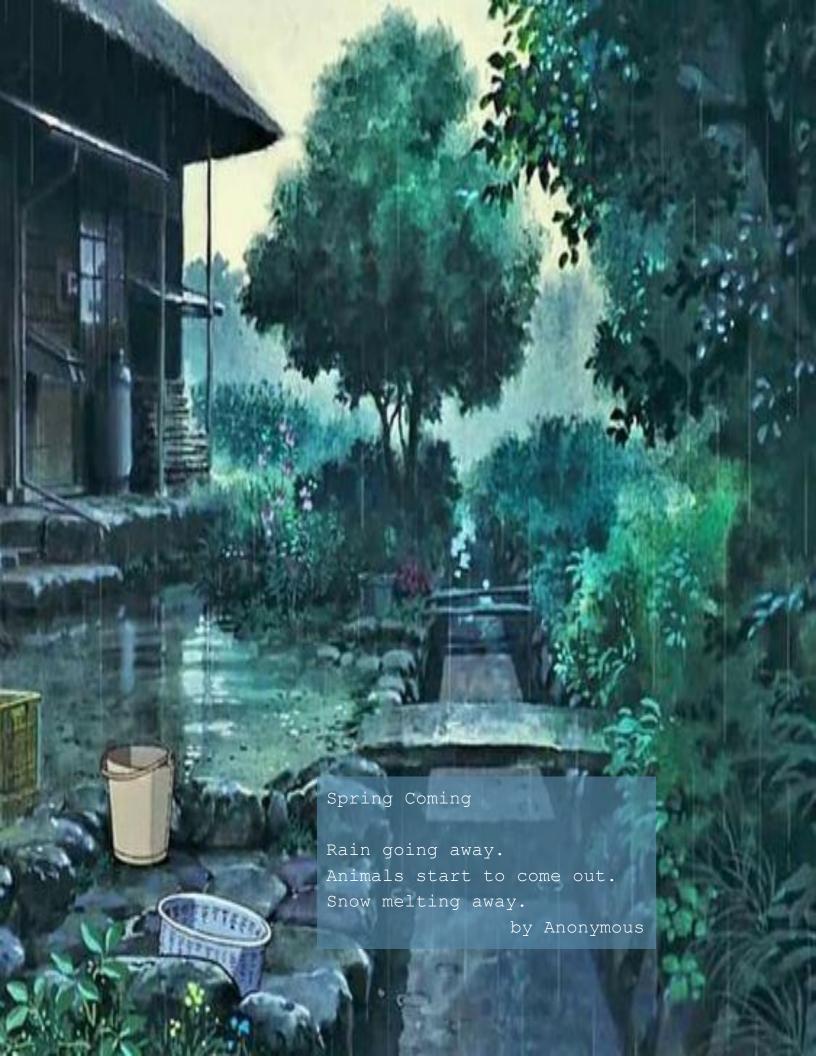
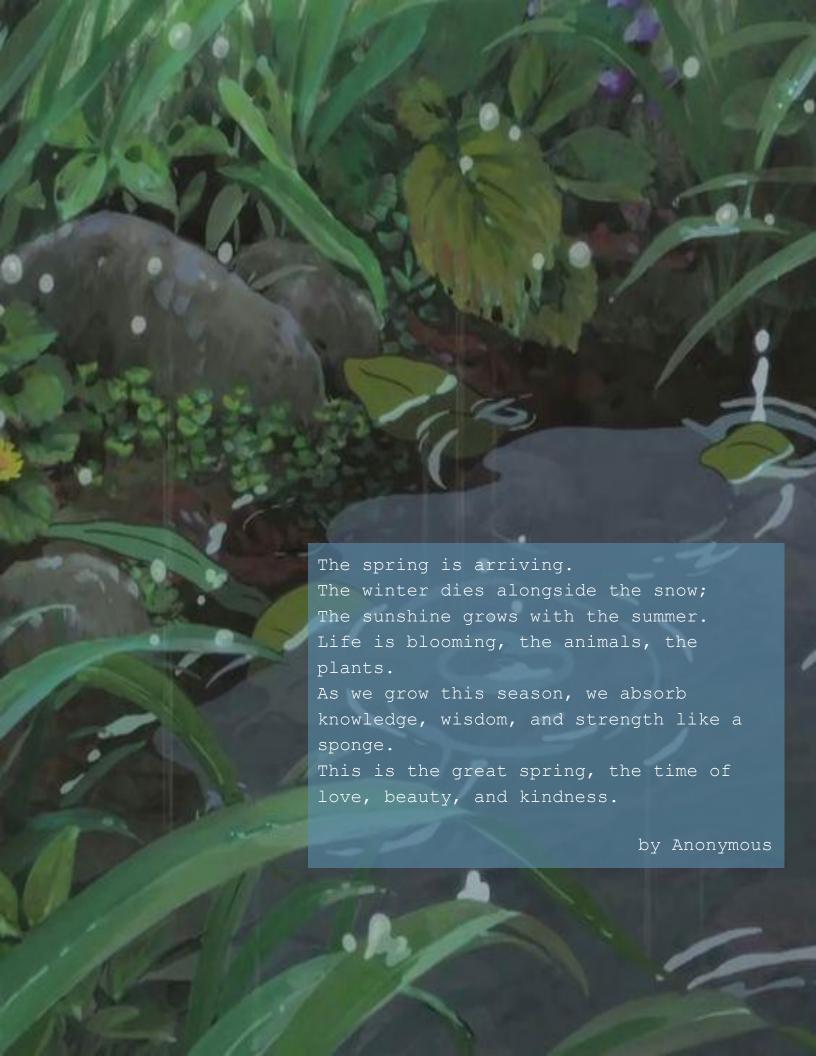


