

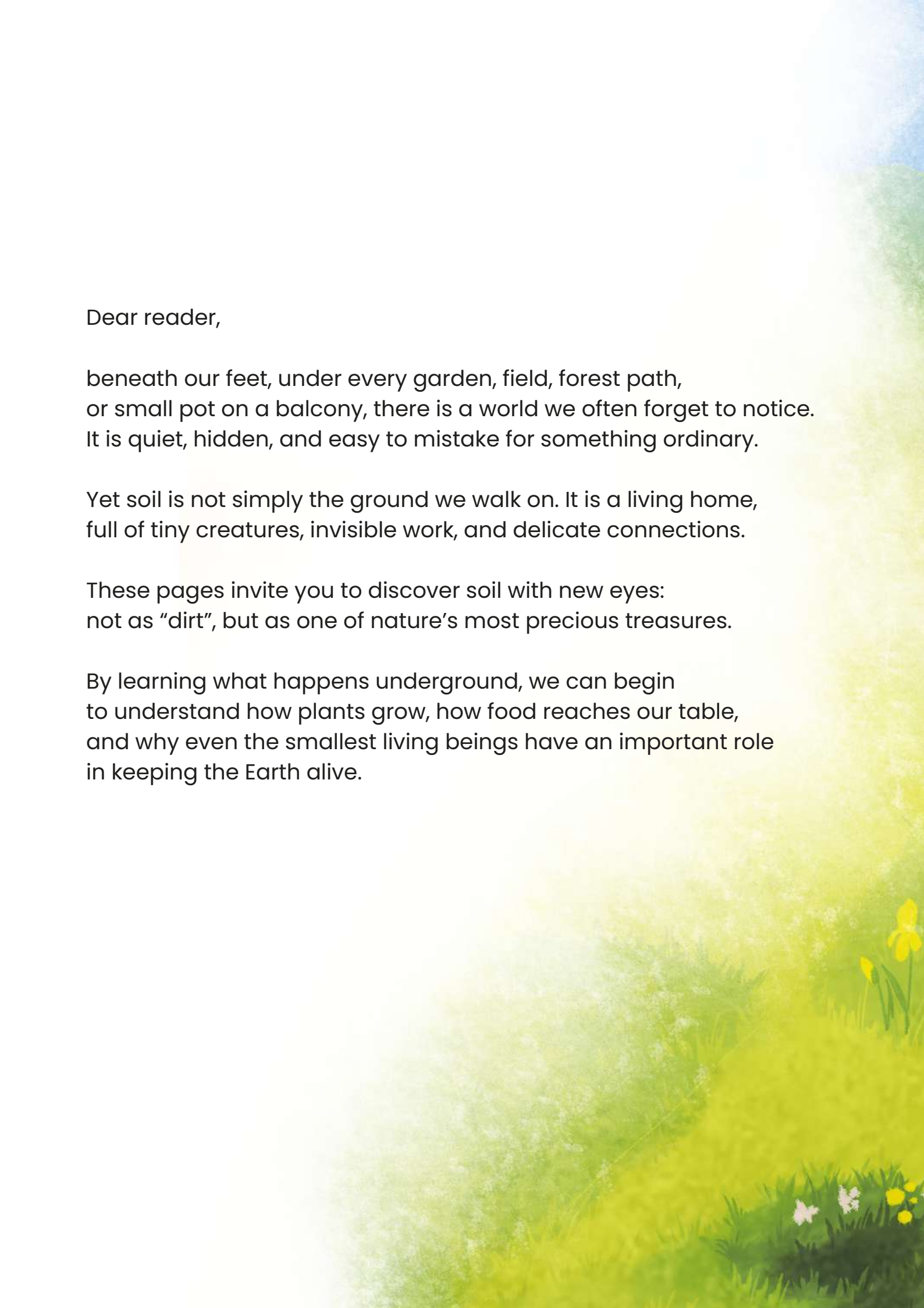
THE NATURE SISTERS

The hidden world

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Dear reader,

beneath our feet, under every garden, field, forest path,
or small pot on a balcony, there is a world we often forget to notice.
It is quiet, hidden, and easy to mistake for something ordinary.

Yet soil is not simply the ground we walk on. It is a living home,
full of tiny creatures, invisible work, and delicate connections.

These pages invite you to discover soil with new eyes:
not as “dirt”, but as one of nature’s most precious treasures.

By learning what happens underground, we can begin
to understand how plants grow, how food reaches our table,
and why even the smallest living beings have an important role
in keeping the Earth alive.

The hidden world

Gaia kneels beside the vegetable garden and lets the soil slowly run through her fingers.

"It feels so soft today," she says thoughtfully. "Almost as if it's alive."

Dad smiles as he places a small seedling into the ground.

"That's because it is alive," he replies gently.

Gea, who is following Arturo near the edge of the garden, immediately turns around.

"The soil is alive?" she asks, surprised.

Dad scoops up a handful of soil and carefully observes it in the palm of his hand.

"Inside this little handful," he explains, "there are more living creatures than there are people on the entire planet."

Gaia opens her eyes wide. "Really?"

Dad nods. "There are tiny bacteria, fungi, microorganisms, and little worms we can barely see. And then there are larger creatures too, like beetles, spiders, woodlice, millipedes, centipedes, and earthworms."

