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FOR MY



Cass and the Little Flower

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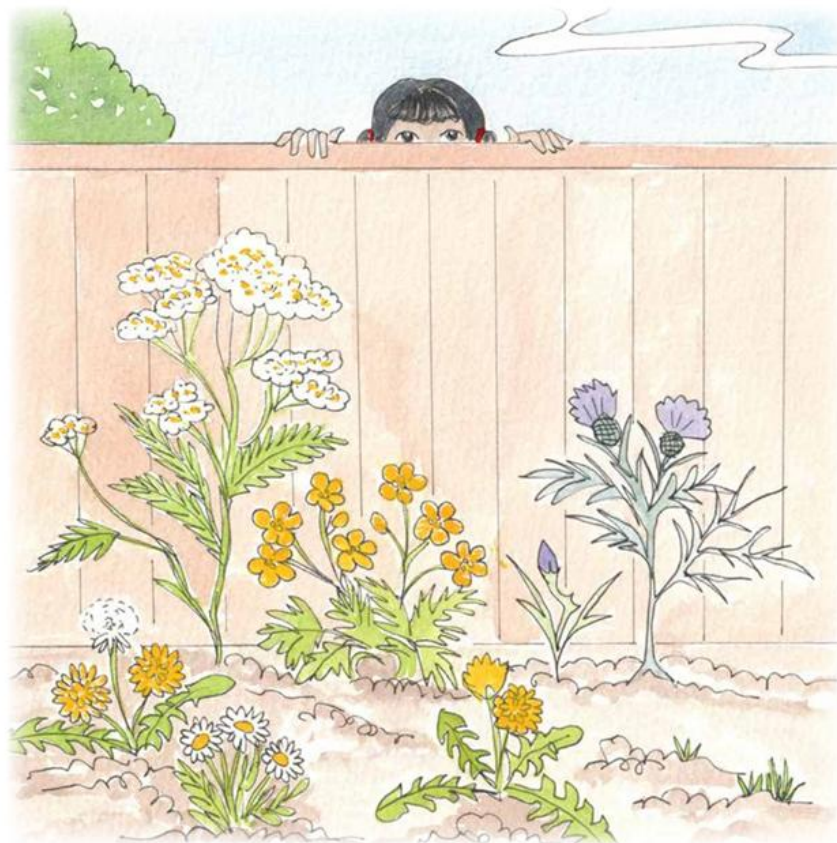
Book Dedication

There are many who thrive in any environment but, for some, they need a little extra nurturing and understanding from those around them to blossom.

To all the orchids living in a dandelion world. How can you bloom in the place where you are planted?

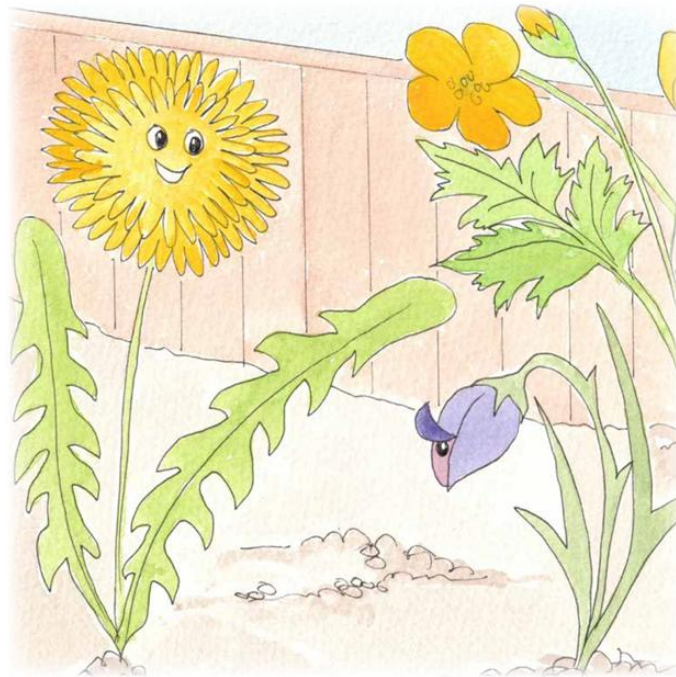
Cass and the Little Flower

In a little town, not so very far away from here, there was a busy building site where bulldozers and diggers moved dirt and soil, and the new houses seemed to spring up overnight. On this busy building site there was a patch of land that was to become a wildlife garden. Each day, tiny shoots punched through the soil and began to grow. A little girl named Cass moved into one of the new houses, which was right beside the wildlife garden. Cass amused herself by peeking over the top of her garden fence and keeping a close eye on all the flowers. She had borrowed a book from the library so that she could identify them. So far, she had spotted Daisies, Dandelions, Buttercups, Yarrow and Thistles.



One warm spring morning, a new Little Flower appeared in the wildlife garden. As the weeks passed, Cass noticed that the Little Flower was not making much progress. The other flowers had noticed this too. The Little

Flower found her new home TOO much, so she hid in her petals. daisy, dandelion and buttercup were keen to help little flower feel at home in the wildlife garden and be just like them. The Little Flower tried so very hard to open her petals but the sun was TOO strong and the moment she did so, her petals began to burn. "You are just TOO sensitive to the heat, you need to be LESS. It is the only way to be out here," said one well-meaning dandelion as she turned her petals to feel the warmth of the sun. Cass noticed that the Little Flower tried her best to be less sensitive to the heat, but it was impossible. Every time she opened her petals, they felt scorched, so Little Flower closed them again.



