A Rose Blooms in the Desert

By: Jo Anne Kock
Illustrated by: Lisa Pattieshaw

Celebrating the Desert Rose Garden
“A Rose in the Desert” is a fictional story based on historical facts and photos from 1905. The story tells about a little girl growing a rose in Las Vegas, while celebrating the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Desert Rose Garden.
Journey back to Ellie’s 1905 Las Vegas world. Learn to love roses as much as Ellie does.
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Dedicated to: Lori McGuire, Lisa Houser, and Olga Soto (Teachers Extraordinaire)

Special thanks to: Bob Morris
Area Extension Horticulture Specialist
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE)
Ann Edmunds
Program Officer I Horticulture
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE)

Graphics by: Vicki Agao
Lilian Blanchard
Barbara Toston
My name is Luella Mae Moore. Everyone calls me Ellie. I am five years old. I have a rose story to share with you.
Meet my brother, Billy. He is seven years old. We both live in Las Vegas now. He laughs at my rose.
With the arrival of the railroad, Las Vegas became a town in 1905.
The San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad arrives.
The train brought some green plants for my parents to grow. It also brought this stick in a pot. It has a label on it that says “rose.” I wonder what will happen if I plant it.
Dad is going to help me plant my rose. He says we have to find a place out of the wind.
I keep forgetting to water my rose. I wonder if this stick is really going to be a rose. Mom made me a rose necklace so I would remember what a rose looks like.
Dad’s mercantile store has rose hips. Mom shows me how to use dried rose hips to make tea.
Grandma wrote me a letter about tussie mussies.

To surprise Mom with a tussie mussie, I gathered some sweet smelling flowers. Our neighbor gave me a rose to put in a tussie mussie.
Boy, will Mom be surprised with my tussie mussie bouquet!
My cousins in Oregon see the same stars I see in Las Vegas.
Some of the stars look like roses.
Mom is making me new dresses for school.
This is my school in Las Vegas in 1905.
In school I learn that roses grow almost every place in the world.
Almost overnight, I discover my rose bush has leaves and buds.
Look! My rose is starting to bloom. We work hard hauling water to keep all the plants alive.
Wow!

Look at my rose. I’m going to call it the Las Vegas Rose.
Wild roses bloom in the mountains around the Las Vegas Valley.
To learn more about roses and rose activities, see “A Rose Blooms in the Desert Activity Book” by authors: Jo Anne Kock & Vicki A gao

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