



THE FIRST RAINDROP



ILLUSTRATED
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THE
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RAINDROP

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Little eight-year-old Elijah Duke's parents were proud that he had a vivid imagination. Walking to school, just as it started to rain, Elijah caught a raindrop and gazed at this miracle of nature.





**Elijah wondered what the first
raindrop must have thought
when it fell to Earth and
saw it was deserted;
I mean there was nothing there?**

**Well, I was the first raindrop,
and it was spooky.**

**“What is this place and
what will happen to me
and what am I supposed
to do here?” the
raindrop thought;
“Boy, it’s so quiet
and where are all the
other raindrops?
Where is
everybody?”**





**“Hello, is anybody here?”
Now that I have arms, I wish I had
legs, and then maybe I would find
someone to talk to and play with.**


**What about music?
Where’s the music, how about
a little music, would you please?
I feel like dancing, but how can
I dance without music?
Will I ever use these ears?
I’m sure they’re here for
a reason.**



**Wait a second, could this
be some kind of trick?
I bet all those raindrops
will show up in a minute
like they always do and
plop all over. I love to plop
with them, its such fun.
Whew, am I glad
I figured that out. You
see, all you have to do is
think about it;
that's all I ever do is
think about it.**

**Hey, what's happening,
they're supposed to be
here already. I can't
believe it, I'm never wrong;
I'm the first raindrop,
remember?**

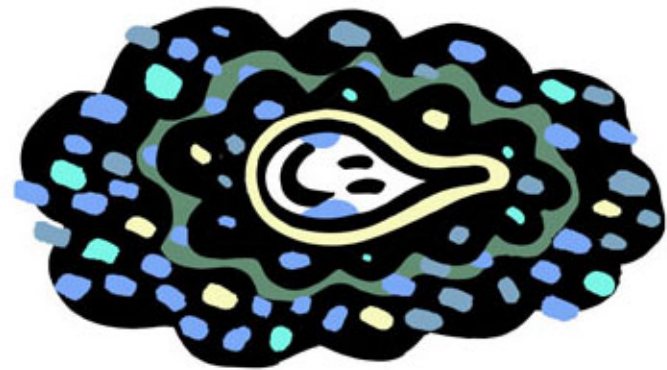




Hey, what's going on, what is this thing that's pulling me down?

Hey, let go of me, where are you taking me? Let go of me!

For some dumb reason I was pulled into the soil where it's real dark, I mean pitch black. Oh, I never felt like this before. Gee, it really doesn't feel that bad, in fact it feels good.



Well look at that, I'm helping, I'm useful. What shall I call this beautiful feeling? I can't believe it, I know a flower! Gee, I like the way it sounds!

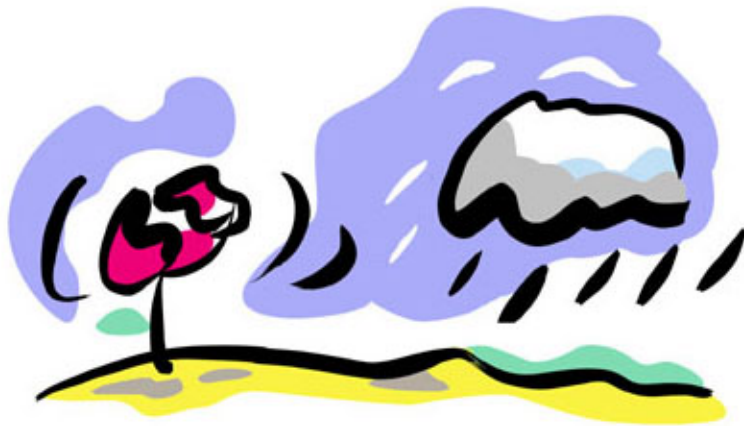


I can't believe, suddenly I'm a flower. I guess miracles do happen to little old raindrops like me.

Wow, I never looked so beautiful in my life. This flower business is sure better than just being a silly raindrop. Ya see there are millions of silly raindrops but just one beautiful flower, me. I was once a raindrop, but now I'm a beautiful flower, can't you see? With an overgrown ego, but *Shhh*, don't tell anyone.



Oh well, let's see what happens. Somehow I have this strange craving for that lazy old sun. Sure doesn't make sense to be so lazy when I'm in such a hurry for him to warm and touch me. Funny how I've changed. I was once a raindrop, now I'm a real good-looking flower, and looks like beautiful flowers like to learn.



