PLANTS NEED FRIENDS TOO!

Jamie Walton
Rose Gerrard

“Snuggle close, little bean. Let me tell you a story . . . A story about a garden, and how friends working together helped a new plant find a home.”

Beneath a swirl of buzzing bees and fluttering butterflies lies Companion Patch – home to . . .

Mari
the golden
marigold

Tumble
the cheeky
tomato

Buddy
the bushy
basil

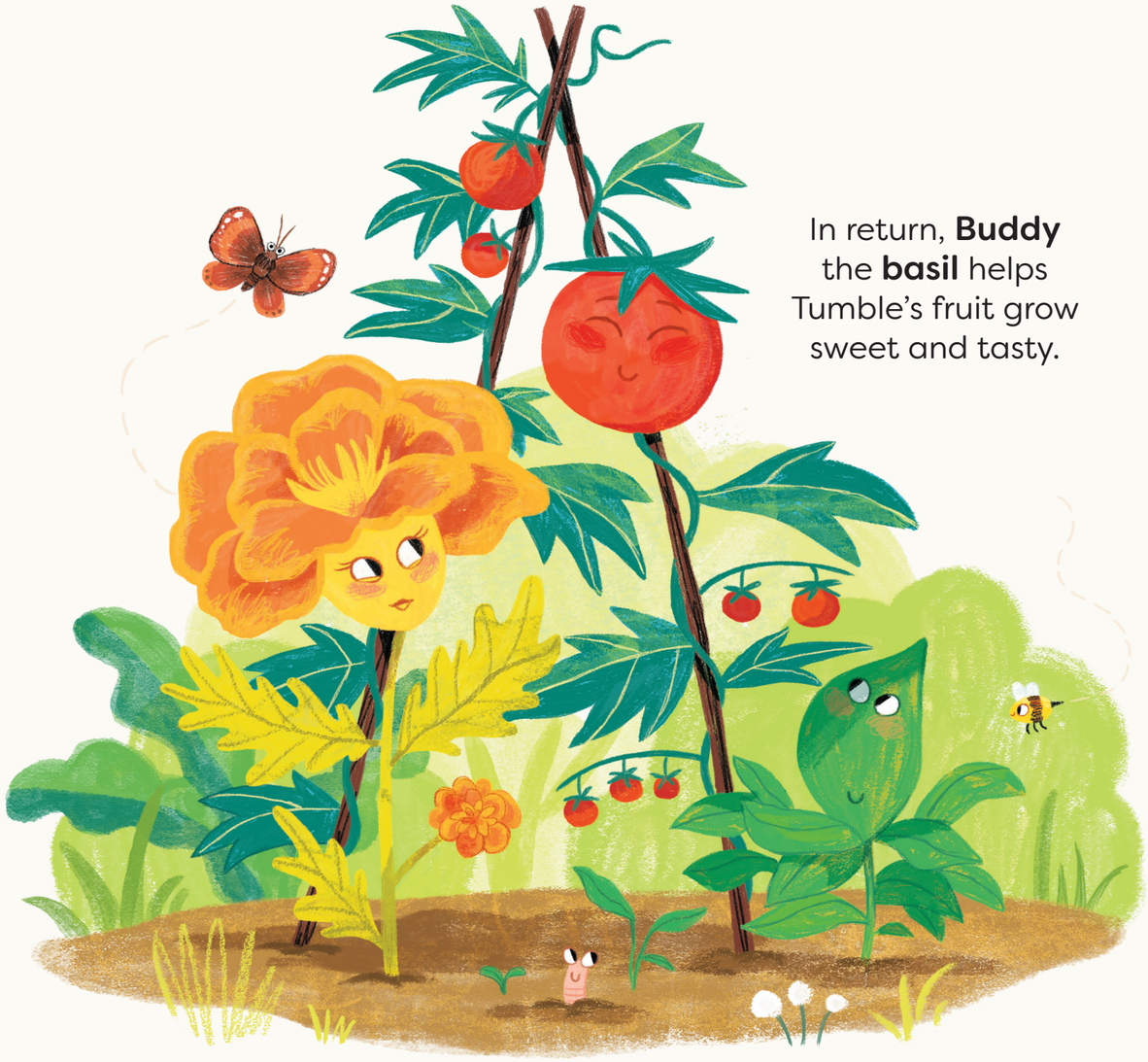
Olga
the smelly
onion

Curly
the shy little
carrot

Sonny
the cheery
sunflower

A colourful patch of plant of friends – helping one another grow big, strong, happy and healthy.

