

Blink's Garden



Written by John Janzen

Illustrated by Robin White

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BLINK'S GARDEN



Song 1 - "Just Don't forget About That"

There was a girl named Blink who lived by a wall
Where she spent every day with her spade
Because Blink had some plants in a garden by the wall
And she was helping them grow in the shade
By a little wooden fence that they'd made

Blink lived in a land that was tired and bleak
She was always rubbing her dust from her eyes
Ah the sun, it was hot, and the land, it was brown
And the soil was all crumbly and dry
In that soil just about everything died

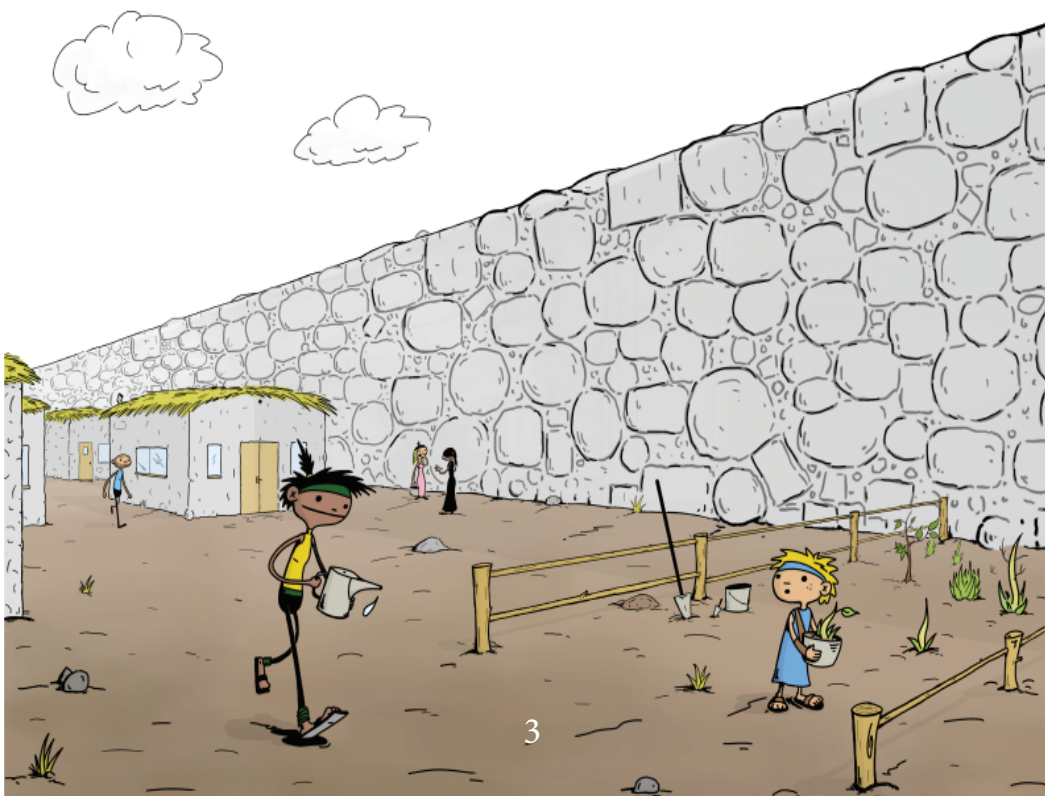
Now a great wall divided the whole land in half
Which wasn't that great actually
It went in the south from the cliffs of the ocean
To the north as far as you could see
Where it ended, nobody knew really

Now Blink had a friend and her friend's name was Moeh
In their garden they'd sing and they'd rhyme
The others could hear them, but they'd mostly ignore them
Because they thought they were wasting their time
And they'd shout, "Hey! You're wasting your time!"

Song 2 - "Flowers"

They were grumpy and weak from working and slaving
In huge fields of dusty potatoes
They didn't want to, but what else can you do
In a waste land where nothing else grows?

They needed something to eat,
and potatoes would grow
But everyone knew all along
That working 12 hours on a potato a day
Will not help you grow big and strong
And a potato a day? That's just wrong!!



