

UNICORNIA

A Magical Birthday



Ana Punset

Illustrated by Diana Vicedo

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The Land of UNICORNIA





1 Party Planning

What's your favourite thing about birthdays? What I love the most are the games and the presents (obviously) and the sweets and ... come to think of it, I love everything really! That's why, when Pippa came skipping into school today, Sara and I started hopping up and down like a pair of bouncing bunnies.



“It’s my birthday tomorrow!” she tells us.
As if we needed reminding – we’ve been counting down to the big day for weeks!

“Super-mega-ultra-party!” we chorus in reply. We’re jumping around so much that we’re practically cartwheeling through the air with no hands.

We spend all day at school making plans for the party the next day. Our heads are bursting with so many ideas that we even get a bit muddled in our lessons.

Plan for Pippa’s birthday party:

- ★ A HUGE rainbow-coloured cake
- ★ Tons and tons of magical sweets
 - ★ LOTS of balloons – especially the ones with glitter inside
- ★ Pin the tail on the unicorn
- ★ Clouds of floating candyfloss!



PIPPA!



I'm so focused on the party that I can't think of anything else. In Magical Literacy class, for example, when Miss Plume writes words for us to copy off the board, instead of writing "competition", "winner" and "race", I put "confetti", "glitter" and "cake" – which sounds much yummier to me!

Miss doesn't think it sounds so great, of course. When she sees what I've put, she asks if I can't understand what she's written. I try to play the new girl card, but ... guess what, it doesn't fly with her. Not for a second.

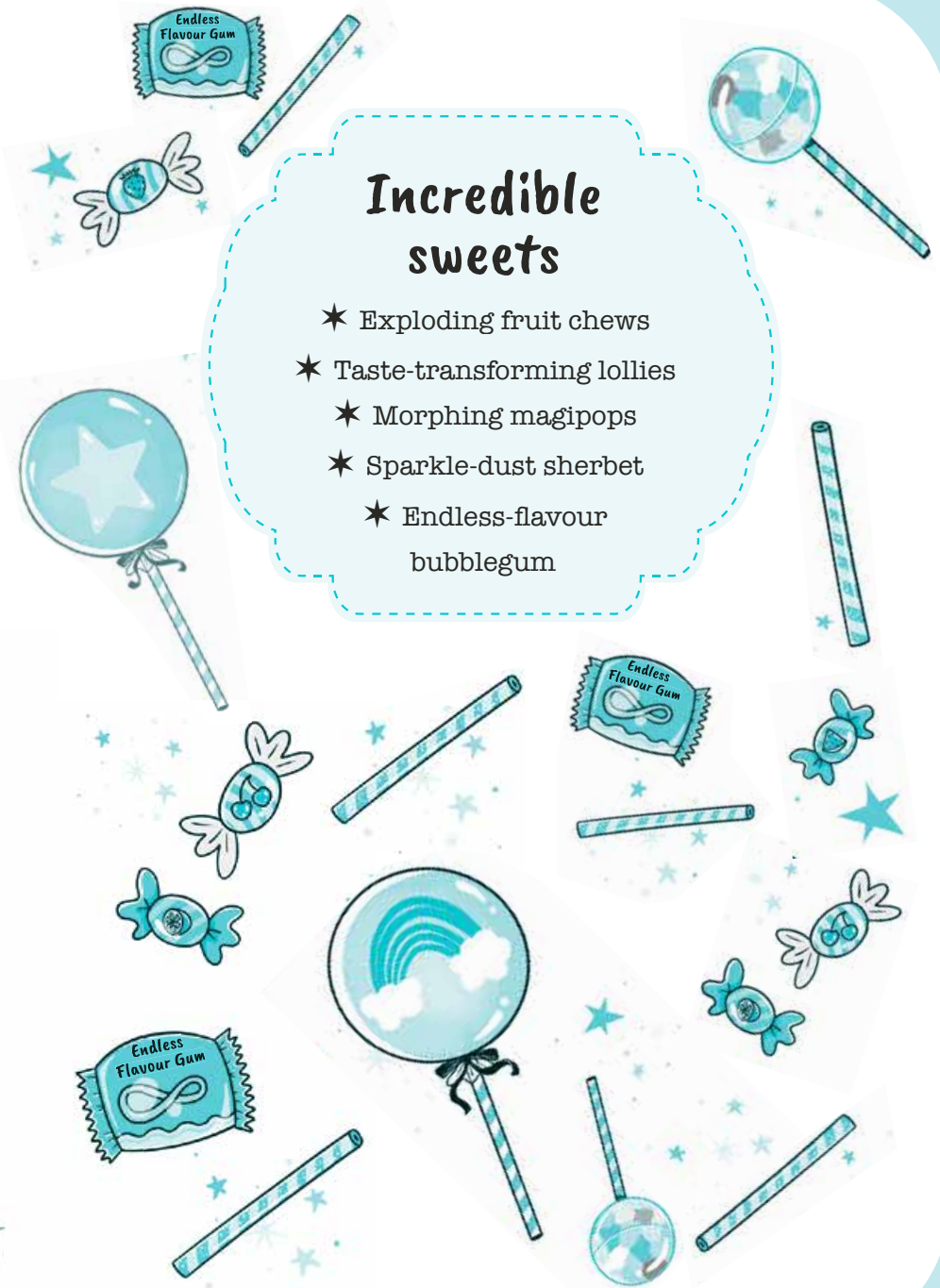
"You're in Unicornia now, Claudia," she snaps. "I suggest you get your head out of the clouds!"



