



Bratislava

the magic metropolis

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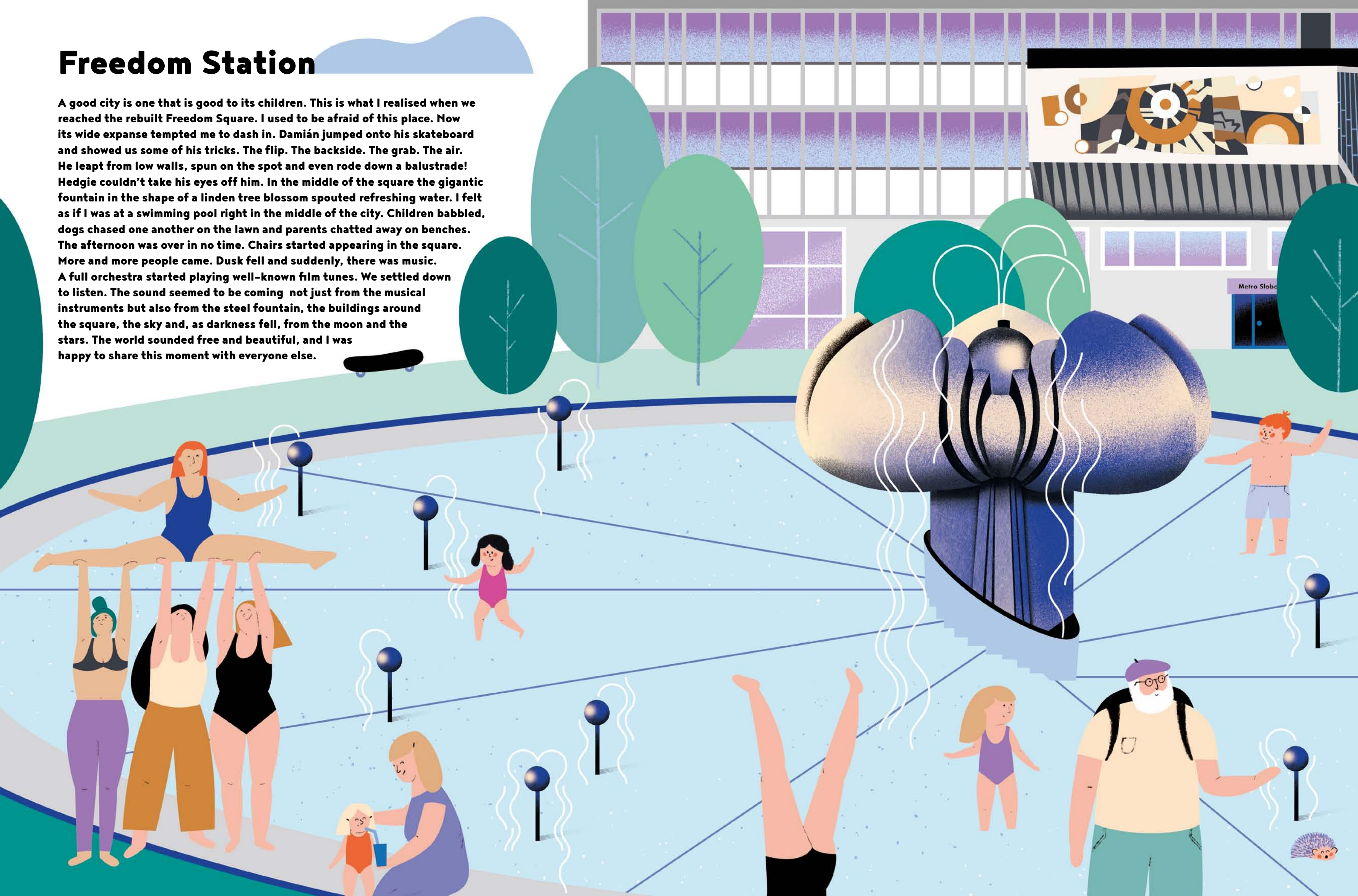


Industrial Station

To get to Industrial Station we had to travel by steam metro! Thanks to a clever ventilation system there was no smoke. The engines were fuelled by coal. I loved the fire chamber surrounded by water – two pistons propelling the wheels. The engine moaned like a living creature and Hedgie was scared, so I held him in my arms. We found ourselves in the midst of old Bratislava and its factories: Klingerka, Gumonka, Káblovka, Dynamitka, Stollwerck, Patrónka, Matadorka... Bricks, iron, massive cogwheels, production shops, lorries... The chimneys were really tall, almost sky-high. A tunnel connected the left bank of the Danube with Sihot' island. We entered the tunnel and went to the island. It's only allowed a few times a year. This protected area supplies water to all of Bratislava. The water that flows out of our kitchen taps comes from the wells on this island. Hedgie drank greedily and so did we. After the din of the engines we enjoyed the magical quiet and the Danube nature. We kept quiet, too, as we wandered with bated breath around this mysterious island in the midst of the city.

Freedom Station

A good city is one that is good to its children. This is what I realised when we reached the rebuilt Freedom Square. I used to be afraid of this place. Now its wide expanse tempted me to dash in. Damián jumped onto his skateboard and showed us some of his tricks. The flip. The backside. The grab. The air. He leapt from low walls, spun on the spot and even rode down a balustrade! Hedgie couldn't take his eyes off him. In the middle of the square the gigantic fountain in the shape of a linden tree blossom spouted refreshing water. I felt as if I was at a swimming pool right in the middle of the city. Children babbled, dogs chased one another on the lawn and parents chatted away on benches. The afternoon was over in no time. Chairs started appearing in the square. More and more people came. Dusk fell and suddenly, there was music. A full orchestra started playing well-known film tunes. We settled down to listen. The sound seemed to be coming not just from the musical instruments but also from the steel fountain, the buildings around the square, the sky and, as darkness fell, from the moon and the stars. The world sounded free and beautiful, and I was happy to share this moment with everyone else.



**“You’re asking me to tell you
a fairytale. What for? Your city
is a fairytale.”**

**Hans Christian Andersen
on a visit to Bratislava**



**Our city on the Danube deserves a picture book.
We couldn’t find one, so we put our heads together
and this is the result. Because every living metropolis
has stories to tell. It doesn’t matter where you’re
from, as long as you love the city where you live, work
or go to school, and want to make it better. Come and
join us on an exciting ride on the magical Bratislava
metro! And since our metropolis keeps changing,
this new edition includes four new metro stations!**



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