



Big-Eyed Bee

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Sophy the bee has big eyes and is very proud that she can see things far away. She is also the fastest flier in the swarm, always the first to fill her jar with nectar.



One morning, she arrives at the garden, first as usual, and lands on a big flower to wait for the other bees. She closes her eyes and breathes in the lovely fragrance around her.

But soon she realizes that she is still alone. 'Where is everyone? I have been waiting for a long time now,' she complains.



At last, the swarm arrives. They work close together, gathering nectar from the flowers. A bee named Hector approaches Sophy and asks, 'Why don't you join us? It is always best to stick together.'

'You are too slow to keep up with me,' Sophy boasts.

"OK, but you should be careful. It can be dangerous in the garden."



“Nothing can hurt me, I have the biggest eyes and the fastest wings!” Sophy exclaims, as Hector turns away and returns to the group, leaving Sophy alone.



The bees work hard gathering nectar. But Sophy is not pleased that no one is paying attention to her. 'Look everyone! I have already filled my jar with nectar. I even have enough left over for a snack.'

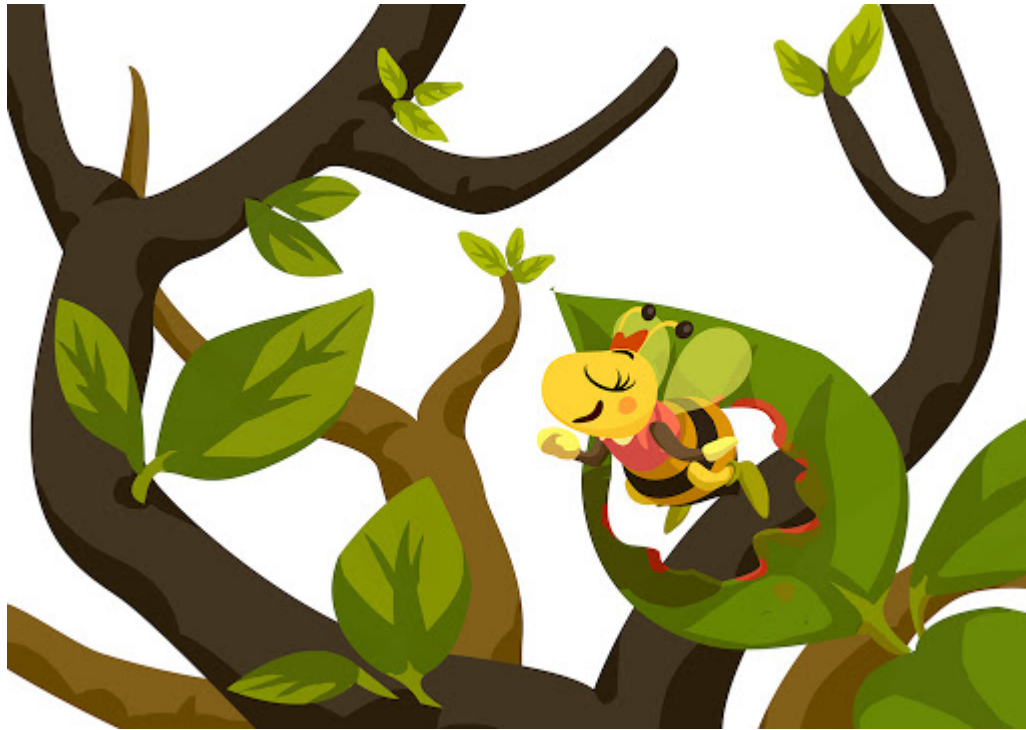


As evening approaches, the buzzing of the bees grows louder. Everyone is hurrying to fill their nectar jars. Sophy has no interest in helping them. She decides to take a break instead.



Sophy lies down on a nice leaf and looks at the beautiful sky. Suddenly, she sees an unusual purple flower high above her.

"That flower is huge!" she exclaims. "I bet I can get more nectar than all the other bees combined from that flower."



Sophy flies up through the branches. Sometimes she takes a shortcut through holes in the leaves eaten by worms. She doesn't pay much attention to where she is going.



Suddenly, Sophy sees an eight-legged creature on a web in front of her. "Who are you?" she asks.

'Haven't you seen a spider before?' the creature asks.

"No, what is that you are walking on?"



"This is my web. It can be a very exciting place. Do you want to come play with me?"

Sophie is intrigued, so she flies toward the web.



