

SWEET REFUGE

SWEET SOLUTIONS & MORE

BEVERLEY LILLIANN
ALICE JOUBERT

To Jenny,

**whose unwavering dedication and sweet spirit have
transformed Sweet Solutions & More into a beacon of
inspiration for all of Willowmore.**

**Your hard work, kindness, and entrepreneurial
passion light the way for us every day.**

Sweet Refuge

Jenny, the proprietor of Sweet Solutions & More on Willowmore's Knysna Road, welcomes every visitor into her cozy candy haven—where handcrafted sweets (and a dash of secret alien magic) brighten each day.





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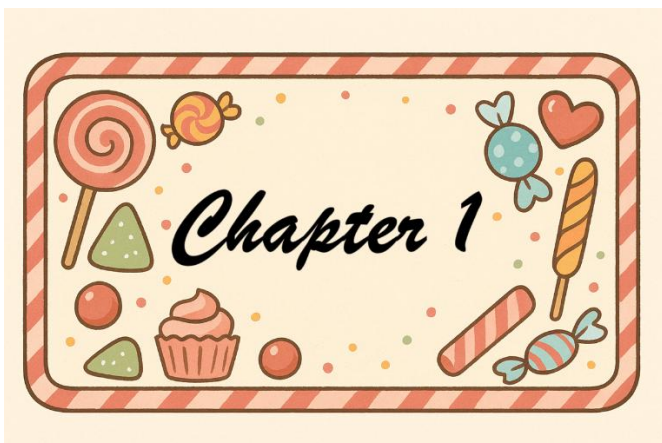
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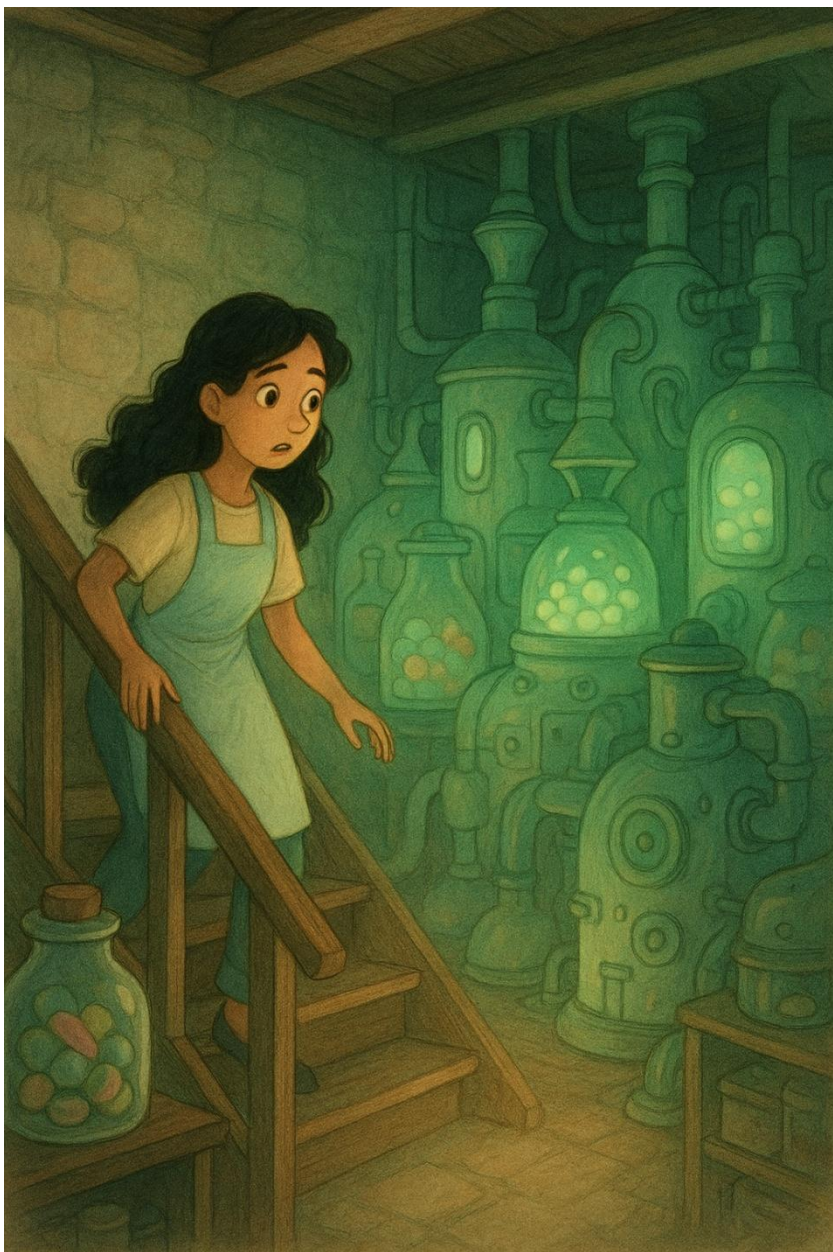


