



The Bloom Within

A STORY OF PATIENCE, LOVE,
AND GROWING FROM WITHIN

CATHERINE COLEMAN-SMITH

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**A Story of Patience, Love
and Growing Within**

Catherine Coleman-Smith

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Dedication

To my cherished grandmother,

Your wisdom and kindness, wrapped in the warm embrace of your unwavering love, have been the guiding light that has illuminated every step of my journey. Though you are no longer here in form, your spirit continues to inspire and uplift me with each passing day. I remember summer days spent in your vibrant garden, where your love for flowers was as radiant and pure as your beautiful soul. You taught me the art of nurturing life and finding joy in the simple, exquisite pleasures of the world.

I hold dearly the memories of your gentle voice reading to me, your whispered prayers enveloping me each night, and the countless mornings I watched you lovingly prepare coffee and snacks for your mission sisters. Those shared conversations, bursts of laughter, and the wisdom you imparted have been my compass, shaping my character and fortifying my faith.

This book is dedicated to you, in profound gratitude for the endless lessons and the boundless love you so generously bestowed. May your legacy continue to shine through these pages and in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know you. With all the love my heart can hold, I cherish our memories, cradling them tenderly and forever.

Title: The Bloom Within

Main Character: Lilly (curious, caring, impatient)

Supporting Characters: Granny & Mama Sue

Setting: Within Community (city hall, garden)

The Goal/Theme: To teach lessons of love, patience, and self-awareness

Conflict: Lilly loses patience while waiting for her flower to bloom (impatience/frustration)

Resolution: Lilly develops the patience and self-awareness necessary for loving and appreciating growth within and without

Moral/Lesson: “Grow with love, wait with care, inside your heart, magic is there.”



In the deep south, between the back woods of Madison and the wet streams of Harrison County, stood Jackson, Mississippi. It was a college town known for the resounding harmonies of the greatest band in the land, “The Sonic Boom of the South.”

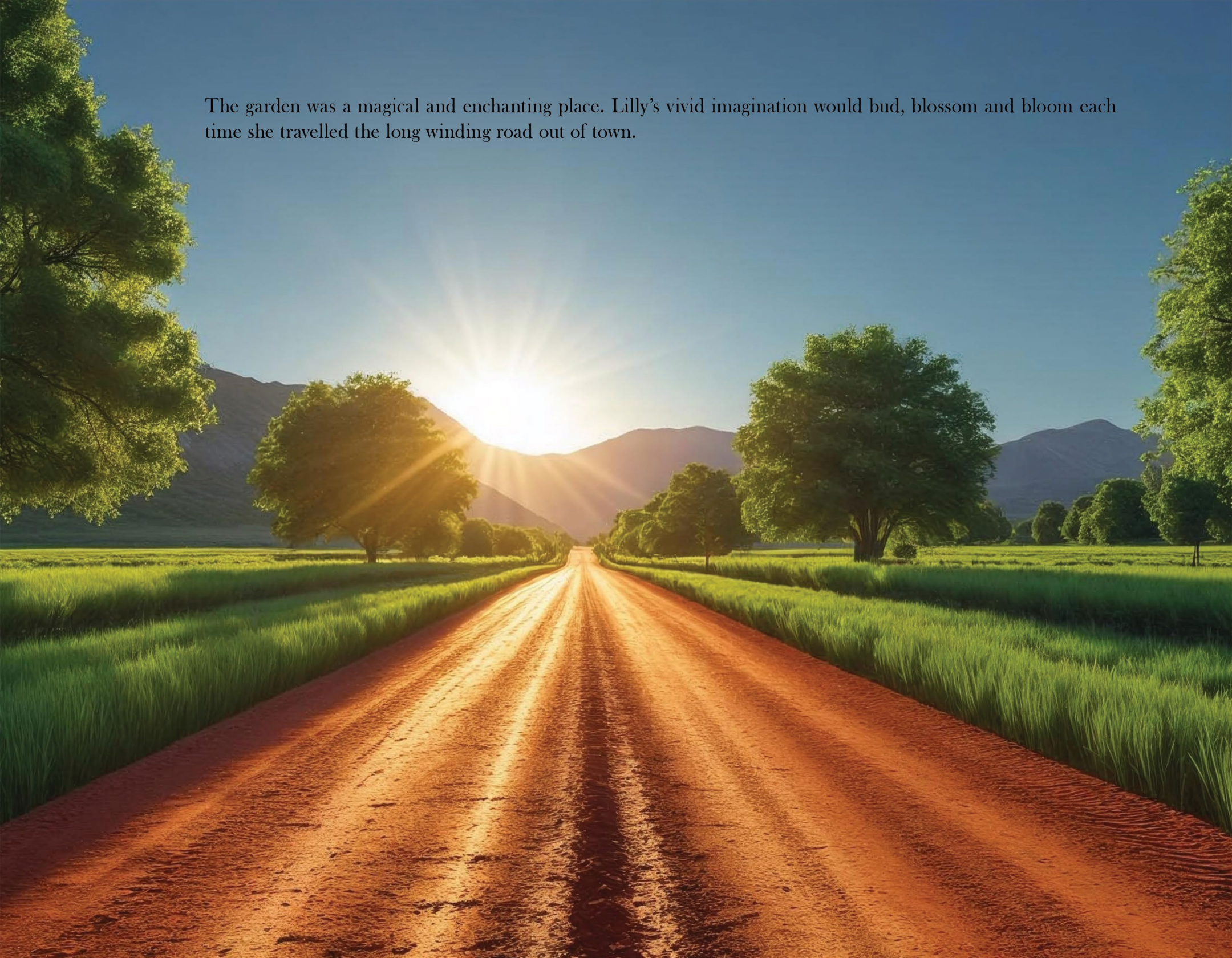


Jackson is also known for its finger-licking fried chicken, barbecue ribs, veggies fresh from the garden, and oh, the politics of the thunderous city councilmen who shouted from daybreak to noon, except for the one named Credell Calhoun.



Lilly, a social butterfly, adventurous, impatient as could be, loves music, community, reading books, and most importantly, playing in Grandma Catherine's Garden.

The garden was a magical and enchanting place. Lilly's vivid imagination would bud, blossom and bloom each time she travelled the long winding road out of town.



On Good Friday morning, the week of spring break, Grandma Catherine gave Lilly a bulb. She placed it in the palm of her left hand and said, "Plant this with love and wait patiently to see what grows."





Lilly gently planted the bulb several inches into the moist soil and asked, “But isn’t it too cold for planting?”

Granny replied, “We must anticipate that we’ve had our last frost for the season.”

Lilly excitedly whispered, “I can’t wait to see it grow.”