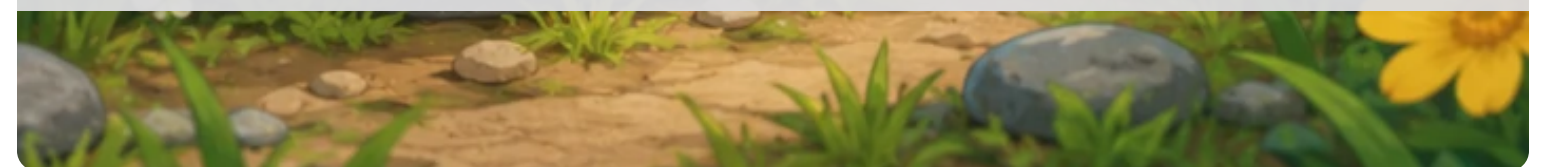




Beatrix, the Bumbling Helper

Jake Barrett





Beatrix the bee was smaller than most bees, and her buzz was a little less precise, often sounding like a gentle hum. But what she lacked in speed and size, she made up for in heart. Every morning, she would greet the flowers, always ready to start her day.



While collecting sweet nectar, Beatrix spotted Barnaby, a plump beetle, struggling to turn over from his back. He was waving his little legs frantically, stuck on a smooth pebble.



Beatrix quickly flew down, offering to help Barnaby. With a gentle push from behind and a little hum of encouragement, she managed to help Barnaby wobble onto his feet.



The meadow was soon buzzing with another problem. A small caterpillar, named Pip, was looking sadly at a big, tasty green leaf just out of his reach.



Thinking quickly, Beatrix flew around the plant, and by flapping her wings really hard, she made a little breeze that swayed the branch. This brought the leaf close enough for Pip to finally reach and start nibbling.



Later that afternoon, a group of confused ladybugs were spinning in circles, unsure which way to fly home because the sun had moved behind a fluffy cloud.



Beatrix knew exactly where to go. She led them with her distinctive low hum, which she used to guide them back safely to the ladybug cluster near the rosebushes.



Just as Beatrix was flying back, she noticed a tiny spider named Stella had woven an unusually large and sticky web and was looking worn out and tangled herself.



Stella was too tired to free her own legs from the web, so Beatrix careful to avoid the stickiest strands, carefully used her legs to help release Stella and then helped tidy the mess.



That evening, when the sun was painting the sky with orange and purple, the meadow was filled with thankful buzzes, chirps, and smiles. Beatrix settled down to sleep, knowing that it doesn't matter how you buzz or how small you are, a kind heart always makes the world brighter.