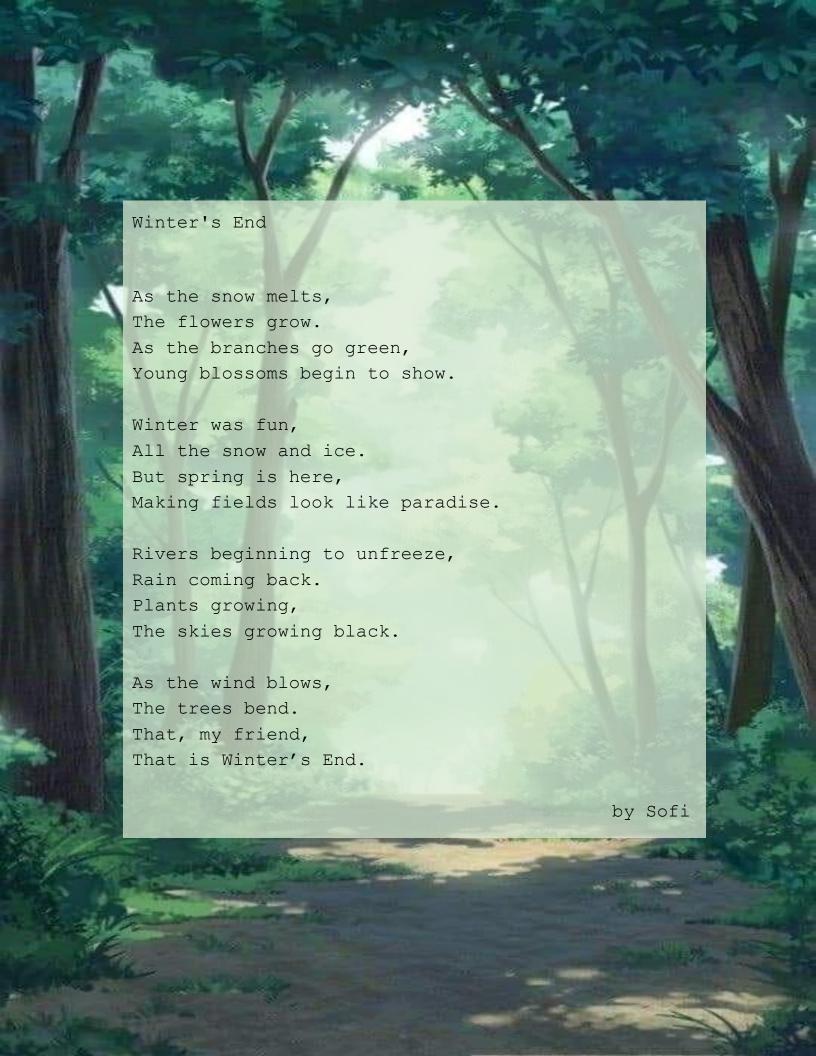
# The Dog-Eared Pages

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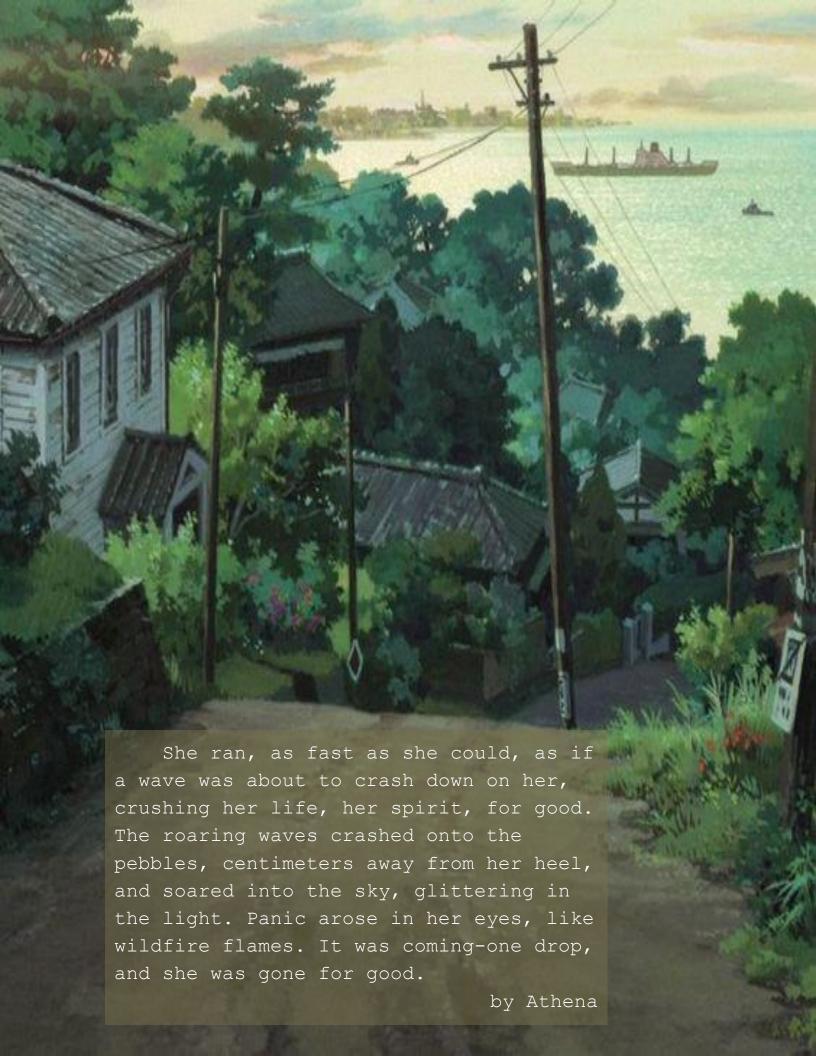