Wait a minute, I think I see someone? I do see someone; it's that lazy old sun.

**“Welcome you old lazy bones,
I’ve been waiting for you.”**



**“It’s sure good seeing you Mr. Sun
and thanks for your warm rays,
they sure feel good.”**

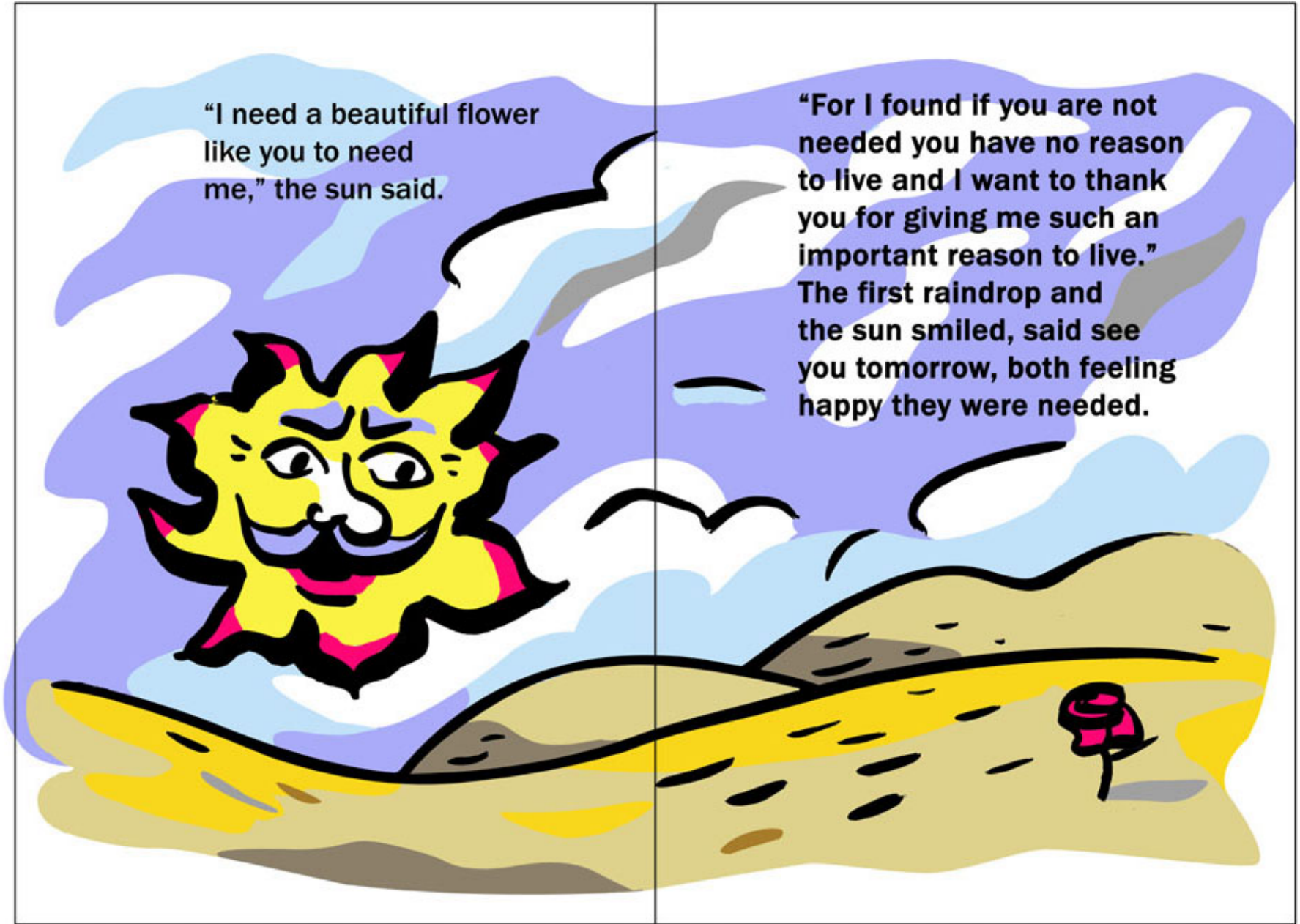
**“I never thought I would need
or want anything,” the flower bayed.**

