



Rapunzel



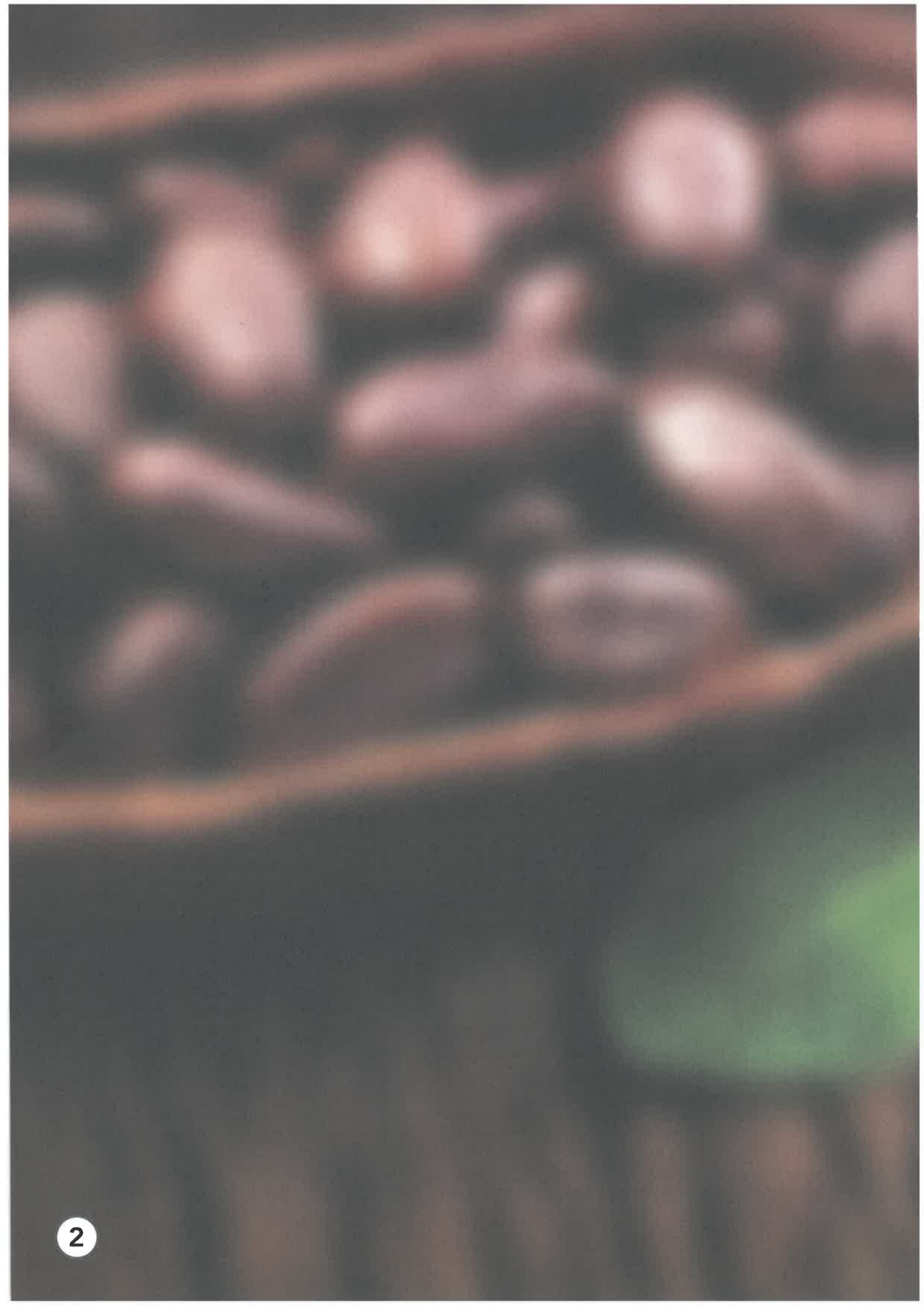
Chocolate's Amazing Journey



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Rapunzel is a fairy tale. A witch tricks a couple into giving up their only child, a girl, and takes her away to bring her up as her own daughter.

RAPUNZEL

The witch took the child at once and gave her the name Rapunzel.

The little girl grew quickly and became more and more lovely every day.

The witch was very kind and treated her like her own child, except for one thing. When Rapunzel was twelve years old, the witch took her to a high tower and put her in a room at the top. There was no door and no stairs – just a small window for Rapunzel to look out from.

When the witch wished to visit, she stood at the bottom of the tower and called out, “Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Let down your hair!”

At this, the girl would lower her long, braided hair from the window, and the witch would climb up.

