

CREATION FOR KIDS

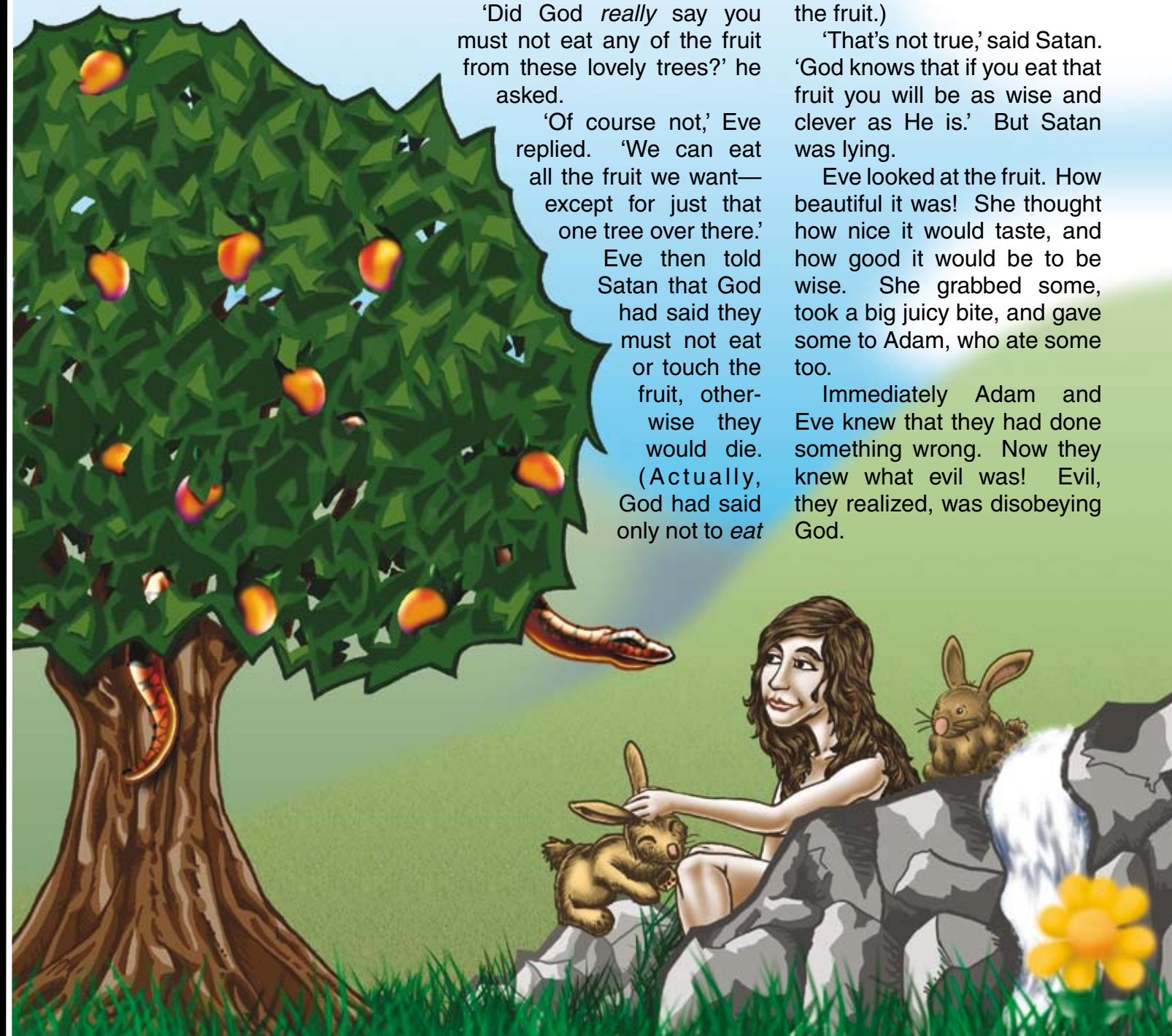
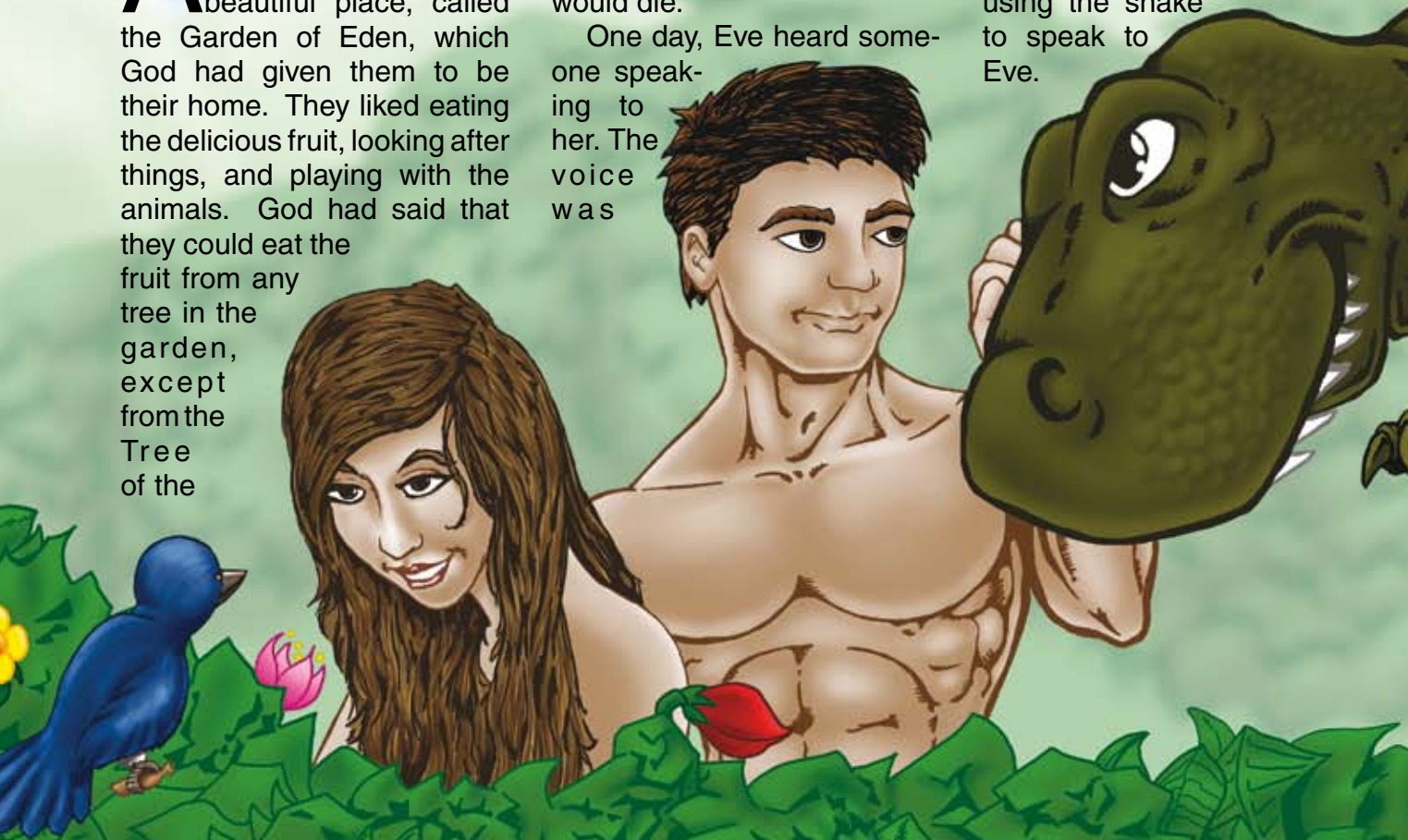
By Russell Grigg