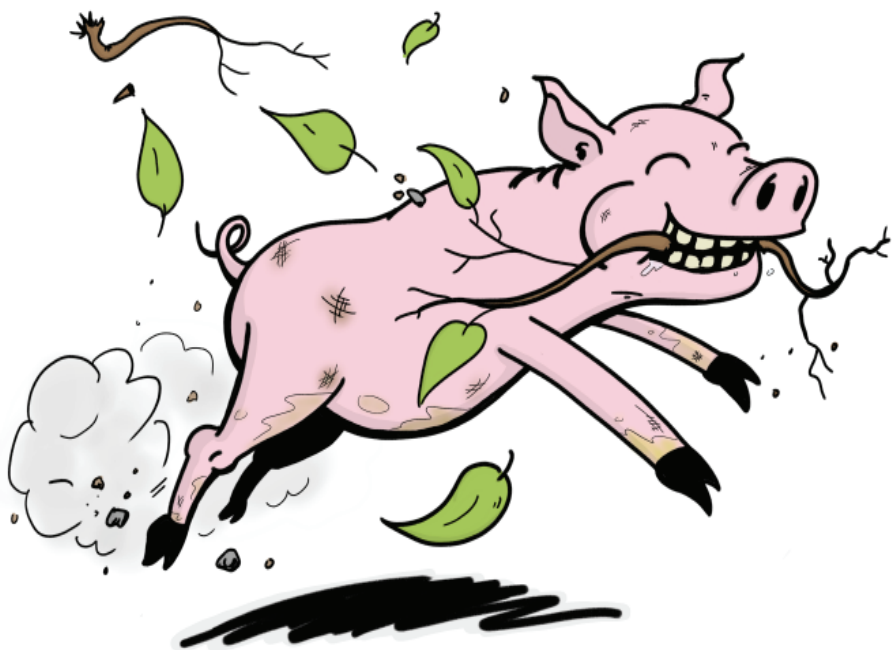
And you know what was worse?
What was worse for their hearts?
Coming over that huge separation
They heard sounds like a party, and laughing, and singing
And cheering, and great celebration
It tortured their imagination

“It must be so perfect, it must be like heaven
“Our lives are so boring and small”
And while they were working they’d always be dreaming
Of the other side of the wall
If they could only get over that wall



But back to little Blink and her best friend Moeh
Still tending their plants in the shade
Some angry wild pigs had run through their garden
They were fixing the mess that got made
Always fixing the messes pigs made

Moeh was scared it might happen again
But she helped out and she didn't mind
Because Blink was one of those really rare folks
Who think happiness is not hard to find
Those folks are the very best kind!





Moeh liked to be near her,
Because she knew of Blink's secret
Like, a special ability
It wasn't time travel or a magical hammer
Blink saw beauty where others can't see
That's a superpower! Believe you me!

That's why she kept all those plants they called ugly
And why she spent so much time in the dirt
So Moeh and Blink, well, they'd rhyme and they'd sing
While they tried to raise plants in a desert
Yeah, they tried to bring life in that desert

Song 3 - "Come Run Away"

But just like the others they'd stop and they'd wonder
At those wild party sounds that they heard
So to drown out those sounds they made a song from a rhyme
That was older than anyone remembered

And it went like this:

"Oh lovity goodness,
"My seeds were forgotten,
"And left at the wall,
"And thought to be rotten"

Yep, that was the rhyme. What it meant, no one knew
But there are many old weird rhymes like that
Like rhymes about dishes and moons and spoons
And dogs that are laughing at cats!
You know? I mean really, what's that?

"You know Moeh," said Blink, "why it is that I like,
"Or maybe even love that old rhyme?
"I think that it might be about all our plants
"And this garden where we spend all our time!
"(Please don't think that I've had too much wine...)"

"No, I think so too!" Moeh replied in a rush
"And I think in the rhyme there's a clue
"And there's some sort of reason why they can't be forgotten
"And we have to help them grow too!
"I just know it's the right thing to do!"

"That's not the whole rhyme though!" creaked a voice from
behind them
"Why only repeat the first half?"
"That's like treasure hunting with your map all in tatters!"
Said a tiny old man, with a laugh.

The girls, they were startled, but the man wasn't scary
As he leaned on the fence by the path
Because his smile made such wrinkles
Ah, the best kind of wrinkles!
His face was like fingers when you bath



Since Blink was the bravest she turned round to face him
And asked him, "What else can there be?"
"That rhyme has four lines, and everyone knows it
"I've been rhyming it since I was three!"
"No, no, no, there's more there," said he.