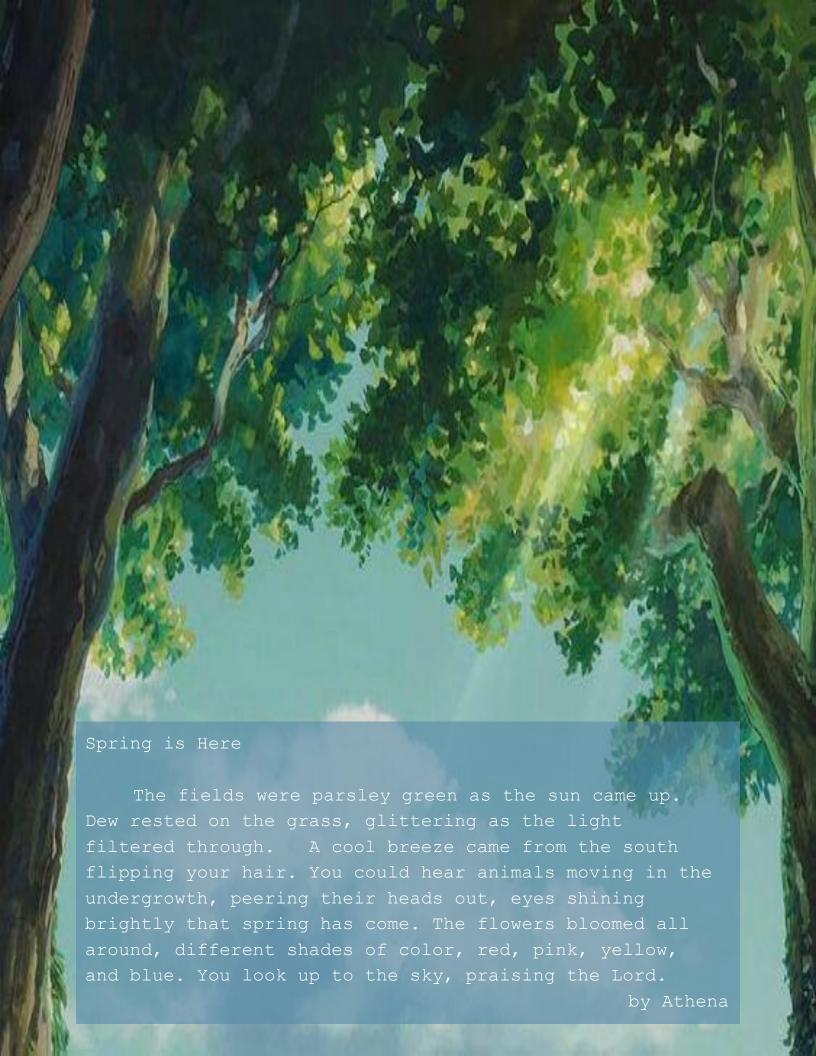


The Golden Apples

The golden apples glistened in the sunlight, as I made my way through the forest. The blooming dandelions grew along the roots of the many trees I passed. I felt quite at peace with myself, but then I realized I had an audience with the High King himself. The more I had thought about it, the more I began to feel the regret that had come, seeping in. I wish I had done something more with my life. Something different. I knew I had to go see him, and yet I couldn't make my legs move any further. I knew it was such a crazy and foolish thing to do, but I walked up to the tree with the golden apples that I had passed on the way, picked an apple, and took a tiny bite. The sweet taste rushed into my mouth, filling all of my senses with this sweet, sick, dizzy feeling, and all went black. I felt my body collapse to the floor, and just like that, I was trapped in the continuous darkness of my own mind. I should feel scared. I know I should feel scared, and yet I cannot. The feeling of utter peace and happiness vibrated through my very essence. I opened my eyes to see the High King himself, but we weren't near the vermillion castle any longer, instead, we were in a field of beautiful flowers, radiating all my confusion and worries away.

by Nex + Alyssa





### Forest Shine

In the forest, behind trees and interesting mushrooms that you have not met yet, you can find a small house. This house is covered in moss. But not everyone knows about it, everyone considers it a legend, fiction, a fairy tale, but if you go into the depths of the thicket of the forest, you will see the city. The houses there are small, like a small carton of milk. And if you manage to come when it gets darker, the sun will leave, you can see the radiance of these houses. But then when the sun sets again, you will not be able to see the radiance. As if you will see butterflies, but they are not butterflies, the body is larger, strange robes are on them, and the wings are still of a different shape. And now you will leave the forest, maybe you will not come again, the radiance to see what you saw then.





