



Outer Banks, North Carolina

Secret Garden of Pollinators

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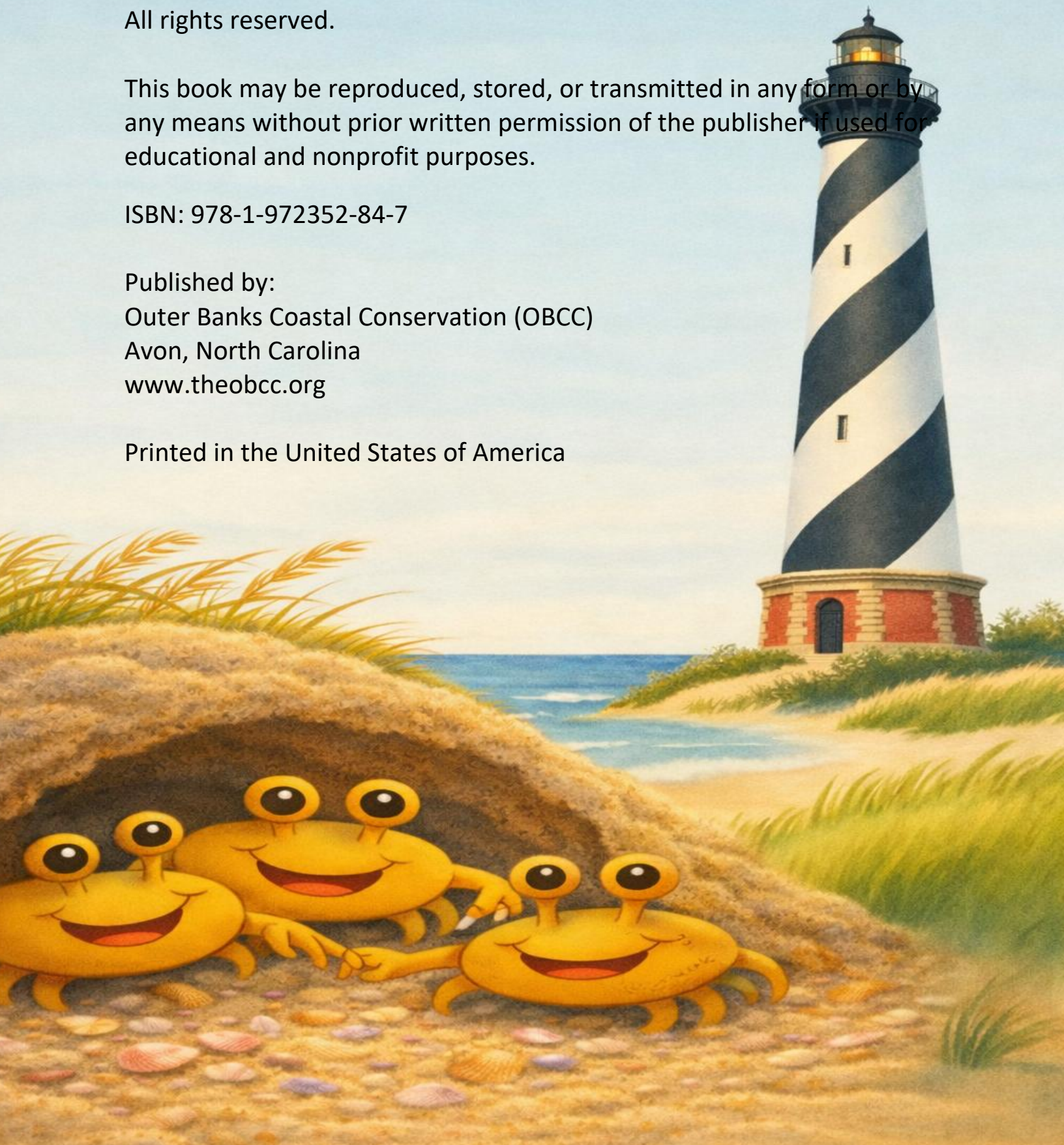
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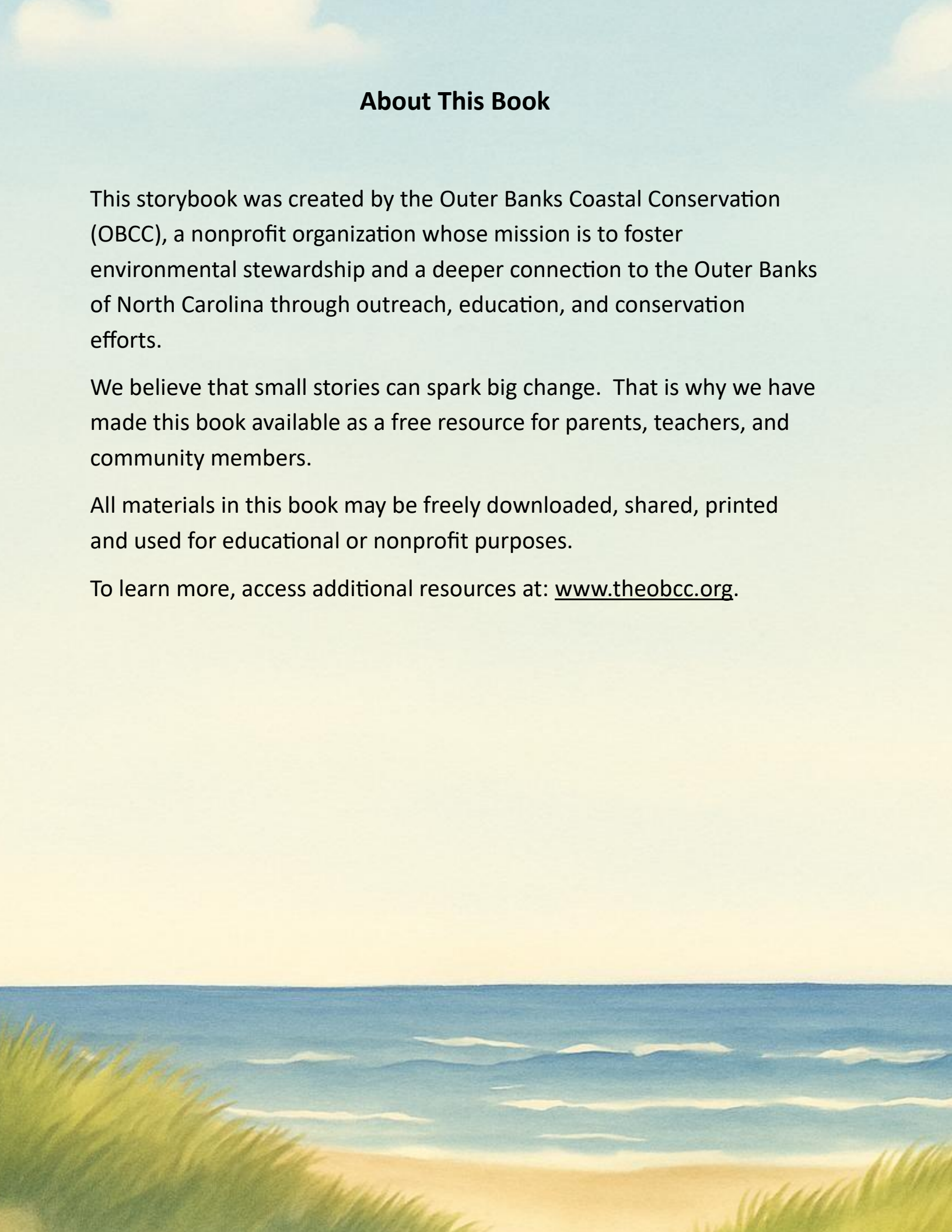
About This Book