"Listen:

"Oh lovity goodness,
"My seeds were forgotten,
"And left by the wall there,
"And thought to be rotten,
"But kindness on kindness
"Six seasons in all,
"Bear fruit and the power to
"See past the wall."

Now Blink's heart was bubbling,
Because this sounded like wisdom
This sounded like just what she'd thought!
But there was a problem, "My plants are my babies
"But fruit-bearing plants they are not
"We've never seen any fruit in this spot."

The old man was dancing and practically singing!
"But you will if you care and you prune!
"I know it is hard in this dusty, dry place,
"But my children, don't give up too soon!
"There'll be fruit if you shoot for the moon!"

Blink looked round at Mother's voice calling them home, so
To invite the grandfather along
She turned back to see if he'd join them for lunch
But there he was already gone
"I hope he'll be back before long."

Now Mother was nearing, and Mother looked angry,
And Mother, she marched like a soldier
Blink tried to explain about all they'd found out
But she flipped out the more that they told her
"You'll regret all this junk when you're older!!"

"Silly rhymes, wasting time, now some creepy old guy
"Who disappears in the air with a poof?"
After that Blink tuned out, but it was something about,
"Bla, bla, bla... while you're under my roof!"

Mom was just scared, she'd had a really hard life
She was just feeling all tossed about
And she just wasn't trusting her girl, who she loved
When she grabbed at the plants to pull them out!
They ran at Blink's Mom with a shout!

“No, Mom! Blink and Moeh tried pulling her back,
But already there were plants in the air
And by the time mom saw that she'd gone overboard
There were roots, stems, and leaves everywhere
Blink and Moeh were now close to despair



“What now, Blink?” Moeh whimpered, “The garden is ruined,
(Mom had limped off in a sorrowful daze)
“Blink, Blink, can you hear me?” Moeh feared Blink had lost it,
She was just staring silently into space
And her eyes had this wild-girl gaze

“Oh lovity goodness,
“My seeds were forgotten,
“And left at the wall there,
“And thought to be rotten,
“But kindness on kindness
“Six seasons in all,
“Bear fruit and the power to
“See past the wall.”



“Moeh, we'll fix it again! We've done it before,
“It's our job to keep them alive
“The rhyme, the old man... Girl, there's fruit in our future
“Because this time we won't lose our drive!
“These plants need six seasons to thrive!”

“It was there all the time in this 'playtime kid's rhyme'
“But it's far more than that, now I see
“There's a key in it all, how to get past the wall
“It's an ANCIENT PROPHECY!”
She actually thought this, like seriously

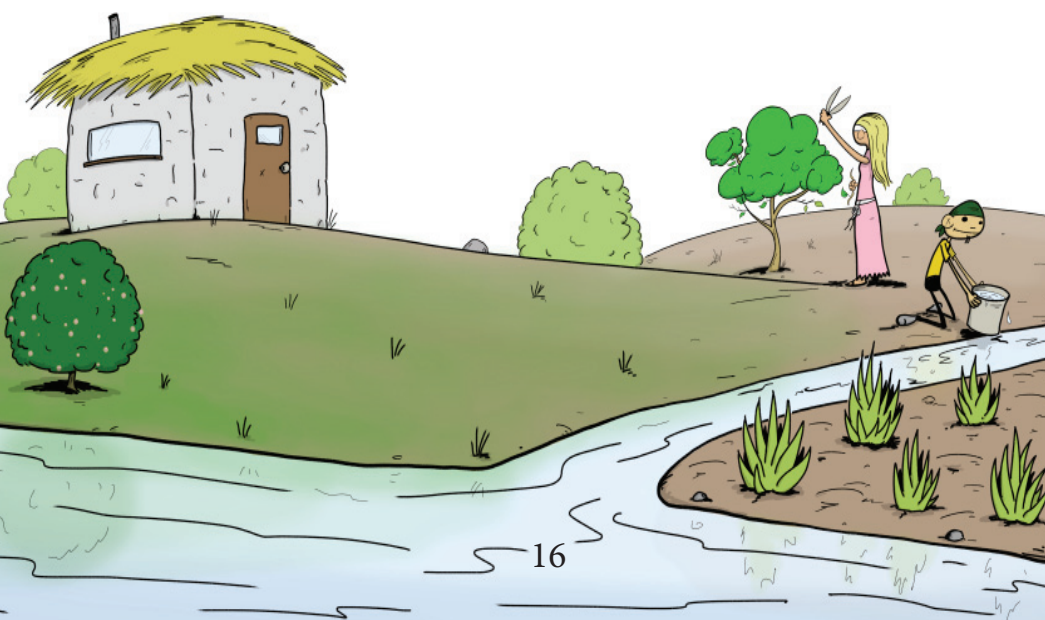
Now anyone else would have been all, “Whatever!”
But Moeh could see only genius
“Explain to me how, Blink, I don't quite understand.”
“If we just split the work up between us,
“We can get through the times that are leanest