## Spring in Narakachi

Shina ran around in the field like a little Whelpling, really happy about spring. Saiouma, Tadashi, Ruben, and Allister were near the river, seeing who could skip stones the farthest. Seraphina, Athena, and Raven were picking flowers, careful with them all. Shina was hanging from a tree by now, refusing to get down.

"No! It's cool up here! I'm not getting down!" she yelled. Raven and Seraphina simply rolled their eyes at her. Seraphina was getting ready to use her magic, when Shina suddenly jumped down and was holding something under her hands. She revealed a small, black bunny in her arms.

"Where'd you get that?" Masaru said as he walked over. Shina held up the bunny, who was curled up in fright.

"I saw it from the tree. It's really young, but there's no sign of a burrow or even its mother. I think it might've been left by its family, and its paw appears to be broken", Shina said as she gently stroked the bunny's ears.

"What if we take it in?" Saiouma suggested. "It'll be a lot safer, and it can grow properly rather than living in fear its whole life."

And that's what they did. They all walked back to the castle, Shina snapping at anyone who even dared to come too close to the bunny. Masaru just laughed, but was careful. It's no joke when a dragon bites you, let alone one like Shina's tribe has. As they entered the castle, Shina immediately asked a maid to get a small carrot for it.



As the weeks went by, the bunny began getting better, and eventually was running around the castle with Shina.

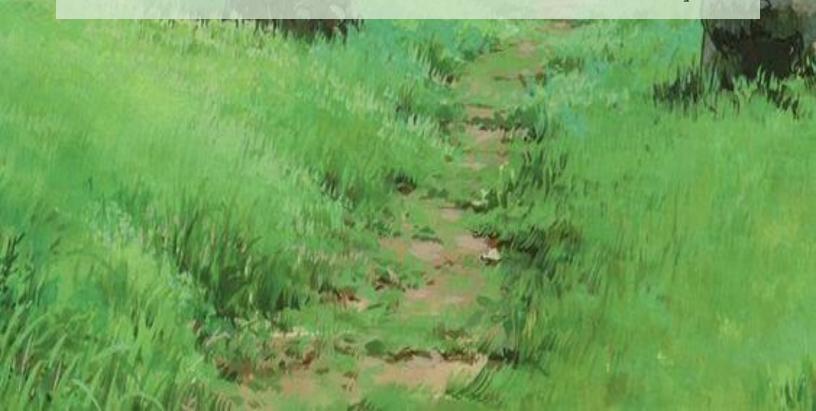
Raven and Ruben's shop was pretty busy because of the new flowers, Tadashi and Athena was finally able to spread their wings without the worry of them literally freezing in the cold air. Saiouma and Seraphina were busy organizing the annual Spring Festival, and, as usual, Masaru had to make sure Shina didn't get lost or injured.

Saying that Narakachi was beautiful in the spring was an understatement. It was more than beautiful. They even decorated Saiuoma's mother's willow tree as a gift.

As all of this was happening, Danny, the God of Sacrifice and Friendship, smiled down at his friends. It's been a few months since his death, and the town even made a sculpture of Danny, both as a human and a god. Spring was his favorite season, so Tadashi (his best friend) made sure to leave him a few offerings here and there. Danny was proud of Tadashi, and how far he'd come.

The group all enjoyed the Spring festival (and the season in general), as they watched everything and everyone grow around them.

by Sofi



#### SPRING

Sun shines brightly this afternoon

Putting a blanket on the clearing, you sit on it

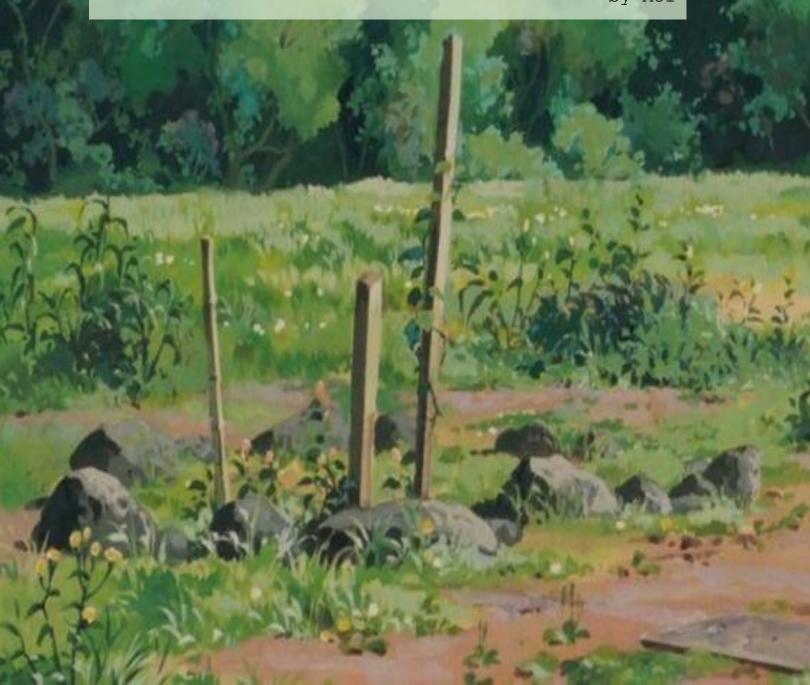
Running children somewhere in the park nearby

