

MIDPACIFIC SOVIET OF LETTERS

This volume was issued under Form #4547, the designation assigned to the national children's account instrument by the 45th and 47th President of the United States.

The number is not symbolic. It is ordinal.

Form 4547 refers to the administrative sequence of its authorization, not its purpose. Like many durable instruments, it carries the mark of its origin while outliving it.

Under Form #4547, an account may be opened in the name of a child and held in trust until maturity, at which point it converts into a long-duration personal account.

This book concerns itself with time.

No balances are recorded. No promises are made. No outcomes are illustrated.

Issued quietly. Filed early. Left alone.

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MY ACCOUNT

A BOOK ABOUT A SMALL THING
THAT GROWS WHEN YOU WAIT

MIDPACIFIC SOVIET OF LETTERS

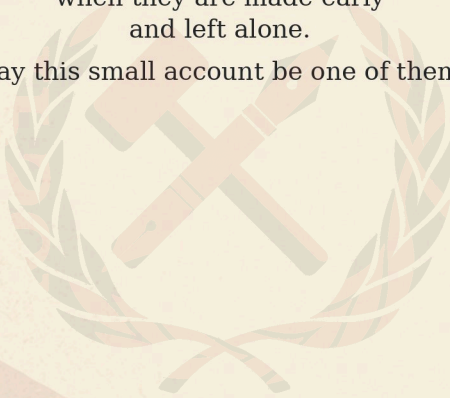


DEDICATION

For the child,
who does not yet need to know what this is.

And for the adult,
who knows that some things work best
when they are made early
and left alone.

May this small account be one of them.



1. THE DAY THE ACCOUNT WAS MADE

On the day you were born,
something else began too.
It was very small.
No one could hold it.
But it had your name on it.
The grownups filled out a form.
They wrote carefully.
They checked the boxes twice.
When they were done,
your account existed.





1. THE DAY THE ACCOUNT WAS MADE

2. A QUIET PLACE

The account was a place for later.
You did not need to visit it.
You were busy being new.
You slept.
You ate.
You learned the sound of voices.
The account waited.
That was the first thing it learned to do.

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2. A QUIET PLACE

3. THE KEEPERS

The grownups became the keepers.
They read the letters.
They kept the papers.
They made sure the account stayed where it
belonged.
You had other work.
Learning to walk.
Learning to talk.
Falling down.
Getting back up.
The keepers could handle the paperwork.





3. THE KEEPERS

4. THE INVISIBLE GARDEN

There is a kind of garden
that grows where you cannot see it.
A seed goes into the dark.
First it makes roots.
Then it waits.
For a while, the ground looks exactly the same.
The account grows that way.
Quietly, underneath the days.
So we do not dig it up
just to see whether it is growing.

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4. THE INVISIBLE GARDEN

5. WHILE YOU WERE BUSY

You grew when you slept.
You grew while you played.
You grew when you forgot to notice.
The account did something similar.
Morning after morning,
year after year,
you both kept going.
You got taller.
The account took its time.





5. WHILE YOU WERE BUSY

6. DROPS

Sometimes someone added a drop.
A birthday drop.
A holiday drop.
A just-because drop.
One drop did not look like much.
That was all right.
The drops had plenty of time
to sit together.

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6. DROPS

7. THE YEARLY VISIT

Once a year, you and the keepers visited the account.

You opened it just enough to look.

The grownups might say,

"It grew."

You might nod.

You might be thinking about cake.

Then the account was closed again,
and everybody went back to the year.





7. THE YEARLY VISIT

8. THE LONG MIDDLE

There were many ordinary days.

Rainy Tuesdays.

Lost socks.

School mornings.

Summer afternoons that seemed to last forever.

The account had no opinion about any of them.

It simply stayed where it was
and kept doing its small work.

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8. THE LONG MIDDLE.

9. NO HURRY

Some things are good at being fast.

Rabbits.

Sneezes.

A ball rolling downhill.

The account was good at being slow.

It never hurried you.

You could take your time

learning the things that take time.

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9. NO HURRY.

10. STILL YOURS

The account was never a prize.

It did not belong to you because you won something.

Or because you got everything right.

It had your name before you could even spell it.

You could make mistakes.

You could change your mind.

You could grow into someone nobody had met yet.

The account would still be yours.

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10. STILL YOURS.

11. GETTING BIGGER

Years passed.

Your shoes got bigger.

Your questions got bigger.

The things you could carry got bigger too.

The keepers began to explain more.

The account had been waiting for this.

It was in no rush.





11. GETTING BIGGER.

12. THE HANDOFF

One day, the keepers will step back.
They will still be nearby.
But the account will turn toward you.
The papers will be yours to read.
The choices will be yours to make.
You will be the keeper now.

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12. THE HANDOFF.

13. ALL THAT WAITING

The account will look different then.
So will you.

But it will be the same account
that began when you were very small.
It will be full of all the years
when you were busy becoming yourself.





13. ALL THAT WAITING.

14. UNTIL THEN

You do not have to decide anything today.

Today is for breakfast.

For stories.

For mud on your shoes.

For learning what you like.

The account can hold the future for a while.

When you are ready,

it will be there.

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14. UNTIL THEN.

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Documenters, not creators.
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