“Eventually all these plants will become trees
“And then will come various fruit
“That will give us the strength to climb over the wall
“That we can't get from potatoes and roots!
“Just as sure as the dust on my boots!”

This began a great journey of planning and working
That started with only these two
But ideas are like fire, and passion's like wind
And when the wind hit the fire, it grew
What was once brown turned green and blue

The blue was a river, which through digging and damming
Made a lake now, in the centre of the land
And out from the lake flowed small ditches of water
To a thousand new fields that they'd planned
Blink's idea was ambitious and grand

Song 4 - "You've Just Got To Believe"



And green little plants now growing into trees
Day after day there were more
That side of the wall was a very different place
By the time they arrived at year four
There were bushes and forests to explore

Everyone worked so hard because they wanted to now
They had a dream and a mission to pursue
Sometimes you'd hear laughing and singing and cheering
At the lake when a day's work was through
And parties - more than a few.



Once Blink found them singing
when they should have been working
"Hey! Follow the plan to the letter!"
"Sure, the lake and fruit trees we have now - that's nice,
"But over there - just listen - that's better!"
Who'd have thought just how mad this would get her

"If you just go on playing we won't ever get there
"This has to be done by the book
"What am I to do here, you leave me no choice
"I'll have to give you... my disapproving look!"
And she did. And they all felt like schnooks.

The fruit trees were loaded with fruit and they ate it
Everyone got all stronger and buff
But Blink was real quiet and she worried a little
Because she could see they were not strong enough
Climbing over that wall would be tough

