

To Be a Bee



for

Alexander Raj

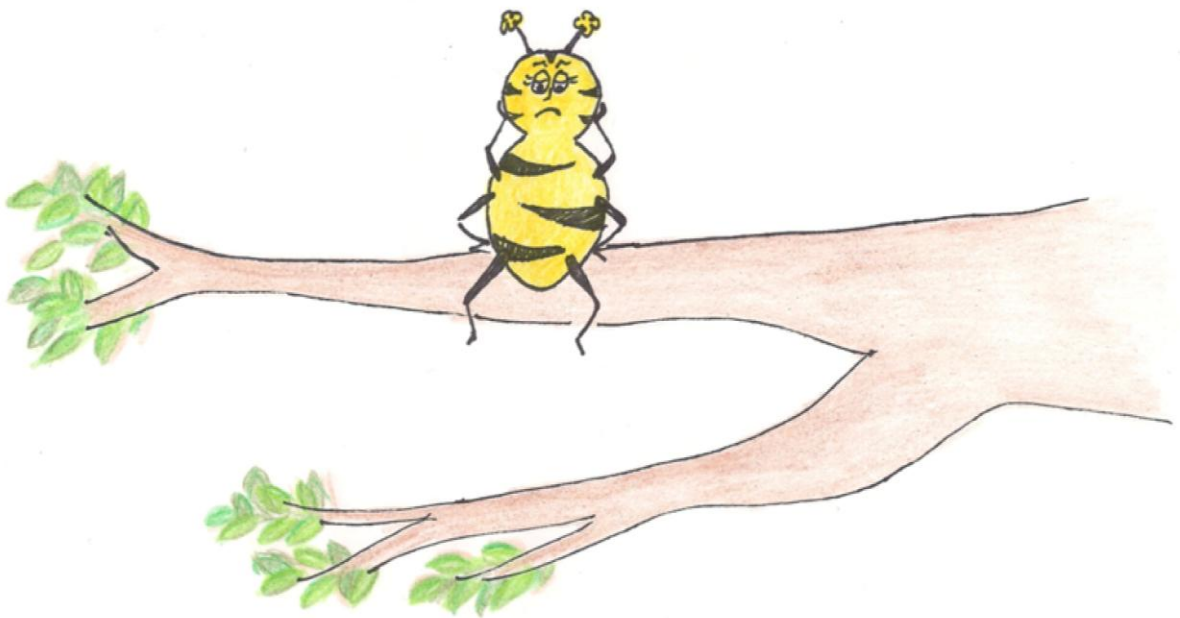
from
Monica Mausl

Once upon a time, there was a little
bee named Nina.

She spent her days drinking nectar
from flowers and exploring the meadows
and woods near her bee hive.