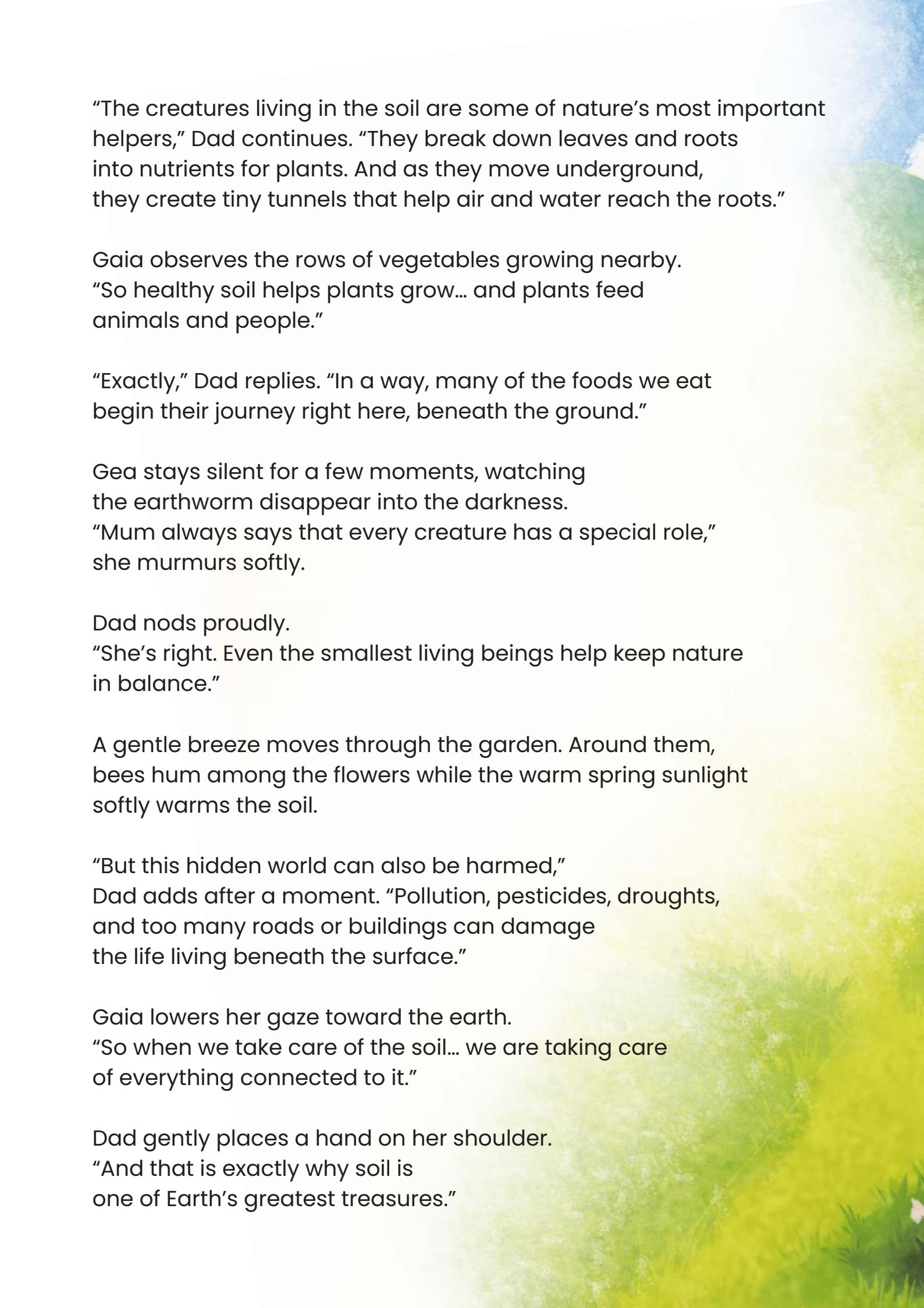
Gea immediately crouches down, curious.

"So there's a secret world beneath our feet?"

"A very busy one," Dad replies with a smile.

Arturo sniffs the ground while Gea gently moves aside a fallen leaf. Beneath it, an earthworm slowly disappears into the soil.

"Look!" Gea whispers excitedly.



"The creatures living in the soil are some of nature's most important helpers," Dad continues. "They break down leaves and roots into nutrients for plants. And as they move underground, they create tiny tunnels that help air and water reach the roots."

Gaia observes the rows of vegetables growing nearby. "So healthy soil helps plants grow... and plants feed animals and people."

"Exactly," Dad replies. "In a way, many of the foods we eat begin their journey right here, beneath the ground."

Gea stays silent for a few moments, watching the earthworm disappear into the darkness. "Mum always says that every creature has a special role," she murmurs softly.

Dad nods proudly. "She's right. Even the smallest living beings help keep nature in balance."

A gentle breeze moves through the garden. Around them, bees hum among the flowers while the warm spring sunlight softly warms the soil.

"But this hidden world can also be harmed," Dad adds after a moment. "Pollution, pesticides, droughts, and too many roads or buildings can damage the life living beneath the surface."

Gaia lowers her gaze toward the earth. "So when we take care of the soil... we are taking care of everything connected to it."

Dad gently places a hand on her shoulder. "And that is exactly why soil is one of Earth's greatest treasures."

Spring

Book 1 – The synergistic garden

Book 2 – Honey and officinal herbs

Book 3 – The fruits of our work

Book 4 – The colours of the farm

Book 5 – An idea is born

