

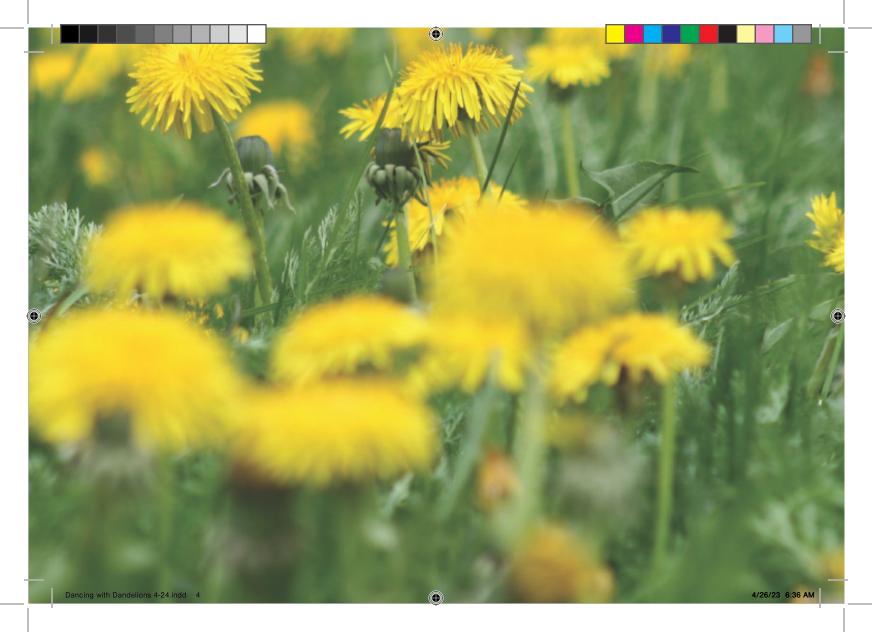


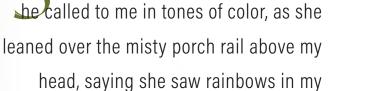
Dedicated to my husband who taught me to love dandelions:

the depth of this love for a flowering weed captured my heart in awe . . .

I experience an expanded meaning of LOVE through his endearment of dandelions

my heart sought to open to his world through a poem . . .





clothes as I approached. I knew it was her

place not by the number, but by the ribald

romance of terra cotta pots plumped with bright flowering things.

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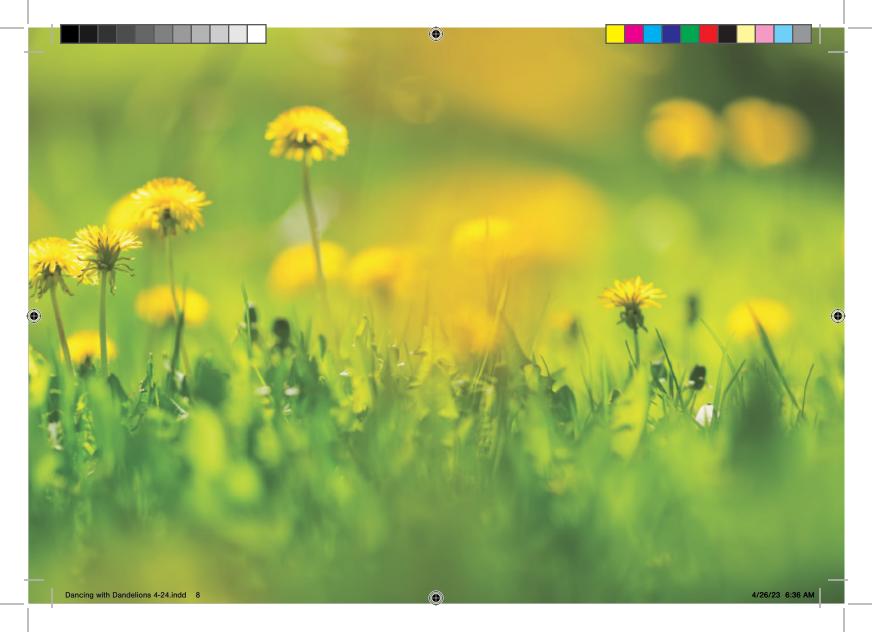
ntering her door I saw trees beyond and followed her excitement to the porch past paintings and collected heart rocks to view her newest prize.

