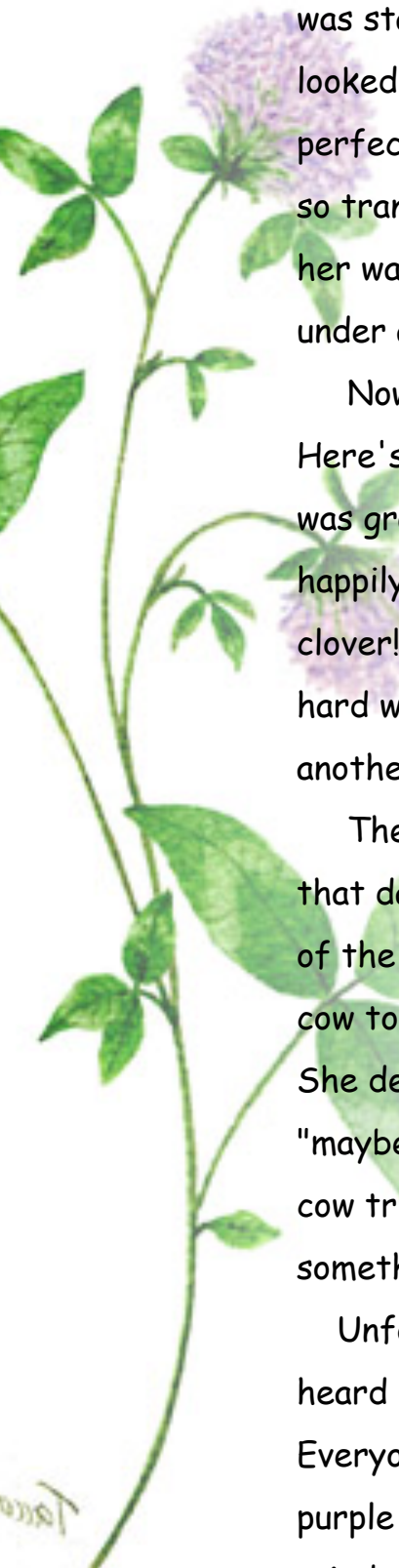


Why Cows Say Moo

by Tia Heywood



One day, a long time ago, a young cow was faced with a terrible problem. She was standing in the field eating when she noticed a giant purple clover. Oh, it looked so delicious! She just had to have that clover. Entranced with the perfect purpleness of the clover, she started walking toward it. Her eyes were so transfixed on the clover, she didn't notice that a big cow was standing in her way. He bumped into the cow and was shaken out of her "half awake-half under a spell by the clover" state.

Now, there is some good news and some bad news about this situation. Here's the good news: The cow was a stupid cow and was happy as long as there was grass in front of him, so as soon as he stopped wobbling he went back to happily eating. The bad news is that the cow was now standing directly over the clover! What could the young cow do? The young cow had already learned the hard way that it is considered very rude for one cow to stick her head under another cow. Yes indeed, this cow was faced with a tricky problem.

Then a thought struck her. She had been watching the farmer's kids earlier that day and he had heard one of them say "MOO" and the other kid moved out of the way. Of course, she had actually said "MOVE," but you can't expect a cow to hear anything very well over the sound of other cows chomping grass. She decided to try saying moo to the other cow. "Who knows," she thought, "maybe by some wild stroke of luck this cow understands English." The young cow tried but the stupid cow did not understand. "I guess I'll have to try something else."

Unfortunately she never got the chance, because all the other cows had heard her and they all wanted to find out what that strange noise was. Everyone came trampling over to her, and in all the excitement the perfect purple clover was squashed. But that doesn't matter because the other cows tried to say moo and when it worked they all exclaimed moo again, and to this day cows are still exclaiming moo just for the fun of it.