



Alpine Flowers

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It is early spring in the Swiss Alps, and the towering granite-gray peaks are still covered with snow. A small clump of alpine poppies is wedged in the crevice between two boulders. The small greenish-brown buds are not quite ready to open up completely to become glorious red blossoms. The early morning sun is still lukewarm, not warm enough to melt the snow from the mighty mountains. The royal blue enzians and the gray edelweiss growing nearby feel entirely at home in the cool breeze. The small open petals resembling stars look up at the sky, as if looking for their home.

As the hours pass and the sun grows warmer, the melting snow begins to trickle down from the snowy peaks. The warmth turns a poppy-bud slowly toward the sun, opening it slightly, showing a glimpse of the beauty it will become. Just then, the water trickling down from the great heights penetrates the crevice between the boulders, reaching the small flowering cluster.

Come tomorrow, the greenish-brown buds will open to glorious red.