



THE
MARIA
SERIES

MARIAS
Many
COLORS

BY
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WOOD



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY



In a little brown town on top of a hill lived a girl named Maria. Maria's house was made of rugged brown stones. The goats in her yard had coarse brown hair. Maria's dress was scratchy, patchy, and very, very brown.

Brown was not Maria's favorite color.

Six days of the week, Maria awoke with the sun. The yellow rays warmed her as she brushed her brown hair and put on her dress and sturdy brown shoes.

After her breakfast of brown bread and goat cheese, Maria went out into the yard to milk the goats, feed the brown chickens, and fill her basket with brown speckled eggs.

But on Sundays, Maria hopped out of bed before the

sun came peeking over the hills. Maria loved Sundays for one little reason and one big reason. The little reason was that on Sundays, Maria



got to wear a prized dress.
The fabric was snowy white,
but her mother had used
every color of thread in her
basket to trim the dress.
Bright bunches of roses,



bluebells, daisies, and lilies
grew up the front and along
the collar, their green leaves
twisting around. Scarlet
macaws and golden finches
soared on the sleeves.



Maria loved that dress, and she loved her mother for the many days and nights she had spent bent over the dress, her silver needle flashing in the light.

The big reason Maria loved Sundays was that Sundays were for church, and church was a full day of songs and prayers and friends and colors—so many stunning colors. The windows in the church were stained glass, which means they were like

pretty paintings. When the sun shined into one of the windows, the whole church was filled with heavenly light.





MARIA'S *many* COLORS

Maria's world is brown, brown, brown! That is, except for her beautiful Sunday dress, and the wonderfully-colored stained glass windows at church. When a storm causes a tree to fall and shatter the precious windows, Maria wants to do something to help earn enough money to replace them. Her ideas, her hard work, and her generosity bring beautiful colors and joy to the entire community.



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