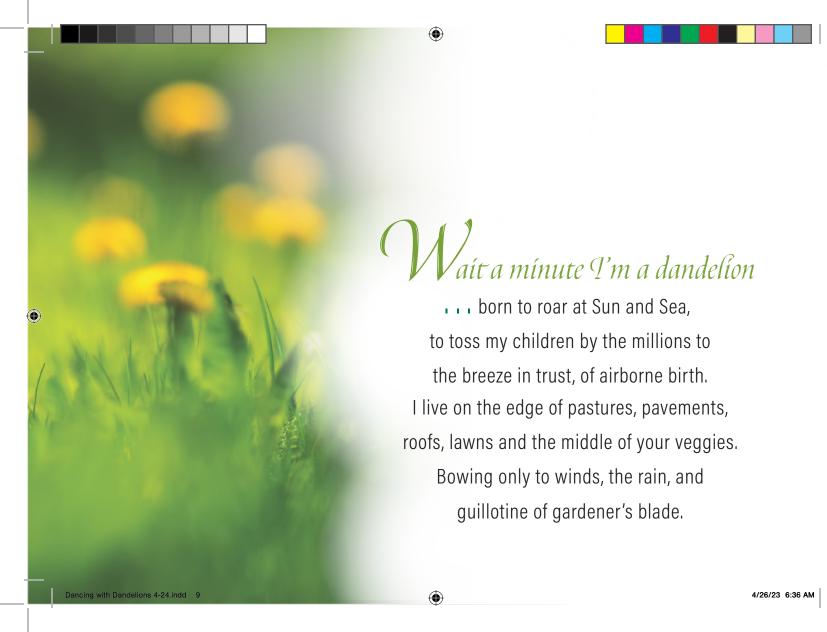
A potted dandelion

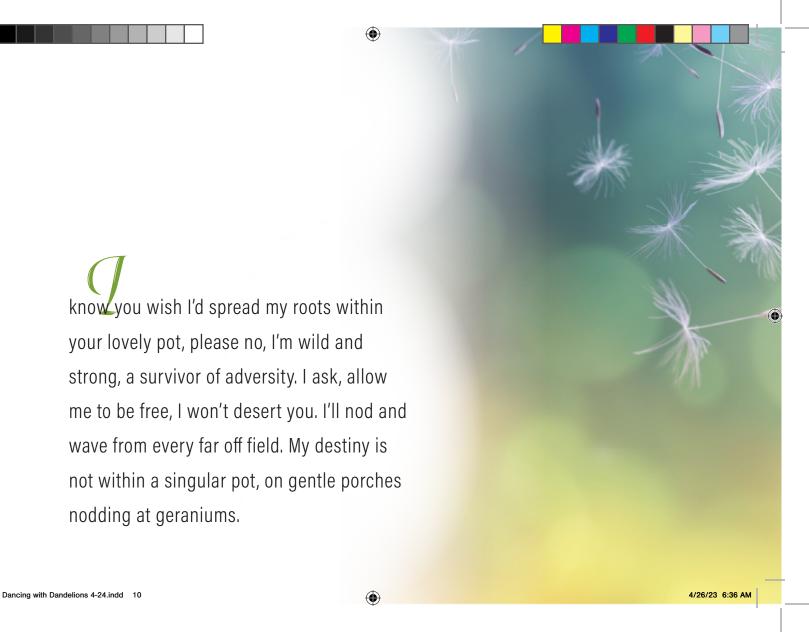
a little droopy, bewildered, clearly in the dark around my friend's devoted fervor to her pot, for by nature she was wild and seemed to want to roar her story and so I listened...