This storybook was created by the Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

We believe that small stories can spark big change. That is why we have made this book available as a free resource for parents, teachers, and community members.

All materials in this book may be freely downloaded, shared, printed and used for educational or nonprofit purposes.

To learn more, access additional resources at: www.theobcc.org.



Morning on the Barrier Island

The first light of dawn stretched across the dunes.
Sea oats swayed, dune sunflowers opened, and the salty
breeze carried the hum of wings.

In a small coastal garden, Bree the Bee zipped from flower to
flower.

“Busy, busy!” she buzzed. “There’s pollen to carry and nectar
to taste!”

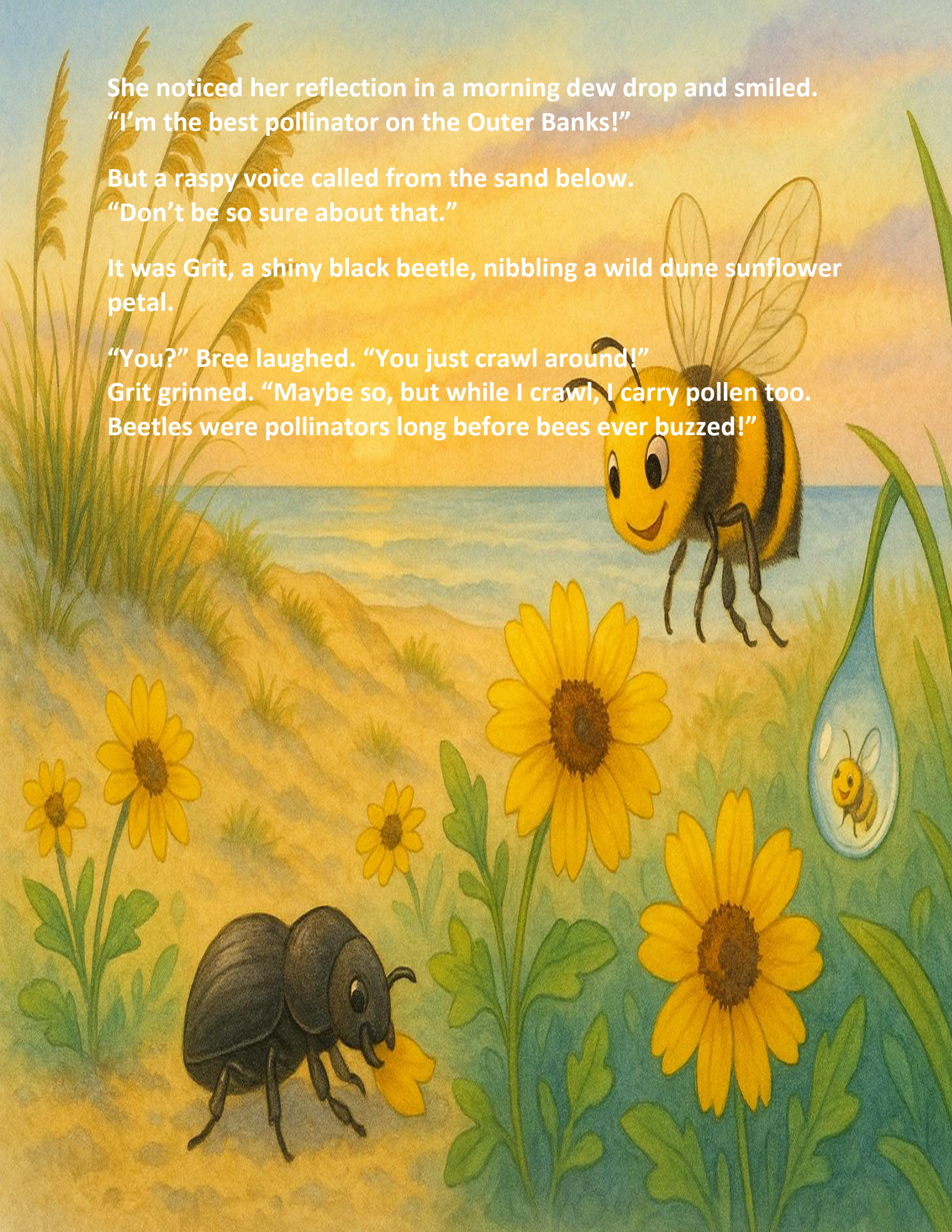


She noticed her reflection in a morning dew drop and smiled.
“I’m the best pollinator on the Outer Banks!”

But a raspy voice called from the sand below.
“Don’t be so sure about that.”

It was Grit, a shiny black beetle, nibbling a wild dune sunflower petal.

“You?” Bree laughed. “You just crawl around!”
Grit grinned. “Maybe so, but while I crawl, I carry pollen too.
Beetles were pollinators long before bees ever buzzed!”



The Unexpected Helpers

A flash of wings zipped by.

“Make room!” called Hover, a striped fly darting between seaside daisies. “I may look like a bee, but I’m a hoverfly — and I’m great at pollinating small flowers!”

Next came Willa, a wasp with elegant wings.

“I visit goldenrod and parsley plants,” she said proudly. “And I eat the pests that hurt our flowers. So I help in two ways!”

From the sand below, a line of ants marched by, carrying crumbs and bits of pollen.

“We help too!” they chirped. “We spread pollen while we walk — we’re tiny but mighty!”

