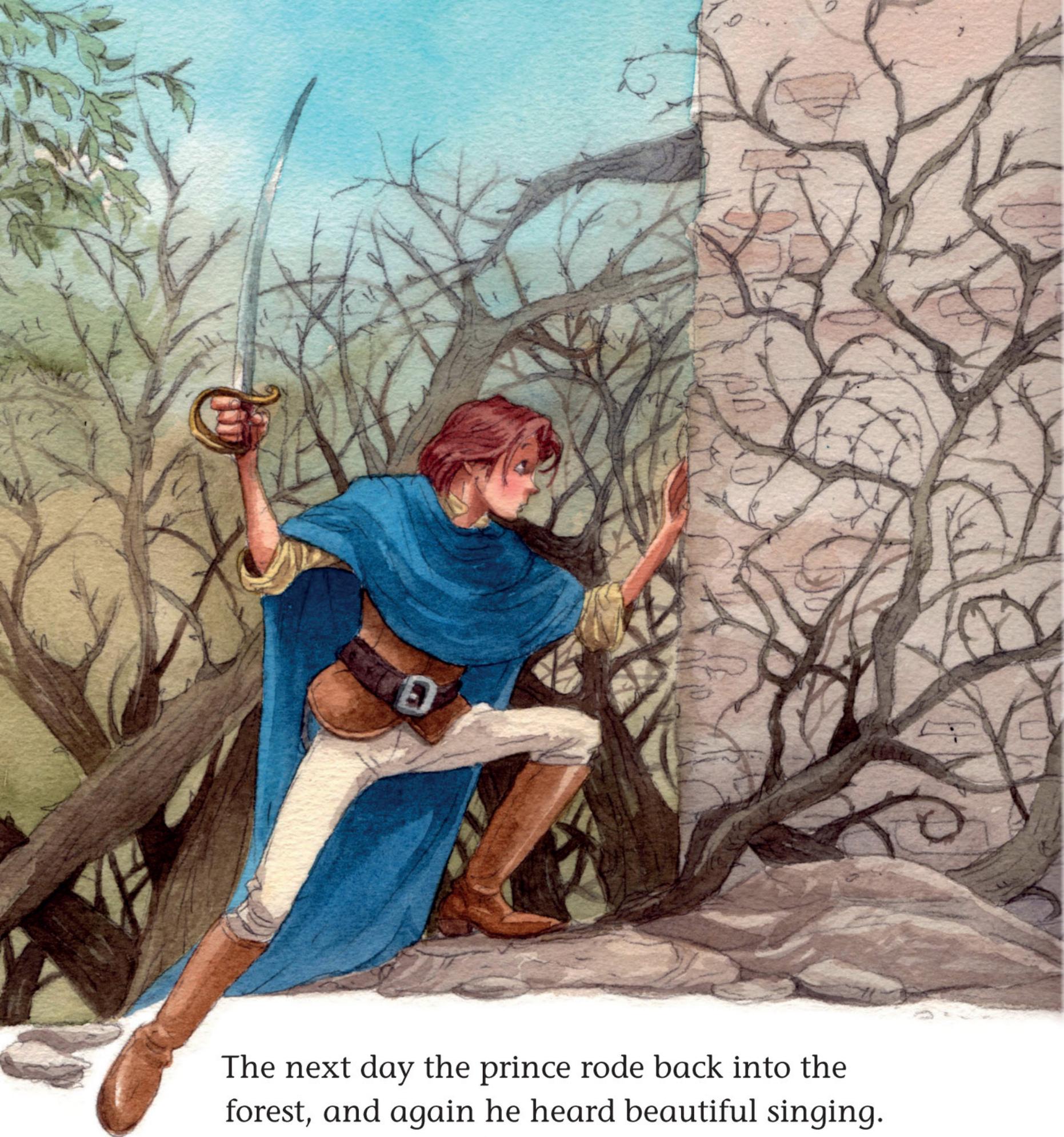
Then Rapunzel put her long plait of hair out of the window, and the witch climbed up.



One day a prince rode near the forest. He heard beautiful singing and saw the tower.

‘What a strange tower!’ he thought. ‘It has a window, but no door. Who is in that tower? She sings like a beautiful bird!’

