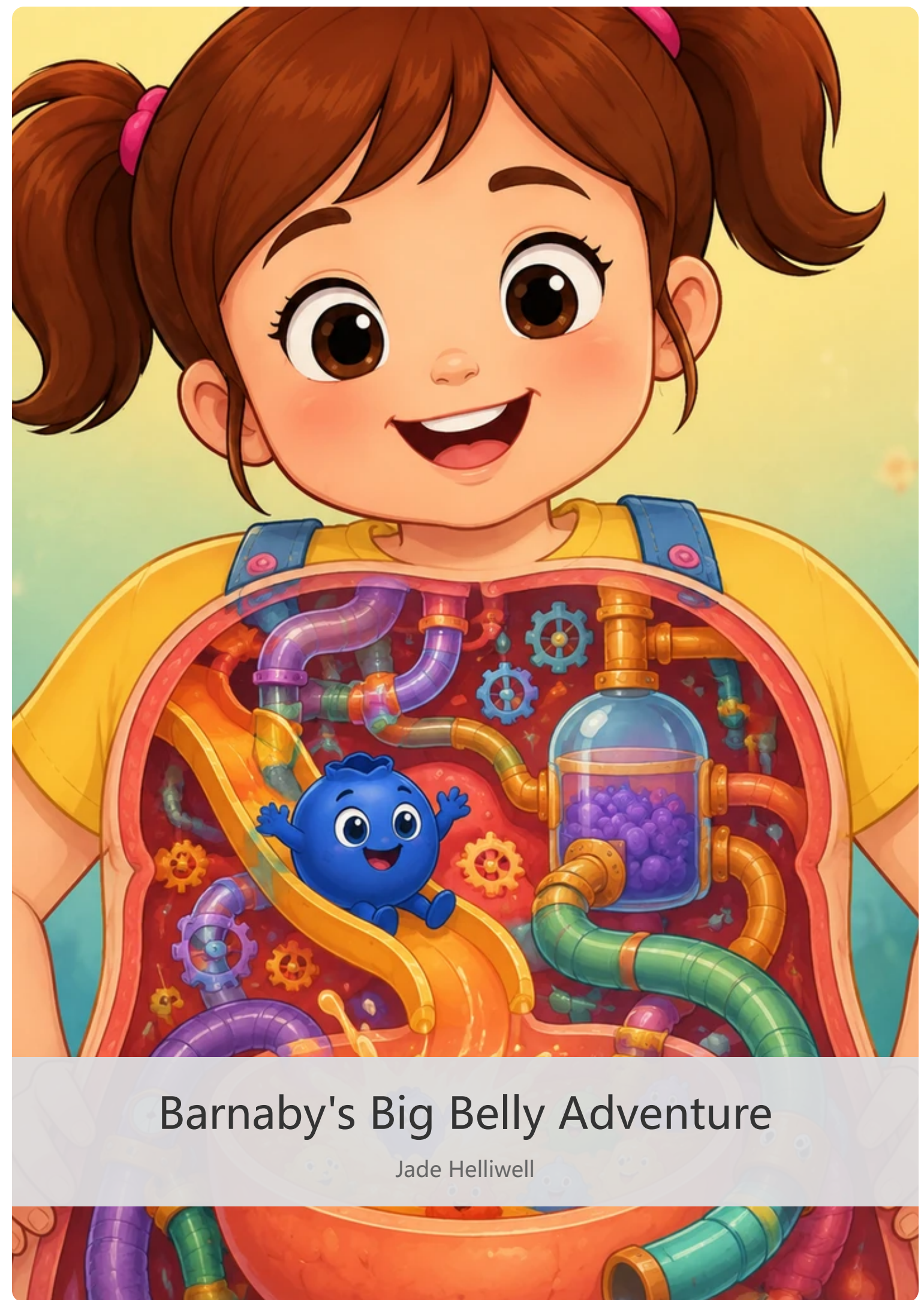




Barnaby's Big Belly Adventure

Jade Helliwell



Barnaby, a plump and juicy little blueberry, sat in a bowl with his friends, waiting for his big adventure to begin. He knew today was the day he would help power a happy child's play, and he couldn't wait. A smiling girl named Lily picked him up, and Barnaby waved goodbye to the fruit bowl, ready for his journey.



First, Barnaby arrived in a warm, moist cave filled with smooth, white stones called teeth that began to gently crunch him. Bubbly, wet helpers named saliva joined in, turning him and other food bits into a soft, slippery blue ball. Barnaby felt very cozy and safe, giggling as the saliva helpers tickled him.



Next, Barnaby and his new blue ball friends glided down a long, dark, and stretchy slide. This food chute pushed him along with smooth, wavy movements, like a playful ride at the park. He giggled all the way down, feeling the soft walls gently squeezing him along.



Splas! Barnaby landed in a large, active mixing bowl that was busy churning and splashing with special juices. Here, more helpers worked hard to break him down even further until he became a blue smoothie mixture. He twirled around happily, knowing he was changing into something very useful.



Now looking like a blue river, Barnaby flowed into a giant, twisting and turning tunnel that seemed to go on forever. This cozy tunnel had soft, velvet walls that lined his path and waved as he passed. He felt very warm and curious about where this long, windy road would lead him next.



As he traveled, millions of tiny, fuzzy fingers reached out from the tunnel walls like gentle anemones, tickling the smoothie as it flowed by. These fingers quickly pulled out all the yummy nutrients and healthy blue energy to send to Lily's whole body. Barnaby smiled, proud that his energy was making Lily strong enough to run and jump.



After the nutritious bits were taken, what was left of Barnaby and his friends entered a wider, drier passage. This tunnel was calmer, soaking up any extra water from the mixture and leaving behind only the parts the body didn't need. He saw his journey was nearing its quiet end.



The remaining materials started packing together tightly into small bundles, getting ready to leave the body. Everything was neat and tidy now, bundled up like cozy little suitcases preparing for departure. Barnaby felt light and ready for the final step of his transformation.



Barnaby, now part of a tidy bundle, moved into a little waiting room at the very end of the long tunnel. Here, everything waited patiently until Lily decided it was time to visit the bathroom for a break from her busy day. The holding area was calm and signaled the end of his inside adventure.



ly, with a gentle push, Barnaby and the other bundled parts waved goodbye to the human body, knowing they had done their important work. He slipped away quietly and happily into the world, having powered Lily's body for a whole morning of fun and play.