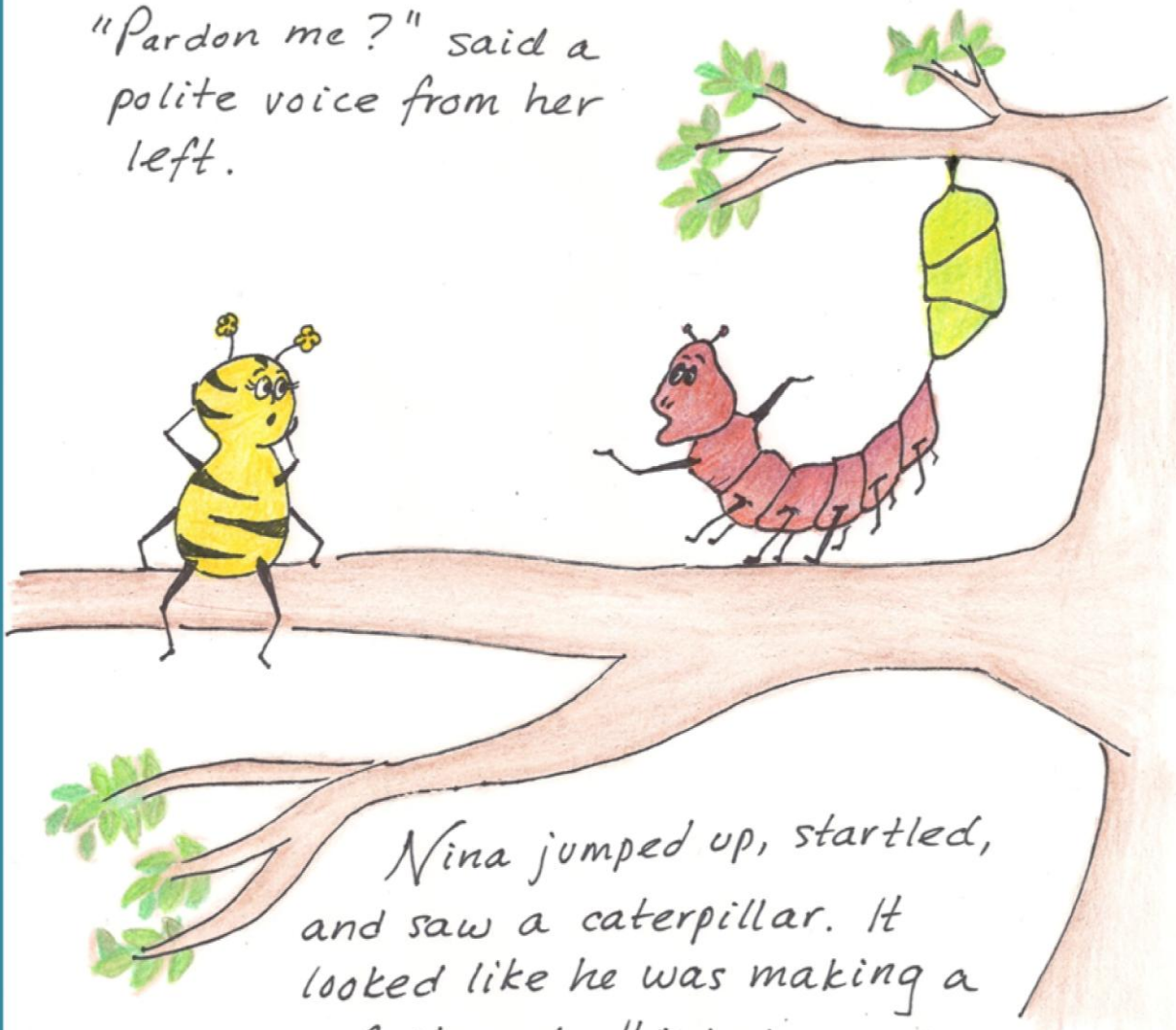
She was usually a very happy bee,
but one day she felt as though there
was nothing new to do.



She sat down on a branch and put
her head in her hands.

"I'm bored!" she complained.

"Pardon me?" said a polite voice from her left.



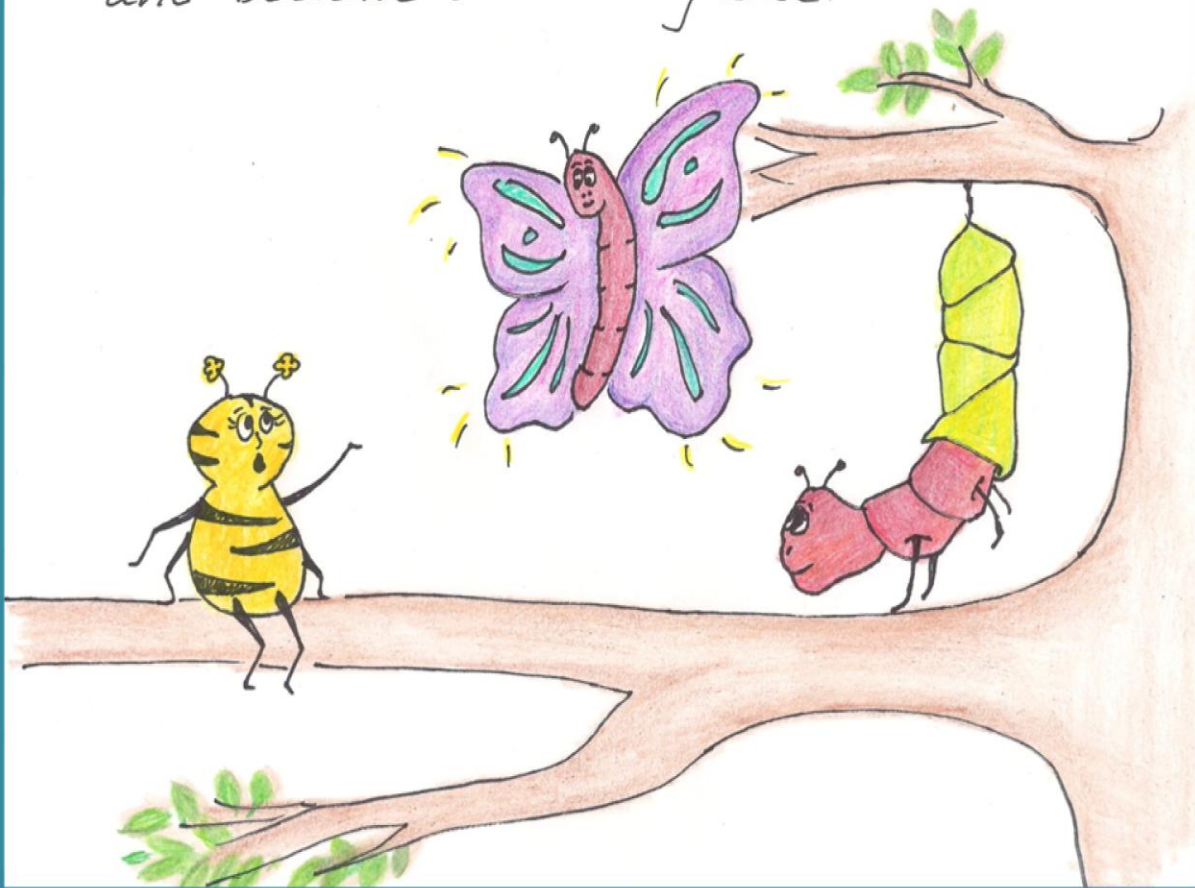
Nina jumped up, startled, and saw a caterpillar. It looked like he was making a house out of thread. "What are you building?" asked Nina.