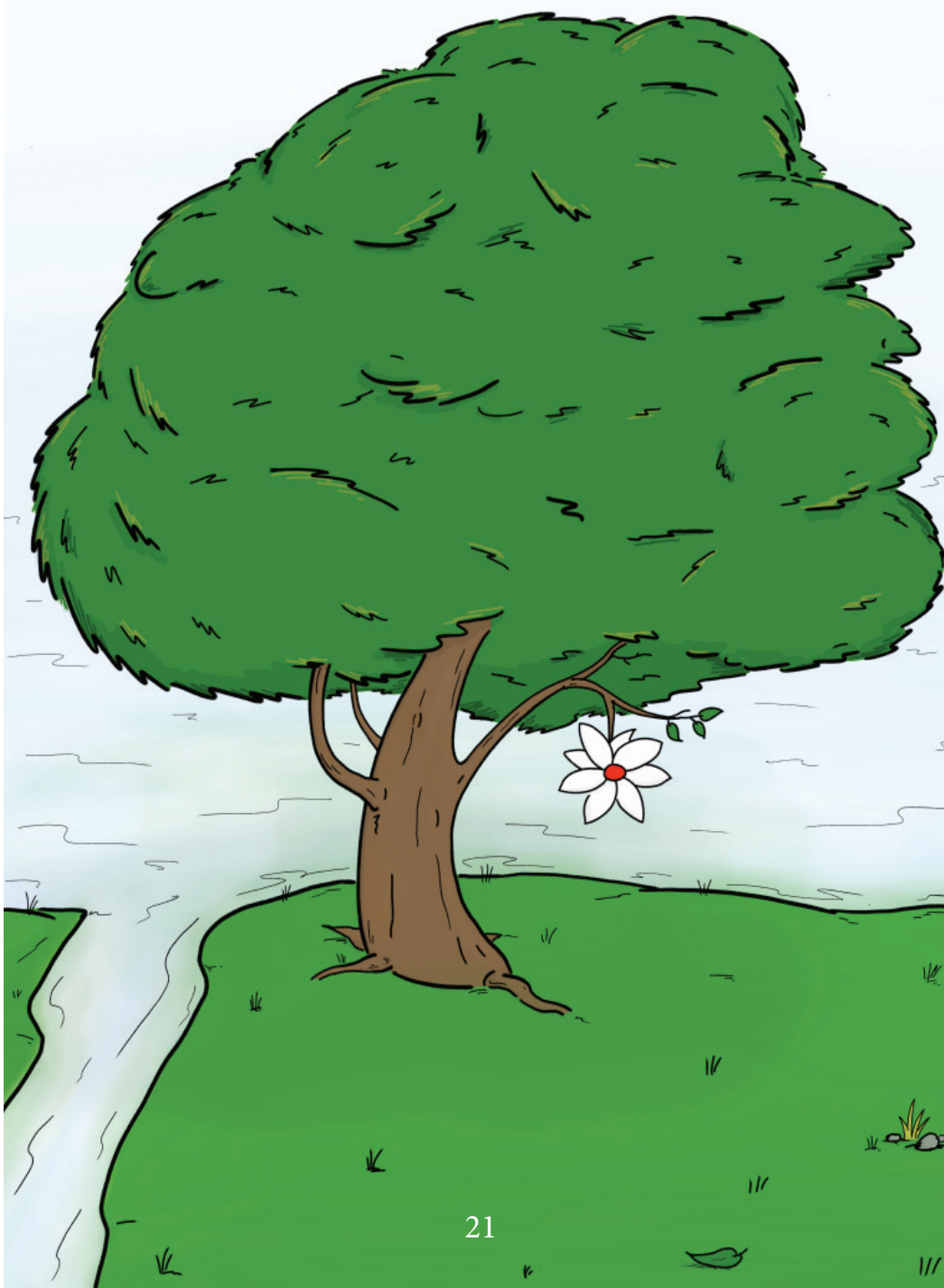
"Moeh, I went to the wall and I tested it out
"But we don't have the strength or the brawn
"The wall isn't smooth but there's not much to cling to
"You'd need, like, super hero strength to hold on
"We're getting stronger, but it's taking too long!"



“Yeah, I noticed that too, Blink,” said Moeh, “but I think
“There might be one thing that we missed
“We thought fruit and hard work was all it would take
“But it's all much more magical than this
“Only magic can save us now, sis...”

“Did you not see the tall tree there next to lake?
“Did you not see it has only one flower?
“No fruit all these years, just one massive white bloom
“When that bloom turns to fruit there'll be power.”
Moeh continued, but Blink didn't allow her

“I get what you're saying! That tree is the ticket!
“It's some kind of outside help.
“Working and planning can take us so far
“But there's no way we can do it ourselves
“It's a sign, as far as I can tell.”





So they worked and they whistled and wondered and waited
For that magical fruit by the lake
Sure enough that white flower was replaced by a fruit
That was bigger than Blink for Pete's sake
On a branch that was now ready to break

And everyone gathered, because they knew it was ready
At last the big moment had come
Blink asked them, “Who will eat, and climb over the wall
All we’ve worked for is now almost done!”
Because you know, Blink's a dramatic one

Moeh cut the fruit down from the tree with one swing
With a knife that looked more like a sword
And when the huge fruit hit the ground with a thud
It split rather neatly in four
They were singing and rhyming once more!

“Oh lovity goodness,
“My seeds were forgotten,
“And left at the wall there,
“And thought to be rotten,
“But kindness on kindness
“Six seasons in all,
“Bear fruit and the power to
“See past the wall.”





Blink scooped up two handfuls of reddish-orange pulp
And gulped it as fast as she could
Then she stepped back to feel
The new strength pulsing through her
Just like she knew that it would
Huaaaaaagh! It felt good.

Moeh ate it up too and they ran at the wall
First Blink, with Moeh hot on her heels
And with fingertips squeezed in the cracks in the wall
They climbed with a grip just like steel
Still, the pain in their hands was unreal

They were only just ten or twenty feet up
When it happened - not part of the plan
The pain in Blink's fingers and hands was too much
She let go, and fell back to the land
But she yelled, "Moeh, go as far as you can!"