ADAM AND EVE greatly enjoyed living in the beautiful place, called the Garden of Eden, which God had given them to be their home. They liked eating the delicious fruit, looking after things, and playing with the animals. God had said that they could eat the fruit from any tree in the garden, except from the Tree of the

Knowledge of Good and Evil. He had warned them that, if they ate from that one, they would die.

One day, Eve heard someone speaking to her. The voice was

coming from the direction of a snake. Who could it be? It was Satan, the devil. Satan was using the snake to speak to Eve.



'Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit from these lovely trees?' he asked.

'Of course not,' Eve replied. 'We can eat all the fruit we want—except for just that one tree over there.' Eve then told Satan that God had said they must not eat or touch the fruit, otherwise they would die. (Actually, God had said only not to eat

the fruit.) 'That's not true,' said Satan. 'God knows that if you eat that fruit you will be as wise and clever as He is.' But Satan was lying.

Eve looked at the fruit. How beautiful it was! She thought how nice it would taste, and how good it would be to be wise. She grabbed some, took a big juicy bite, and gave some to Adam, who ate some too.

Immediately Adam and Eve knew that they had done something wrong. Now they knew what evil was! Evil, they realized, was disobeying God.

TEMPTATION





They felt guilty and ashamed. It dawned on them that it was not God who had lied to them, but Satan. They didn't feel the marvellous result that Satan had promised. Sin is always like this. We think we will enjoy doing something we know is wrong, but then we find that it causes us shame and regret. Suddenly they were very afraid to meet God.

Later that day, when God came to the garden, they hid from Him among the trees. This didn't do any good, because no-one can hide from God. God called out, 'Where are you, Adam?' With heads bent they crept out into the open and stood before God.

God asked them if they had eaten the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God knew they had, but did Adam own up? No! Instead, he made an excuse and tried to blame someone else.

'It was not *my* fault,' Adam said. 'Eve persuaded me.'

'It was not *my* fault,' Eve said. 'The snake tricked me into eating it.'

God then told the snake that it was cursed and that it and the woman would be enemies. One of her descendants would bruise its head, and it would bite his heel. This was a prophecy. It referred to the fact that God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, would come to Earth. He would defeat



the work of Satan through His death on the cross and His Resurrection.

God still loved Adam and Eve. However, He told Eve that, because of what she had done, she would have great pain in child-bearing. Yet, her daughters (and their daughters) would still want to have husbands. God told Adam that, because of what he had done, the ground was now under a curse. It would produce weeds and thorns. Adam would have to dig the ground and work hard to make it produce food all his lifetime. Then he would die, and his body would return to dust.

The Bible tells us that God made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and Eve, to replace the fig-leaves they had put on when they tried to hide from God. This means that at least one animal must have died—all because of what Adam did.

Then God expelled Adam and Eve from the garden, so they would not eat from another tree there called the Tree of Life, and live for ever. He put an angel on guard to stop them from ever returning. Adam and Eve were cut off from the close contact they had enjoyed with God in the garden.

From that time on, they began to die, even though they would live on for many more years. This was what God had said would happen, when He warned them not to eat from that tree.

When Jesus was on Earth, Satan tried to tempt Him to do wrong things (Matthew 4:1–11). Jesus resisted Satan's temptations by quoting verses from the Bible. When we are tempted, the Bible promises that God will give us a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). It also tells us to submit to God, and that, if we resist the devil, he will flee from us (James 4:7). How many verses from the Bible do you know?

The spoken words quoted above are from *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* by Mary Batchelor, Lion Publishing, Oxford, UK, pp. 13–14, 2001.

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