Tumble the **tomato** grows big and fruity, providing Buddy the basil with shade from the midday sun.

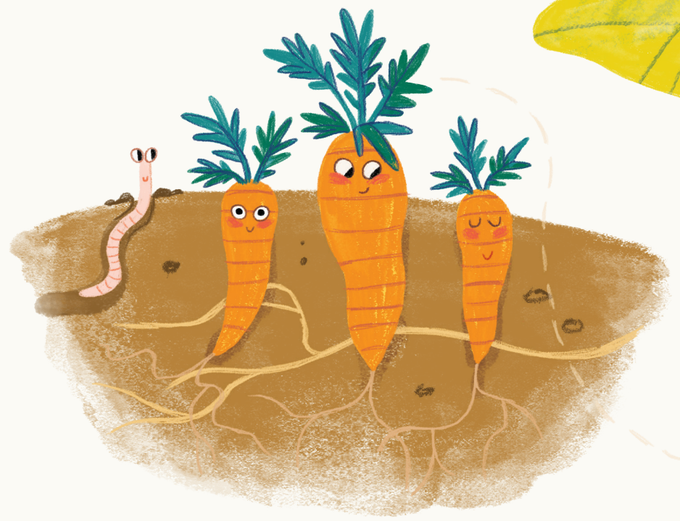


In return, **Buddy** the **basil** helps Tumble's fruit grow sweet and tasty.

Mari the **marigold** watches over them both, her strong smell keeping pesky bugs away from their leaves.

Sonny the **sunflower** grows tall, blocking the sun when it's too hot for Curly the carrot.





Curly the **carrot** digs deep to let water and air reach Sonny's roots.



And **Olga** the **onion's** stinky bulb keeps sneaky flies away from Curly's toes.

Together, they make the perfect team.

Keep an eye out for the sneaky beetles . . .



As you read the story again, see if you can spot the sneaky beetles after Squish's seed drops into the garden. How many can you find hiding among the leaves and flowers?

For my little acorn – J.W.

To my girls – for the endless good times, support and growing together. – R.G.



Text © 2026 Jamie Walton.
Illustrations © 2026 Rose Gerrard.

First published in 2026 by Ivy Kids Eco, an imprint of The Quarto Group.
1 Triptych Place, London, SE1 9SH, UK
T (0)20 7700 6700 F (0)20 7700 8066 www.Quarto.com
EEA Representation, WTS Tax d.o.o., Žanova ulica 3,
4000 Kranj, Slovenia. www.wts-tax.si

The right of Jamie Walton to be indentified as the author of this work has been asserted by them in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988 (United Kingdom).
The right of Rose Gerrard to be indentified as the illustrator of this work has been asserted by them in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988 (United Kingdom).

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electrical, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying.

ISBN 978-1-80570-424-9
eISBN 978-1-80570-426-3

The illustrations were drawn in pencil, then coloured digitally and partly made with hand-painted texture.
Set in Filson Soft.

Designers: Magenta Fox and Maisy Ruffels
Editor: Victoria Garrard
Production Controller: Dawn Cameron
Editorial Director: Becky Watson
Art Director: Karissa Santos
Publisher: Peter Marley and Juliet Matthews

Manufactured in the UK by Halstan & Co. Ltd. on recycled FSC paper. HA032026
Printed by a company certified to ISO 14001: 2015
and carbon balanced in association with the World Land Trust.

1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2