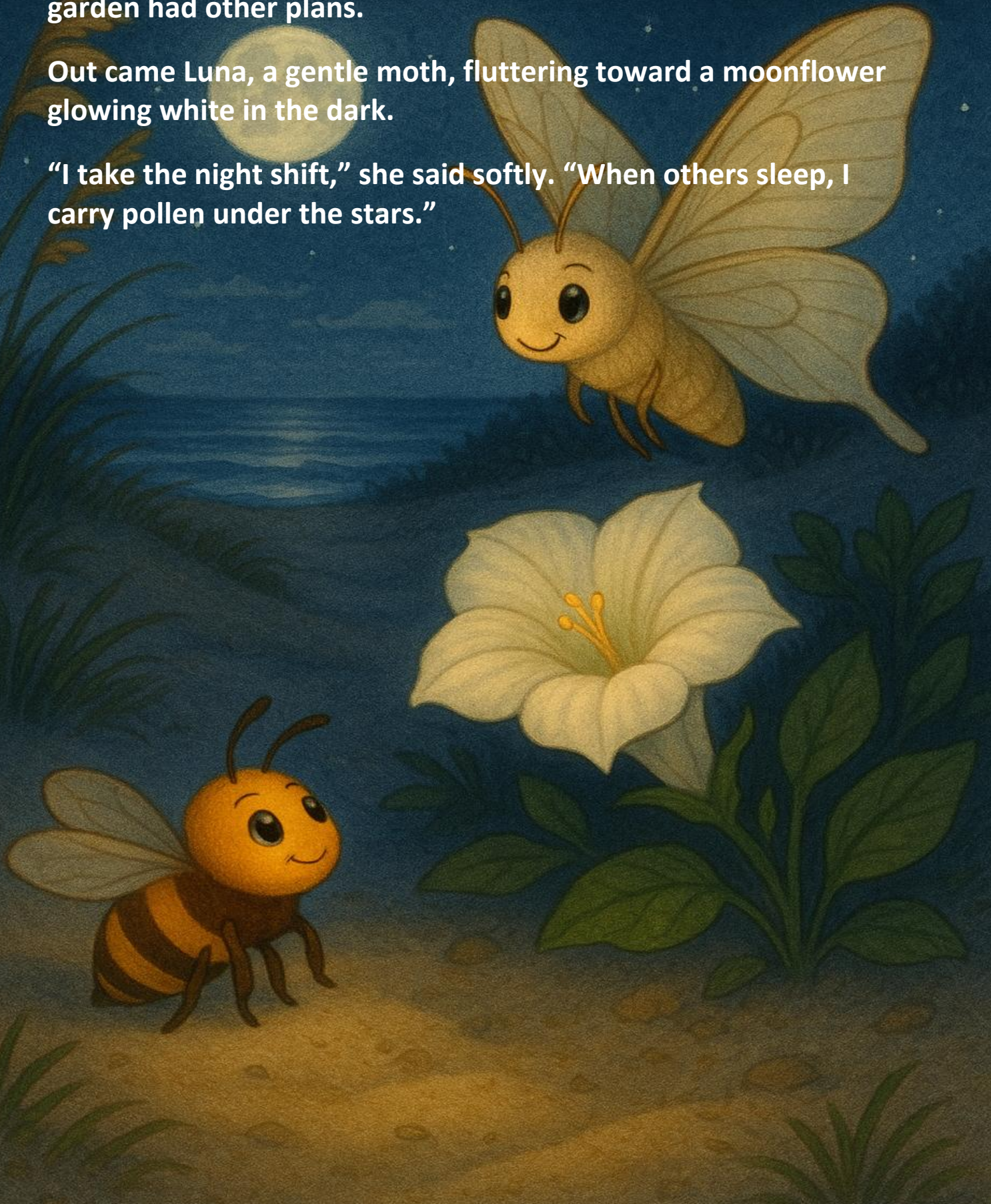


A Nighttime Surprise

When the sun set, Bree thought the work was done — but the garden had other plans.

Out came Luna, a gentle moth, fluttering