



THE MONKEY THAT WANTED TO FLY

WILL BODANSKY





Roarie, the monkey, lives in a big jungle with lots of trees. These trees are so tall the sun can only just peak through the leafy branches.



The jungle is home to birds that sing in the wind,



snakes that slither around branches



monkeys that play in the trees, and many more!





Every day Roarie tries to find a way to get up to the tree house where Tommy, Ava and Willie play.



He has never been to the tree house before, because it is up the highest branch, on the tallest of tall trees

"How can I get there?"



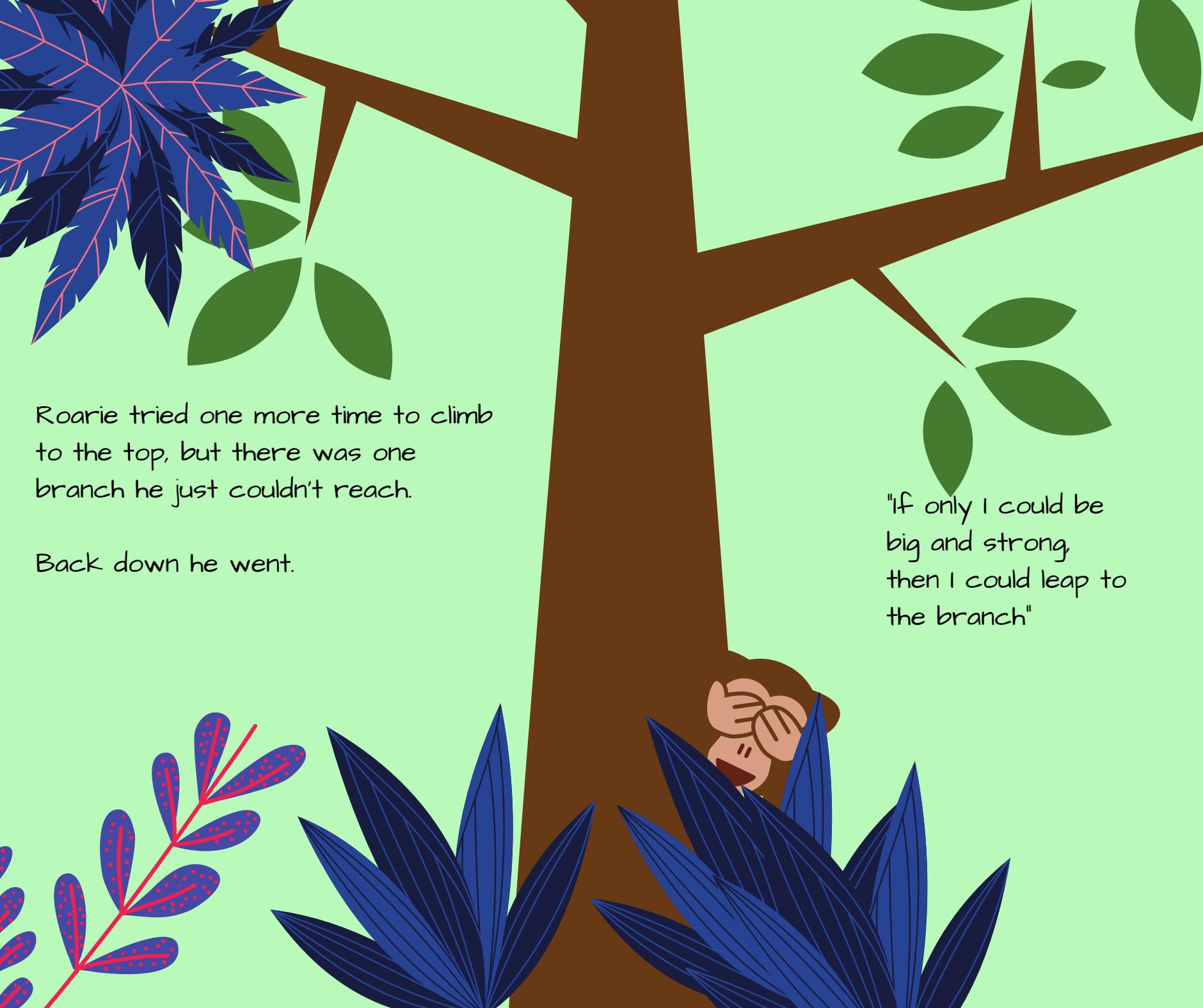
"I can't climb that high" he thought.



There is a swing at the tree
house that makes you fly higher
than the trees.