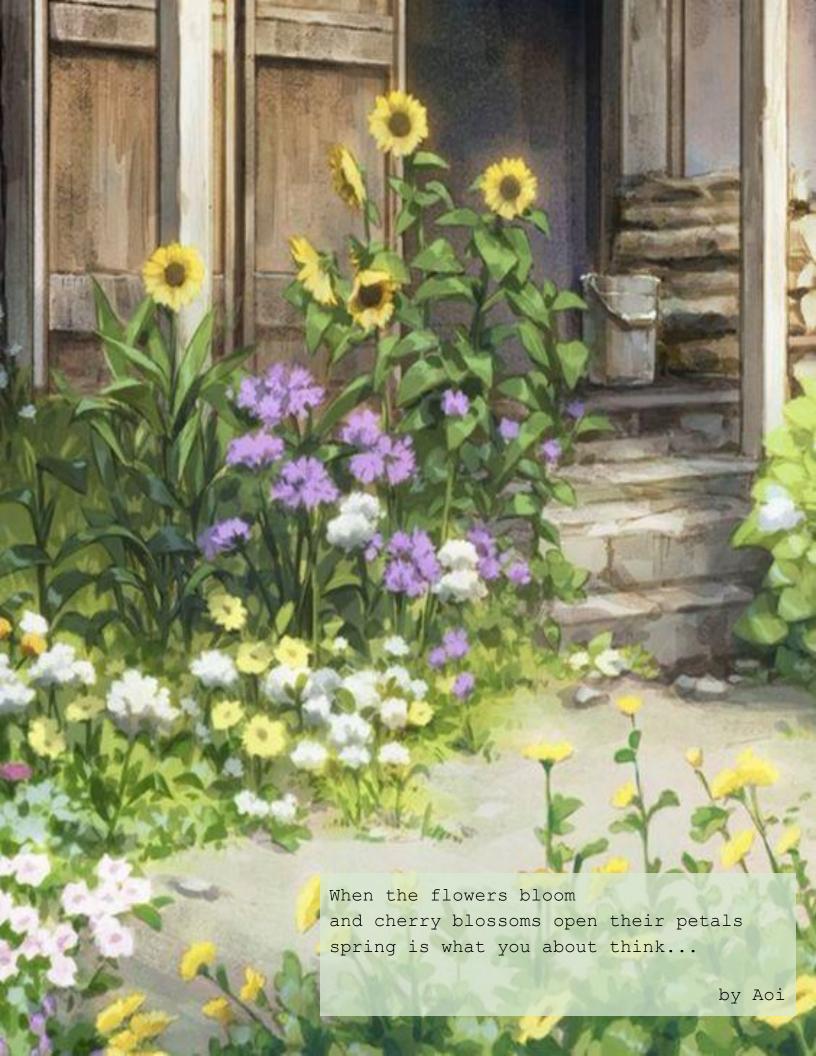
I start eating a sandwich prepared for a picnic

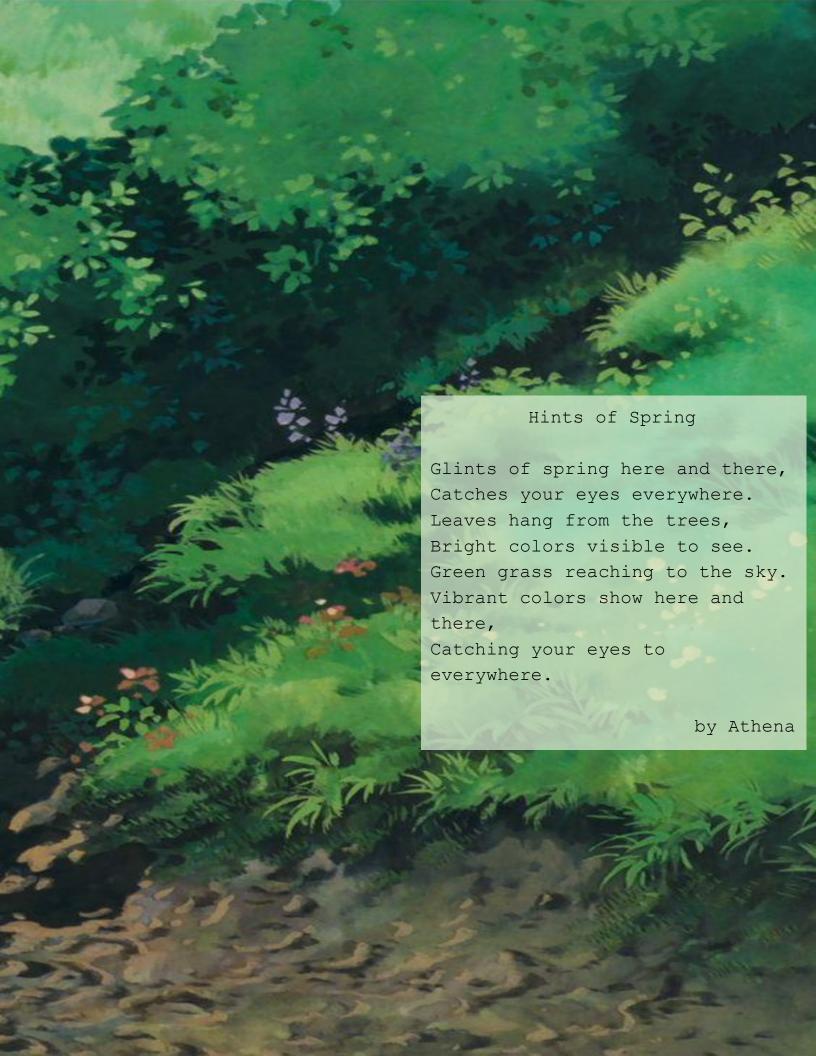
Now it doesn't seem to matter, and you can do something more necessary

