Long ago, there was an enormous garden filled with fire-flowers, strong trees, and soft meadows. Heavy blossoms and fanning leaves always found the sun, but in the shade, moss grew—thick moss—as cool as water.

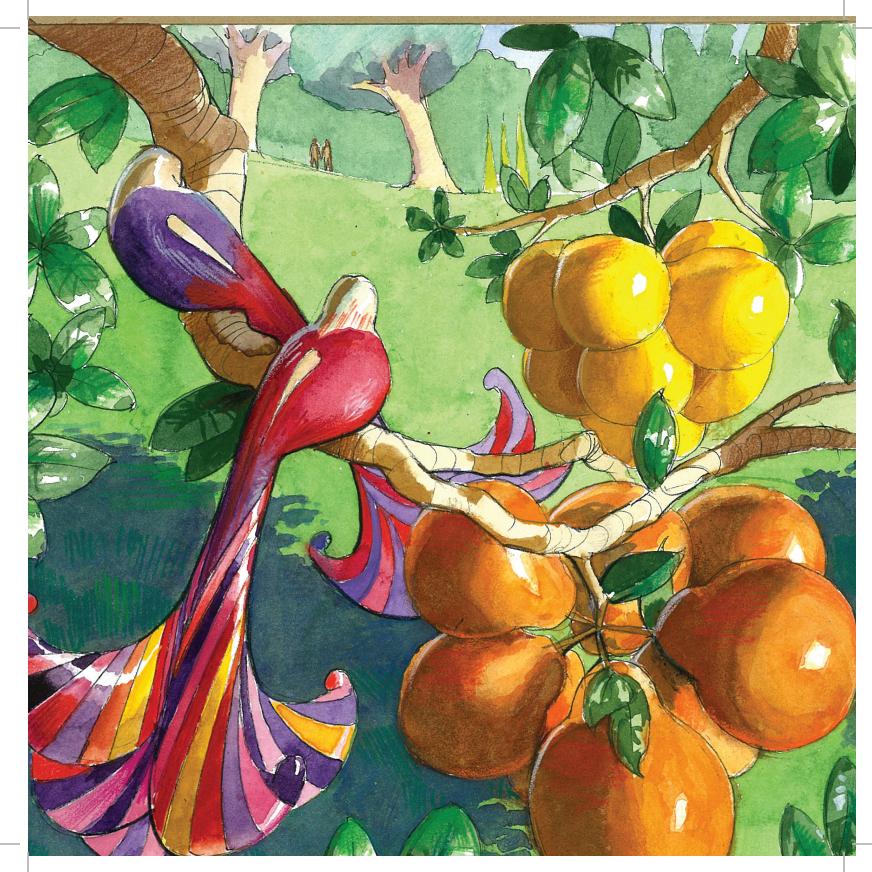
This place was called Eden.



Birds colored like the sunset lived in the green of the leaves, and fruit hung heavy on thick branches.

Animals lived in the garden. They rolled in the meadows and wandered in the groves, but they were not alone. There were two keepers of the Garden whom the animals obeyed.

6



Eden was a place shaped by the sounds of God's voice, and with His magic, He made two gardeners to tend it.

He piled dirt, muddied it with His breath and spoke one word—*Adam*—and the first man was born. Then, while the new man slept, He took a bone from his chest and spoke more beautifully— *Eve*.

The animals and the Garden were given to Adam and Eve to protect and tend.

8

