

THE HUNGER FLOWER

Illustrated storybook (ages 7–10) • ~2,000 words

Phoros, a minor god weary of being ignored by the mightier deities, creates a golden blossom meant to earn praise. But the flower awakens hunger that cannot be filled. Its magic spills into the mortal world, where a woman expecting a child is slowly consumed by its longing, until she disappears — leaving her baby beneath an olive tree.

Two simple folk from a nearby village, Dorian and Eren, discover the infant and name him Zenon. He grows fast and fierce: full of laughter, questions, and restless energy. He is loved — deeply — yet others in his quiet harbor town often misunderstand him. He doesn't move or feel on their schedule. The more they try to contain him, the wilder the storm inside him churns.

When Zenon unintentionally disrupts a royal inspection, the King demands that he be “tamed.” Instead, Phoros appears with a different path: Zenon must repair three things that are broken — Outside, Behind, and Within.

He climbs the Hill of Many Mouths, where stone faces shout every criticism he has ever heard. Rather than shrink, he climbs higher — and the mouths fall silent when he declares who he is.

He follows a silver current to Lethe's Mirror, shimmering with the siren-like image of the birth mother he never knew. Longing pulls at him — but Zenon honors her memory without losing himself. He chooses the family who chooses him back.

Finally, he descends into a labyrinth and confronts the Kynarith — a beast forged from the feelings that overwhelm him. Fighting only feeds it. So Zenon breathes, steps forward, and embraces the storm until it settles into his strength.

Each victory pulls another knot tight in the magical net... and in Zenon's identity. He returns home scraped, tired, and proud — not “fixed,” but unapologetically whole. His parents see what has changed: Zenon isn't battling his storm anymore. He is owning it. Zenon plants a transformed blossom by the sea — ready to confront whatever lies on the horizon.

The Hunger Flower is a modern myth about adoption, identity, and growing at one's own rhythm — where the flashes of inside us is not a flaw, but a companion on the journey home.