toward a moonflower glowing white in the dark.

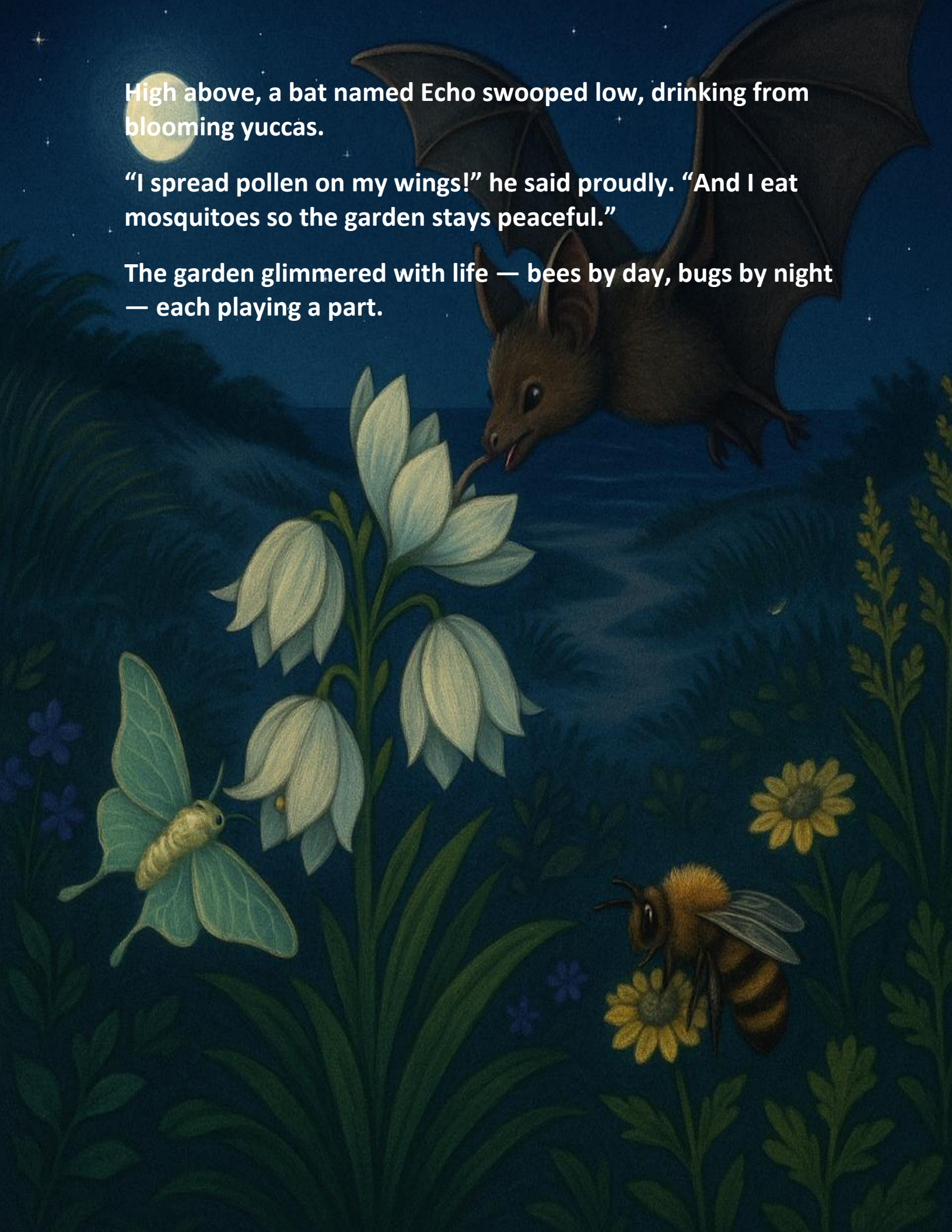
“I take the night shift,” she said softly. “When others sleep, I carry pollen under the stars.”