A few years later, a prince came riding past and heard a beautiful voice singing from the top of the tower. Puzzled, he hid behind some bushes and waited to see what would happen. Of course, before long, the witch visited Rapunzel in her usual way. As soon as the witch had gone, the Prince came out of his hiding place and called out,

“Rapunzel, Rapunzel,
Let down your hair!”



Thinking the witch had returned, Rapunzel did as she was asked. She was astonished to see a tall, handsome young man climbing through the high window instead.

"Don't be afraid," he said. "I heard your beautiful singing and longed to see you for myself. Now I know that you are as lovely as your voice."

The Prince spoke kindly to the girl, which calmed her. He began to visit Rapunzel daily when he knew the witch had left and, as she grew to know him, she grew to love him.

All went well until one day when the witch was visiting, Rapunzel let the secret slip. As the witch climbed into the tower, Rapunzel spoke without thinking.

"Why is it, mother dear, that you feel so much heavier than the Prince does, when he climbs up?" There was an awful silence.

Then the witch flew into such a rage that the stones of the tower trembled. She took out some scissors and snipped off Rapunzel's long braid of hair. With

her magic powers, she banished the frightened girl to a desert far away. Then, as the sun went down, she crouched near the window and waited.

Before long, a voice drifted up from below.

"Rapunzel, Rapunzel,
Let down your hair!"

It was the Prince. Carefully, the witch lowered the braid of hair out of the window.



As the Prince climbed into the room, she flew at him. "I wanted to keep my darling safe from such as you!" she spat. And with a huge push, she hurled him to the ground.

The Prince fell like a stone into some bushes at the foot of the tower. He managed to stagger to his feet, but his eyes had been scratched by thorns, and he could not see at all. In darkness as black as his despairing thoughts, he stumbled away to a life of ceaseless wandering.

Years later, the Prince came to the desert where Rapunzel was living. In the distance, he heard a sound he thought that he would never hear again. It was the sweetest voice in the world, singing sadly.

"Rapunzel!" cried the Prince, running forward. The poor girl was so overjoyed that she covered his face with kisses and tears. As they fell onto the Prince's eyes, the tears healed his wounds. Once more he could see the girl he loved.

The Prince and Rapunzel returned to his kingdom, where they lived happily together for the rest of their days. The witch has never been heard of since.

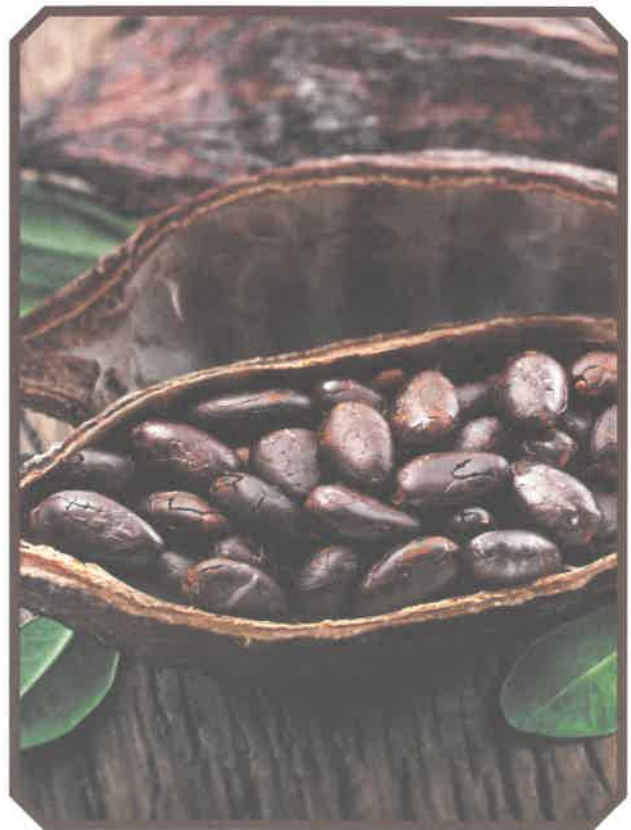


CHOCOLATE'S AMAZING JOURNEY

Where does chocolate come from?

It may be hard to believe, but chocolate actually grows on trees!

Chocolate comes from cocoa pods, which are the fruit of the cocoa tree. Some of these pods, rather oddly, grow straight out of the tree's trunk. If you break open a pod, you'll find the tree's seeds inside. These seeds, which look like ripe berries, are the cocoa beans. The beans are taken out, cleaned, roasted, ground up and then mixed with other things to make chocolate.