The prince rode home, but he could only think about the beautiful voice in the tower.



The next day the prince rode back into the forest, and again he heard beautiful singing. He walked around the tower and looked for a door. But there was nothing.

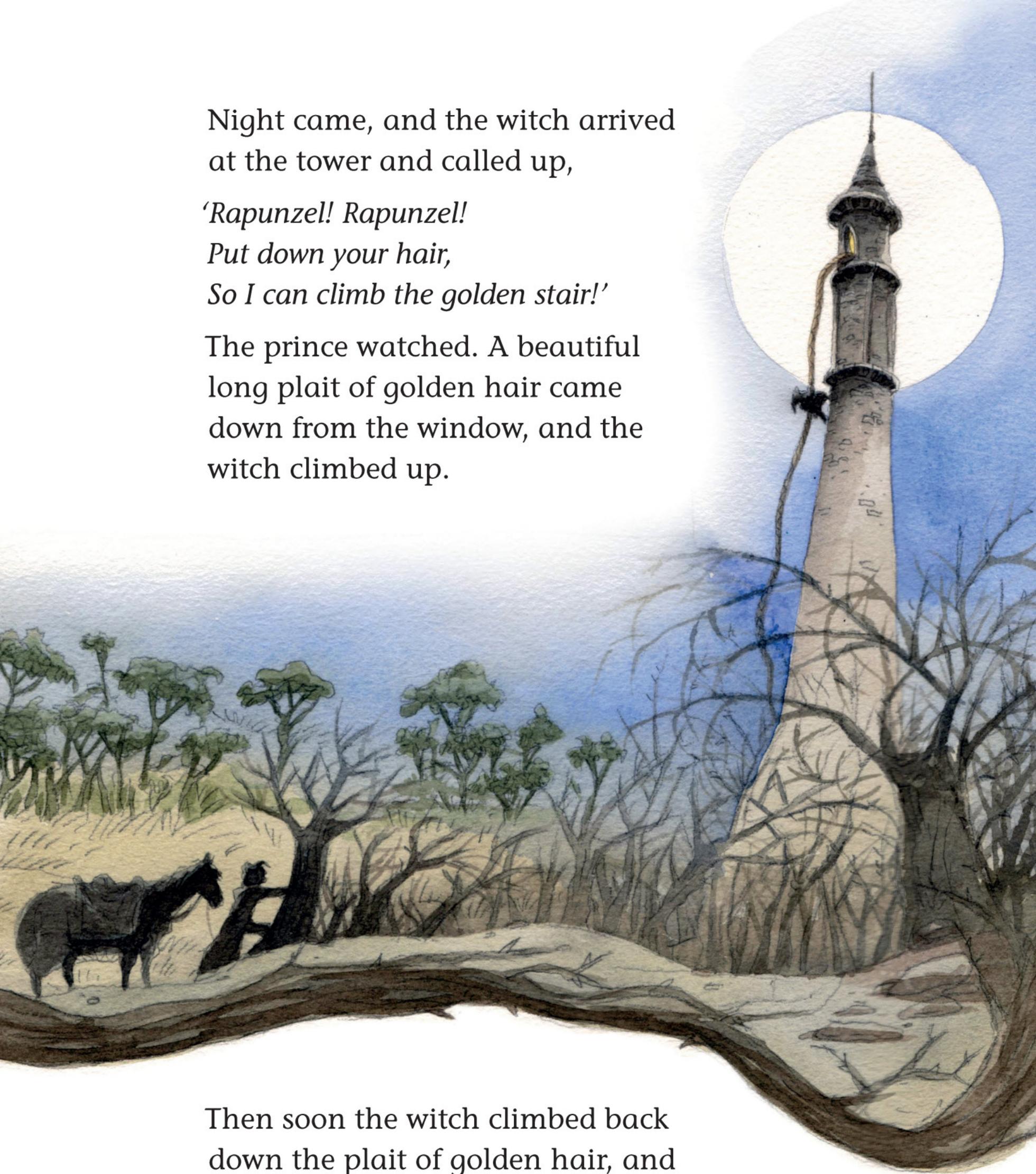
The prince sat and listened to Rapunzel's beautiful singing, and he could not leave.

