

The Bug Story

by Jonathan and Zoe



Book 1

New Friends

In an old tree stump
in a forest...



...lived three big bugs.
They were best friends:
a stag beetle named
Stag...



...And two rhinoceros beetles:



a green Japanese rhino beetle
named Rhino



and a yellow Hercules beetle.



One day, a tiger beetle came along, with a broken leg...

Tiger asked the three friends if he could stay a while at their place, until his leg healed.



Rhino helped Tiger take care of his leg, and soon he was healthy.

But Tiger liked so much to live in the tree stump he stayed on for a little bit longer...



...and then a little bit longer, and ...a tiny bit longer...
Until he stayed for good.



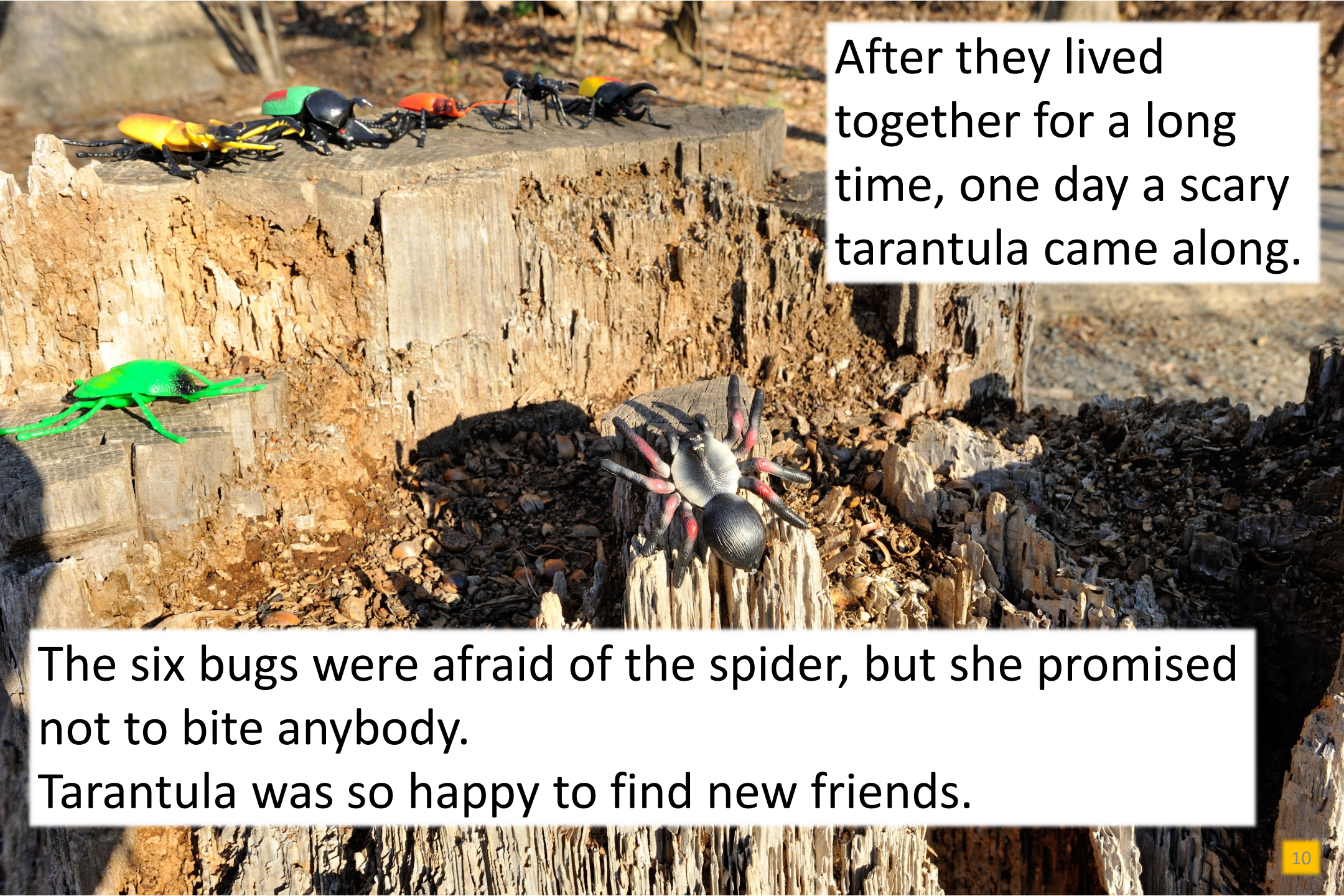
And the four beetles: Stag, Hercules, Rhino, and Tiger, lived happily together, until a giant black ant came along. He had lost his family and could not find a friendly colony to live in.

And then a green bug also came.

Green was lonely because other bugs did not like his smell.



The five bugs took him in, too.

A photograph of a tarantula spider on a wooden stump. The spider is black with red markings on its legs and is positioned in the center of the frame. To its left, a bright green beetle is on the wood. Above the spider, a group of six colorful beetles (yellow, green, red, and black) are gathered on the top edge of the stump. The background shows a natural outdoor setting with dry leaves and wood.

After they lived together for a long time, one day a scary tarantula came along.

The six bugs were afraid of the spider, but she promised not to bite anybody.

Tarantula was so happy to find new friends.



Finally, when nobody was expecting it, the wind blew in a spiny leaf insect. They decided to call him Spiny.

The eight bugs lived together:

Stag, Hercules, Rhino, Tiger, Ant, Green, Tarantula, and Spiny.

Their house had two rules.

Rule 1 was:

do not eat friends.

Rule 2 was:

help each other.



The End

**Turn the page
for some fun bug facts!**

Stag Beetle



Superpower:

strong,
great at lifting and wrestling

Food:

herbivore, drinks tree sap (juice),
their larvae eat rotten wood and
dig many tunnels

Other facts:

they can fly and bite,
the “horns” are mandibles



Hercules Beetle



Superpower:

extremely strong,
the largest beetle in the world

Food:

herbivore, eats fruit, nectar, tree sap;
their larvae eat rotten wood

Other facts:

they can fly and hiss,
can grow to 7 inches long,
can lift about 850 times its own weight,
the pincers are not their mandibles



Japanese Rhinoceros Beetle



Superpower:

Strength,
night vision (22,000 facets!)

Food:

herbivore, eats fruit, nectar, tree sap;
their larvae eat rotten wood

Other facts:

they are cousins of the Hercules beetle,
and also can hiss, fly and take off
vertically, and
have a strong sense of smell



The Bug Story

To be continued...



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