

F rances the Firefly wanted to grow up quickly, but there were one or two things she had to learn first...

eep in the middle of a forest far away was the Kingdom of the Insects.
They were a friendly bunch who worked together to build a land

where everyone had a purpose.

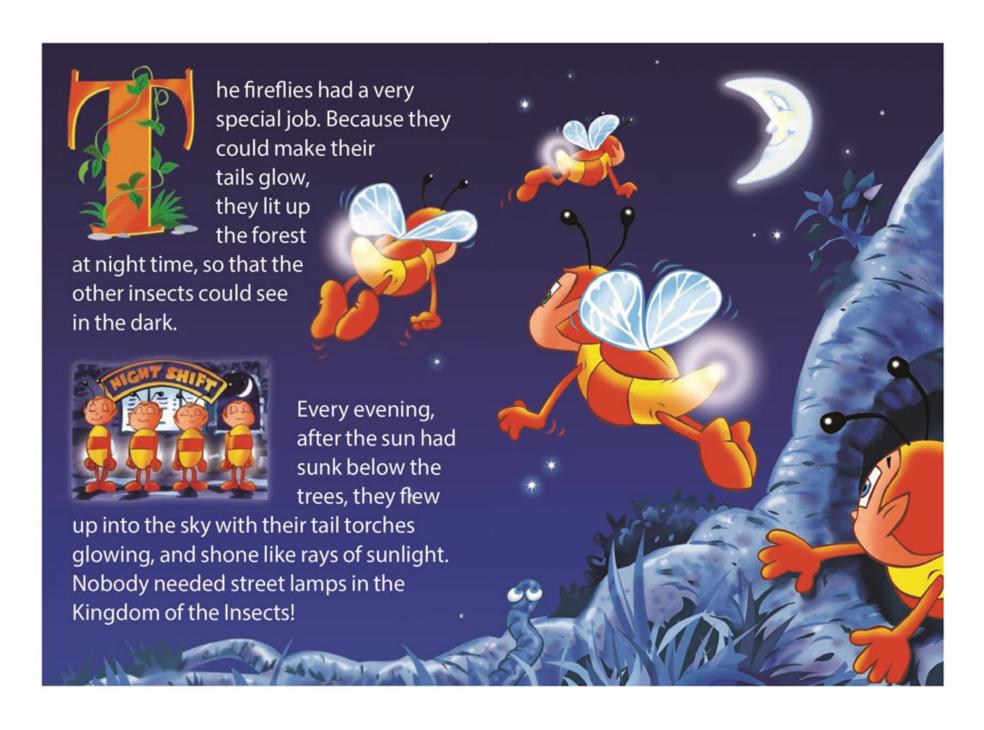
The spiders spun silky, silvery webs to decorate the land and fill it with splendour.

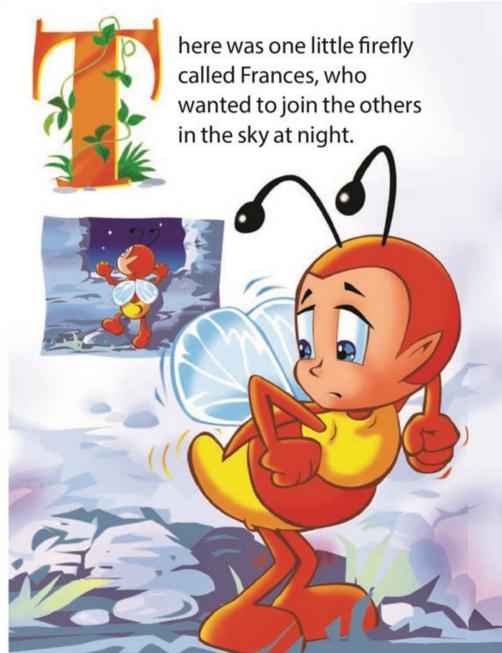
The ants, who were immensely strong, built all the houses. And the bees ran the



honey factories, making sure that everyone had enough delicious honey to eat.