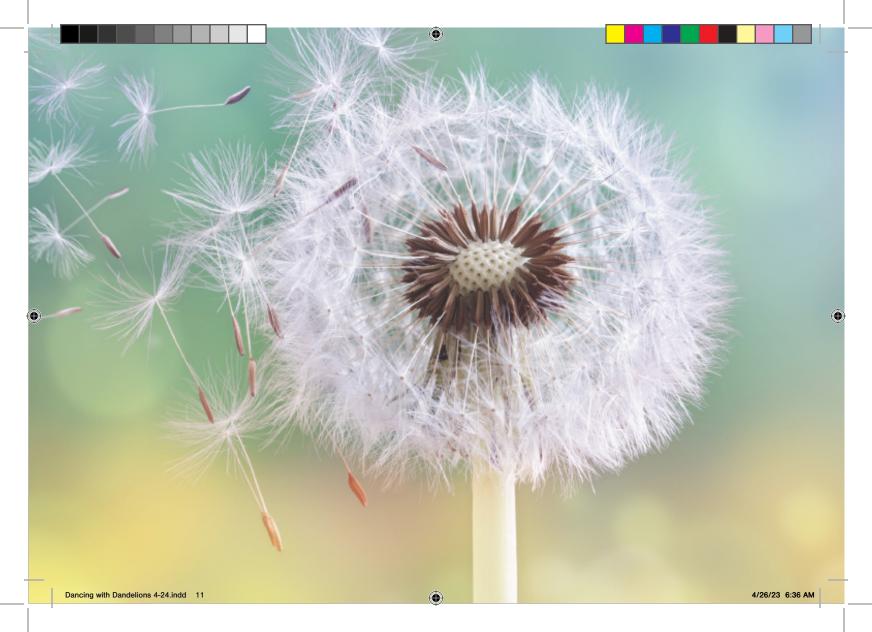


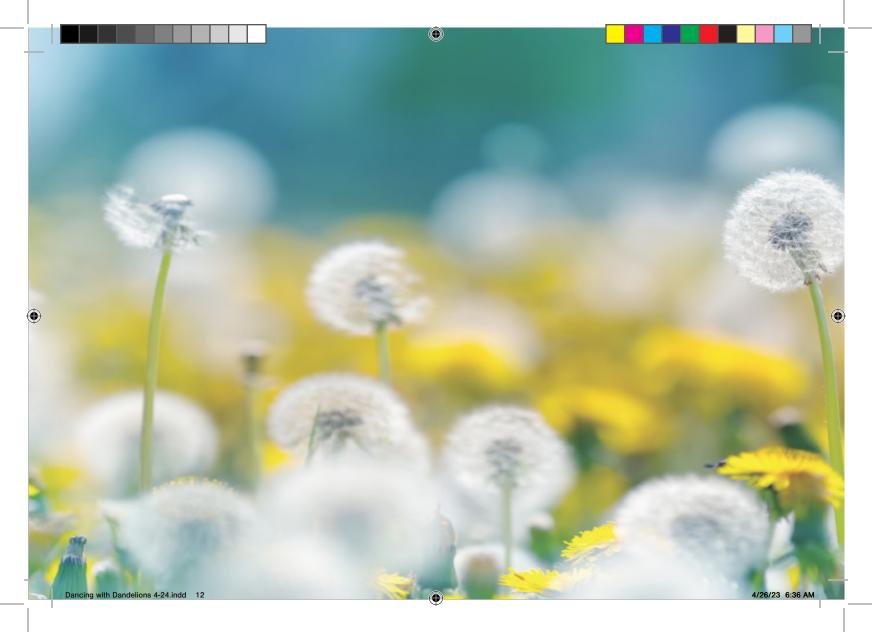


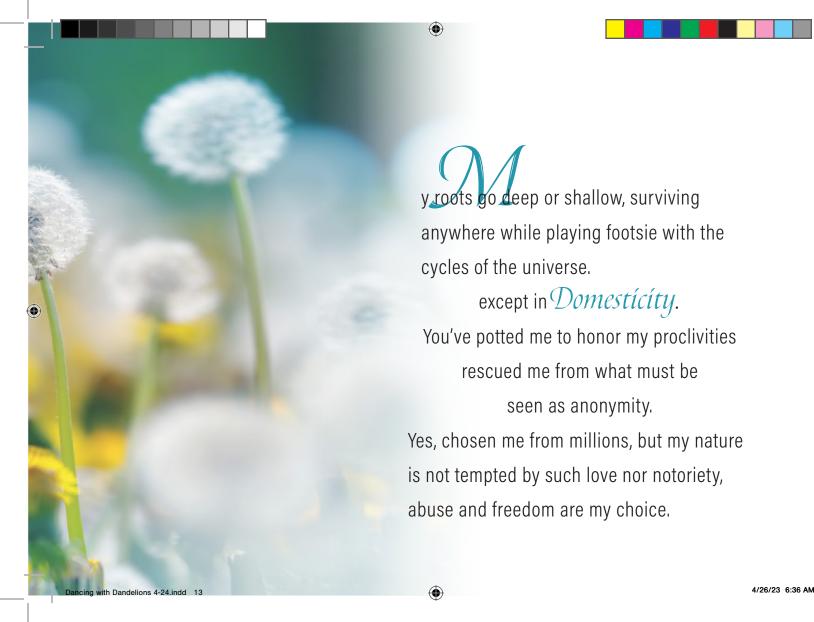






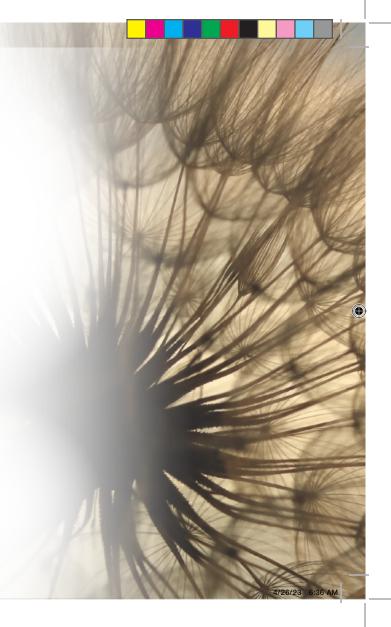


