



Saving Delicia

A Story about Small Seeds
and Big Dreams



LAURA GEHL *and* PATRICIA METOLA

For Kevin. May all your big dreams come true.

—L. G.



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Every summer afternoon, Kari and Cookie sat in the shade of the beautiful delicia tree listening to Old Otis tell tales from way back when.



Most of all, Kari loved hearing about summers when Otis was little, when he would feast on delicia fruit day after day, juice running down his chin.

Delicia trees everywhere? Kari could hardly imagine it.





Now, only one delicia tree remained. Each summer, the people in town shared its sweet, tangy fruit.

When Kari's family sliced up their last delicia fruit of the season, Kari slipped a tiny piece to Cookie. Then she slid the seeds into her pocket.



“What if we plant these?” Kari asked Otis. “We could have lots of delicia trees, like when you were a kid!”

“It’s a great idea,” Otis said. “But we only have one delicia tree now because a disease called blight killed the others. And that disease also kills any new delicia trees we plant.”





“What if the blight kills our last tree?” Kari whispered.

Otis sighed. “As far as we know, delicia trees can’t grow anywhere else. If this one dies before scientists find a cure, there won’t be any more.”