"I'm making a chrysalis," explained the caterpillar proudly. "Then I'll go inside and when I come out I'll be a butterfly."

"I don't believe you!" said Nina.
She stopped a passing butterfly.

"Excuse me, Mr. Butterfly. Is it true
that you were once a caterpillar?"

"That is true," said the butterfly,
flapping his beautiful wings. "I went
into the chrysalis as a caterpillar
and became something else."



"I want to become something else too," thought Nina.

She watched the caterpillar making his thread.

"I can't make thread... but I can make honey!"

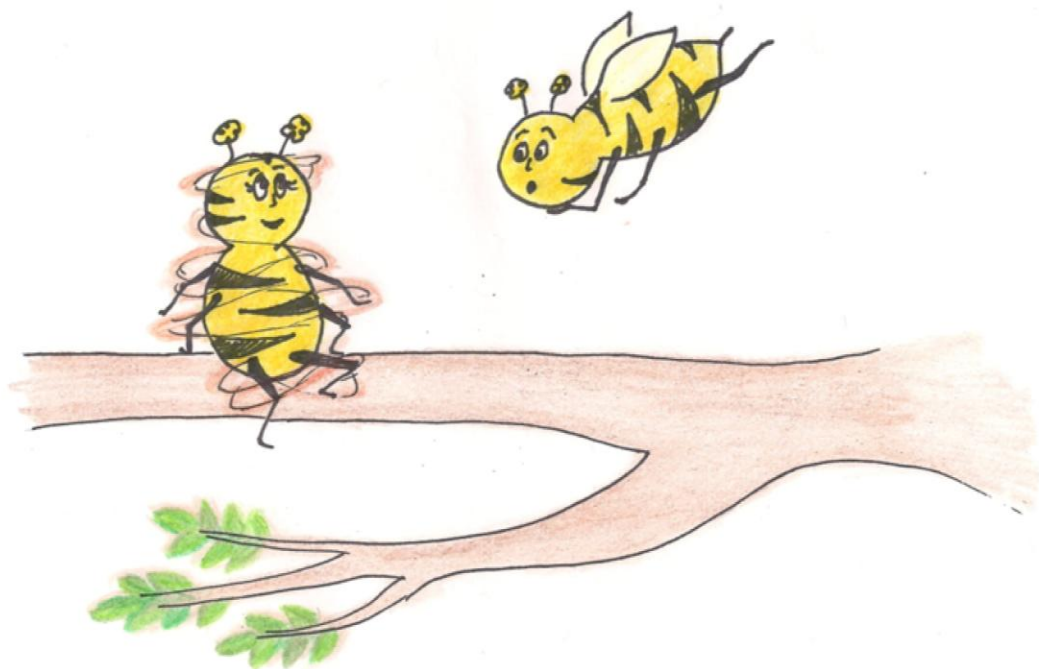
And so Nina made a
chrysalis out of honey.