But then she notices a mosquito, trapped in the web. Sophy begins to feel nervous about her new friend. She tries to fly away, but one of her legs gets stuck!



As Sophy struggles to free herself, she turns to see the spider approaching.

"Do you see how exciting my web can be?" the spider says, showing her fangs.

Sophy is ready to go, now! She flaps her wings hard and reminds herself that she is the fastest bee in the swarm. "I have to get out of here!" she tells herself.

Finally, she manages to



escape, just ahead of the spider's chomping jaws.



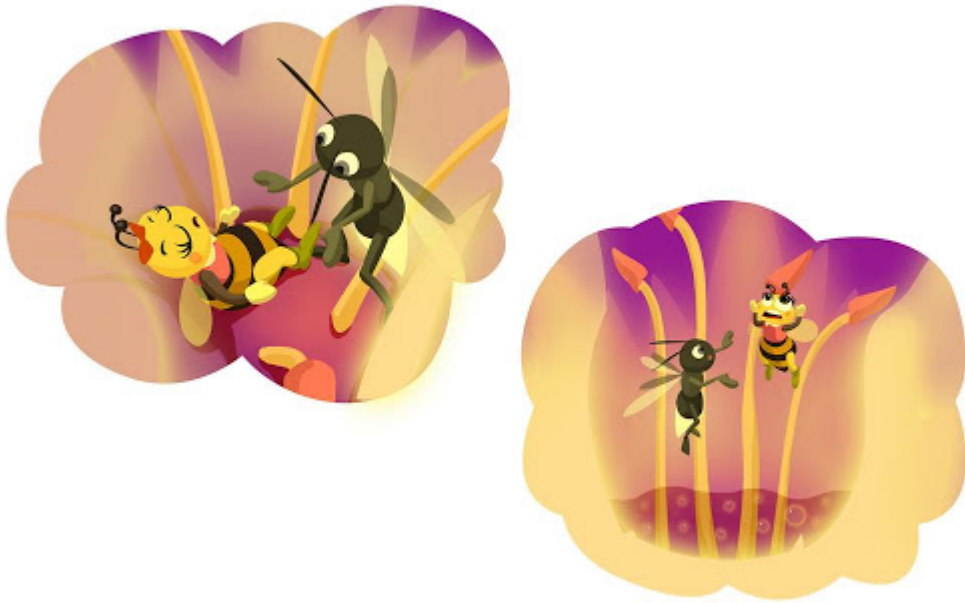
Sophy is very pleased with herself that she escaped the spider. Flying high into the air, she spots the purple flower again. "Oh, there will be so much nectar in that flower! If I bring it all back to the hive, everyone will know I am the best bee in the swarm."



Sophy flies right into the flower's golden heart and takes a sip of the nectar. But it is bitter and makes her feel dizzy. She tries to fly away, but quickly runs out of energy. Her wings become weak and her eyes begin to close.



Meanwhile, the swarm finishes collecting nectar as the sun sets. But no one can find Sophy. They know she always flies ahead of the group, so decide she must have gone back to the hive alone. The bees head home without her.



Back in the purple flower,
a firefly has spotted Sophy
and stops to help her.

'Wake up!' he cries. "This is a
poisonous flower. It will try
to eat you!"

As the sky becomes dark,
Sophy manages to open her
eyes.



Suddenly, the petals begin to close. They are trapped! A sticky liquid fills up the inside of the flower.

'Ugh! I can't breathe!' shouts the firefly.

'We must get out of this place,' replies Sophy. She struggles to move, and manages to sting the flower.



Suddenly, the flower opens up and the two small insects manage to escape. Exhausted, they flutter to the ground and fall asleep.



As the night deepens, centipedes, frogs, and snakes emerge from the forest. They are drawn to the firefly's glowing light.



But before the creatures get any closer, the swarm arrives! The forest creatures slither away quickly before they can get stung.

"How did you find me?"
Sophie asks.

Hector speaks up. "When we returned to the hive and saw you were not there we came to look for you. Let's go home together."



Flying home in the dark, the bees soon get lost. But Sophy's new friend calls his family to help. A huge swarm of fireflies light the way for the bees.



The next morning, Sophy wakes up and feels quite different. She would not have made it home without the help of the firefly and her fellow bees.

"I am sorry for leaving you all behind," she says to them. "Will you forgive me?"

"Of course Sophy, bees are best when they stick together!"

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