



A YEAR WITH
MAMA EARTH

For Magdalene

—Rebecca Grabill

For Lori

—Rebecca Green

A YEAR WITH MAMA EARTH

Written by
Rebecca Grabill

Illustrated by
Rebecca Green




Eerdmans Books for Young Readers


Grand Rapids, Michigan



Mama Earth rustles her autumn wings
to cool her hot, tired face.
She sighs, and the first September frost
crackles over bowing stalks of corn.
Pumpkins peek out from under
wide, yellowing leaves.
They've been playing peek-a-boo,
shaded from the blistering heat
all this time.



Carved and lit from within,
October's pumpkins grin.
Mama laughs a chill wind
that stirs the maple leaves
into a golden whirl
while children spin and spin,
their scarves like twirling maple seeds,
until they tumble in a laughing heap.



November's stubborn oak holds tight
to her curling, crinkly leaves.
Mama Earth sings
a lullaby to the fat black bear,
the round woodchuck,
the woolly caterpillar,
the infant wrapped in blankets,
while the busy squirrel packs
the last few nuts
into his summer stores.