For a while she was
excited, but then she
started to feel hot
and very sticky.



She wanted to ask
the caterpillar how
long it would take to
become something else,
but he had disappeared
into his own chrysalis.





Just then, Nina's friend Tim came buzzing by.

"What are you doing, Nina bee?" he asked curiously.

Nina told him about the caterpillar and the butterfly. "I'm going to become something else too," she said.

Tim looked thoughtful. "But what will you become?" he asked.

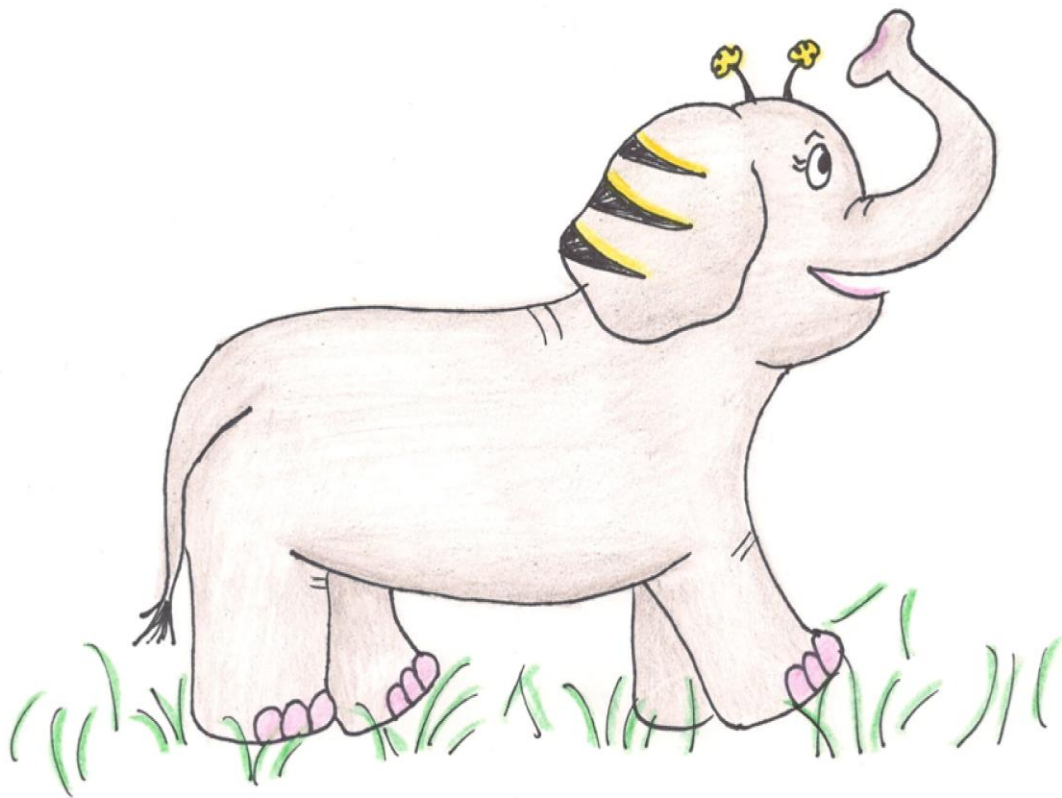
Nina hadn't thought about that.

She paused.