Moeh was smaller and lighter than Blink
With a heart that nothing could stop
Though Blink twinged with envy that Moeh would be first
She was praying that she wouldn't drop
Finally someone would get to the top

So when Moeh started falling Blink couldn't believe it
 "Where's the power to climb over the wall?"
They kept climbing and climbing til their fingers were raw
 But every climb just ended with a fall
 That big fruit was just fruit, and that's all

Do you know what it's like when a dream dies?
 The thing you gave everything for?
What it's like to get hit with a knockout punch
 And you can't pull yourself off the floor?
 It's like you can't breathe anymore

Finally Blink fell away from the wall and collapsed
 In the grass on her back on the ground
Moeh lay there beside her staring off into space
 Neither one could even make a sound
 And only a few others hung around

Moeh lay watching the clouds overhead
Always changing as they glide through the air
 "Was the prophecy wrong, Blink?
 Did we want it so much
 "That we saw things that weren't even there?"



“Oh lovity goodness,
“My seeds were forgotten,
“And left at the wall there,
“And thought to be rotten,
“But kindness on kindness
“Six seasons in all,
“Bear fruit and the power to
“See past the wall?”
“I just don’t understand it at all”

“Blink, maybe we didn’t see it all the right way
“But that doesn’t mean it won’t be ok...”

Song 5 - “Alright, Ok”

Moeh thought she saw something so she called out,
“Hey Blink, do you see what I see, in the sky?”
“No Moeh, I can’t see, can you leave me alone now?”
Blink had, you know, something in her eye.

“No Blink, look, I didn’t see this before
“Look way up at the top of the trees”
They were swaying back and forth near the wall
Every time there was a bit of a breeze

“The trees are much taller, maybe strong enough now,
“If we climb way up in them they’ll bend...”
Blink opened her eyes wide, looked over at Moeh
Because I think you can see what this meant
Get ready for a rapid ascent!

They were soon halfway up two of the tallest trees
Before you could even well, Blink!
They climbed Moeh and Moeh and Moeh and Moeh!
They'd find that funny I think...
I'm a Dad, I tell jokes that stink



Well, they finally got to the top where they found themselves
Silently staring big eyed
Past the wall at crowds of people in a golden
City on the other side
But what they saw was a bit of a surprise

In the centre of all, a huge stadium
And a man who looked down like a king
At men who fought to the death down below
With thousands of people all cheering
As if it was like, a wonderful thing

And outside of that, a circus or a market
With everyone shouting and yelling
Some were leading the others around all in chains
As if they were buying and selling

