



Wings to Fly

Written by Teresa O'Connell and Illustrated by Elizabeth Higgins



When the darkness finally came to an end May knew it was time to return. She had been tightly wrapped within the safety of her warm cocoon for many weeks. The days and nights had come and gone. They had been long and empty, but May had stayed inside. She had waited and waited for the darkness to end.

Together they lifted their wings; up and down, up and down, slowly breathing in and out, in and out feeling the safety of friends returning to each other.

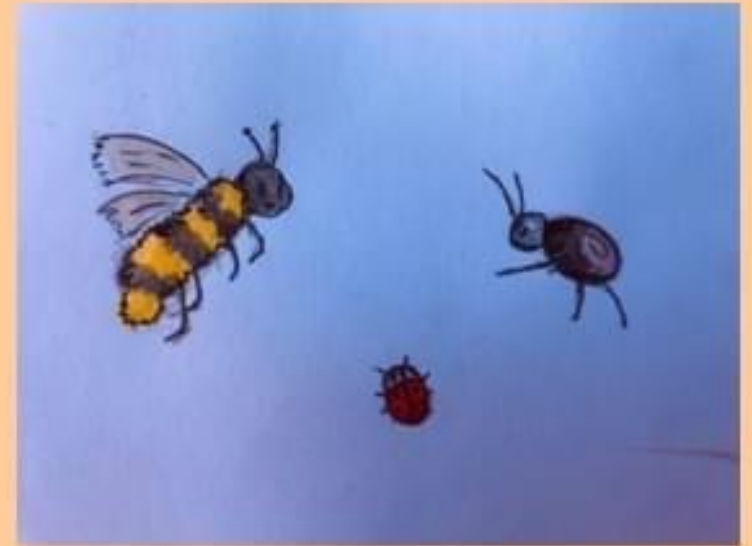
'Thank you' thought May; she lifted her head, extending her brightly coloured wings with a newfound strength and began to fly...





This new feeling spread quickly; starting in her tummy, spreading into her legs and then her wings. It grew bigger and bigger, exploding into panic and then fear as May burst free from her cocoon into a vast rainbow of colours.

Frozen in a world of technicolor, May forgot to breath, she forgot how to move. It was too much and she felt dizzy from the many colours, lights and sounds around her.



May thought the feeling would never end, but gradually, breaking their way through the noises, May began to hear sound of familiar voices.

'Welcome back' hummed a bumble bee.

'We've been waiting for you' beamed the beetle.

'Good to see you' whispered the bug



Slowly, May began to notice the gentle movement of her new and outstretched wings. They lifted up then down, up then down. She began to breathe in and out with the movement until, finally, the noises in her head fell silent and the bright lights and colours turned into familiar shapes and places.

'I am here!' she said.

'We are all here' replied the bumble bee.

'For each other' said the beetle, kindly



She pulled gently at the edges of her home and, slowly, the light began to reveal itself from the waiting world.

May felt release. She longed to stretch out and be seen. She longed to return to the world she remembered, but she knew it would be different and she would be different too.

As light pushed into the darkness, something was different. May felt a new feeling. She was worried and she was scared. What was outside? Was she safe? Would things be the same?

