



by Molly Sanchez

CARLIN IN THE Garden



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

In a small village in Sweden lived a small boy named Carl Linnaeus. Despite the poverty of his family in the early 1700s, his minister father had a very rich garden, bursting with fruits and vegetables to feed the family, and flowers and leafy wonders to feed their souls—for so it was with little Carl. Even before he could walk, his parents would console his cries with a flower, which he admired both with his eyes and his chubby baby hands. His toys were flowers.

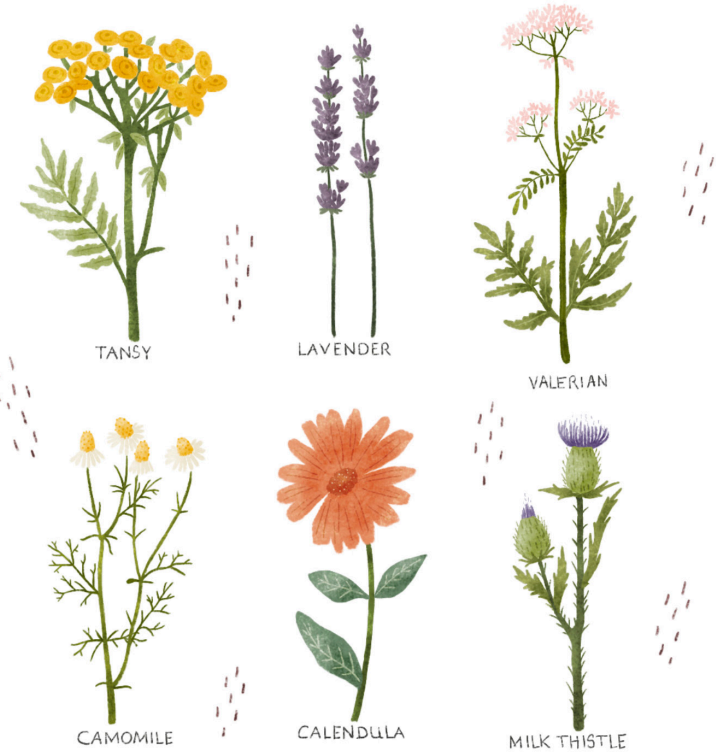




As soon as he could walk, Carl would toddle after his father, Nils, all through the garden. “Step carefully, Carl,” said his father. “We don’t want to damage a single delicate plant.” And so little Carl would lift his short legs up and over each plant, careful not to hurt them. His little fingers gently caressed the plentiful blossoms of various shapes, sizes, and colors.

It was not long before Nils became frustrated with his son's transplants. "Carl, what is this?" he asked, exasperated. "My peaceful garden has become a battleground, with these savage bees and wasps, not to mention the weeds you've introduced that are spreading like thieves into my nursery. You must not bring pests to our garden, flying or rooting!" After that, Carl was more careful.





“I am going to collect as many books on botany as I can!” Carl decided when he was a teenager. At seventeen he was moved to an upper school where he was taught literature and subjects necessary to become a minister. Such subjects were painful for Carl. “I do not wish to be a minister! I want to study plants,” he declared.

■ ORIGINAL PUBLICATION

CARL IN THE *Garden*



Have you ever wondered where plant names come from? More than three hundred years ago, a little boy was born who would forever change the way that plants were named. Born in Sweden, Carl Linnaeus was fascinated by the many plants around him, and he thought up a way of naming and grouping plants together that is still used today. He even discovered many new plants along the way. Filled with beautiful illustrations, *Carl in the Garden* tells the story of one boy who opened a whole new world to those who came after him just by doing what he loved.


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