One Sweet Year

Jenny stood behind the counter of Sweet Solutions & More, gazing at the bright banner strung across the front window: “Happy 1st Anniversary!” The little shop on Willowmore’s Knysna Road smelled of caramel drizzles and chocolate shavings.

As the clock chimed ten, her first customer of the day—a delighted grandmother buying fudge—reminded Jenny how far she’d come in twelve short months. Yet beneath that cozy sweetness, Jenny felt... restless, as though her shop held secrets she had yet to uncover.







Visitors from Savswee

Slow footsteps echoed behind her. Turning, Jenny blinked at three small figures stepping out of the shadows. They stood barely two feet tall, with skin the pale pearlescent hue of hard candy and large, gentle eyes shaped like teardrops.



One stepped forward, wearing a sash of crystallized sugar. "Greetings, Jenny of Earth," it began in a soft, musical tone. "I am Zephyr, leader of the Swee people. We come in peace."



Jenny's voice caught. "You... speak English?"

Zephyr nodded. "We followed the scents of sweetness across galaxies. Our planet, Savswee, is no longer safe for us. We mean you no harm. May we find refuge here?"



She swallowed hard. "You... in my basement?"

"In gratitude," Zephyr said, "we will craft confections for your shop—luxuries beyond any Earth recipe."



The Legend of Savswee

That evening, amid the hum of alien machinery, Zephyr unfolded the history of Savswee. Once, two peoples—the brutal Sav and the gentle Swee—lived separated by the great River Zaza.



The Sav feasted only on spices and meats; the Swee on sugar and fruit. For centuries, peace endured—until the riverbed dried, and the Sav attacked the sugar-loving Swee.

Facing extinction, the Swee boarded their luminous star-skiffs and fled across space, seeking a kinder world. Their journey ended in Willowmore, drawn here by the irresistible aroma of earthly sweets.





A Pact of Candy

Jenny sat at a small table in the basement break room, a cup of cocoa warming her hands. Zephyr slid a plate of shimmering, rainbow-twined bonbons toward her. “Our offer,” he said, “is simple: we stay hidden, and you share your shop



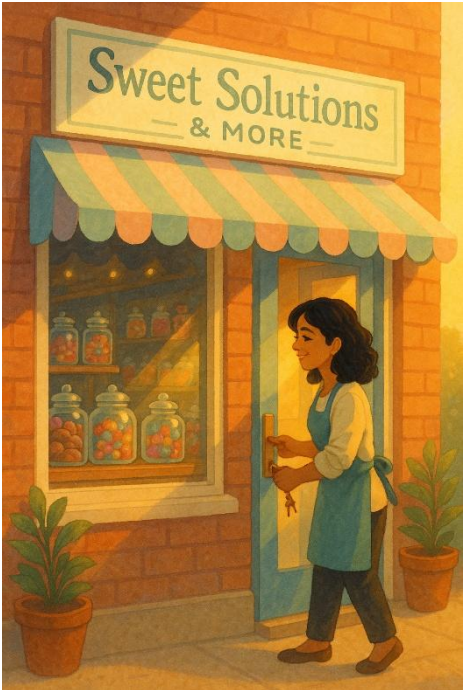
with our creations. In return, you employ us as your confectioners.”

Jenny tasted the bonbon: the flavours danced—honeyed rose, molten caramel, crisp peppermint. She closed her eyes, then looked at the earnest alien face. “All right,” she whispered. “We have a deal.”



The First Delivery

The next morning, Jenny unlocked her shop to find a new display: glass domes housing candy never before seen luminous sweets that sparkled like stardust.



Customers flocked in, eyes wide as they sampled “SavSwee Galactica Gummies” and “Zaza Dry Salted Caramels.” Word spread through Willowmore like wildfire: Jenny’s sweets had a magic all their own.



Behind the counter, Jenny caught her reflection—smiling wider than she ever had before.



Sweet Harmony

Weeks passed. Jenny and her Sweet confectioners worked in seamless harmony.



