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## The Magic of Words

by Pauline Walden

She had always wanted words, she loved them: grew up with them.

This was what she told everyone; which came as a surprise to those who knew her background in a household where communication was virtually nonexistent and literature of any sort never intruded into that chaotic living space; where both parents were habitually too drunk or too drugged to engage in any conversation beyond the bounds of verbal abuse.

What she had never been able to articulate was her need for the words she knew existed but which had never been directed to her; words of kindness, love, affection; words she had heard directed to others - these were the words she loved, with which she grew up and enjoyed vicariously; the words she had always wanted - and needed, as parched ground needs the summer rain.