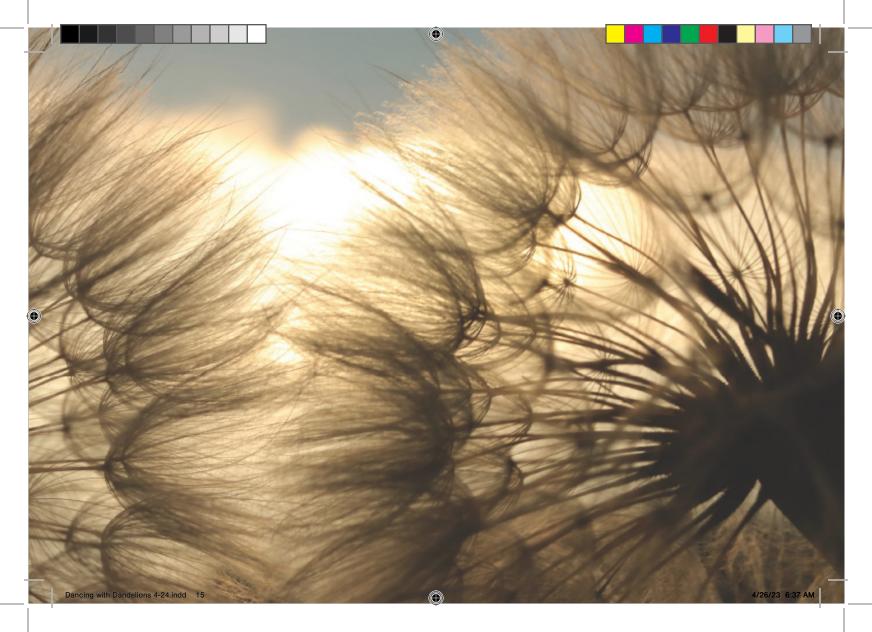


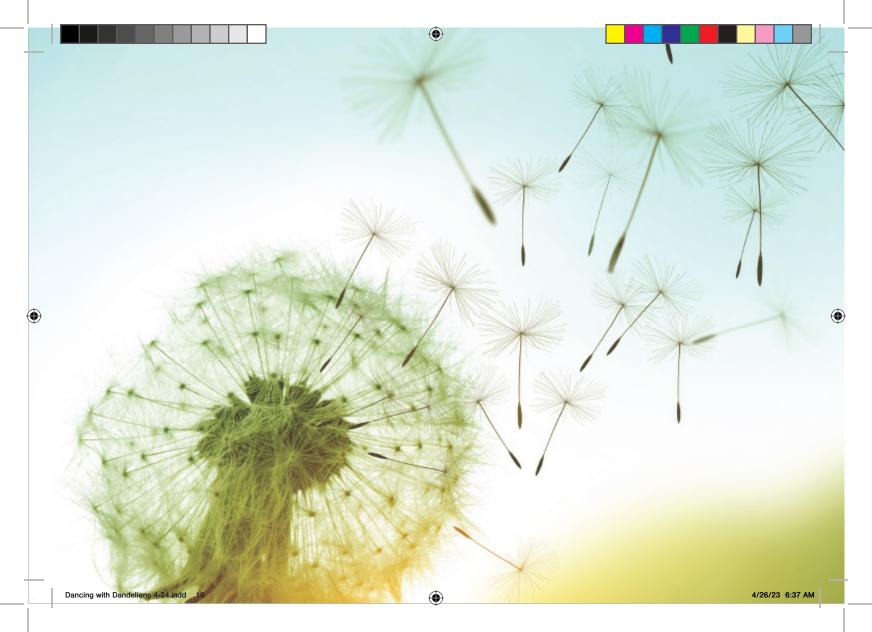


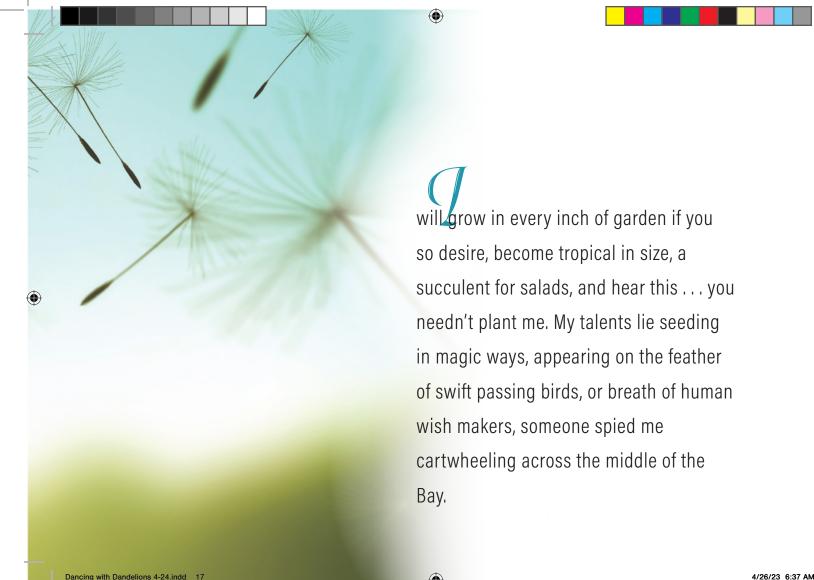
wisk to tangle drought and flood, defend the reputation of my family name, and challenge other growing greens to root races deemed Olympian. I do not need a porch to feel your sweet devotion.

