To Be a Bee

for

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from

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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.”

"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...