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Opening extract from  
**The Great Balloon Hullabaloo**

Written by  
**Peter Bently**  
Illustrated by  
**Mei Matsuoka**

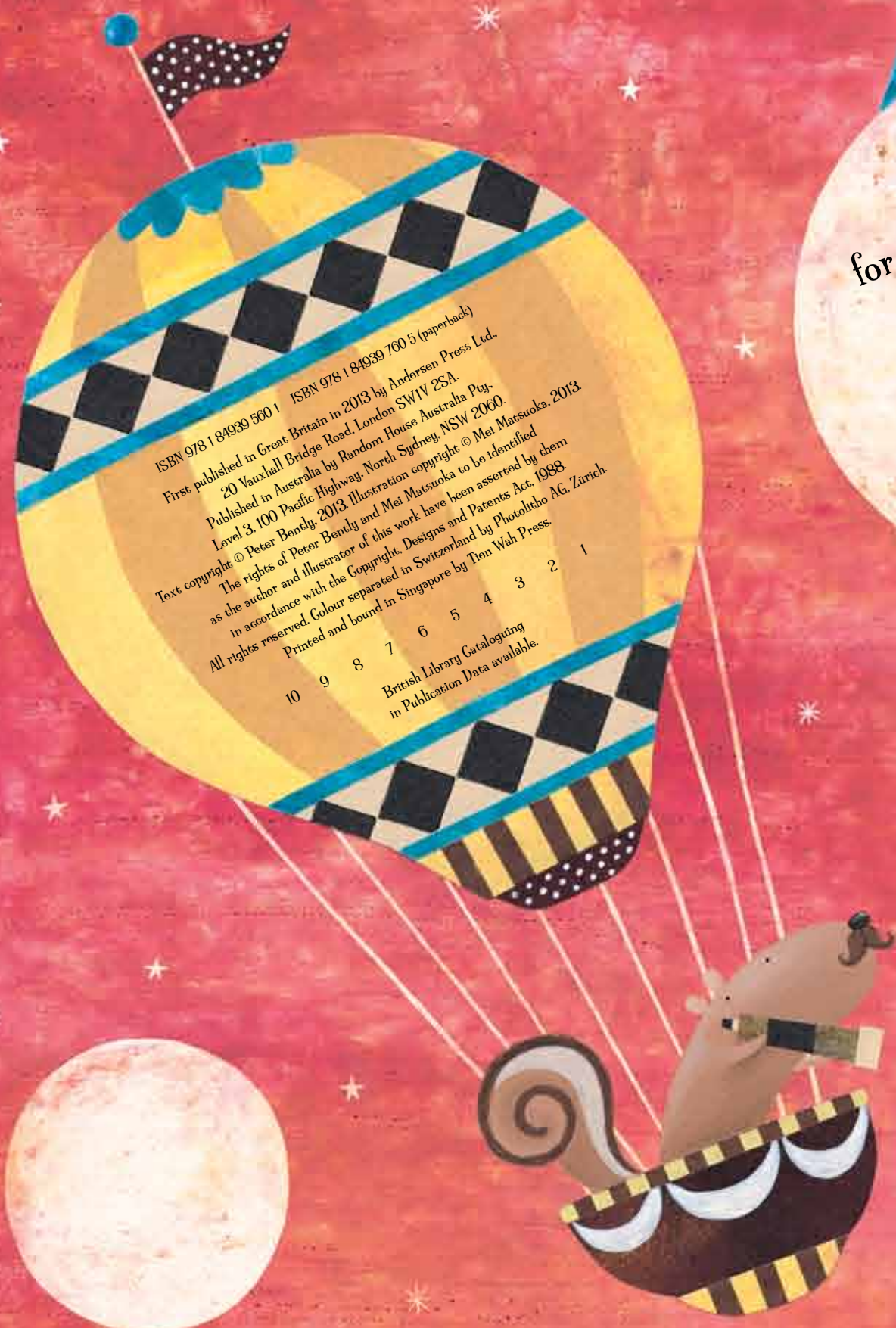
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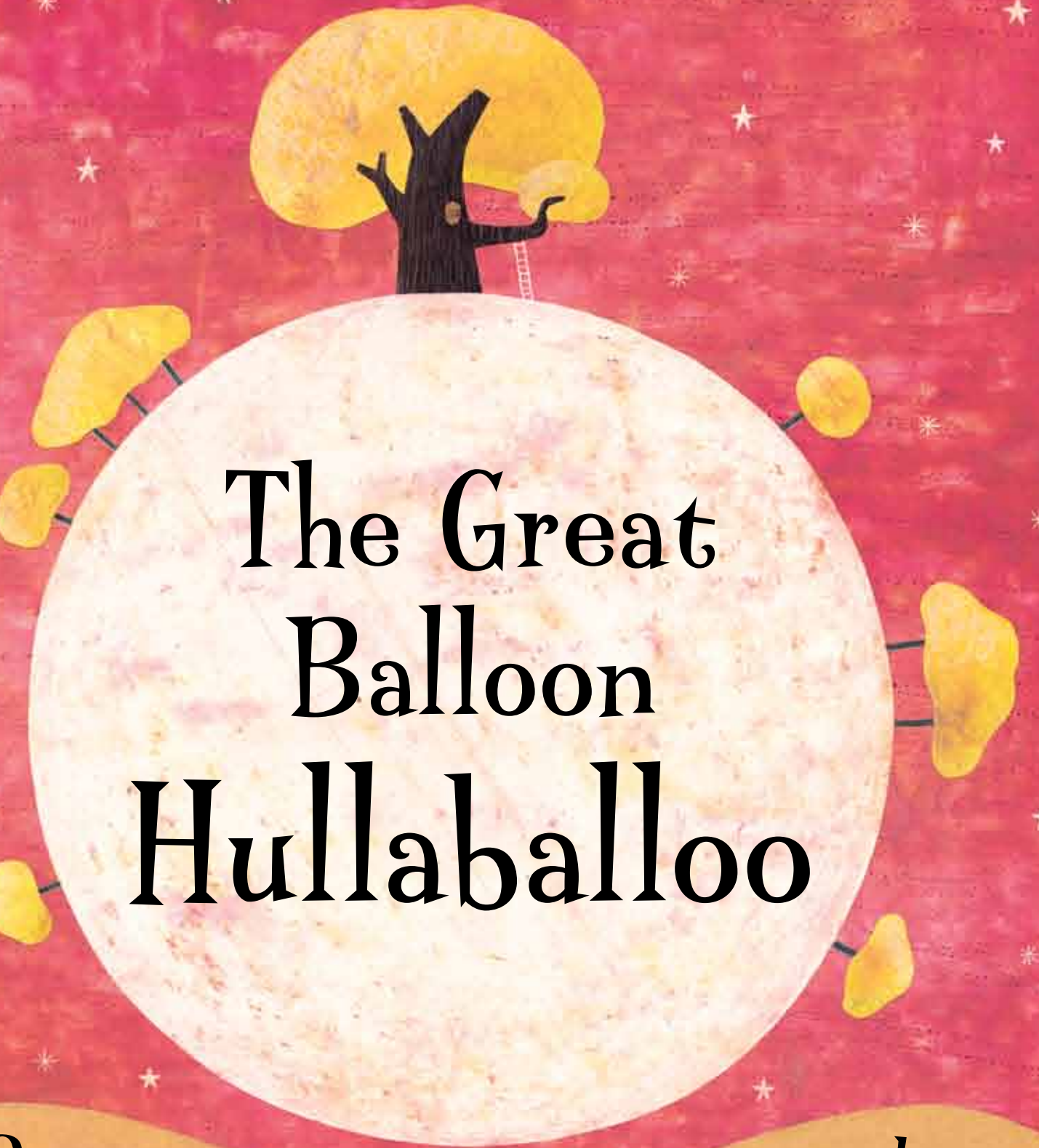




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To Lucy,  
for the cosmic inspiration.  
P. B.

To Uncle Peter,  
for encouraging me to  
reach great heights.  
M. M.



# The Great Balloon Hullabaloo

Peter Bently & Mei Matsuoka

ANDERSEN PRESS



Simon the Squirrel  
was off to play ball,

But there stood  
his mum with a  
list in the hall.

“Please pop to the shop, Simon dearest. Here’s money  
For loo-roll, new pants for yourself, bread and honey.

And one thing that’s much  
more important than these,  
Tonight we’ve got pizza,  
so don’t forget **GHEESE!**”