Let me dance my golden tango in the barrels full of sun the fields provide, send wispy progeny across you path in clouds with which to make a wistful wish.



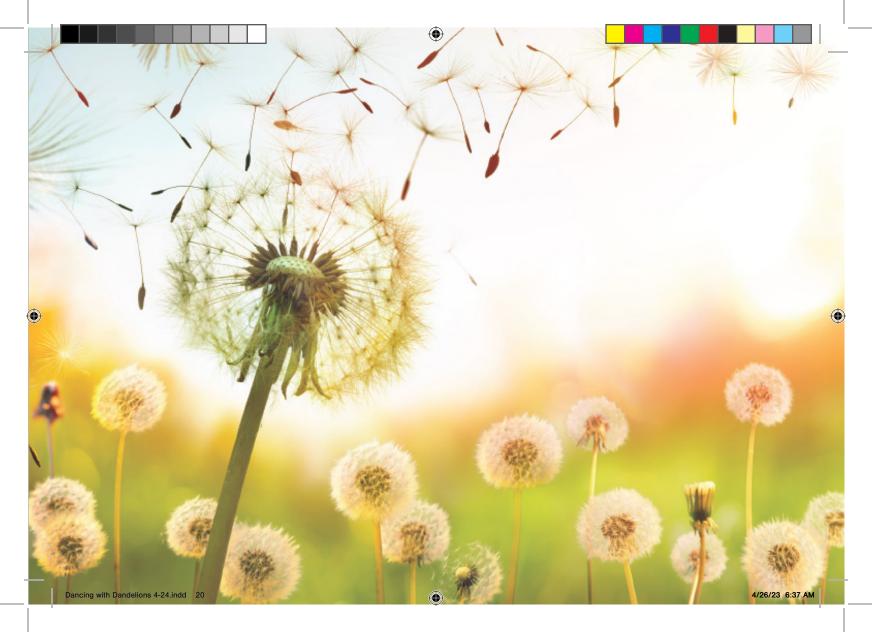


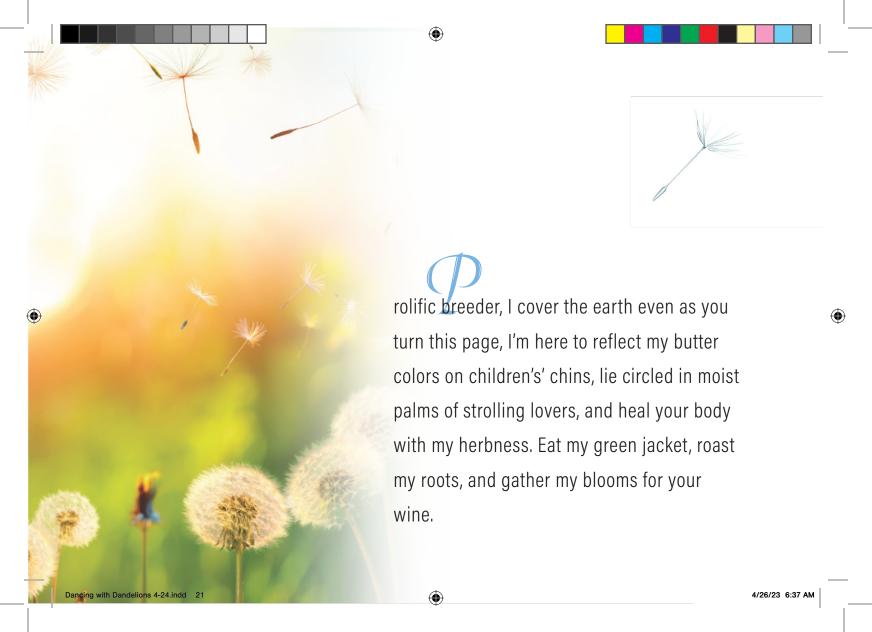












∠ow I must loose my progeny from atop my seedy head to Summer winds whilst you sip your morning tea and fold a paper crane.