High above, a bat named Echo swooped low, drinking from blooming yuccas.

"I spread pollen on my wings!" he said proudly. "And I eat mosquitoes so the garden stays peaceful."

The garden glimmered with life — bees by day, bugs by night — each playing a part.



Trouble in the Garden

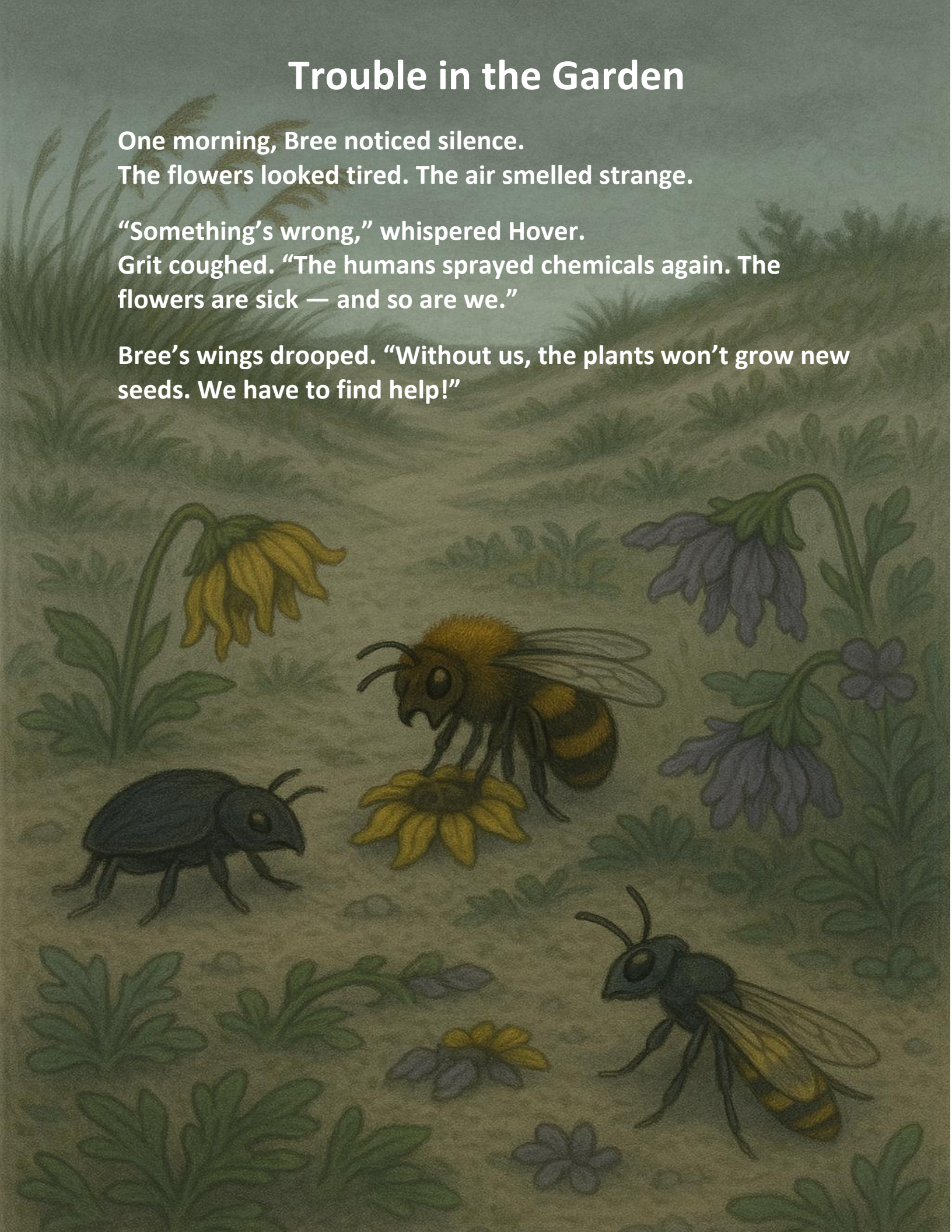
One morning, Bree noticed silence.