Night came, and the witch arrived
at the tower and called up,

*'Rapunzel! Rapunzel!
Put down your hair,
So I can climb the golden stair!'*

The prince watched. A beautiful
long plait of golden hair came
down from the window, and the
witch climbed up.

Then soon the witch climbed back
down the plait of golden hair, and
walked away into the forest.



The next day the prince came back to the tower.
He called up,

*'Rapunzel! Rapunzel!
Put down your hair,
So I can climb the golden stair!'*

Soon the long plait of golden hair came down
from the window.

The prince climbed up and came into a little
room at the top of the tower. And there he
saw a beautiful girl with golden hair.

'Who are you?' cried Rapunzel, afraid.

The prince smiled and spoke kindly.

'I heard your beautiful voice,' he said.

'And I had to see you.'





The prince came to see Rapunzel every day. She sang for him and they talked and talked. Then the prince left before evening. Because the witch always came at night, she never saw him.

But one day the prince was late. The witch saw the prince climb down Rapunzel's long golden plait. And she saw him smile and say goodbye to her.

The witch called up to Rapunzel, and climbed up to the little room.

‘Who was that man, Rapunzel?’ cried the witch angrily. ‘You’re going to be sorry! I’m taking you away, so he can never find you again!’

And she took a knife from her coat, and cut off Rapunzel’s golden plait.



The next day the prince came to see Rapunzel.

'Rapunzel! Rapunzel!

Put down your hair,

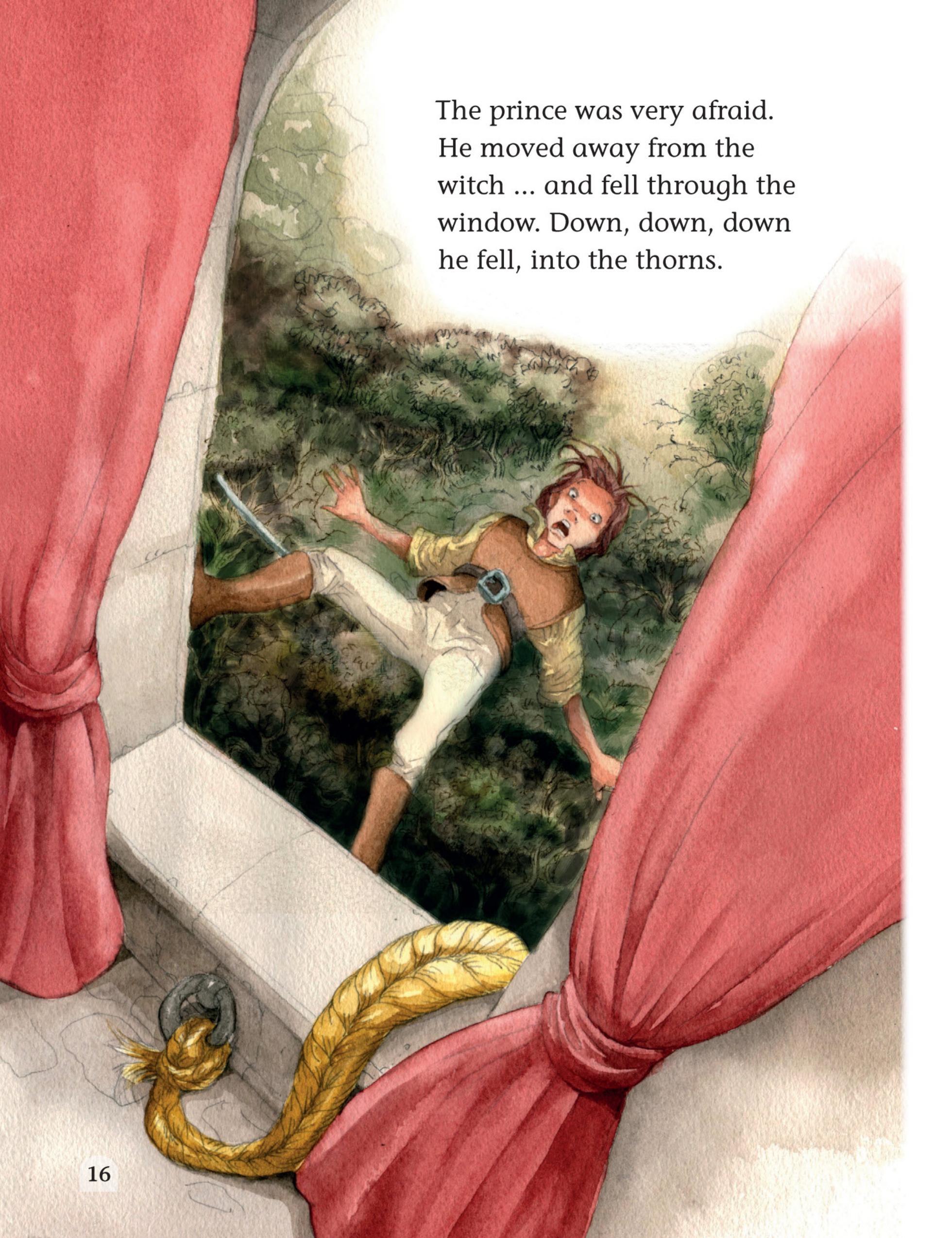
So I can climb the golden stair!'