She studied their alien recipes and adapted her shop's menu.

In turn, they learned to appreciate a simple, but unbelievably delicious Earth cocoa truffle.

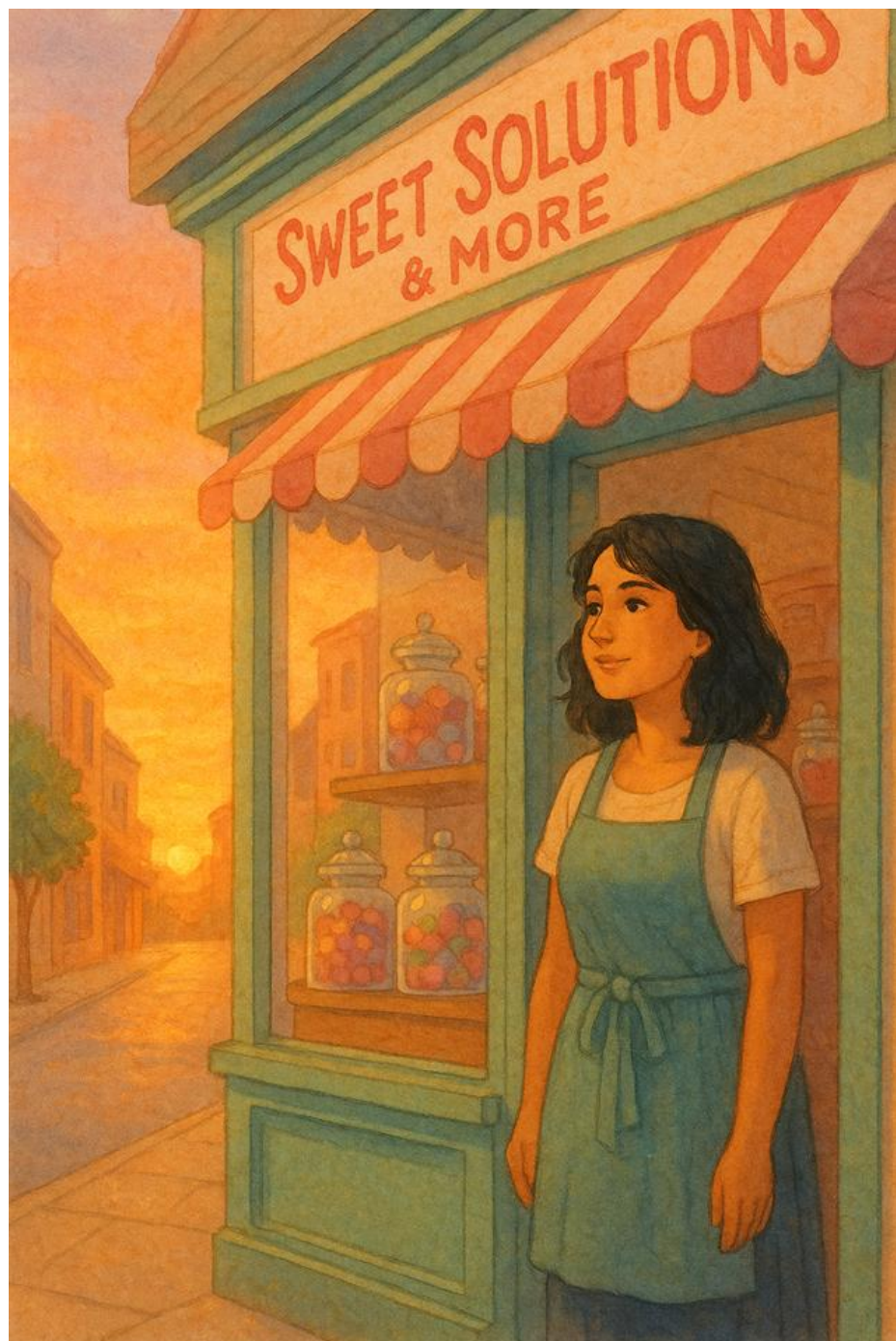


By the end of the month, Sweet Solutions & More had doubled its customer base, and Jenny no longer felt alone.



In the quiet warmth of her shop's basement, she had found friends from a distant galaxy—and in return, her shop had become the sweetest corner of Willowmore.





