

Miss Sugar Crumb's Magic Kitchen



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Illustrated by Nora Tapp Franzese

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Everett, WA

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Ray is the best publisher in the business.

Dedication by Nora Tapp Franzese

For my little magic sweets, Letizia & Carmine .

Miss Sugar Crumb was a fair young maiden living in the country. Her home was a beautiful little yellow house with white trim. Surrounding her neatly kept yard was a picket fence matching the trim and many evergreen bushes and colorful trees.

During the spring and summer months Miss Sugar Crumb's yard was decorated with all kinds of beautiful flowers.

Everyone who walked or drove past Miss Sugar Crumb's house always stopped and admired the beauty of her home and smelled the wonderful aroma coming from her open windows on the days that she baked.

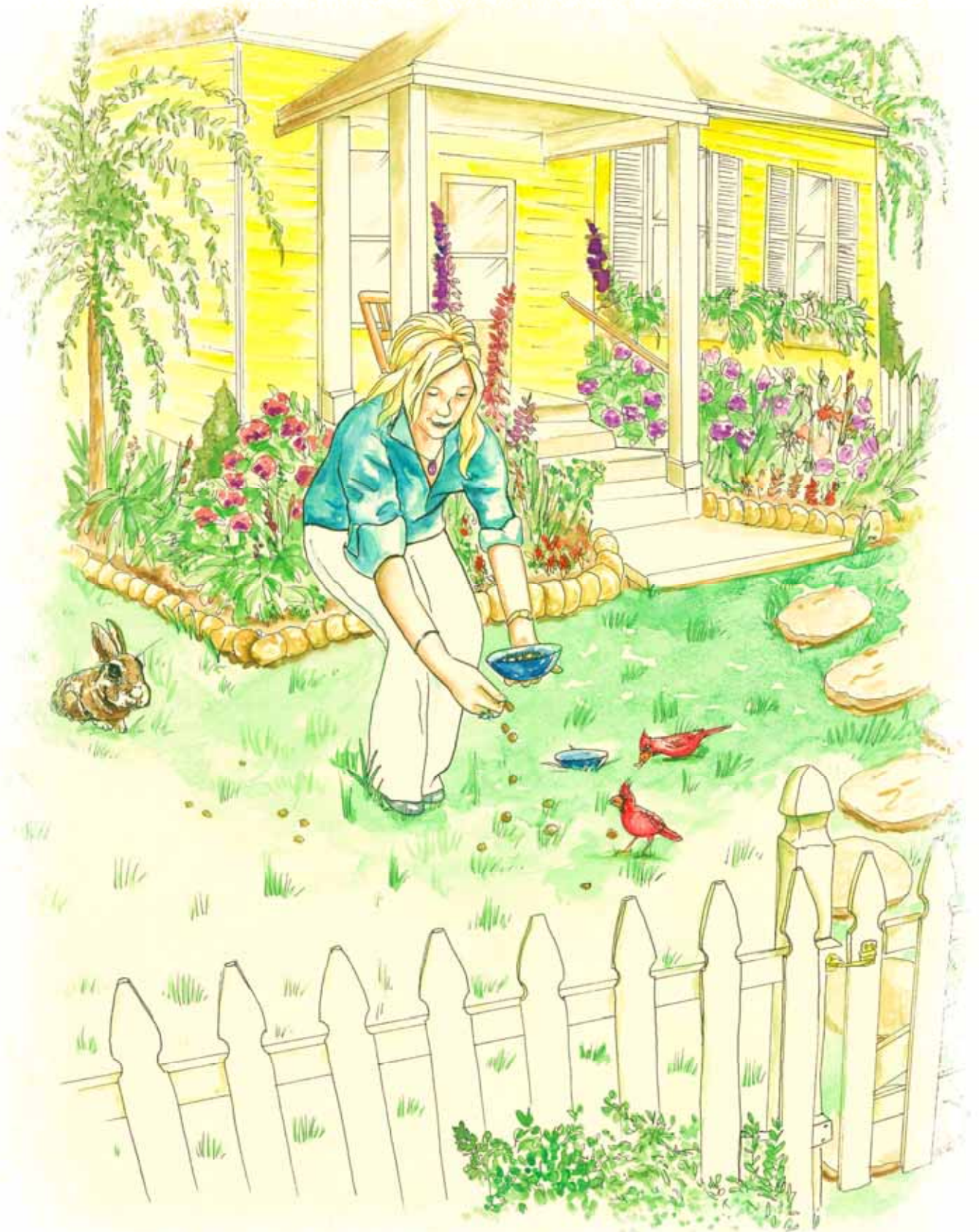
Miss Sugar Crumb enjoyed planting flowers and vegetable gardens but she liked baking bread, cakes, and pies most of all. The reason she enjoyed baking so much was that she could always take some of what she baked to sick or needy people. They always felt better soon. The sick people got well shortly after they ate and the needy always found work.



Everyone loved Miss Sugar Crumb because of her kind and gentle nature.

Miss Sugar Crumb also adored and fed the animals that lived in the woods behind her house. It wasn't uncommon to see deer, squirrels, and rabbits peeking around the trees and bushes waiting for Miss Sugar Crumb to bring them some food.

She enjoyed talking to the animals and was surprised one day when a little rabbit spoke to her as she was putting out food for him, his family, and other animals. The little rabbit said, "Thank you for feeding us."



Startled to hear the little rabbit talk, Miss Sugar Crumb jumped back. She caught her breath and replied, "You're welcome!" She then exclaimed, "Hey, I didn't know that rabbits could talk! How long have you been able to speak?"



"It started when you began feeding me. Every animal that eats your food can talk."

"But little rabbit, I didn't know that my food could make animals talk."

"I couldn't before I ate your food, so it has to be your food that made me able to talk. I could always speak rabbit talk, but now I can talk to the other animals and today I learned that I can talk to you."

"I wish I knew where the magic lies. Maybe it's an ingredient that I'm using in my baked goods."

"Maybe so," the little rabbit said as he hopped away.

"What's your name little rabbit?" Miss Sugar Crumb shouted.

"All the animals in the woods just call me Friend," he called back, slipping into the woods.

"Wait a minute little rabbit! Why do the other animals call you Friend?"

He jumped back a few feet so Miss Sugar Crumb wouldn't have to yell. "They call me Friend because I warn them when hunters are in the woods," he replied. "As you can see, I'm very quick on my feet. When I see hunters in the woods it doesn't take me long to warn the other animals."