You go so high it's like you're in
the sky and the forest looks like
a green fluffy cloud below.



Roarie tried one more time to climb
to the top, but there was one
branch he just couldn't reach.

Back down he went.

"If only I could be
big and strong,
then I could leap to
the branch"



Roarie slowly plodded home.



The tribe had already gathered and everyone was sharing their day's adventures.

He heard a familiar voice laughing and talking.

"Did you see it, I jumped so high I was king of the world!"

Tommy was coming over with Ava and Willie



"Couldn't find the tree house? Oh, poor little Roarie. Maybe one day, if you're stronger."



"Aww he's just little Roarie. He's never going to grow stronger."





And they walked off...

Roarie hid in his tree, and tried to drift off to sleep, crying to himself,

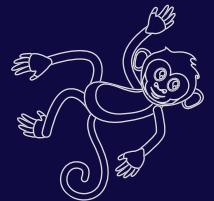


"Why can't I
be strong,
why can't I be
strong!?"

Roarie eventually fell asleep.

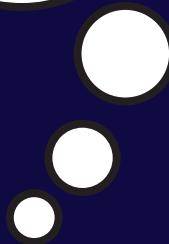
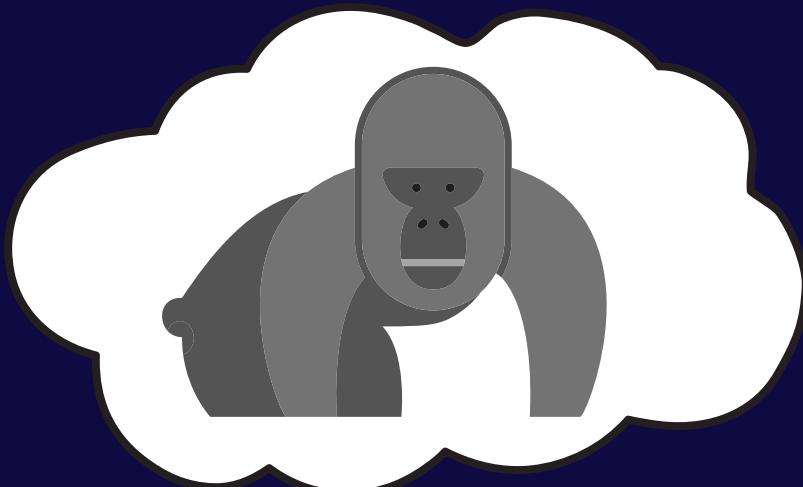
In the middle of the night, he found himself flying over the jungle and looking down on green fluffy clouds.

Flying next to him was a beautiful eagle. The eagle's belly shone bright like the sun, and her wings so wide they cast shadows over the trees below.



"You can be strong Roarie. Just swing three times, and then jump as far as you can. You will reach the top of the tree, and there will be the tree house."

"But I can't! I'm just little Roarie. I'll fall right down. If only I was big and strong, like a mighty gorilla!"



"Come with me. Let's go to the pool of mirrors" said the eagle.

They landed in a clearing which had many pools. There was one in the middle that was a perfect circle. It was so quiet, and so still, the pool created a perfect mirror.

"Look into the pool Roarie."



Roarie gazed into the water.

"I see only me" Roarie said, disappointed.

The wind started to blow, the leaves surrounding him.

The eagle said "look again, Roarie."

Roarie turned back to the pool.



He couldn't believe his eyes as he stared at his reflection.

"Woah I'm huge! I'm a mighty gorilla!"



He looked around and the eagle was gone.



The next morning Roarie woke up when he heard Tommy, Ava and Willie shouting to each other,



"Race you there! Last one to the tree house is a sloth!"

Roarie jumped down from his tree and landed with a thump.

He was huge!

"Was the dream real!?" Roarie wondered.

Roarie ran towards the tallest of tall trees like the day before. He climbed as far as he could, but couldn't reach the top. He remembered...

"Just swing three times and then jump as far as you can."

So he swung once

Twice

Three times

and LAUNCHED himself
into the air.



He did it!



He climbed to the highest point of the tallest of tall trees and there it was! The world above the trees! And look...the tree house, and the swing!

"Aaahhh wow". There was Tommy swinging up above the top of the trees.



"I can fly
the highest!"



"Well done Roarie, you finally made it" Willie said.



But Tommy barked "He can't fly like me, it's just little Roarie."



"Give me the swing, I'm a mighty gorilla" Roarie said

The others laughed.

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