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Blossom
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For Tutu

Chapter 1

Did you know that plants are wonderful listeners? And they are *great* at keeping secrets too.

My grandma, Tutu, used to say, "You're never alone if you have a plant."

Thanks to Tutu, we have plants all over the house, so we are *never ever* alone. In fact, we are kind of overcrowded – and a bit outnumbered too. It's like the plants don't live with us, *we* live with the plants.



There is a group of plants gossiping by the front door, and the waxy palms by the TV mean we always have to watch TV shows at an angle.

Plants are draped like towels over the banister, twisting around the handrail and creeping up the walls like natural wallpaper.

We have plants in the bath, sticking their arms and legs out at you as they soak in the tub like they're on holiday! We have to use the shower – which would be fine but there are even a few plants in there too, crowded together like they are having a private dinner party! Honestly, the plants are EVERYWHERE! You can't even do a wee in peace!

There are plants on all the kitchen surfaces. Herbs that we use for cooking – chives, sage, basil, coriander, parsley – and ones that smell beautiful like lavender on the windowsill. Bees sometimes hover above them as if they're browsing in a supermarket!

Spider plants hang out on the fridge, sticking a nosy arm into whatever you're eating. And you are *sure* to get a sharp poke in the eye from something green when you do the washing-up. All these plants are trying to get your attention and to listen in on your thoughts.

Climbing the stairs are potted plants. They greet you as you go up to bed like the heads of seals: *bob*, *bob*, *bob*.

I always feel like they're *tee-heeing* when I get sent to my room for *talking back*.

You're probably thinking: why on earth would you let all of these plants take over your home?

And so I'll tell you – but it is a bit sad, so prepare yourself.