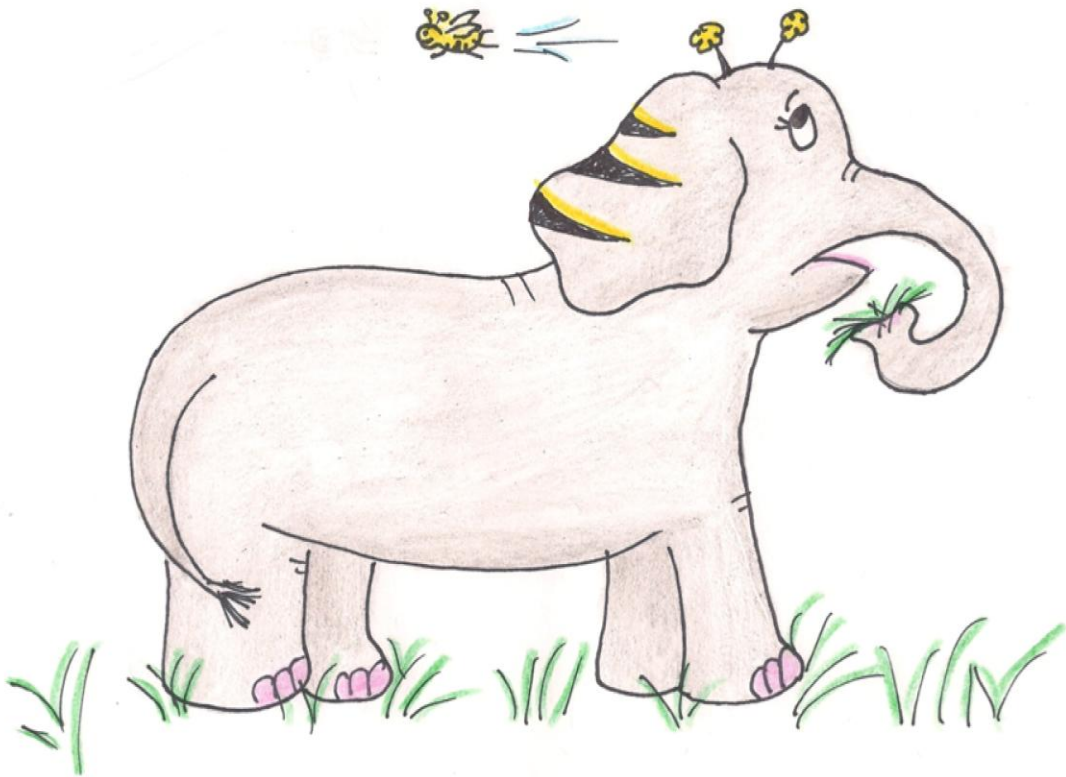
Finally...

"I'm going to become an elephant!"
she exclaimed, triumphantly.

"Then I will be big and important."



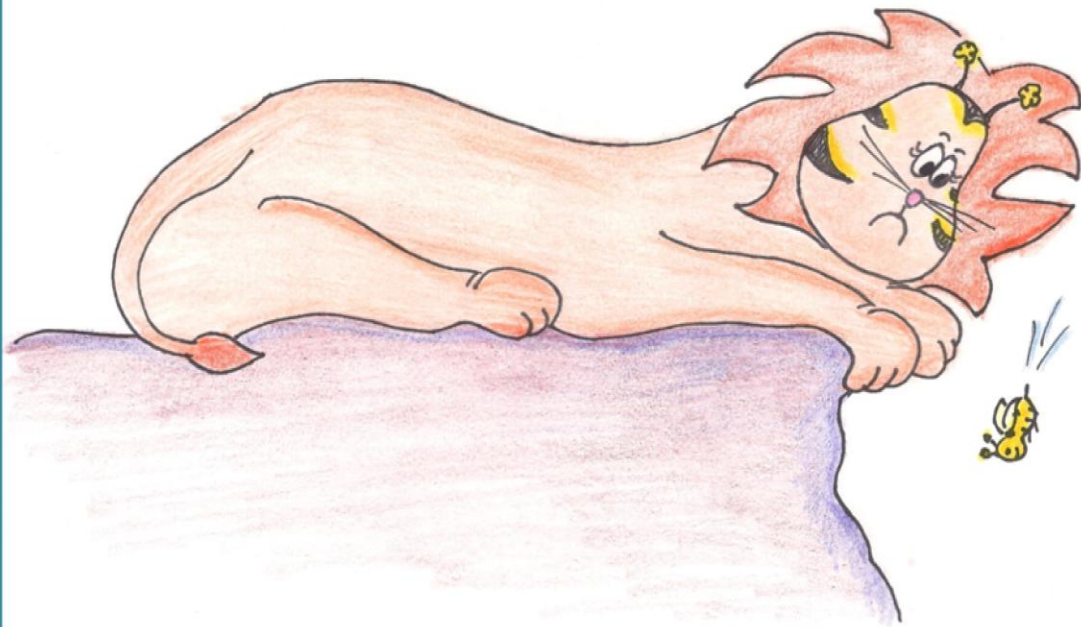
"But elephants have to spend most of their time eating," said Tim.
"You wouldn't have much time for exploring."



Nina frowned. "That's true," she conceded.

"OK, then," she said, "I'll
become a lion. Lions have
lots of time for exploring."