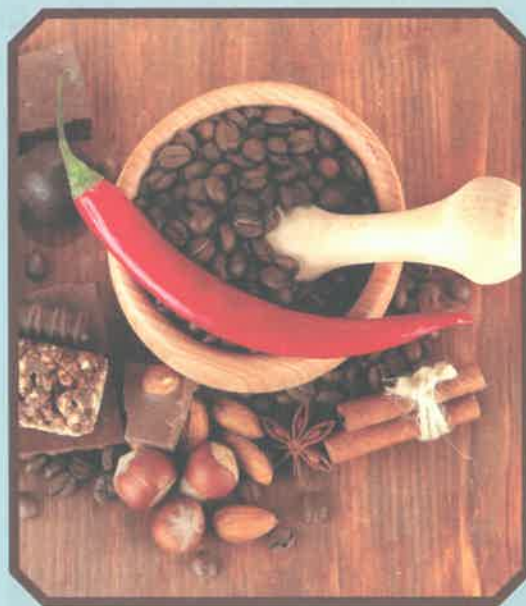
How chocolate began

The story of chocolate began around 3,000 years ago in the area we now know as Mexico. People there used cocoa beans as a kind of currency – for example, we know that ten beans could buy you one rabbit! Cocoa beans could be swapped for clothes. Also, in marriage ceremonies, the bride and groom gave gifts of the beans to one another.

The Aztecs (a group of people who lived in that part of the world) treasured chocolate even more than silver and gold. The Aztecs thought that chocolate had a mysterious power and could cure sick people.

Aztec chocolate was not like ours, though. It was a liquid, not a solid chocolate bar. Their chocolate was a fatty, gritty, watery drink. The name chocolate comes from the Aztec word 'xocolatl' (sho-ko-la-tl). Xocolatl means 'bitter-water' and it was made from crushed, roasted cocoa beans (sometimes with added flowers and even hot spices like chilli!). Although the Aztecs gave chocolate only to the most important people, the Spanish explorers who first tried the drink thought it tasted as bad as it sounds. Some said it was only good enough for animals to drink!

In 1528, the explorer Cortes took some cocoa beans back to Spain, and so chocolate's journey started.



Chocolate comes to Britain

About 350 years ago, chocolate finally arrived in Britain. Travellers came home with recipes for the unusual drink and told tales of it having healing powers. A Frenchman set up London's first chocolate house in 1657. After this, many more trendy chocolate houses opened around the city. You could go to the chocolate house to drink, play cards or just chat – rather like our present-day tea and coffee shops. The chocolate drink was now a luxury and only wealthy people could try it. To make it richer, milk was added instead of water.



Chocolate was a drink in Britain for nearly 200 years. Then, in 1847, a man called Francis Fry created a new recipe. He mixed sugar, cocoa liquid and cocoa butter with milk and discovered a chocolate that could be made into bars. That sweet mixture began a love of sugary, milky chocolate that carries on today.



WHAT NEXT?



Chocolate is now so popular that people are always on the lookout for new and fantastic uses for it.

In Japan today, you can buy special chocolate treats. What about a tube of chocolate-flavoured toothpaste?

Or you can have your friend's face scanned and turned into a chocolate mould, using 3D printing technology. These moulds allow you to make miniature chocolate sculptures.

CHOCOLATE RECORD BREAKERS



The world's largest biscuit measured 754 square metres and was made in North Carolina, USA on 17 May 2003. The chocolate chip cookie weighed 18 tonnes and had a diameter of 30.7 metres.



In April 2015, some chocolate makers in Croatia prepared the world's largest-ever chocolate bar out of a massive 800 kilograms of chocolate. They carried all 102.43 square metres of it into the town square where it was photographed then quickly eaten up by some very grateful locals and tourists.



In March 2005, a Belgian chocolate maker set a new record for the world's biggest chocolate egg. It took 26 top chocolate makers eight days and nights to make it out of 1,950 kilograms of their finest chocolate! The people of Sint Niklaas in Belgium were amazed to see this egg, standing over 8.32 metres tall in their market square.



The most expensive chocolate bar ever was sold for £470 in September 2001! It was over 100 years old and had been taken on a famous expedition to the Antarctic by Captain Scott in 1901. It was sold at auction in London.



Somewhere! Somewhere!



Take me somewhere – to the circus:
to spinning wheels and noisy bells.
Blazing stripes and streaks of yells.
Seeing swingers and clowns
round and round ceilings and walls.

Take me somewhere –
to the fair:
make me dither, jump, slither.
Make me slide and glide on feet and side.
Let me leap through hoops
and feel I move with pounding hooves.



Take me somewhere –
to a big street carnival:
finding drummers and bright dancers.
Getting my mouth all fishy, meaty,
peppery, spicy, buttery, sugary
while music and revelry make me giddy.

Take me somewhere –
to wide open countryside.
Let me redden and blacken
my tongue with berries and cherries.
Let me skip with a flip in a trip.
Take me somewhere.

by James Berry

Glossary: *revelry* - excitement



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