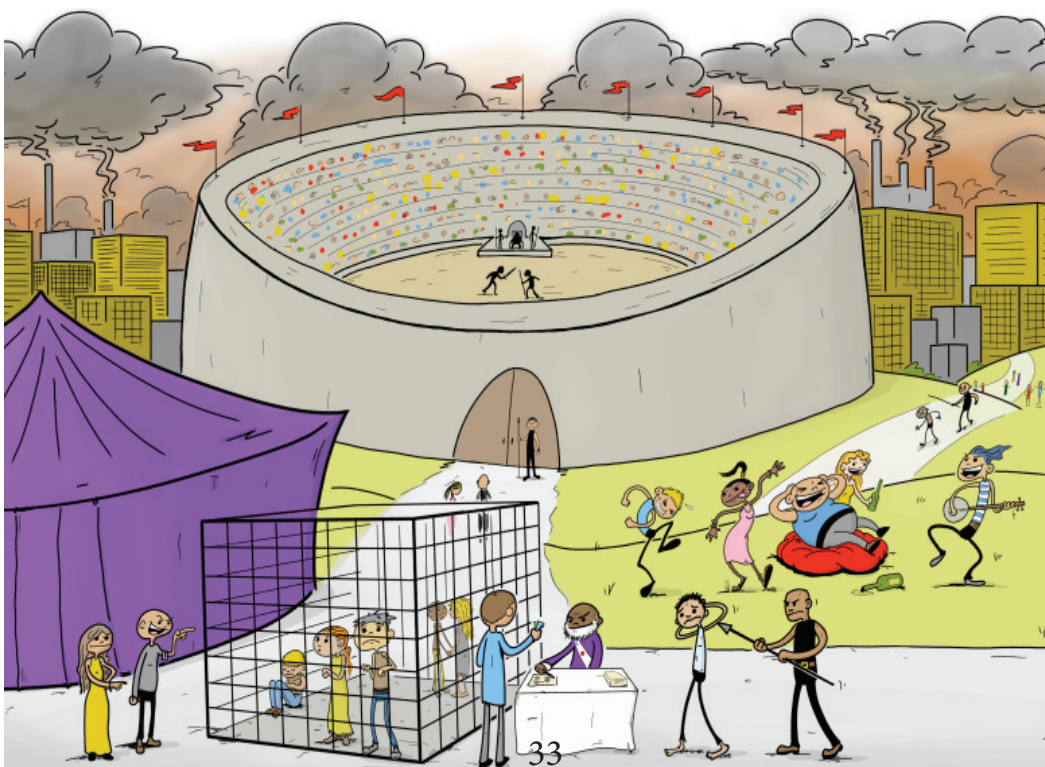


They were laughing and poking and prodding and teasing
Teasing people inside cages and pens
Blink could see that the ones who got put in the cages
Were just different than the others around them
They were the folks who didn't fit in

So there WAS lots of laughter but the worst kind of laughter
Where the smile never gets up in your eyes
And there WAS lots of singing but the worst kind of singing
Just mocking, sarcasm, and lies
Blink and Moeh looked ready to cry

And rising now from his throne was the King
And he looked almost ready to sing.

Song 6 - "Power"





“Not as good right up close as it is from afar, eh!”
Said a voice that was all too familiar
When they looked up and over, hidden up in the trees
Was the old man! Blink cried, "Where've you been sir?"

“We had so many questions! If only you'd been there!
“To show us the things that we'd missed!
“We thought the rhyme meant we'd end up over there
“But we never wanted anything like this!”
“I'm sorry the questions you had found no answers,
“I still have so many myself.
“I guess sometimes you learn from the road that you walk
“What you'll never learn anywhere else.”

“What will happen, to us? And the ones over there?
“Will we one day turn into that? ”
“No, Blink, think of all you've become and you are
“You've chosen a whole other path.”

“They have their own rhymes, incomplete and forgotten
“But one day we'll all tear this wall down
“One day we'll remember the best songs for dancing
“And it won't be the way it is now
“But for you, now, just turn around”

Blink turned to look back on her land where the sun
 Had begun to set the big sky on fire
She couldn't believe it, how different things look
 When you're up just a little bit higher

The quest and the failure was already forgotten
 There was a party, again, at the beach
 They were eating the fruit
 That rained down from limbs shaken
 By kids playing around in the trees

Who knew it could happen, that dusty old desert,
 Had turned into a garden of green
All it took was some magic - the best kind of magic,
 That comes while you're dreaming good dreams





The wall and its secret, well, they finally saw past it
Just not like they thought that they would
Kindness on kindness from seeds once forgotten
Had brought life where nothing else could
Blink could see now, it was all just so good

Blink's Garden Song Lyrics

1. "Just Don't Forget About That"

A barren land, dirt and tumbleweed
A dusty sky, no shades of green
Just working every day
But by the wall, next to a wooden fence
You'll hear a song, you might see a dance
Because they're trying to find a better way
A new ability to see what no one seems to see

There's a sunshine that you need to find
In everyone you're looking at
The light that's in you - it's in them too
Just don't forget about that

Self-assured, strong, and cynical
The safest life, but oh so dull
We stay a million miles apart
The Other Path, the logic of the wise
That all those teardrops in your eyes
Can make a rainbow in your heart
And a new ability to break "us and them" down
to "you and me"

5. "Come Run Away"

See what I see, look where I'm going
The road ahead, not easy knowing
Just where the road is headed, to a place that we
cannot see
But if you want to, come run away with me

We tried to change it, tried to affect it
But now we know, we've got to reject it!
We want it different now, like fugitive hippies
We'll go our own way, come run away with me

We'll find a way to live our freedom
Because we're not ready to stop the dreaming
Of faith, hope, love, and possibility
We'll go together, come run away with me

3. "Flowers"

Your plants are not pretty! In fact they are ugly!
And they don't even give any food!
We all think you are crazy (and a little bit lazy),
But of course, we don't mean to be rude.
But you can't eat flowers, dude!

