Take a walk through Earth's weirdest, wildest and most...

## Perfection of the second secon Dange

Chris Thorogood

Illustrated by Catell Ronca

## Perfectly Peculiar Plants

Chris Thorogood

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words & pictures



Quarto is the authority on a wide range of topics. Quarto educates, entertains and enriches the lives of our readers—enthusiasts and lovers of hands-on living, www.guartoknows.com

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For my niece, Holly, who I hope will grow to love peculiar plants. C. T.

To my mum, Catherine, who loved colours and flowers and who gifted me her talent. C. R.

The publishers would like to thank Richard Mabey for his contribution to the development of this book.

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## WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT PLANTS?

We depend on plants for our very existence. They produce the oxygen we breathe and the food we eat. Plants are even used to make medicine and clothes!

It's a good thing, then, that plants are such extraordinary survivors. They grow in just about every habitat you can imagine, from frozen arctic cliffs to the driest deserts. They come in all shapes and sizes. Their unique features help them find food, attract pollinators and spread their seeds.

Fossils show that some of the first flowers looked like magnitias. Not all plants are as innocent as they look! Some plants have evolved crafty and unusual ways to survive. Some have leafy jaws which lie in wait for unsuspecting insect prey. Others mimic rotting animal flesh to attract flies. Some plants even steal their food from the roots of other plants!

> So get ready to discover a world of perfectly peculiar plants. This book tells their story ...