

Mina's Midnight Blue Rescue

A story for curious little gardeners

An Inklings World Story

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Mina loved dirt.

Not yucky dirt. Good dirt — the kind that smells like rain and grass and growing things.

She loved squishy mud between her fingers. She loved crumbly soil that smelled like the morning. She even loved stinky compost, because she knew a secret:

Dirt is where plants eat their breakfast.



Other kids liked cartoons and games. And Mina liked those too! But what Mina loved best was helping plants.

If a flower drooped... Mina was there. If a leaf turned yellow... Mina was on the way.

She was a Plant Rescuer. And she was very, very good at it.



One sunny Saturday, Mina took a walk in the park.

Crunch, crunch, crunch went her sneakers on the
path.

Then — gasp! — something caught her eye.



Under a big old oak tree was a plant she had never,
ever seen before. Its leaves were the color of the
night sky.

Deep. Shimmery. Midnight blue.



But when Mina knelt down close, her smile melted away. The pretty plant was sick.

Its stems were bent and floppy. Its leaves were crispy and curled. And the dirt around it? Hard as a rock and dry as a cracker.

"Oh no," Mina whispered. "You're so thirsty. Hold on, little friend. I'm going to help you."



Mina ran all the way home. Zoom! Out of the park.
Zoom! Down the street. Whoosh! Through the front
door.

"Mom! Mom! There's a midnight blue plant in the
park and it needs me!"

Her mom knew all about Mina's special gift. She
grabbed a bucket and a little shovel and said, "Let's
go save it."



Back at the park, Mina was so gentle. She did not yank. She did not pull. She wiggled the hard dirt loose, little by little, until the roots came free with a soft pop.

"Roots are like tiny straws," Mina told her mom. "They drink water from the soil. But this dirt is too hard and dry to drink from. We need to give this plant a brand-new home!"



They carried the plant home to Mina's backyard.
This was her Plant Hospital. It had pots and
pebbles and a watering can shaped like an
elephant.

Mina rolled up her sleeves and said, "When a plant
is this sick, you can't just splash some water on it
and cross your fingers. You have to follow the plan.
My plan!"



Step 1: A Cozy New Pot.

Mina picked a pot with little holes in the bottom.

"Plants need to breathe, even their roots! The holes let extra water drip out, so the roots don't get soggy."



Step 2: Yummy Magic Soil.

She mixed soft, fluffy soil with a big scoop of compost.

"Compost is like vitamins for plants. It's their favorite snack!"



Step 3: A Gentle Haircut.

With tiny clippers, she snipped off the crispy dead leaves.

"Now the plant doesn't have to feed the broken parts. It can save all its energy to grow shiny new leaves!"



Step 4: A Slow, Cool Drink.

She watered the soil slow... and gentle... until it was just damp.

"Not too much! Too much water can drown a plant. The dirt should feel like a squeezed-out sponge — just right."



Then Mina waited. Every morning, she gave the plant a little sunshine.

"Leaves are like tiny lunchboxes. They catch the sunlight and turn it into food — a plant makes its own snack out of sunshine!"

When the afternoon got too hot, she moved the plant into the cool shade. She watched it like a hawk.



And slowly... slowly... something wonderful began to happen.

First, the floppy stems stood up tall and proud. Then, teeny tiny buds popped out. Pop! Pop! Pop!

And finally, the plant unfurled brand-new leaves that shimmered brighter than the stars. That spectacular, sparkly, midnight blue.

The plant wasn't just alive. It was thriving!



Mina was so happy. But she knew something in her heart. This special plant didn't belong to her. It belonged to the park — so that everyone could see how beautiful it was.

So back to the oak tree they went. Mina dug a soft new hole. She mixed in some of her magic compost. She patted the soil gently around the roots. Pat, pat, pat.



The midnight blue plant swayed in the breeze.
Back and forth... back and forth... Almost like it was
waving.

Thank you, Mina.

And Mina waved right back, already wondering...
who would need rescuing next?

The End.



A Little Note for Grown-Ups & Tiny Gardeners

Every plant needs four things to be happy, just like
Mina taught us:

Water — but not too much! Roots drink it up like
straws.

Sunlight — leaves use it to make their own food.

Air — roots need to breathe, which is why pots
have holes.

Good soil — full of yummy compost to help plants
grow strong.

Take care of those four things, and you can be a
Plant Rescuer too!





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