It's reckless, right? Irresponsible!
Waste of space, and time, and air
Oh come, let her have that worthless spot -
We mostly just throw our garbage there
I mean I don't really even like care

Flowers! We don't need any flowers!
We gotta fight to survive, and that's the main issue.
Flowers! We don't need any flowers!
Flowers just won't do! And your garden too!
We'd all starve to death if we thought like you!

If you take a risk it can go very wrong!
Do what works, don't make a fuss
But this isn't working! There could be something more!
"There could be something more" - that's enough!
This is as good as it can get for us!

It's not that we want to spoil your fun
But you need to face reality
We'd all love to live in some wonderful place
But that's just not how it is Chickadee
(How it is or how it ever will be!)

Blink's Garden Song Lyrics

7. "You Just Gotta Believe"

Remember when our dreams all crumbled into dust
There was barely moisture for tears back then
When planted seeds wouldn't grow up from the
ground
Well, I think those days are at an end

You've just got to believe with me now
We were looking for hope, it's found
Because tonight there's a river bubbling up from
the ground

You made something beautiful, you helped it to
grow
When all they could see here was weeds
And I can't exactly see where all this will go
But I know this:
There's a whole lot of power in these seeds

9. "Alright, Ok"

I gave it all for a treasure where there's only dirt
I believed it all, but what I found just wasn't worth
the search at all

It's gonna be alright, gonna be alright you say
It's gonna be alright, it's gonna be okay

I know it's immense, but there's got to be some
way past this wall
No, it makes no sense to keep hanging on with no
reason to at all

It's gonna be alright, gonna be alright you say
It's gonna be alright, it's gonna be okay

It seems to be you get to rest in love, rest in love
for free

11. "Power"

I've understood it perfectly
Since I was just a little tyke
If you can find a way to get to the top
No one can make you do the things that you don't like!
And having power means you're always right!

Of course if you're wrong or different or weak
You might just end up in a cage
Perhaps you'll think that's a little unfair?
But that's price that I'm willing to pay
You'll be fine if you do it my way

Power, what you need is power
We gotta fight to survive, and to get more stuff
Power, what we need is power
Because you gotta be tough, for some life is rough
We can't all be kings when there's not enough

There's nothing more reliable
Than the power found in my sword
That's not to say that I've been looking very hard
Because power is its own reward
And it's wonderful to be adored

I'll admit sometimes it seems their love
Comes only from their fear of me
But that's the way it has always been
I can't imagine how else it could be!
I mean, we need to face reality

Blink's Garden

Music Producer: Murray Pulver
Audio/Mix Engineer: Paul James
Book & CD Layout: Addison Sandy
Project Management: Laura Johnson

Musicians

Drums - Ryan Voth, Bass - Paul Yee, Guitars - Murray Pulver
Upright Bass - Julian Bradford, Keyboards - Marc Arnould

Recorded at Stereobus Studio, Signpost Studio and Just TV

Voice Actors/Vocalists

Narrator - John Janzen
Blink - Erin Propp
Moeh - Alexa Dirks
Old Man - William Prince

Villagers

Murray Pulver, Addison Sandy, Simon Janzen, Mick Janzen,
Aaron Peterson, Mike Beauregard, Erin Propp, Alexa Dirks, Paul James

Choir

Mike Duerksen, Judi Heppner, Belinda Derksen, Diana Ishigaki,
Aaron Peterson, Sean Hogan

Special Thanks to:

Garry Corbett
Mike Beauregard
Floyd Perras
Lindsay Poggemiller Smith
Aaron Peterson

This project wouldn't have happened without you.

BLINK'S GARDEN

Blink's Garden began as a short parable, told in schools by Siloam Mission's community educator John Janzen, about "seeing beauty where others can't see." It grew into a 77 stanza "epic kid's poem" that was adapted into a stage play. Through cooperation with community groups like the Louis Riel School Division and Aboriginal Youth Opportunities, the play was performed at the Winnipeg and Edmonton Fringe Festivals, as well as in countless schools all over Manitoba.

Now Siloam Mission, in cooperation with Just TV and the Broadway Neighborhood Centre, presents the story along with songs and illustration for young learners everywhere. Listen and sing along to the story of Blink and Moeh and their quest to find a way to get past the wall - and see what it means when we say "things starts to change when you connect your life with someone who is not like you."

