



*LE STORIE
di Emma*

LA ROMANA DAL 1947

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Emma the gardener

My name is Emma and I work as a gardener.

I really liked the colours of the rainbow when I was little and I loved spending time on the veranda planting little seeds. My great-grandmother Caterina, with her super curly hair, taught me that flowers are very special and that they should not be not be picked or torn. Instead, you need to take care of them and talk to them as if they were your dear friends.



My great-grandmother, in fact, loved tending her precious garden and treated her beautiful flowers like they were her grandchildren. Everyone who passed her house in the countryside stopped to admire all the colours of her garden and to smell with closed eyes the scents that rose from their petals.

Once, when I had my hands dug deep into the soil, I saw a strange little animal jumping from one leaf to the next: it did a thousand somersaults batting its eight legs in the air. We immediately became friends. And we were both super happy when we spent our days together in the garden. That little animal was so fast when it ran that I decided to name it "Speeder".

Now, that little insect is my best friend: together, we burst with laughter through all the colourful flowers and leaves. Animals from all of the gardens came to see how much fun we were having together! My great-grandmother always said that her garden was her greatest joy and that when she was there she was always happy: she was so good at tending and growing her plants that I wanted to become happy like her when I was older.

I loved all kinds of flowers, my mum's favourite daisies, my grandma's

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hydrangeas and my aunt's sunflowers. In the afternoon, when I did my usual walk among the meadows, I pruned the dry branches and leaves, I added soil to the flowers that needed it and I watered the earth when it was thirsty and dry. On the terrace of my house I planted seeds while following the instructions of my great-grandmother Caterina, who always told me to take care of the flowers and to treat the plants well.

The garden that I created together with my faithful friend Speeder, and with the constant help of my great-grandmother Caterina, has always been the most colourful and the happiest of them all.



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