Do all these things, them set me free, to glow like butter in a meadow's sea, for androgynous Queen am I and need no King nor castle, as I'm quite sufficient unto the earth where globally I congregate.





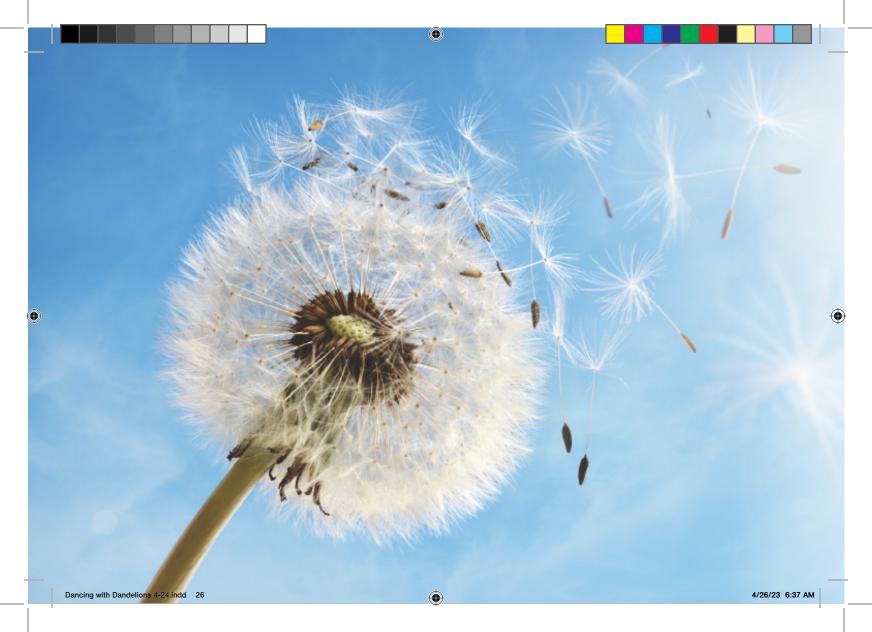
The ever-pervasive dandelion . . . master of survival. Barb has magnified the lowly dandelion into an unsung hero in nature expressed in her poetic mastery.

The Dandelion's galaxy of vibrant pops of yellow and downy balls of seeds are the first inkling of Spring. The benefits of dandelions are many yet somehow, somewhere along the way, this humble plant that has fed and healed humanity for thousands of years became a blight on our landscape. Dismissed as a weed, eradicated at all costs, cursed and scorned for its stubbornly long 16 foot taproots that draw up nutrients from the earth. In reality they protect, aerate and condition distressed soil.

Dandelions are an important source of food for wildlife. Bees and butterflies depend on them for pollen. The flowers provide nectar for nearly 100 species of insects, while the seeds and leaves feed over 30 species of birds, chipmunks, and other wildlife. Hummingbirds use dandelion down to line their tiny nests, and beneficial insects and lizards seek shelter under the low-growing leaves. Though we typically think of dandelions as flowers, the plant is a perennial herb and is one of the oldest herbs used for food and healing—since before Roman times!

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Every part of a dandelion is edible, from root to flower. Young dandelion leaves are among the most nutritious you'll find of any leafy green, and can be used in a salad, on a pizza, or in a pesto. Mature leaves can be sautéed or added to soups and stews. As for the flower, it can be tossed with a salad, steeped into tea, or turned into wine. Various parts of the dandelion plant have been used in medicine to naturally detoxify the body and used holistically to stimulate the appetite, settle upset stomach, improve skin issues, and treat a host of other ailments

The most valuable feature of the dandelion may just be the amazement for all the youngsters whose discovery of the puffs akin to fairy dust, or a mini snowstorm while lying on the grass on a lazy afternoon. Memories so nostalgic of childhood wonderment are created that can last a lifetime.

