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The Squash

Mary Graham Bonner

"It's all right to be a winter vegetable," said the squash. "It's all right to be a summer vegetable. It's all right to be any kind of vegetable at all. But it is very sad to be a squash."

"Why?" asked the potato.

"The name, for a start. *Squash*. Doesn't it sound flat? Trampled? Hopeless? It sounds like something that's already been walked on."

"Your name does have that quality," the potato agreed. "But you yourself are not flat. I haven't seen anyone trampling on you."

"That's not the point," said the squash. "We are a dull family. We haven't any enemies — which sounds like a virtue, but it isn't, because we haven't any real admirers either. Tomatoes are beautiful. Cucumbers are polarizing — some love them, some can't stand them. At least cucumbers provoke a *feeling*."



"And we? People say we'll do. People say we're all right. No one gets excited about squash. No one says they've been *longing* for squash. We just... exist. Adequately."

The potato had no good answer to this.

It was, indeed, sad to be a squash.

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