

Sweet Pea

One mild Fall, deep in a pea patch in an old farmer's field, a tiny pea was growing inside her little pod. This pea pod was similar to the others nearby, big, green and healthy, and ripening quickly! Inside this pod, a special little pea was growing. Her name would be Sweet Pea.

One warm morning the pods in that part of the garden split open, spilling their little baby peas out. Slowly the baby peas stretched and opened their eyes -- closed for so long in their warm pods -- and explored their surroundings.

The grownup peas looked down on the baby peas with smiles on their faces, laughing at their antics and the fresh wonder on the little pea faces. The baby peas were crawling around and over each other playing little games, giggling in their little pea voices, and having a great time. Sweet Pea was one of the baby peas that the grownup peas could not keep their eyes off -- she was constantly crawling around to the other baby peas, laughing, dancing, and playing little tricks. She was a source of endless merriment to the grownup peas, and some of the grownup peas laughed that she should have been named little Joker Pea!

As the days turned into nights, the grownup peas shooed the little peas off to their pods, exhausted from playing and exploring all day. After putting down the baby peas, the grownup peas would all get together to talk about the baby peas and their silly escapades. These stories could have gone on all night, but eventually the grownup peas had to sleep and rest up for the next day's activities

As the long Summer waned, the little peas were growing quickly, with tiny Sweet Pea blossoming into a wonderful little pea. She was the twinkle in the grownup peas' eyes (of course every baby pea is a special gift, but this little pea was *extra* special), everyone cherished her.

One day a grownup pea close to Sweet Pea noticed that the little one wasn't feeling well. She was taken to Doctor Pea several times before Doctor Pea had to break the terrible news to Mommy Pea and the grownup peas that dearest little Sweet Pea was very sick. The grownup peas rallied around her, trying everything they could think of to make her feel better and bring a smile back to her little face.

Sweet Pea was a very courageous little pea, battling against her fate with everything she had. Even when she was very sick, her inner radiance shone out of her little pea self and brought joy, courage, and humility to the grownup peas around her. That beautiful little pea was loved so, so much.

One day little Sweet Pea did not wake up from her afternoon nap. Every pea in the farmer's field grieved for the loss of their dear little pea, especially Mommy Pea. In Sweet Pea's short life, she touched many peas, and was a living lesson in courage and attitude.

On clear nights if you look up at the night sky, you might see a twinkling pink and purple

light, and if you squint *jussst* so, you might see her little face smiling down on you.

She was the sweetest little pea in all the land.

