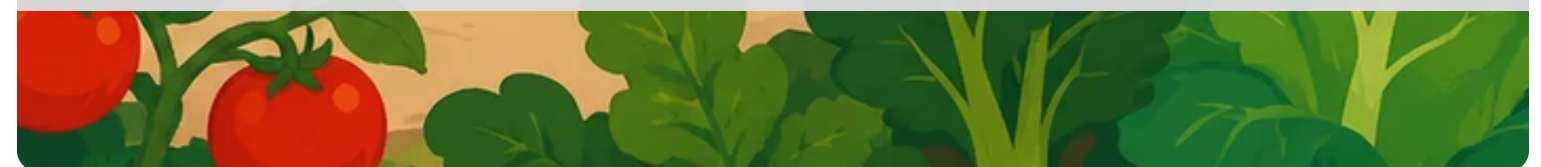




# The Power of Green, Orange, and Red

NANCY CALDERON VALLEJOS





Under the warm sun of Sunny Creek Farm, Benny Broccoli and Carla Carrot were the finest vegetables around, sharing jokes and secrets as they grew side-by-side. Their friendly greens and bright orange hue made them stand out in the rich, dark soil.



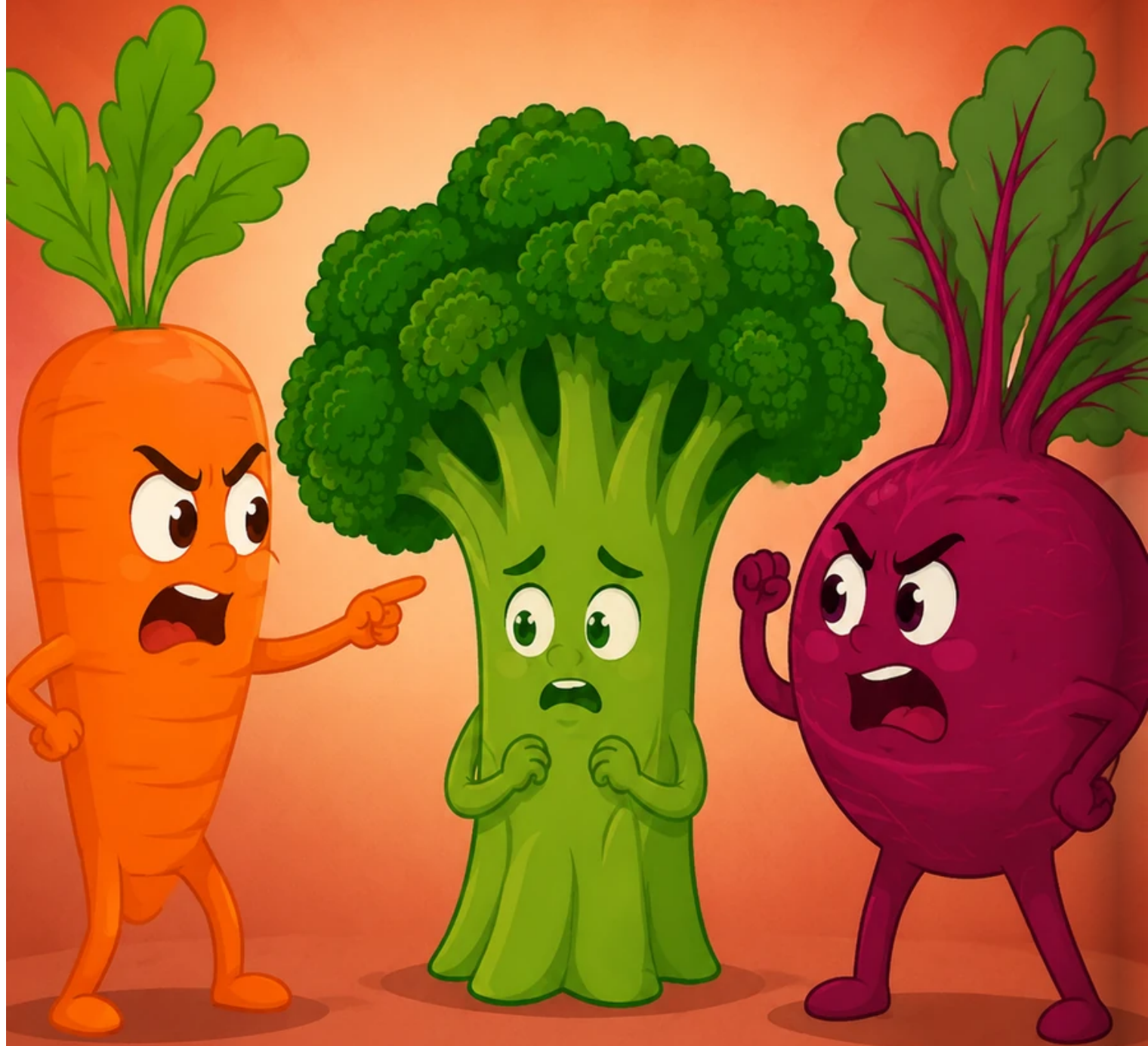
One day, a peculiar, rounded vegetable with a earthy aroma pushed through the soil. Beatrice Beetroot, with her swirling deep crimson skin and sturdy green leaves, settled into the patch right next to them.



Beatrice loved hearing Benny's stories and Carla's playful giggles. The three spent hours sharing tales about the sun and rain, learning about each other's unique colors and shapes.



However, Carla and Beatrice began sharing complex root jokes that Benny didn't understand. Feeling excluded, Benny withdrew, watching them whisper from a distance with a sad frown on his leafy head.



When Benny tried to rejoin the conversation, he accidentally said something insensitive. Hurt feelings flared on both sides, and soon, all three were arguing loudly, their vibrant colors reflecting their anger.



For several lonely days, the vegetable patch was quiet. Benny, Carla, and Beatrice grew stiff and grumpy, refusing to look at each other and missing the joy of their shared friendship.



A heavy silence settled over the garden until Farmer John arrived, looking worriedly at his wilting vegetables. The garden felt dull and unhappy without its friendly trio.



Realizing their silence was hurting the garden and themselves, Benny tentatively reached out with a leafy branch. Carla and Beatrice, equally weary of fighting, looked at him with regretful eyes.



They sat down together and talked, listening to how their words had caused hurt. Hugs were shared, and soon they were laughing again, appreciating each other's special qualities.



Reunited, the vibrant three—green, orange, and deep red—realized they were stronger and happier together, knowing their diverse strengths helped them all grow healthy, strong, and ready to protect their garden from any illness.