The flowers looked tired. The air smelled strange.

“Something’s wrong,” whispered Hover.

Grit coughed. “The humans sprayed chemicals again. The flowers are sick — and so are we.”

Bree’s wings drooped. “Without us, the plants won’t grow new seeds. We have to find help!”



The Children Who Listened

Later that day, two children — Maya and Finn — walked along the sandy path. “Grandma,” said Maya, “why are the flowers drooping?”

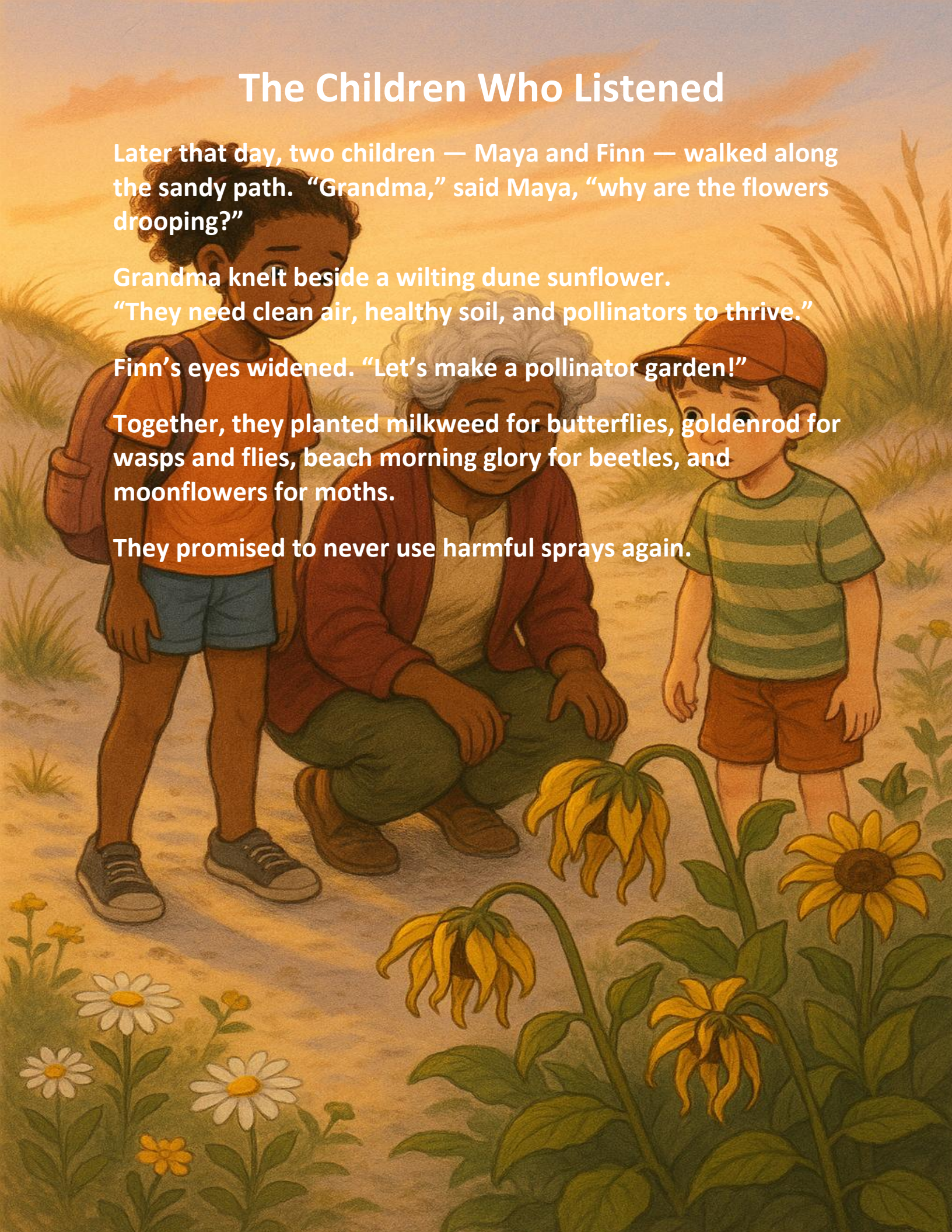
Grandma knelt beside a wilting dune sunflower.

