



JUBRINA

THE
LAST
PLANT



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"The last plant"

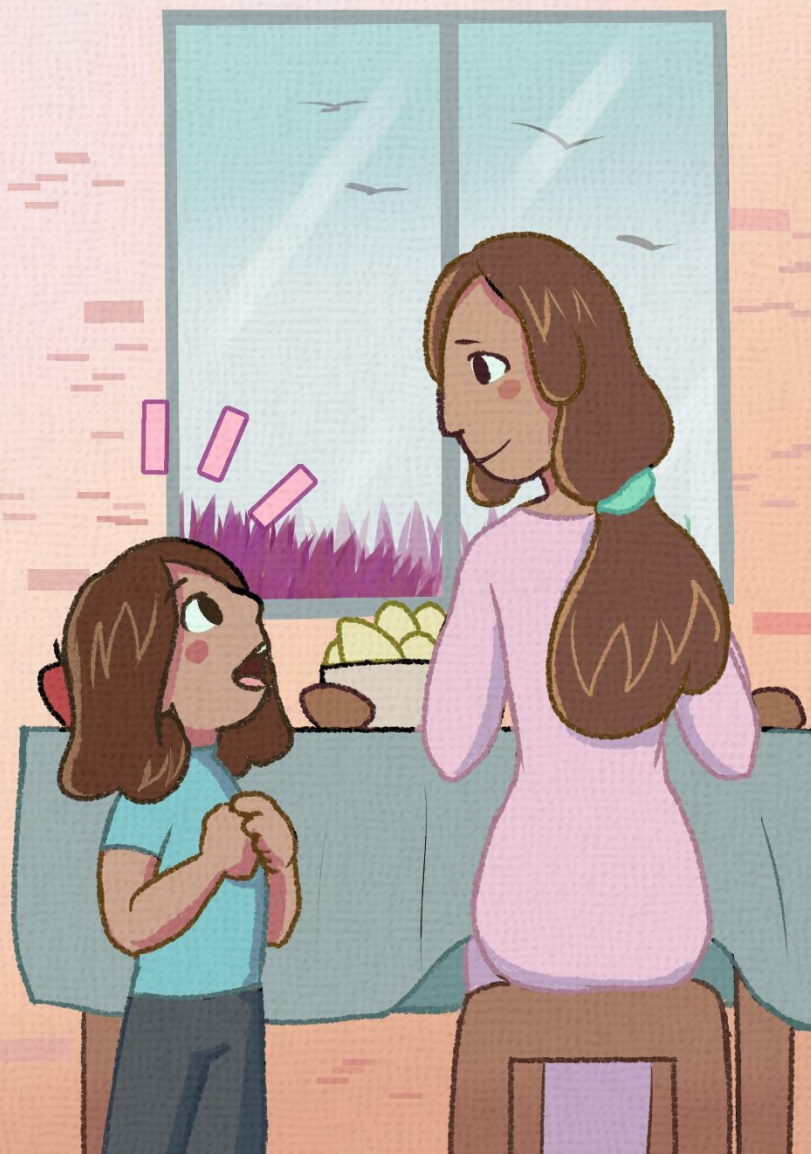
On Mother's Day, Tina's school was going to hold a celebration in honor of all the mothers. Even though she wanted to, Ana could not go to her daughter's school because she managed a food stand and that left her with no time to walk Tina every day nor attend school events. Ana relied on her daughter going with a group of friends. It was not a problem since the school was close to home.



When Tina found out that her school would be celebrating Mother's Day, she had been constantly asking Ana to make it to the event a whole month in advance. She mentioned how neither her friends or teachers knew who her mother was. Tina begged every day:

"Please, please, please, pleaaaase come!"

—If I go, will you stop insisting? —
her mother said one day. The girl smiled.



On the day of the event, Ana and Tina, holding hands, walked to school together for the first time. Her mother hadn't been there in years. It was the same school where she had run and had learned her multiplication tables. The feeling in her chest was of joy; it felt like receiving a hug from a loved one. She was incredibly happy that her daughter was able to study. She had forgotten how beautiful the place was. She felt pleased to have the means that allowed her daughter to experience it; to exercise her right to study.