The plait came down and the prince climbed up. But it was not his beautiful Rapunzel in the room. It was the angry witch!

'Rapunzel is not here!' she laughed. *'I took her to the desert! And you can never find her there!'*



The prince was very afraid.
He moved away from the
witch ... and fell through the
window. Down, down, down
he fell, into the thorns.



At first the prince did not move. Then he got up slowly. He could move ... but there were thorns in his eyes, and he was blind. He could not see.



Day after day, the prince walked blindly in the forest. He was tired and hungry, but he wanted only to find Rapunzel. He felt the sun on his eyes, and he walked always towards it, looking for the desert.

At last the prince came to the desert. He was hot and blind and poor, but every day he looked for Rapunzel.

Then one day the prince heard something. Singing! Beautiful singing!

He ran, falling, towards it and suddenly Rapunzel saw him.

‘Is it you?’ she cried. ‘Is it really you?’

Rapunzel saw the prince, so thin and tired, and she cried. But her hot tears fell on his eyes and melted the thorns, and then the prince could see again.

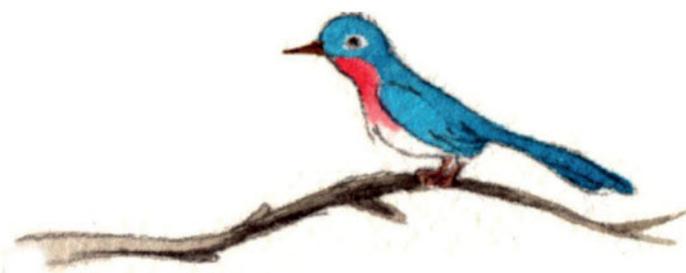




And so Rapunzel and the prince went home to the prince's castle, and there they were married.

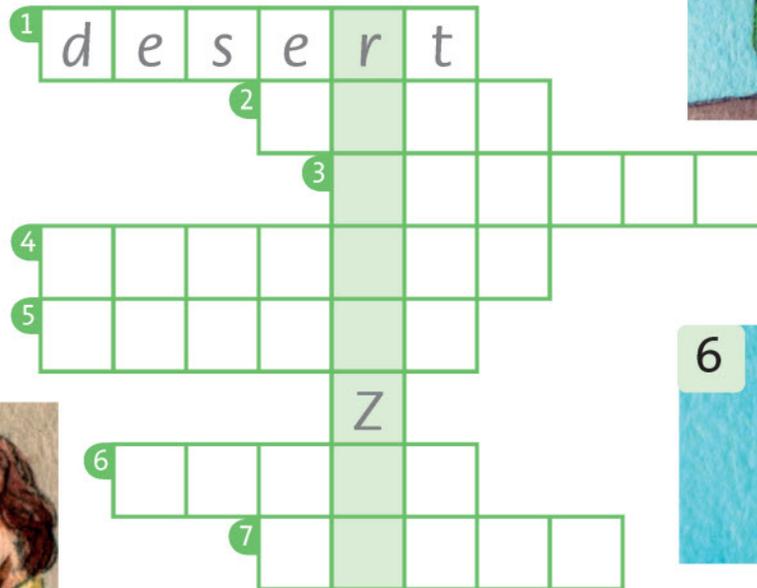
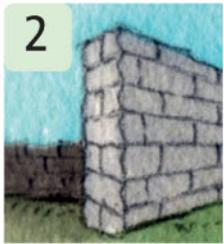
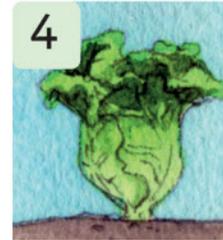
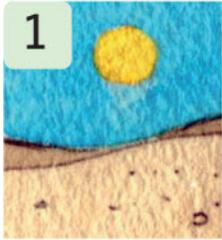
They never saw the witch again, but Rapunzel's mother and father came to live at the castle.

Soon Rapunzel and the prince had two children. Every day there was happy singing, and every day Rapunzel's friends the birds came to listen!



Exercises

1 Write the words and find the name of somebody in the story.



2 Match the rhyming words, then complete the sentences.

find
hair
give
cut

live
but
blind
stair

- 1
 - The witch cut off Rapunzel's golden plait.
 - The prince rode home, _____ he could only think about the beautiful voice in the tower.
- 2
 - 'Rapunzel! Rapunzel! Put down your _____,
 - So I can climb the golden _____!'
- 3
 - 'You can never _____ her in the desert!'
 - There were thorns in the prince's eyes, and he was _____.
- 4
 - The witch said, 'You must _____ me your first baby.'
 - Rapunzel's mother and father came to _____ at the castle.

3 Make sentences about the story.
Then write them in the correct order.

The witch came ...	for the prince every day.
The woman wanted ...	into the thorns.
Rapunzel cried ...	a fresh green lettuce for his wife.
Rapunzel sang ...	to eat a lettuce.
The prince fell ...	to take the man's daughter.
The man took ...	because the prince was so thin and tired.

- 1 The woman wanted to eat a lettuce.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

4 Find the page and answer the questions.

- 1 What did Rapunzel do in the tower every day?
page 8 She painted and sang.
- 2 What did the witch do with her knife?

- 3 What did the prince hear in the desert?

- 4 Where were Rapunzel and the prince married?

- 5 How many children did Rapunzel and the prince have?