“They need clean air, healthy soil, and pollinators to thrive.”

Finn’s eyes widened. “Let’s make a pollinator garden!”

Together, they planted milkweed for butterflies, goldenrod for wasps and flies, beach morning glory for beetles, and moonflowers for moths.

They promised to never use harmful sprays again.



The Garden of Gratitude

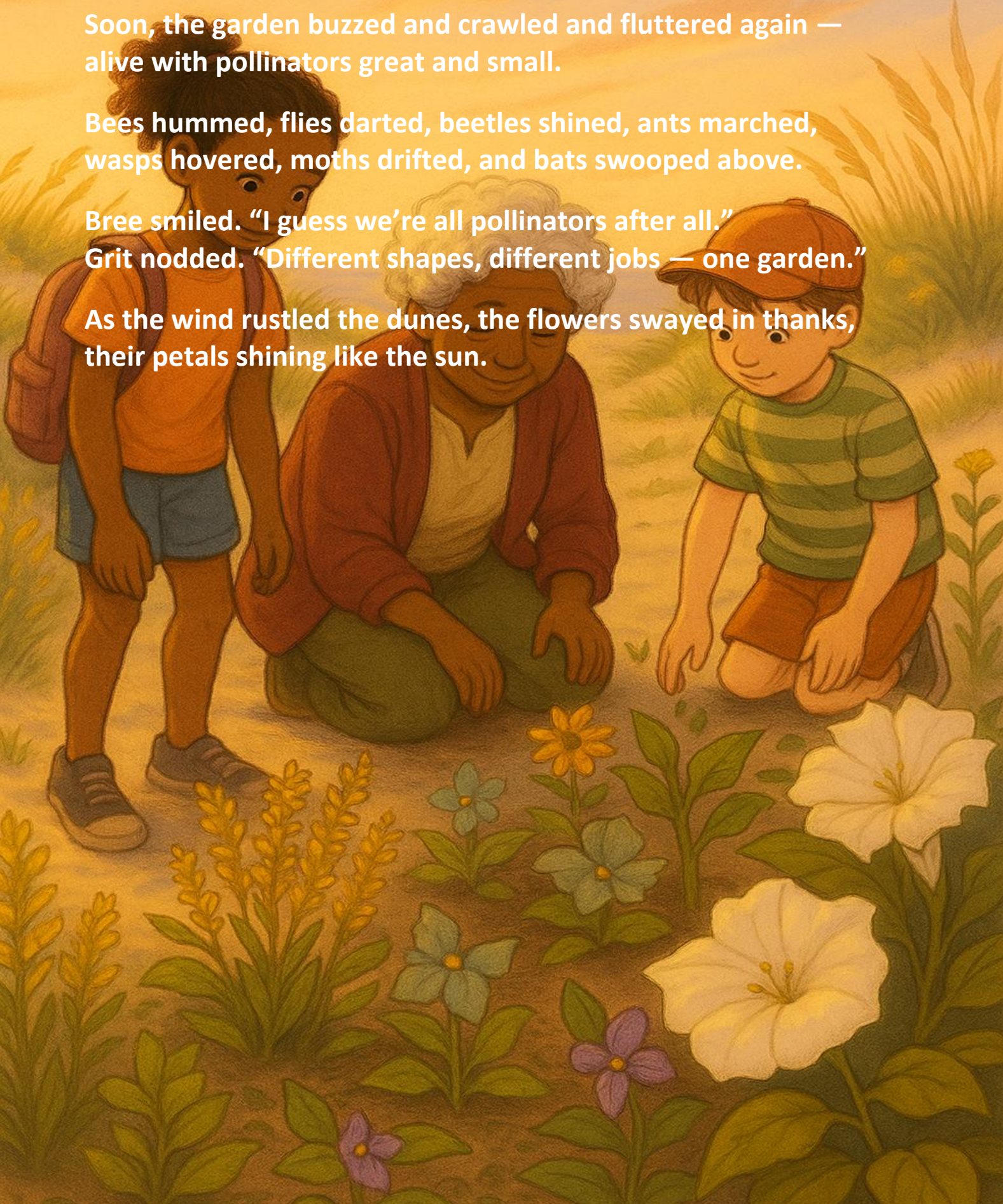
Soon, the garden buzzed and crawled and fluttered again — alive with pollinators great and small.