Good mood is still with you, it would seem, so this is spring.

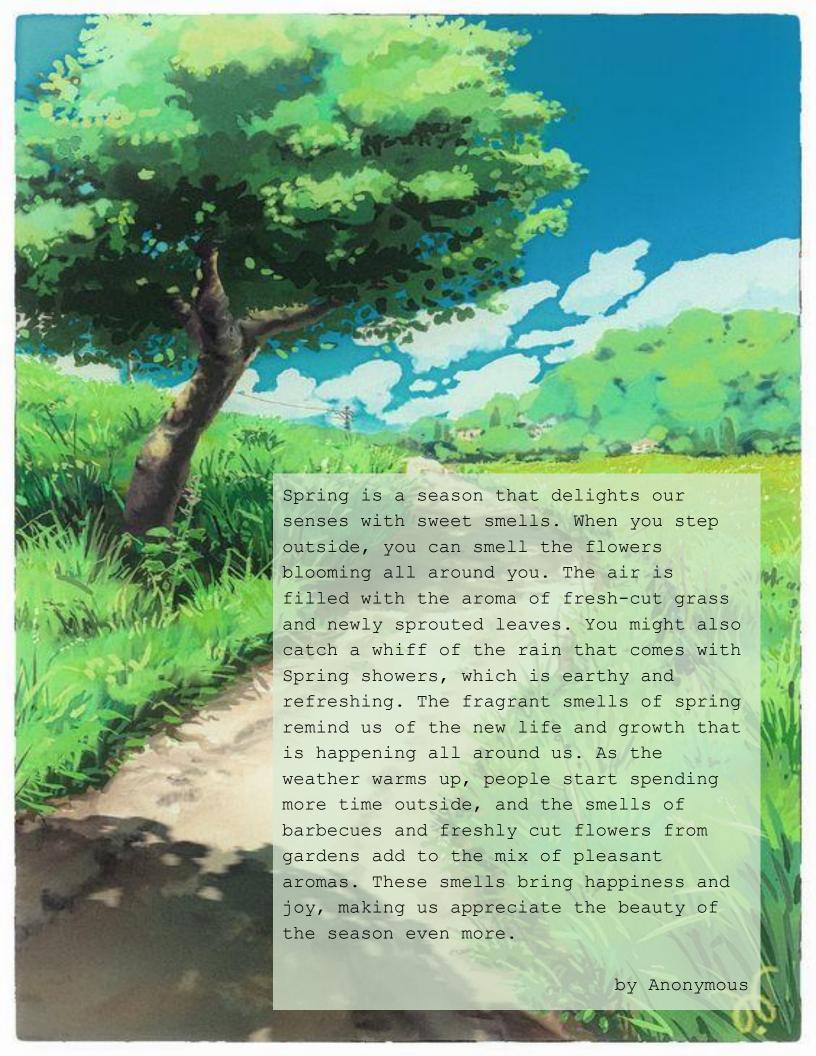
by Aoi







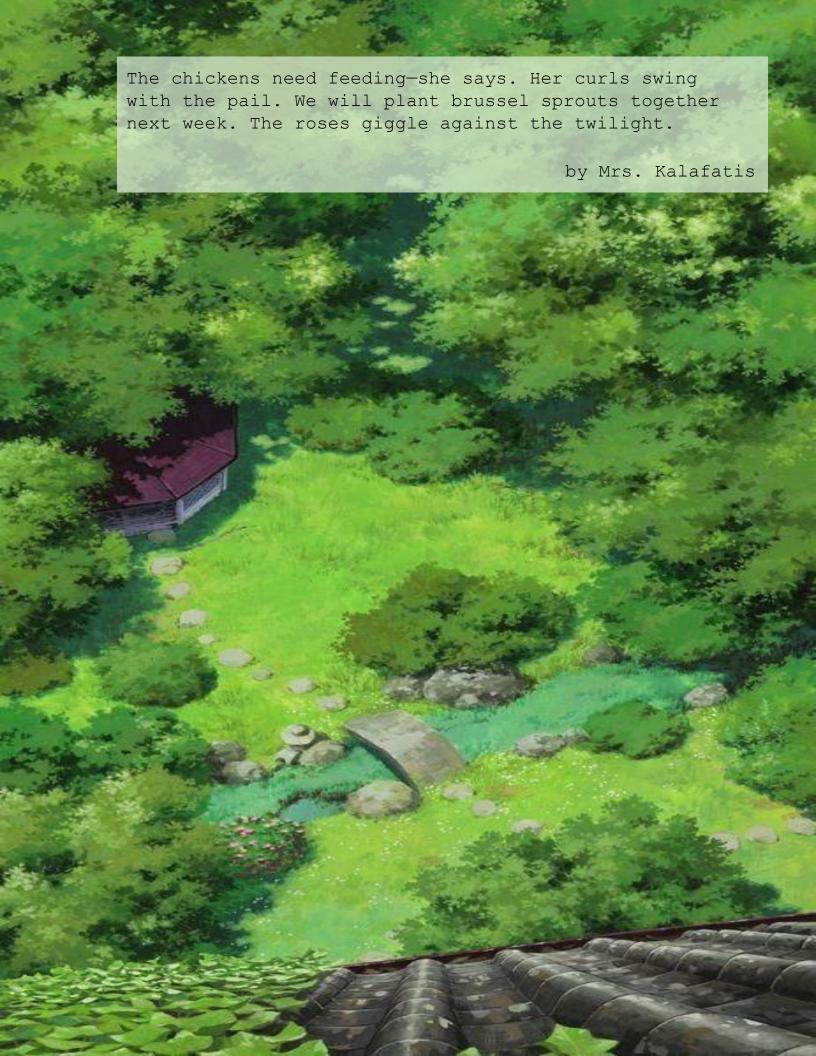


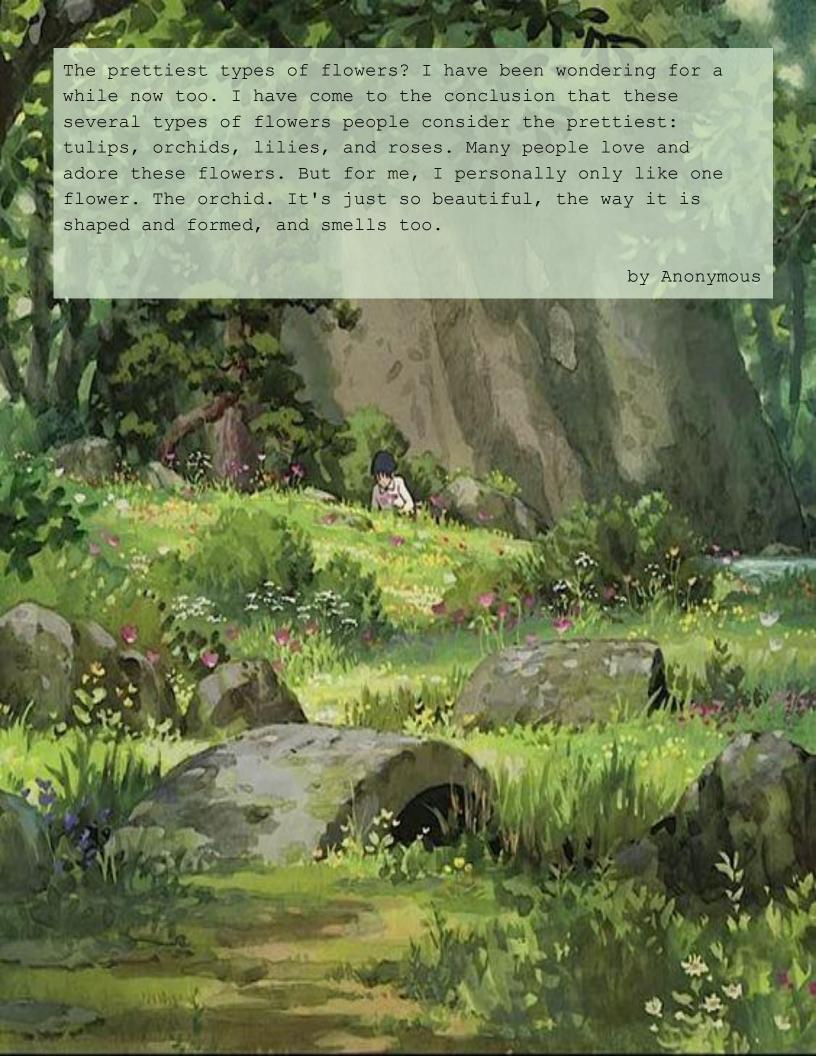


Spring is the season when everything wakes up after the long, cold winter. It's a time for new beginnings, when plants and flowers start to grow again. You can smell the sweet flowers and hear the birds singing. Spring is warmer and the days are longer, so you can spend more time outside enjoying nature. It's a time for feeling hopeful and happy because everything is starting fresh.

