



## Leo's Garden of Wonders

Azzou Med



Leo stands at the edge of his family's sun-drenched garden, wearing a wide straw hat and carrying a small wooden basket. He is ready to explore the many wonderful vegetables that grow in the rich, dark soil.



First, Leo finds the crunchy carrots hiding underground with only their feathery green tops showing. When he pulls one out, it is bright orange and shaped like a long, pointy cone that tastes sweet and fresh.



Next to the carrots, tall stalks hold up heavy ears of corn wrapped in silky green husks. Leo peels back the layers to reveal rows of golden yellow kernels that pop with sweetness when he takes a bite.



Leo moves to the vine section where round, plump tomatoes hang like red ornaments in the sun. They feel smooth and warm to the touch, and inside they are juicy and full of tiny seeds.



Among the big, prickly leaves, Leo spots a dark purple eggplant shaped like a large teardrop. It has a shiny skin that glows in the light, and his mom loves to cook it until it becomes soft and savory for dinner.



In a shady corner, Leo finds the crisp cucumbers trailing along the ground in long, green vines. They are bumpy on the outside and pale green on the inside, providing a cool and refreshing crunch on a hot day.



Leo reaches for the bright bell peppers, which look like colorful lanterns in shades of red, yellow, and green. They have a boxy shape and a mild, sweet flavor that makes every salad look like a rainbow.



Down near the soil, Leo sees the sturdy heads of broccoli that look like tiny, bushy green trees. He knows these are very healthy for his bones and loves how the little florets soak up the flavors of his favorite spices.



Leo's absolute favorite vegetable is the sweet potato, which has a dusty brown skin and a hidden heart of deep orange. At home, his dad mashes them into a creamy, sweet treat that feels like a warm hug in a bowl.



As the sun begins to set, Leo looks at his basket filled with ten different types of colorful vegetables. He feels happy knowing that eating these healthy treats from the earth helps him grow strong and energetic every day.