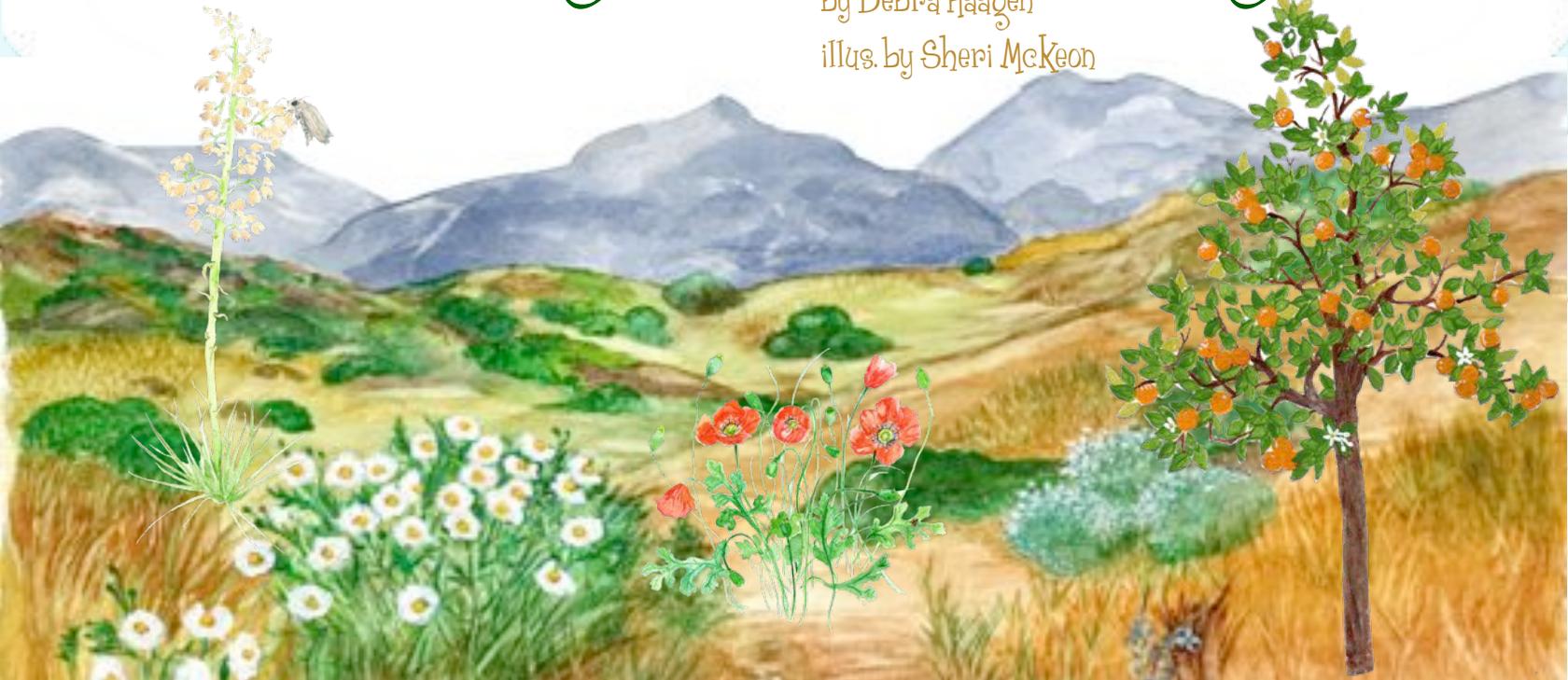


Amazing Plants by Design

by Debra Haagen

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Dedication

For Marilyn, Grandma Linda, and Grandma Marge
Granny Mahan and Grandma Christine

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Marilyn Jenkins for her invaluable contributions to this book.

I would like to thank my editor and junior editors: Judy Zschocher, Joshua, Kimberly, and Audrey; Matthew, Abigail, Madeleine, and Ian Haagen; and illustration models Cailin and Maura McKeon. A big thank you also goes to our biggest supporters, our husbands, Perry Haagen and Sean McKeon.

Most of all, I would like to thank my Lord Jesus Christ, who has designed all things well!

Grandma's house was always fun! John and Sarah loved going on nature walks with Grandma near her home in southern California.

"Does the sun always shine here, Grandma?" asked Sarah.

"We have a rainy season, too," said Grandma, "but it is sunny most of the year."

"Yeah, Sarah," chimed in John. "The plants have to have rain as well as sunshine to grow."

"Well, that is true," agreed Grandma, "but plants are designed to live in their environment. Some plants need more or less water and sunlight than others."

"You're kidding!" said John.

Grandma pretended to be very serious. "I never kid about plants, John!"

"I meant about the word 'design,'" said John. "Sarah and I learned at the zoo that animals are specially designed to live in their specific environments."

Grandma chuckled. "Yes, John, plants are designed to live in different environments, just like animals. Take those orange trees, for instance. Do you have oranges growing in your yard in North Carolina?"



“No,” laughed Sarah. “It gets very warm in North Carolina in the summer, but in the winter it gets too cold for orange trees to survive.”

“That’s right,” said Grandma. “Freezing temperatures can kill orange trees. Your cousins in Pennsylvania have apple trees and grapevines. Those plants were designed to be dormant – or to rest – during the winter. While they are resting, they can survive the lower temperatures. Let’s take a walk in the canyon, and I will show you some other southern California plants.”