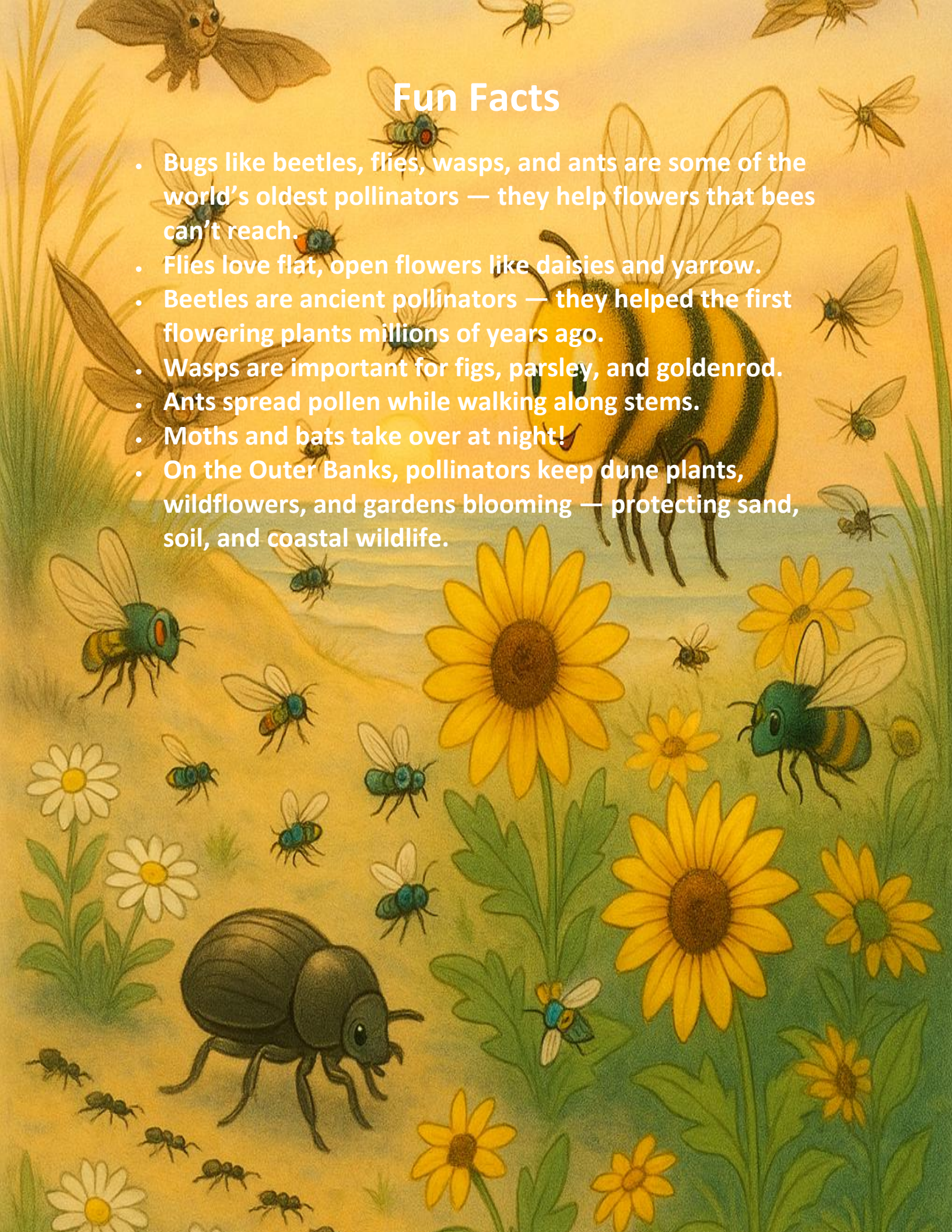
Bees hummed, flies darted, beetles shined, ants marched, wasps hovered, moths drifted, and bats swooped above.

Bree smiled. "I guess we're all pollinators after all."

Grit nodded. "Different shapes, different jobs — one garden."

As the wind rustled the dunes, the flowers swayed in thanks, their petals shining like the sun.





Fun Facts

- Bugs like beetles, flies, wasps, and ants are some of the world's oldest pollinators — they help flowers that bees can't reach.
- Flies love flat, open flowers like daisies and yarrow.
- Beetles are ancient pollinators — they helped the first flowering plants millions of years ago.
- Wasps are important for figs, parsley, and goldenrod.
- Ants spread pollen while walking along stems.
- Moths and bats take over at night!
- On the Outer Banks, pollinators keep dune plants, wildflowers, and gardens blooming — protecting sand, soil, and coastal wildlife.

Moral of the Story

Every bug, bat, and breeze plays a part in nature's masterpiece.
When we care for all pollinators — not just the pretty ones —
the whole coast blooms brighter.



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Secret Garden of Pollinators

is a children's story about Bree the Bee, who learns that many creatures—including beetles, flies, wasps, ants, moths, and bats—help pollinate plants. When harmful chemicals make the garden sick, two children create a pollinator-friendly garden with native flowers and stop using harmful sprays. The story teaches kids that every pollinator plays an important role in keeping nature healthy and blooming.

About the Publisher

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