Later on, in Magical Sciences, we have to make a list of the ingredients you need to make a thundercloud. Sara, Pippa and I *do* write a list ... of all the sweets we're going to eat at the party! When Mr Beaker asks us to gather up the ingredients we've written down and put them in a cauldron, we rush to grab all the sweets we can find. It doesn't make a thundercloud, but a haze of zillions of different colours that leaves our classmates speechless because nobody has ever seen anything like it. It's unbelievable!

Incredible sweets

- ★ Exploding fruit chews
- ★ Taste-transforming lollies
- ★ Morphing magipops
- ★ Sparkle-dust sherbet
- ★ Endless-flavour bubblegum





At breaktime, while we're all nibbling on heart-shaped cupcakes, Pippa tells us that the thing she's most excited about is seeing her parents at the party.

"When was the last time you saw them?" I ask. I see mine every day; I can't imagine it being any other way.

"I guess it was ... the summer holidays. They travel a lot for work. Their job is to go looking for lost unicorns around the world, save them and bring them back to Unicornia."

"That's an amazing job!"

"Yeah, they're the best," Pippa replies, a little wistfully. "But the downside is that I miss them loads. Still, there's not long to wait now until tomorrow! It's going to be a brilliant day."



That night at dinner, while I'm eating with my parents, I keep thinking about how much Pippa must miss hers.

"She only sees them three or four times a year... How can they live like that? If they're her parents—"

"Because every family has a different view on life. It's like favourite colours. Ours is pink, but maybe Pippa's family prefers blue, or yellow..."

"And because they like yellow, her parents don't miss her?"

"Of course they do, but they know Pippa has a lovely life with her grandma, and if they're all happy with their yellow—"

"Her grandma *is* great," I agree. "Every time we visit, she makes us quadruple-chocolate biscuits. Not like..."

I point at the bowl of vegetable mush in front of me. Maybe if *that* were pink...



