

"Flower Garden"

by

Grace Tompkins

An older woman is teaching younger girls about loss by having them help her bury a cherished member of their family.

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FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

The backyard is closed in by a tall wooden fence.

Next to the edge on the interior of the fence are several patches of different flowers wrapping around the yard, with some areas empty. In front of each patch is a small gravestone.

On the side of the house is a medium sized walk in shed.

LAURA, late 60s, dressed in a black gardening outfit and is bent over digging out a hole along the fence.

ROSE, the oldest, DAISY, and ROSEMARY, all between the ages of 6 and 10, wearing black aprons that are too big on them, walk over to Laura.

ROSE pokes Laura's shoulder.

LAURA
(turning toward the girls)
Yes, what is it Rose?

ROSE
She's ready.

LAURA
Good. Can you and the other girls
bring her out?

The girls hesitate a moment.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Is something wrong, Daisy?

DAISY
Why are we doing this?

LAURA
(calmly, holding Rosemary's hand)
Well...she's a part of our family.
She's been a really good girl so we're
giving her a nice funeral.

ROSEMARY
If she was so good, why are we burying
her?

LAURA

(frowning)

Because it's her time to go. She's older now and isn't her normal happy self anymore. Do you girls understand that?

The three girls stare at the ground.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Do you need me to bring her over?

ROSE

No, we can bring her.

LAURA

(touching Rose's cheek)

That's my girl.

The three young girls run back inside the house as Laura dusts herself off, looking at the other patches of flowers.

EXT. HOUSE - BACKYARD - DUSK

Laura and the three girls are planting patches of lilies where Laura had dug the hole, which is now filled up.

LAURA

Look what a beautiful job you girls did! She would have been so proud.

The three girls smile brightly.

LAURA CONT'D

Go get cleaned up now, I'll be in to serve dinner in a moment.

Daisy and Rosemary run inside while Rose stands still, staring at the patch of flowers.

Laura looks at Rose.

ROSE

Do you think she's comfortable down there?

LAURA

(pulling Rose beside her and kissing her head)

I think she's perfectly happy wherever she ends up.

Laura picks up a small gravestone and places it in front of the patch of flowers reading: Lily 2012-2023

ROSE

I'm turning eleven soon...

LAURA

(pulling Rose close to her)

That you are my dear, that you are...

Rose looks at the other patches of flowers.

LAURA CONT'D

You should go inside Rose. Help Daisy and Rosemary get washed up.

Rose nods her head and runs inside the house.

Laura stares down at the new patch of lilies. She dusts off her black apron, grabbing her trowel and walks over to her shed.

INT. LAURA'S SHED

Inside are an array of gardening supplies; shovels, mulch, trowels, ect...

Laura walks to a CALENDER hanging on the wall. She crosses out the next date that is empty two weeks before where it says "Rose's B-DAY"

Laura moves to a corner of the shed where multiple grave stones are lined up. She grabs one and wipes off some dirt. It reads "ROSE 2012-2023"

CUT TO BLACK: