

Mal

& The Naughty  
Daffodil

*From Mal's Adventure Series*



Debbie Nicholson



Mal & The Naughty  
Daffodil

Debbie Nicholson

# **Mal & The Naughty Daffodil**

**By Debbie Nicholson**

© 18 June 2019

Published by keDEB publishers,  
Picton, Marlborough, New Zealand

“Did you get the bulbs today Jim?”

“Yes, Ma’am, they’re in the truck.”



“How many did you get Jim?”

“600 Ma’am”,

She said. “Good luck!”

“I’m going to plant you little bulb  
Along the fence outside the gate



with your 599 brothers and sisters  
In a line that will be so straight!

Now, you're not to grow out of the  
line

You're not to pop your head so fine



You're not to be ready 'til Daffodil  
Day

Please be good and do not stray!"



The little bulb watched as Jim went  
Along the line with his back all bent



Planting the brothers and sisters all  
Repeating instructions to each he  
called.

“Now Mal, I wish that you patrol  
The fence and garden . Tis our goal



To have the flowers bring the  
Spring  
No children taking anything.”



“Right you are Jim, count on me  
To make sure the garden’s free

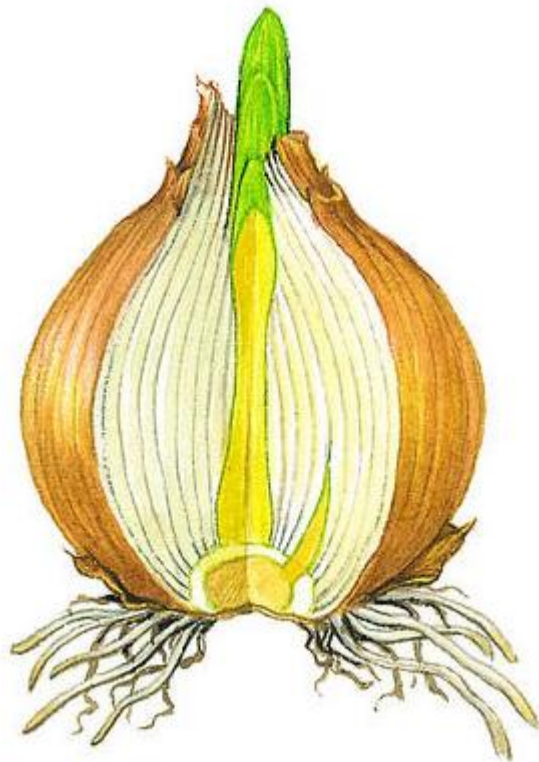


Of pests both two and four legged  
If anyone comes near, I’ll have them  
pegged.”



Of course, Mal didn't know the  
mind

Of the bulb who was already  
inclined



To make her own appearance first  
To win the race, from the ground  
she'd burst.

All the while that Jim was planting  
The little bulb already chanting,



“I’ll be the first, I’m going to win,  
And I will be the first to grin!”

Once Jim was finished, Mal began  
To do his duty and he sang



“These 600 beauties will be just  
grand  
When during August they’ll make  
their stand.”



**BUT.....**

The little bulb thought, “Why  
should I

Display my beauty at the same  
time?



When I'm important, I am the best  
I will follow my own quest!"

Well little bulb got herself settled  
Into the hole that Jim had battled



To dig and feed with bulb manure  
To be the best when we all mature.

It was a battle to her the bulb  
Who didn't realise would be such a  
struggle



Her battle against the cold was  
intense,  
“They say it is winter out there by  
the fence.”



Battle on, she kept going, she was  
determined

To be the first she was most certain.



She didn't know the damage  
intense cold can beget  
Winter growth protection is good  
not a threat.

Like many bulb plants  
from temperate regions  
Exposure to cold is why we have  
seasons.



The fungus that causes bulbs for to  
rot  
Can live in the soil for years, who'd  
have thought?

'Twas a battle uphill, that the bulb  
had to struggle  
With Narcissus Smoulder and mites  
wanting to snuggle



And as if that wasn't all, there was  
black slime disease -  
"Help, help!" cried little bulb, "I'm  
quite under siege!"



Wait what was that? Did she feel  
creeping in

A tendril of sunlight from  
somewhere within?



Her soil surroundings were feeling  
quite warm

On the morning when she thought  
that all was forlorn.

She would be an exception to  
initiate flowering!

Warm temperatures were into her  
growth path surrounding



She could hear the pollinators  
sensing her appearance

They were waiting - their song  
encouraging her senses

To keep up with her battle, to keep  
pushing through

Her excitement was mounting as  
quickly she grew.



If would be night, then the  
Hawkmoth could drink her.

If would be day, butterflies, bees,  
flies would greet her.

All the while this was happening  
Mal went on with his job balancing  
The job of plant watching  
And keeping strangers from  
knocking



The plants as they walked by  
Green shoots travelling sky-high



Chattering and not heeding  
The path they were needing.

“Hoi, away with you now, from the  
plants you must scarper  
They don’t like your fingers or toes  
feeling after



Their little wee stems are so very  
delicate  
Tis bad enough heavy rain leaving  
them desolate.”

Back and forth our Mal drove  
Up and down fence line growth



When he noticed one flower  
Appeared after a shower.

“Hey, little bulb what is that you’re  
doing?”

It’s not nearly time that you’re  
needed for viewing.



That head of yours does look quite  
suspicious

Though you do, I’ll admit - you do  
look delicious.



I need to fetch Jim who will know  
what to do

Now little bulb, just a minute or  
two.”



Away drove our Mal up to where  
Jim’s truck

Was parked in the staff lot

“This plant, he’ll be awestruck,

When I tell him, it's here - just a few  
minutes more

And that little bulb will be open as  
décor



How strange that just one would be  
ready for fun

With the others still sleeping  
flowering not yet begun.”

“Jim, Jim, please come quickly!”

He called out quite stiffly



As he drove up the hill

Where he could see Jim was still

Retrieving his gear for a job to  
complete  
Surprised to see Mal at his end of  
the street.



“Hey Mal, where’re you going?  
What’s up down below?  
I’m about to come down for the  
lawn needs to mow.”



“Well, Jim, it’s surprising the news  
that I bring  
One bulb wants to flower, thinks  
already it’s Spring!”



“What did you say Mal, what’s that  
you’re uttering?

I told all them bulbs the days they’d  
be fluttering. “

“Well, Jim, it appears that one bulb  
was not listening

She broke ground, then reached out  
to the sun all a-glistening.



You have to come down for to see  
what I found

Just now. Her head is way out of  
the ground.”

So, Jim started rumbling down in  
his gumboots  
While Mal easily turned with a few  
little toots



At the children who stared at the  
VW Beetle  
Who was always patrolling with his  
eyes big as eagles.

“Now see here little bulb, just what  
are you playing

To come forth like that, when the  
season’s still weighing

The cold is what bulbs need to grow  
not display

You have to be responsible or this is  
doomsday



For flowers such as you, with your  
delicate being

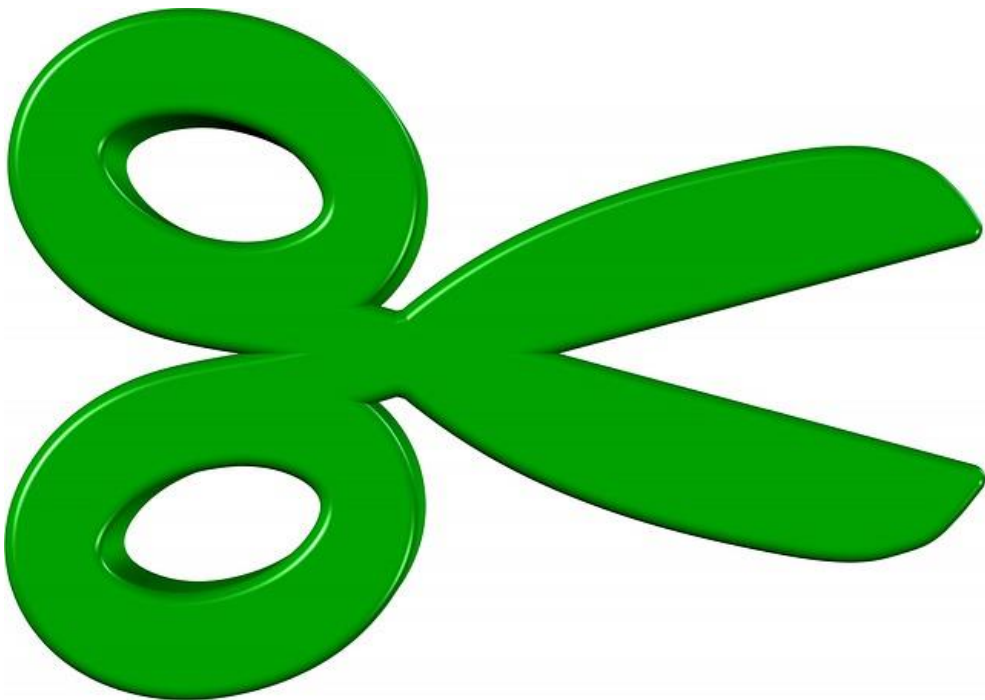
To survive in this gloom – what's  
this am I seeing?

Oh bulb, while your beauty will  
not be unnoticed

Your life will be short because of  
your protest.”

“What did you say Jim? I’m so  
beautiful!

I wanted to be first to give you a  
thrill.



Oh dear Jim, what is it that you  
have in your hand?

Some scissors?” Snip! Snip! “Oh  
where is the land?”

“Plants that come early are best  
given to friends.

Your days in the ground have come  
to an end.



A beautiful vase will now be your  
home

You can warm on the table not left  
out here to roam.”

Your beauty will to many be so  
displayed,

However, your life will not  
lengthen your day

We need all them bulbs to grow up  
all together

So when Daffodil Day comes, you'll  
all be such a splendour.

“So be as it may,” the Daffodil  
sighed

“All that hard work, now to be cut  
just to die



In the vase on the table where I will  
be such a show

My pride and ambition has  
backfired so.”



Mal, Jim and Daffodil walked up  
the path

To the vase on the table where she'd  
enjoy a steam bath.



The water was warm and was such  
a delight

The Daffodil beamed as the children  
admired.

While down by the fence, Mal  
resumed his patrolling  
To watch all the bulbs as they kept  
right on growing



Behaving to weather and sun all  
alike  
To come forth together – a gold and  
white strike!

# All Books In This Series

## Mal's Adventure Series



\* \* \* \* \*

# Acknowledgments

See Our Favourite Links and Keywords Pages

Also, Very Special Thanks

**For Artwork**



**For Inspiration**

Jim Keenan



# Our Favourite Links and Keywords

[Preface – Free Image by ivabalk from Pixabay](#)

[The Naughty Daffodil budding](#)

[Crepuscular moth](#)

[How to plant daffodils](#)

[The origin of the Narcissus](#)

[600 Bulbs](#)

[Watching the others be planted](#)

[Two legged](#)

[Four legged](#)

[Daffodil day basket](#)

[Daffodil Bulb](#)

[First to grin](#)

[I am important](#)

[Winter](#)

[Winter threat](#)

[Bulb disease](#)

[Narcissus Smoulder](#)

[Sunrays](#)

[pollinators](#)

[Crepuscular moth](#)

[Green Shoots](#)

[So very tender](#)

[One flower](#)

[Scissors](#)



Beautiful Vase

Beautiful Daffodil

Daffodil in the vase

Daffodils

# Keywords

Daffodil

Daffodils

Daffodil Day in New Zealand

Daffodil Narcissus Yellow

Daffodil Bulb

Daffodil Bulb Stems

Daffodil leaves

Mal

Debbie Nicholson

## [Other Books By Debbie Nicholson](#)

## [Book Links If The Hyperlinks Don't Show Up On Your Device](#)

## [Preface](#)



*Debbie Nicholson*

## About The Author

*Debbie Nicholson* is an author with several books already published in the Amazon Kindle Store, several of them best sellers beginning that journey with humour, then progressing into motivation, animals, health and children's poetry. She lives in a motor home in New Zealand with her husband, enjoying a retired lifestyle with touring their country as their

projected main focus. Family is important in Debbie's life as are her spiritual interests. She also gives back and in so doing, pursues a career in helping budding entrepreneurs to bring themselves up through the ranks so they can create lifestyles whereby they can live the life of their dreams and on their own terms.