

The Bug Story

by Jonathan and Zoe



Book 2

Forest Fire

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.

But on one hot and windy day...



A photograph of a forest fire. The scene is dominated by intense orange and yellow flames that are rising vertically, appearing to burn along the trunks of trees. In the foreground, several tree trunks are visible; some are charred and blackened, while others are still green. A prominent tree stump is in the lower right foreground. The background is a dense wall of fire and smoke. A white rectangular box is overlaid in the upper right corner, containing the text "WHAT is that?!".

WHAT is that?!

Eight friends were frightened!



Should they stay on the stump?
Should they hide under the stump?
Can the flying bugs rush and bring help?
...They did not know what to do.



Suddenly, a giant ladybug crash-landed on the stump.
“OUCH!” said Spiny. Lady Bug had stepped on his leg.



Lady Bug was dirty and very tired.
She apologized, and then shouted:

The forest is
on fire! Let's
fly away!




But they could not all leave.
Ant and Tarantula could not fly.



The friends thought hard...

...then Tarantula had an idea.

A collection of various colorful beetles, including a large yellow and black stag beetle, a red ladybug, a bright green beetle, and several smaller black and orange beetles, are gathered on a piece of weathered wood. A white, fluffy spider web is spun in the center. A speech bubble from a spider (not fully visible) contains the text "I could make spider webs".

I could make spider webs

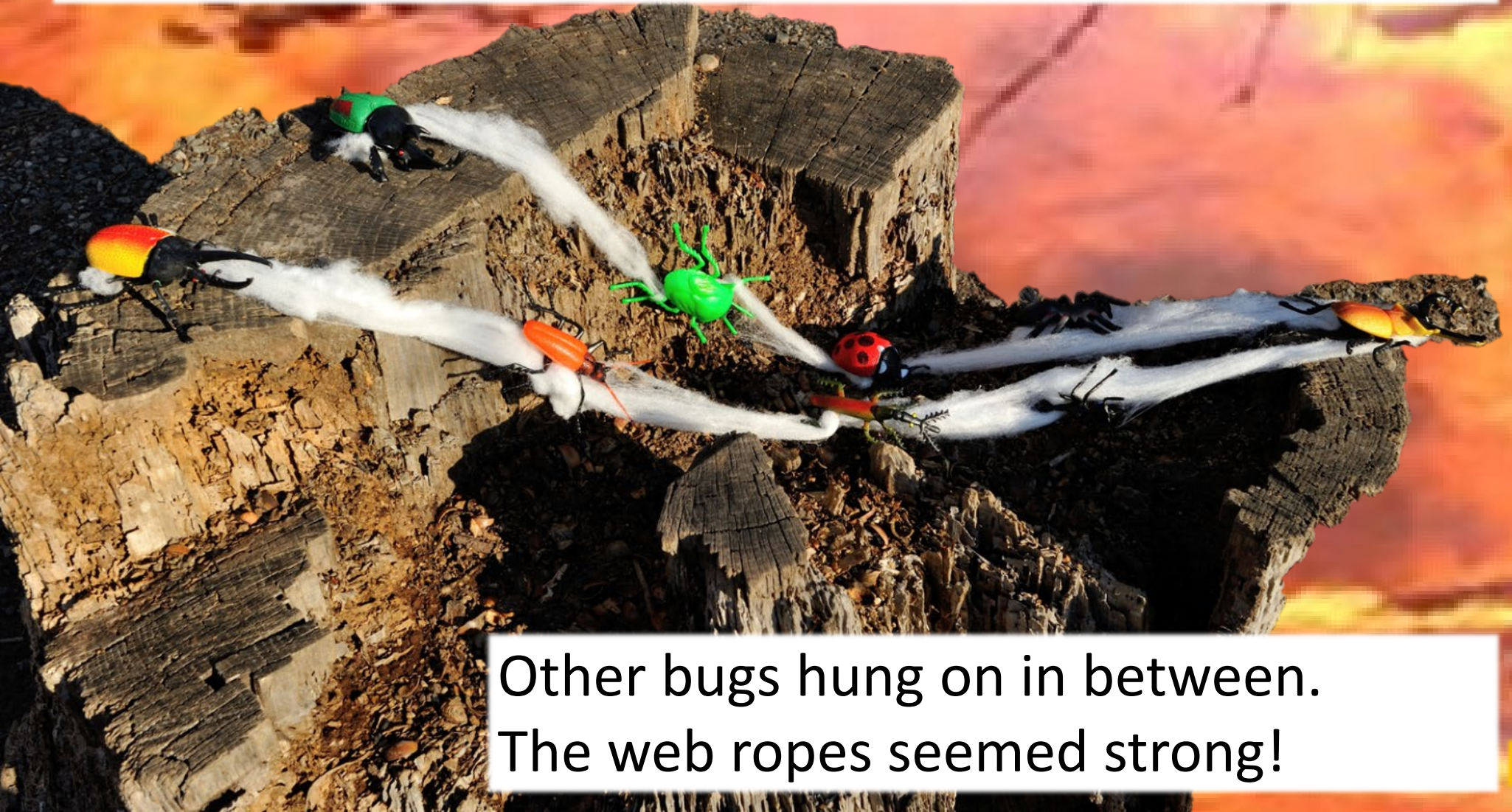
“Brilliant!” said Stag. “Let’s make ropes out of that, and tie them to Ant and Tarantula!”



Everybody helped to make ropes out of spider webs...



They decided that the heaviest bugs will be the line leader and the caboose. Stag will be the leader, and Rhino and Hercules will be the cabooses.



Other bugs hung on in between.
The web ropes seemed strong!

“Is everyone ready?” asked Stag.
He was worried this wouldn’t work...



...But it did work!



The nine bugs took off and flew away from the fire.
The seven who could fly all helped.
Ant and Tarantula held tightly on the spider web ropes.



HURRAY!

Tarantula



Superpower:

making silk, venomous,
can climb on glass by shooting out tiny
sticky webs out of their feet,
can shoot “barbed” hairs from
abdomen,
the largest spider in the world

Food:

other insects,
small animals (frogs, geckos, and mice)

Other facts:

Goliath bird-eater tarantula can grow
to 10 inches leg span,
can make loud hissing noise,
can sense vibrations very well,
females can live up to 20 years

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To be continued...



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