by Anonymous







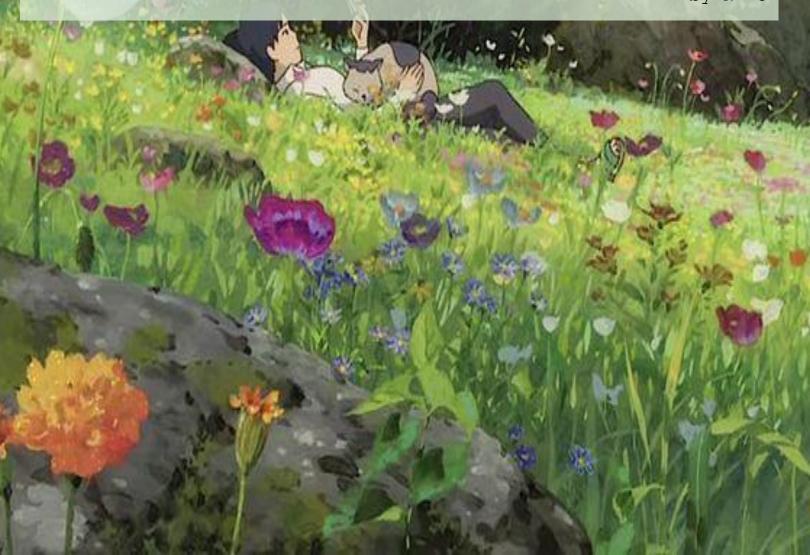


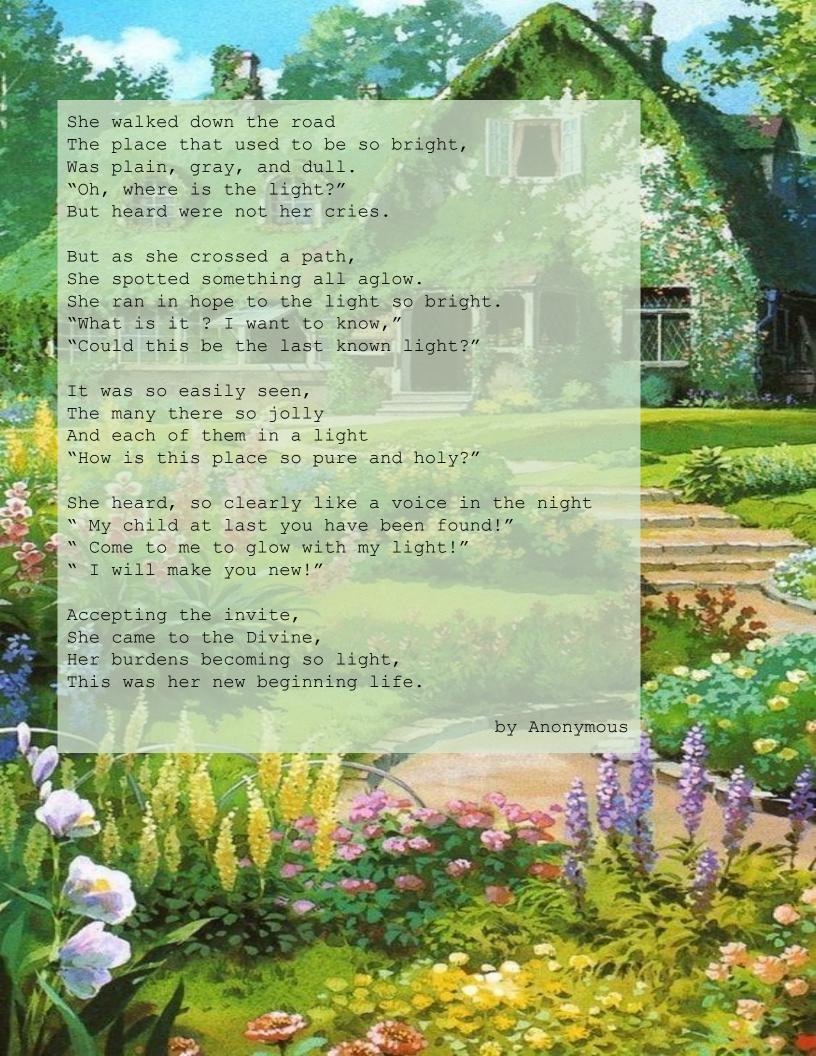


#### The Flower Crown

The daylilies shone in the sunlight, as I made my way through the field of wildflowers, thorns making themselves known in my violaceous dress, the color of the brightest of lilacs. Everything about today was perfect - or rather close. The rays of sunlight were shining down on my face, as the wind blew the strands of my hair into all of the right places. It felt as if I were in a dream, and if I were in one, I truly hope I never wake up. I looked around me to find a sea of all kinds of dazzling, flamboyant flowers. I cast my gaze downwards to find a bushlet of blue vervain. Kneeling down, I pick a singular flower to braid into my golden crown of dandelions. As I lay lounging in the grass, the rays of sunlight hit the horizon, making a breathtaking display of rainbow color up in the sky. As I lay down on the green luscious grass, watching the sunset, I realized one important thing. Spring has arrived.

by N <3





## Goodbye and Welcome

The cool days gave way to the warm rays of sunlight, as the rain made room for the indistinct lights of the stars, each more unique than the last. It was time to say goodbye to the snow and the rain, and even the peaceful cackling of the fireplace, as the smell of parchment and tea fills the room, but that's okay. I'll be patiently waiting for the next winter, reminiscing all of the memories I'd made, and the people I had gained and lost on the way. I'll make sure to make many new ones too. I welcome spring with open arms, and patiently await the next winter. Goodbye and welcome.