Dear Reader,

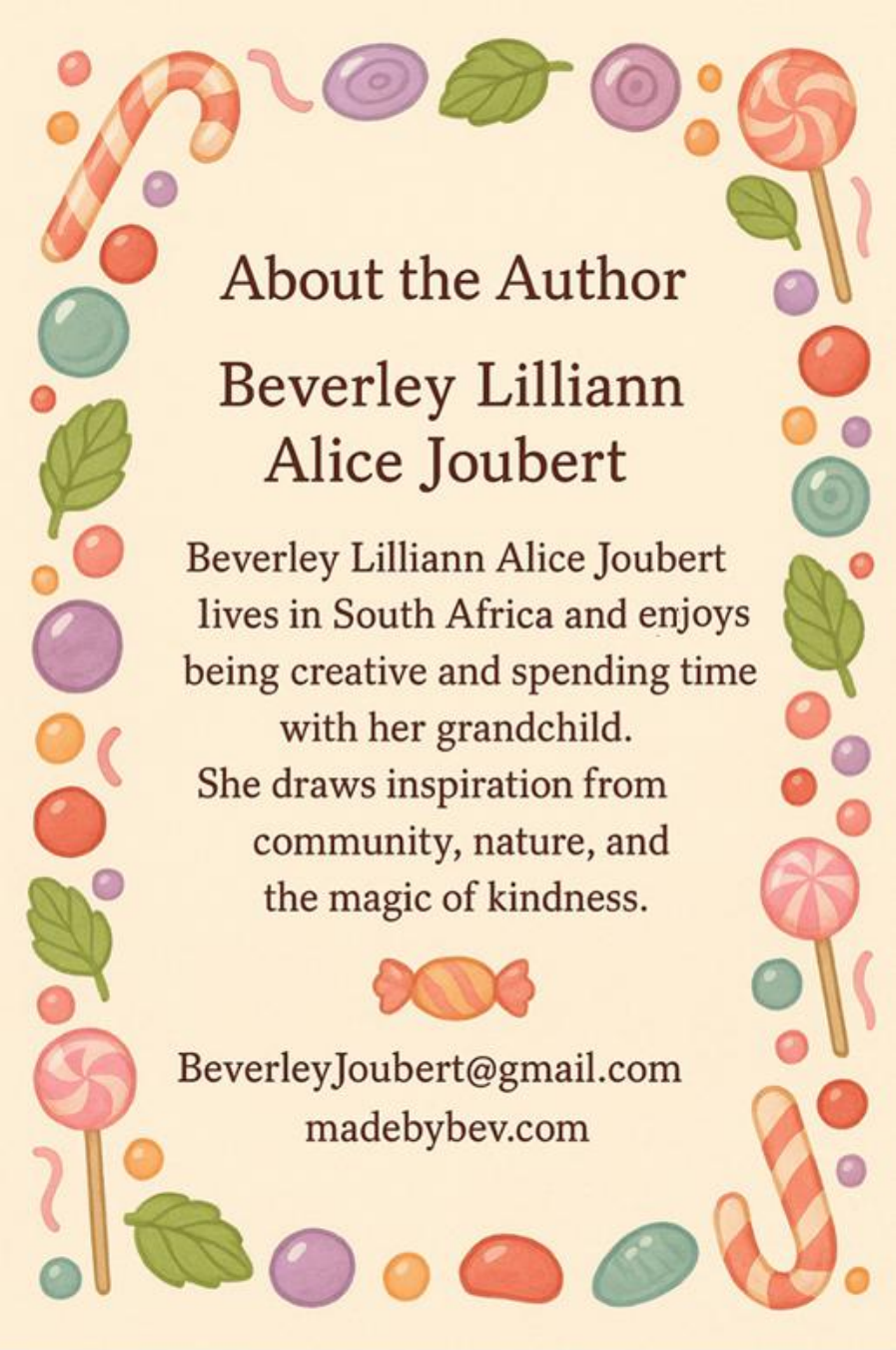
Thank you for joining me on this sweet adventure in **Sweet Refuge**. Although **Sweet Solutions and More** is indeed a real candy shop in Willowmore—and Jenny, its delightful owner, is a genuine, beloved member of our community—all of the other characters, events, and illustrations in this book spring from my imagination.

Every word and image you've enjoyed here is my own original creation.

If you ever find yourself in Willowmore, I warmly invite you to stop by Sweet Solutions and More. Jenny would be thrilled to meet you and share a treat (or two!) in her cozy shop.

With gratitude and sweetest wishes,

Beverley Lilliann Alice Joubert
Author of **Sweet Refuge**



About the Author

Beverley Lilliann Alice Joubert

Beverley Lilliann Alice Joubert
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She draws inspiration from
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