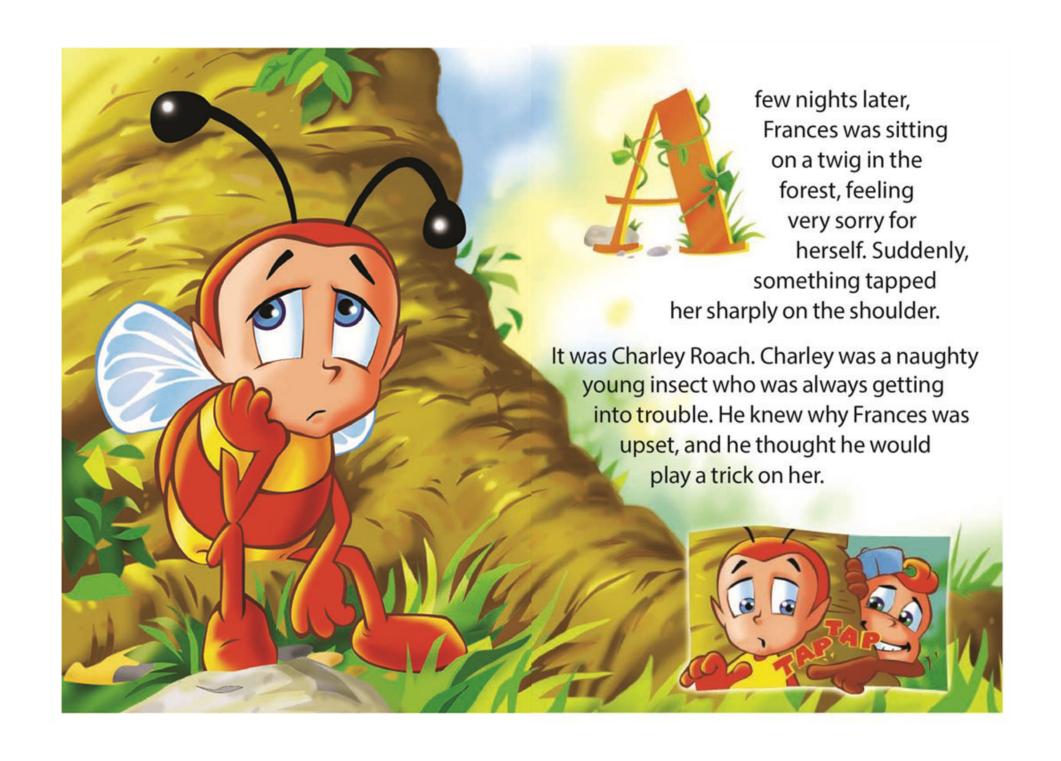


She watched them take off and begged to go with them. But they told her she was too young. "You can't make your tail glow brightly enough yet," they said kindly.

"I shall practise until I can make it glow properly," she thought. She flapped her wings furiously, trying with all her might, but her tail hardly glowed at all. This made her feel very sad.

The other fireflies said, "Don't worry,
Frances. One day you will be old enough
to join in with the

grown-ups."
Frances felt that day
was so far off, it
would never come.







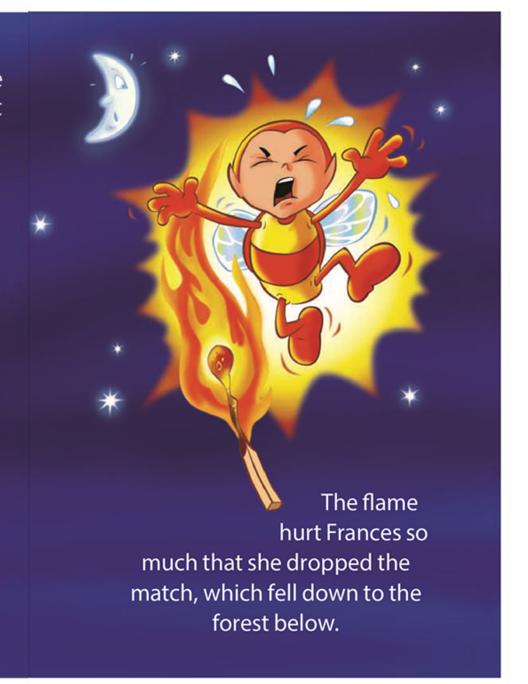
rances wanted to be grown up, so with Charley's help she lit the match. At once a bright glow shone all around

her.

"Fly up, fly up with it!" yelled Charley with delight.

Frances flew up and up. "Just wait

till everyone sees what I can do," she thought. But she was too pleased with her lovely bright light to notice that the flame was growing larger and larger. It came creeping up the match until it reached her wings and burned them.







ext morning, when the fire had finally been put out, the insects held an emergency meeting.

Many of them had been badly

burned, including Frances, whose blackened wings were still very painful.

King Chrysalis,
a grand butterfly
who ruled the
Kingdom of the
Insects, rose to speak:
"We must rebuild our
land at once, and make it
beautiful again." He looked
down at Frances, who was
feeling very ashamed of herself.

"I hope you now understand how dangerous fire can be," he said to her in a stern voice.



rances had indeed learned her lesson. She helped the rest of her friends rebuild the houses and factories, but she was also given a special job

to do. Every now and then she gathered together all the younger insects and told them her story.

They would sit and listen to her tale, and understand why they should never play with matches.

nd what about Charley Roach? He was sent away from the Insect Kingdom in disgrace.

Even today, you can sometimes see him scuttling amongst the litter in towns and villages,



looking for something to eat.

DON'T FORGET – NEVER PLAY WITH MATCHES!

Points for grown-ups to remember:

- Always keep matches out of children's reach.
- Never leave children alone at home.
- Don't let children play near a fire, or leave their toys too close to a fire.

Children:

If you see matches lying around, tell your mummy or daddy or another grown-up. You should never play with matches, as they can be dangerous and, like Frances, you could be badly burned.