



Madeline and Molly in The Land of the Mellow Mushrooms



The Filly-Winkers and Milly-Wickets lived in Coggins, near the Land of the Mellow Mushrooms. This is the story of how two of them learned to love each other.





One day as Madeline, the most beautiful Filly-Winker in Coggins, was traveling to Mumpkin in her splendid carriage she saw Molly standing in the road.

"Please help me," cried Molly. **"My scootie fell apart. I have to get to market to sell my butterberries or I won't be able to feed my weezers."**

"Then, get in," scolded Madeline, "but you have to sit in the back of my carriage and you cannot talk to me."

Molly sat quietly sobbing in the back of



Madeline's carriage, while the beautiful team of lady bugs pulled them along the

yellow brick road toward the Land of the Mellow Mushrooms and the Mumpkin market.



As they rolled into the market square, Molly's butterberries spilled into the carriage. "You've ruined my day," yelled Madeline. "I should never have given you a ride."

"Time out! No bad feelings are allowed in the Land of the Mellow Mushrooms. You'll have to appear in the court, ladies."



Madeline and Molly were called before Harooki and the Grand Council of Geezers. "Why are the two of you in my court?"



"We don't like each other," said Madeline. "That's not true, your Honor, I love Madeline."

The Great Geezer's voice softened, "Why don't you love Molly, Madeline?"

"Because she's orange, and she has big ears." "Well then," said Harooki, "what must you think of my long white hair and big nose?"



"Molly, do you like being orange? Do you think your ears are ugly?" "Well, I've always been this way, your Honor . . ." "Yes, and you always will be, my child."

"But, sir, Molly talks funny, too. She's a Milly-Wicket, and they live in the poorest part of Coggins."



Harooki turned toward the great hall that led into his chambers and wiggled his long fingers. Tiny sparkling lights began to dance down the hall. the DreamWeaver them like a magic into the courtroom settled at Molly's



Dinkins rode carpet and feet.

"Hold Molly's hand, please Dinkins," said The Great Geezer. "I think you can help us."

"Let's all hold hands," said Dinkins, as she looked at Madeline with a sparkle in her eye. So Dinkins the DreamWeaver and Molly and Madeline stood in a circle before the Great Geezer holding hands.

"Where did you get your ears, Madeline?" asked Dinkins. **"I don't know. I've always had them."** **"And where did you get your ears, Molly?"** **"I don't know either. Can you tell us?"**



"Your ears and your eyes and your skin and your feet and your hands and your nose were all given to you. You didn't even have to ask for them. They were all wonderful gifts especially to you."

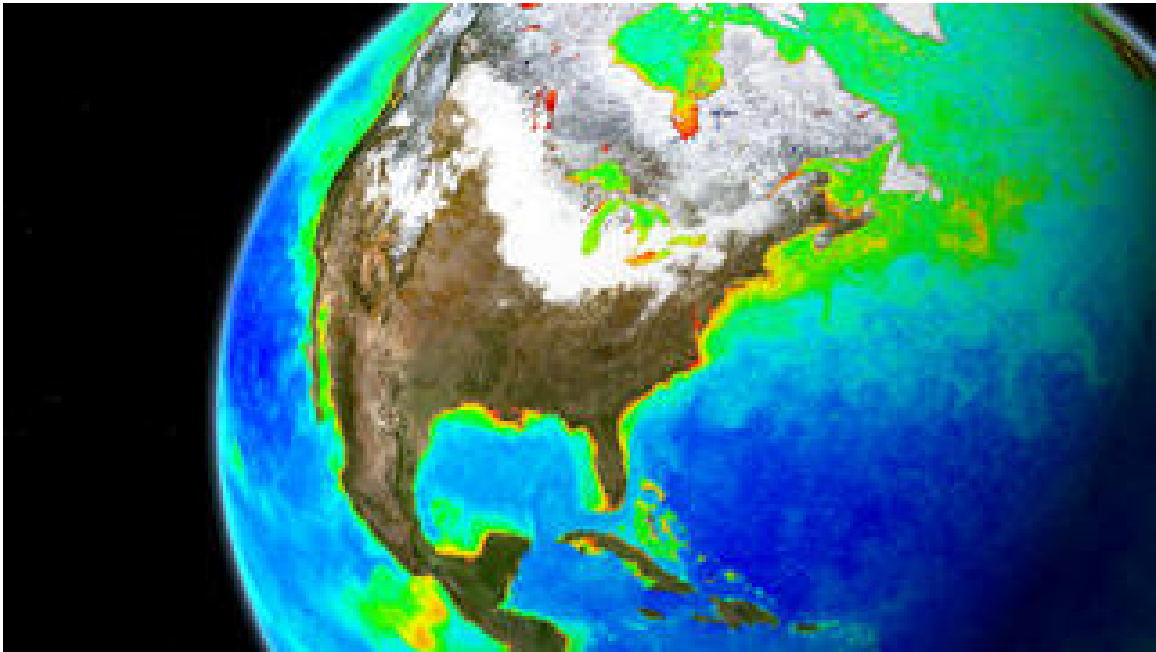
"Why are Molly's ears big and mine are small?" asked Madeline. "Because her big ears make her special. Without her big ears and orange skin, she might look just like you. Then *you* wouldn't be special."

"What does *special* mean?" asked Madeline. "It means you're one-of-a-kind!" boomed The Great Geezer. "It means there's no one else in the whole wide world like you, and that's special."



Suddenly The Great Geezer and his court disappeared. The magic carpet of sparkling lights circled Dinkins and Madeline and Molly. In an instant they

were flying, and they could see the whole world below them.



"Look!" said Dinkins. **"There's Coggins, and there's the Land of the Mellow Mushrooms. See how tiny they are. Look above us at all the other worlds."**

Madeline and Molly never knew there was anything except Coggins and the Land of the Mellow Mushrooms.



"One day you will leave Coggins," said Dinkins to Madeline. When you do you will see special people everywhere. Some of them might look like Molly. Some of them might look like you. You must remember that all of them are one-of-a-kind."

Dinkins disappeared in a flash of light. Madeline and Molly were alone, holding hands. "Madeline, I love you," said Molly. "I love you, too, Molly" said Madeline.