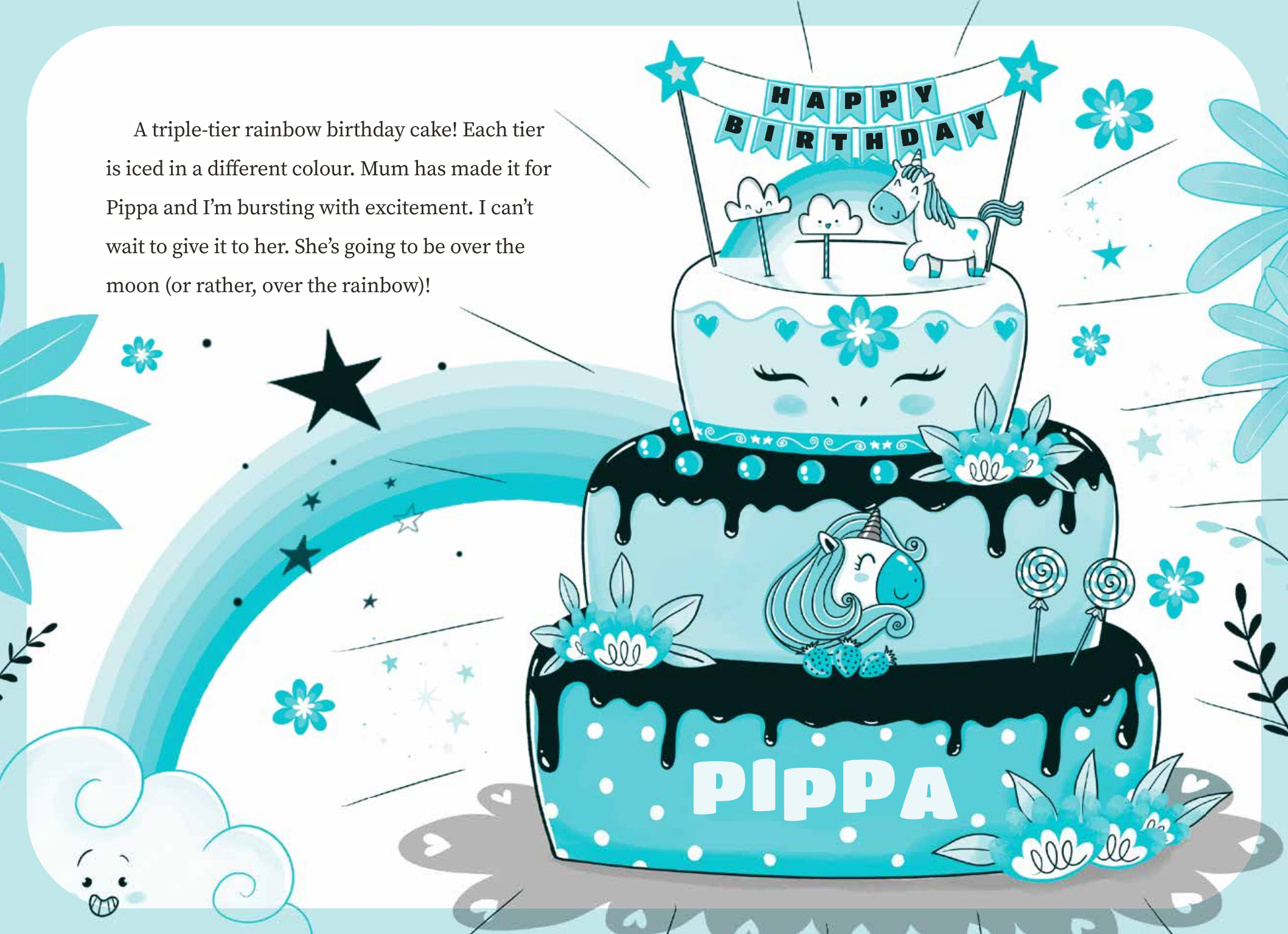
“I’m sure Pippa’s grandma makes soup for her too, when you and Sara aren’t there. Plus, if you finish it quickly, I’ve got a surprise to show you in the kitchen,” Mum replies with a wink.

I slurp up my soup in a flash, so desperate to see the surprise that I barely stop to breathe between spoonfuls. What could it be? I’m so curious I don’t even mind eating my greens.

When I reach the kitchen, I’m met by a sight beyond my wildest dreams...



A triple-tier rainbow birthday cake! Each tier is iced in a different colour. Mum has made it for Pippa and I'm bursting with excitement. I can't wait to give it to her. She's going to be over the moon (or rather, over the rainbow)!





UNICORNIA

The Place Where Dreams Come True

Pippa's friends are so excited for her birthday party. All they can think about is cake, presents and their visit to the **Enchanted Falls** theme park! But when disaster strikes, can the friends get the **celebrations** back on track? Prepare for sprinkle-covered **cake**, **flying unicorns** and fun, fun, fun in this glitter-dusted adventure.

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