"But lions can't fly," said
Tim. "Bees can go everywhere
lions can go, and lots more
places too."



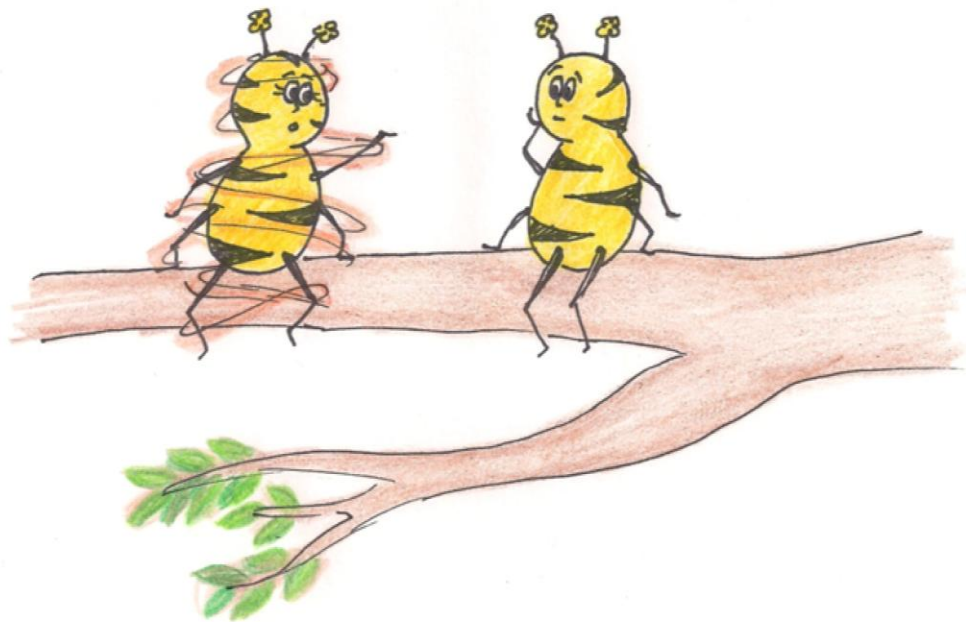
"Hmmm..." said Nina. "Maybe I'll become a whale. Then I won't be able to fly, but I could swim in the ocean."

"But whales eat mostly
plankton. That doesn't sound
as nice as eating nectar,"
Tim said.



"Well, what do you think I should become?" asked Nina.

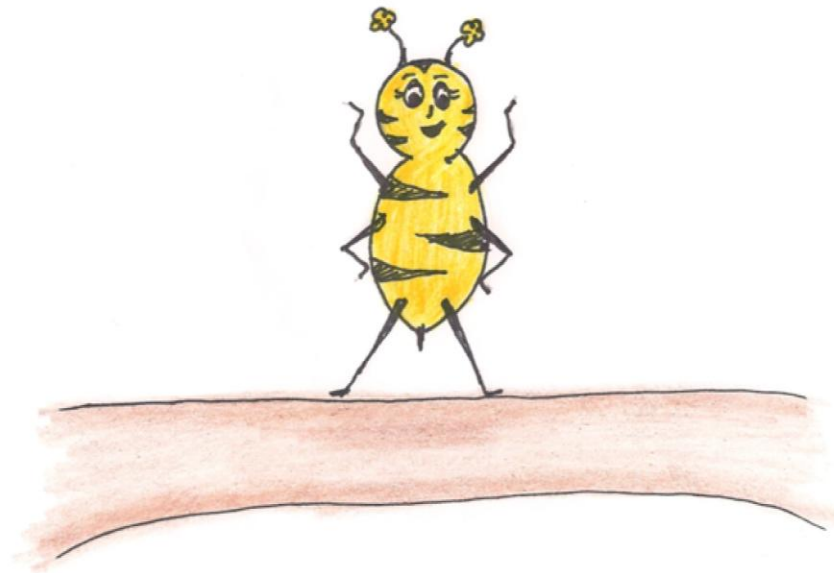
"If it were me," said Tim slowly,
"I would keep being a bee."



Nina considered. To be a bee
or not to be a bee, that was
the question.

She saw all her bee friends,
buzzing through the woods
and drinking nectar from
colorful flowers.

I do want to be a bee, she
decided suddenly.



"I WANT TO BE ME!"

And she and Tim flew off
happily to find new places
to explore together.



The End ~