

What's Planted in Your Dream/Fantastical Garden

By Ishi Garg

Once, three best friends - Emily, Zoey, and Leah - set off on a hike through the woods which was known for its unexpected wonders. Little did they know, on this particular day, they were going to experience their wildest imaginations.

After walking for a while, the girls stumbled upon a tiny, enchanting cottage, like it was straight out of a fairy tale. The cottage was surrounded by mystical trees, luminescent fruits and colorful flowers. It felt like a secret world hiding in plain sight.

Unable to resist their curiosity, they entered the cottage and were met with an even more astonishing sight. Flowers hung like chandeliers, and the furniture seemed to be made of living wood. In the center, a girl with sun-kissed skin and hair the color of lavender was stirring a pitcher of lemonade with a twig. That girl was me. I looked up and greeted them with a warm smile, "Hello, visitors! Care for some lemonade?".

The girls hesitated for a moment but decided to give it a try. As we took a sip of the refreshing drink, we suddenly felt light as cotton and began floating around the cottage.

Startled, Leah exclaimed, "What's happening? Why are we flying?". I chuckled. "This cottage and its garden are the result of my days and nights of work. There is magic in every leaf and every flower here. With the right leaves and flowers, combined and prepared in a special way, anything you dream can come true. But it requires the combo of cuatro girls, specifically the fourth graders like us, to prepare."

Intrigued and excited, Emily asked, "Oh my god, this can't be real, can we try making something?" I nodded "We can craft recipes to experience different wonders. We decided to combine Blue Time Tulip with the Sunset Rose to transport us back in time." Soon after, we were standing in the same spot, but the woods around us looked untouched and wilder. We watched in awe as ancient and majestic creatures roamed freely around us.

Leah, who always had her head in the clouds, chose the Dreamy Daisy and Stardust Sprig. As we took in its essence, we found ourselves floating amongst the clouds, touching the stars, and sliding down the rainbows.

Emily, a lover of tales, picked the Storyteller's Sage and Fantasy Fruit. Moments later, we were amidst our favorite stories, chatting with characters we had only read about.

As sunset approached, I knew we all would part and the fantastical garden would come to an end. But I was determined to carry this experience with me for a long time. I told myself that I just need that mindful time when I would see magic in everything. I would feel respect and gratitude for the people and things around me to make it all magical and fantastical. I have planted a small garden in my backyard in my real life which I use for my mindful time, it just makes my moments as fantastical as they can be.