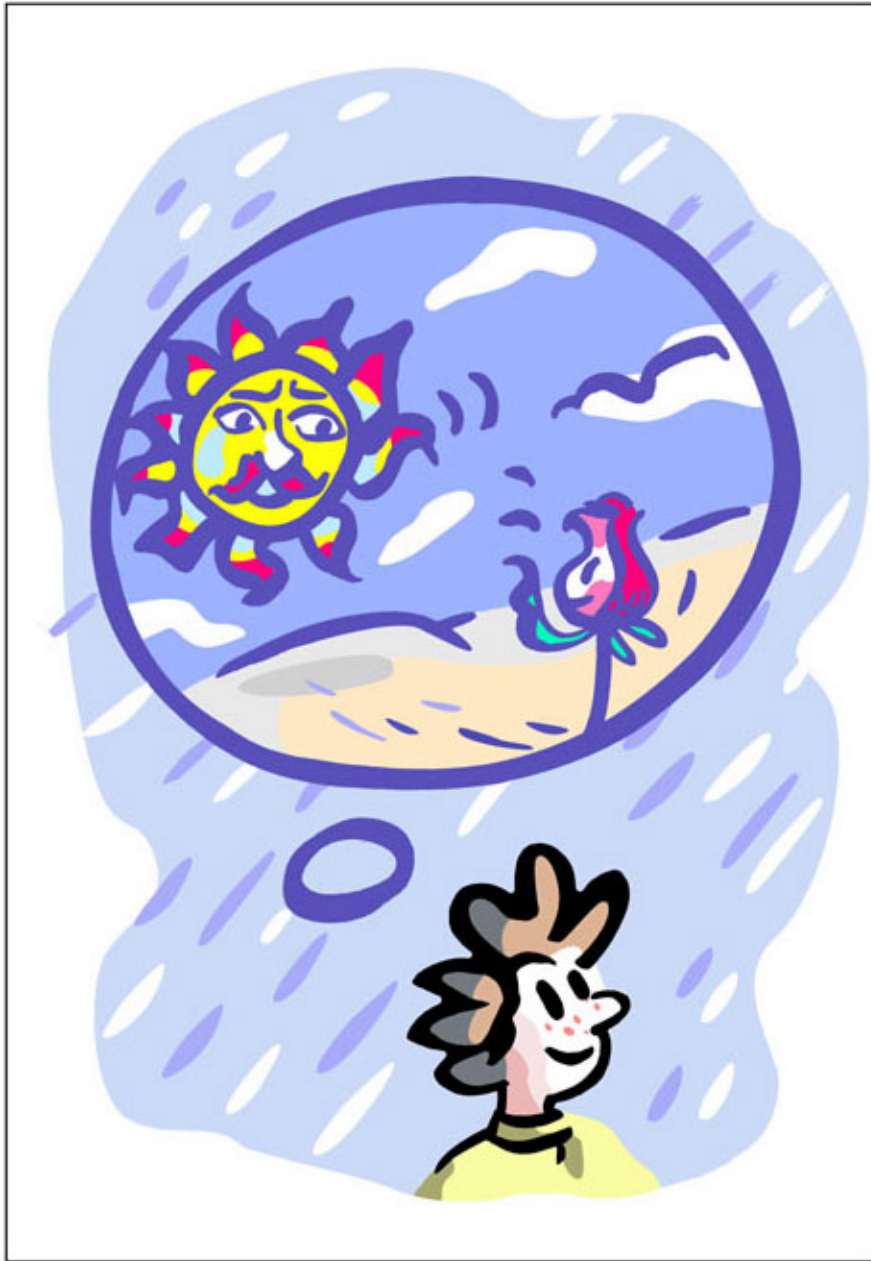


**“I guess we all need something
sometimes, especially each other,
don’t we? But, who do you need
Mr. Sun?”**

"I need a beautiful flower like you to need me," the sun said.

"For I found if you are not needed you have no reason to live and I want to thank you for giving me such an important reason to live." The first raindrop and the sun smiled, said see you tomorrow, both feeling happy they were needed.





Elijah Duke imagined seeing that lazy old sun and that beautiful rose smiling. He knew that pretty rose and that lazy old sun needed each other and he felt that he needed his mother even more.



He loved the name Rose because that was his mother's name who he loved more than anything in the whole wide world.





“And that's the reason why you're named Rose,” the boy laughed and tickled the raindrop in his hand as he entered school.