The noise and dust from the building site was TOO much for the Little Flower to bear. Each time she opened her petals they shook with fright. "You are TOO sensitive to the noise out here, you need to be LESS. It's the only way to be. I hardly even notice the noise," said Buttercup.



Cass watched as the Little Flower tried her best to be LESS sensitive to the noise, but it was very hard when the diggers seemed to be drilling into her stalk. The noise made her shudder and she closed her petals once more. Cass noticed Little Flower hiding within her petals and continued studying her flower book from the library.

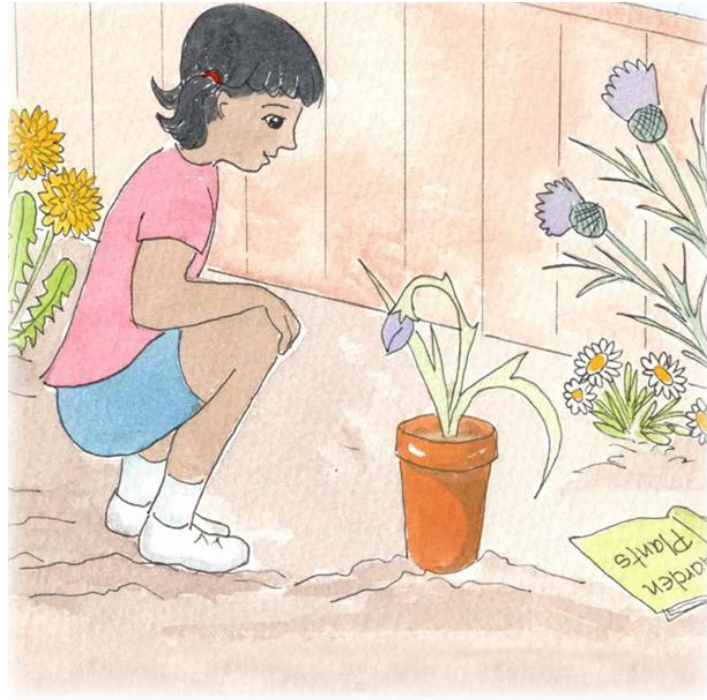


The seasons changed again and this time they brought rain. "You are just TOO sensitive to the rain, you need to be LESS. It is the only way to be out here," explained Daisy. Cass watched all the other flowers grow taller and taller as they pushed their roots down into the soggy ground. The Little Flower tried to push her roots down into the soil to get a good drink but, if she was honest with herself, she did not enjoy getting her roots wet at all.

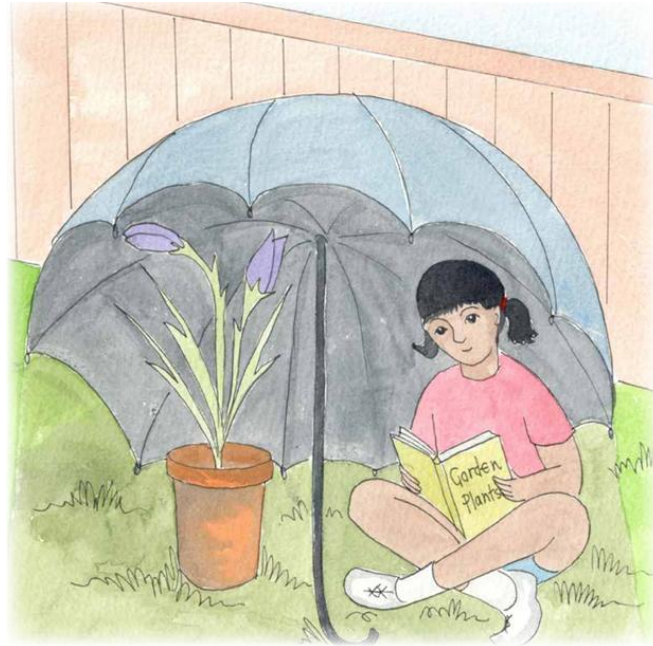
In fact, she curled her roots up even tighter so that she could keep them as dry as possible.



Cass had watched Little Flower long enough to know what she needed, so she made her way to the nature garden. Carefully, Cass dug up Little Flower and gently placed her in a pot filled with bark chippings. The Little Flower was terrified. This was TOO much to bear and for many days she hid deep in the bud and refused to peep out. Cass understood that Little Flower just needed some time to get used to her new surroundings. So, every day Cass sat beside Little Flower and spoke gently to her while she read her book or had a picnic with her teddies. Slowly, Little Flower began to peek out from her petals, and she learnt to trust Cass.



On wet days Cass brought her inside and kept her out of the rain. On scorching hot days, Cass made sure that Little Flower rested in the shade. When the wind lifted the noise of the diggers and brought it right into the garden, Cass made sure that she moved Little Flower to the other side of the house, where it was much quieter. Little Flower was so happy because Cass helped to make everything feel just right



On the day that the diggers and bulldozers moved out of the estate for good, the flowers in the nature garden woke up to the most astonishing sight. The tallest and most beautiful flower they had ever seen was smiling at them from behind the fence. It was Little Flower! They felt very sorry that they had insisted that she should be LESS. It was clear that she was perfect, just as she was. All she had needed was the right conditions and a friend like Cass to understand her.