Glossary

afraid



alone not with other people

castle



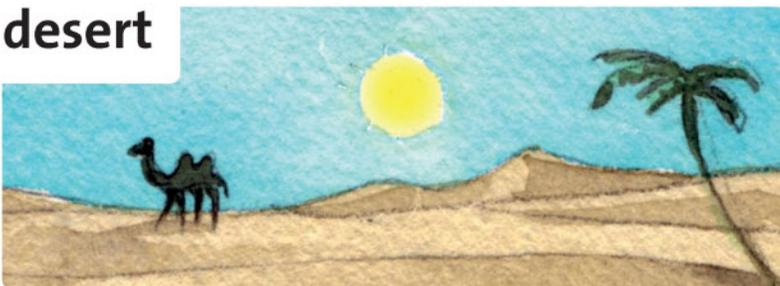
climbed past tense of **climb**



cut off past tense of **cut off**



desert

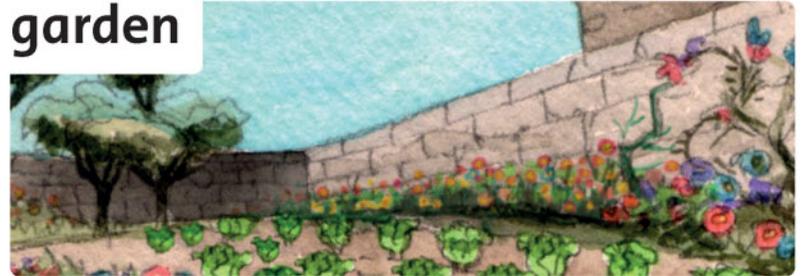


die to stop living

forest a place with many trees

fresh clean and new; just made or grown

garden



golden *golden hair*



grew past tense of **grow**: to get bigger / longer

kind good and nice to other people

knife



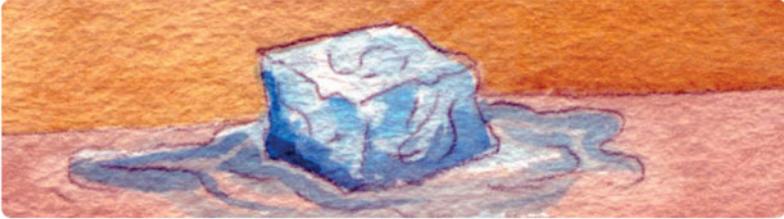
lettuce



married past tense of **marry**



melted past tense of **melt**



painting past tense of **paint**



plait

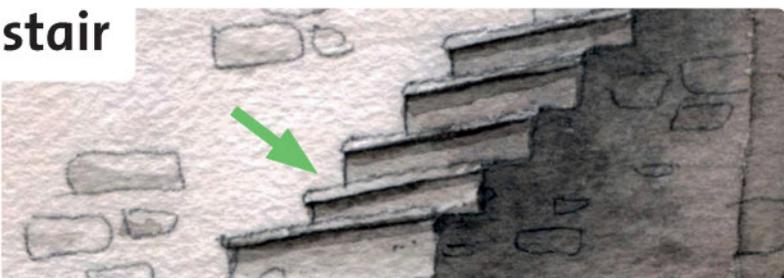


prince a king or queen's son

promise to tell someone you will do something

rode past tense of **ride**: to sit on a horse and make it move

stair



tears water that comes from your eyes when you cry

thin not fat

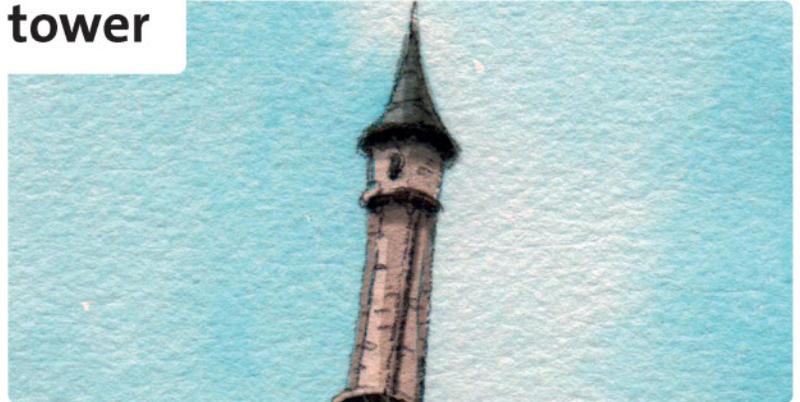
thorns



towards



tower



voice the sound from your mouth when you speak / sing

wall



witch a bad woman; she can do special things

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Level 1: 100 headwords

- The Enormous Turnip
- The Little Red Hen
- Lownu Mends the Sky
- The Magic Cooking Pot
- Mansour and the Donkey
- Peach Boy
- The Princess and the Pea
- Rumpelstiltskin
- The Shoemaker and the Elves
- Three Billy-Goats

Level 2: 150 headwords

- Amrita and the Trees
- Big Baby Finn
- The Fisherman and his Wife
- The Gingerbread Man
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Thumbelina
- The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse
- The Ugly Duckling

Level 3: 200 headwords

- Aladdin
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- The Heron and the Hummingbird
- The Little Mermaid
- Little Red Riding Hood
- Rapunzel

Level 4: 300 headwords

- Cinderella
- The Goose Girl
- Sleeping Beauty
- The Twelve Dancing Princesses

Level 5: 400 headwords

- Beauty and the Beast
- The Magic Brocade
- Pinocchio
- Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

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Illustrated by: Alejandro O'Kif/Shannon Associates



Level 3

Rapunzel

Enjoy the famous tale of Rapunzel, the girl who lived in a tower in the forest.

A retelling of the classic story for learners of English

Retold by Rachel Bladon
Illustrated by Alejandro O’Kif

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The stories are carefully graded at Levels 1–5 to provide easy and enjoyable reading. Beautiful illustrations on every page work closely with the text to help understanding. Each *Classic Tale* also includes activities related to the story, and a picture dictionary or glossary.

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Level 1: 100 headwords |  Level 4: 300 headwords |
|  Level 2: 150 headwords |  Level 5: 400 headwords |
|  Level 3: 200 headwords | |

Word count for this story: 1,172

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