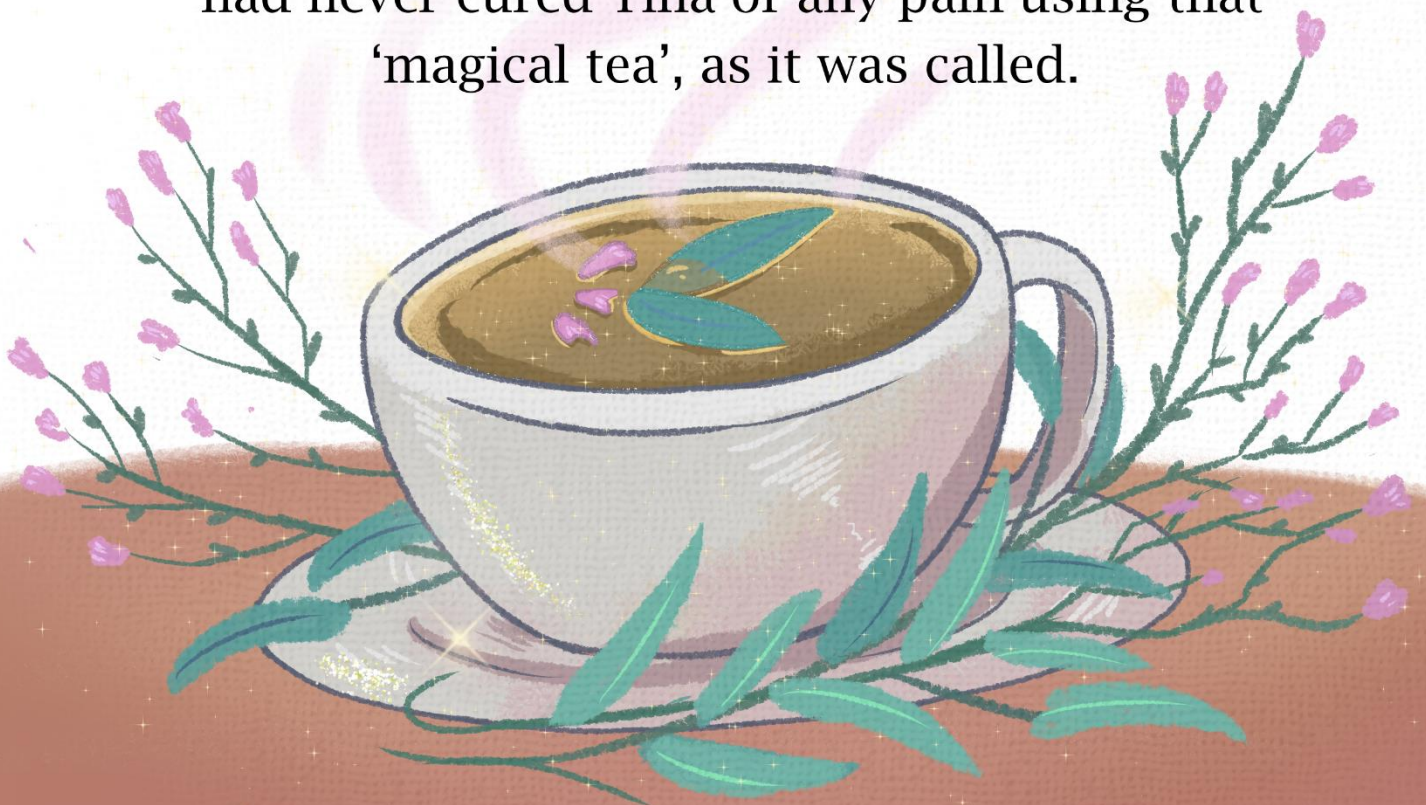
Tina, happy to have her mother at school, went with her friends to play and talk about her mother. How she did her hair and helped her with her uniform before school; how she helped her with her homework. Also, that the food she prepared at her stand on the beach, was the most delicious anyone could ever taste.



Ana walked around the school, remembering where she had played hide and seek, where she had fallen and the day her class had planted a curía tree. She wondered what had happened to the plant. She walked to the backyard of the school, amidst the hustle and bustle of children and their mothers, and looked at the plants. She wasn't sure which one was the curía plant. When her teacher had made them plant it, it had been in the hopes of safeguarding the specie, as there weren't left many.

Ana realized that she hasn't seen a curía plant in years. She has seen many mint bushes, but no curía.

Her mother used to make her curía tea for her stomachache after getting sick due to eating melcocha; which is an artisanal type of candy known to many countries of South America. But she had never cured Tina of any pain using that 'magical tea', as it was called.



The next day, when she opened her food stand, watching the sea, she thought about the little plant.

That was probably the last curía plant she saw since she was ten years old. She was surprised that no one else seemed to remember it, as if the plant's non-existence had no relevance. During her time at school, her teacher had professed that every plant was unique and played a particularly vital role in the world; however, Ana had forgotten it for many years, but not anymore; now she remembered. She craved for a cup of curía tea. With that in mind, she set out to replant curia trees.

It wouldn't be just for her, but for the whole community.

"I'll teach Tina about the plant that gave her community its name", she thought, looking at the sign on the beach that read...





"The last plant"



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