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Opening extract from

Ella

Written by

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Published by

Scholastic

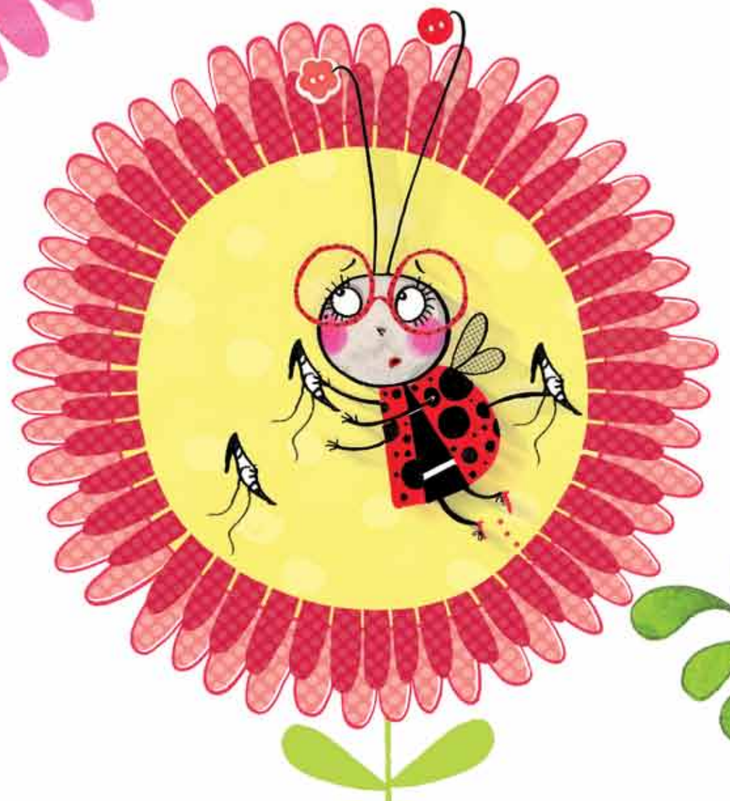
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Ella was always tired because she was forever slaving away after her spoilt stepsisters, Belladonna and Ivy.



She dusted their wings, she picked up their shoes...



...and she scrubbed their pillowcases after they had eaten jam sandwiches in bed.

And the wasp sisters never, ever said thank you.

"Don't worry, honey," hummed Ella's friend, Ms Buzzbottom. "One day your life will change forever!"



At that very moment in Paris, a famous artist named Pierre was sighing.

He didn't know what to paint.

Suddenly, an idea pinged into his head.
He would throw a Grand Bug Ball.
That was sure to inspire him!



Dear Belladonna and Ivy,

You are invited to the
Grand Bug Ball
at
The Chandelier Café in Paris
On Valentine's Day

Wear your sparkliest party clothes, and be ready to dance the night away.

Love from

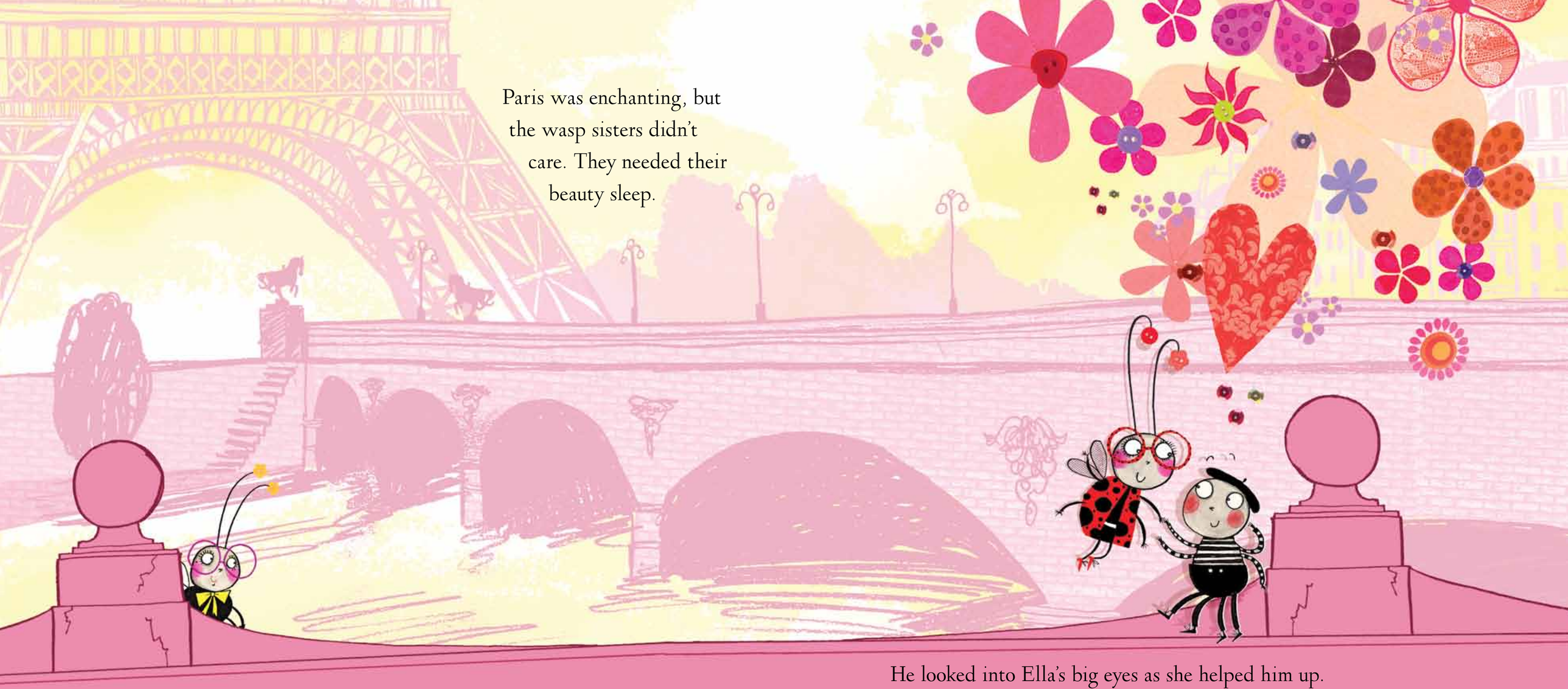
Pierre
x

A few days later, an envelope arrived for the wasp sisters.

Belladonna and Ivy were all of a flutter, as both secretly hoped that handsome Pierre would fall in love with them.

"You must come too..."
they snapped at Ella,

"...to carry our bags."



Paris was enchanting, but the wasp sisters didn't care. They needed their beauty sleep.

Ella slipped out to explore. She was zipping down the boulevard when she bumped into a handsome spider. He was knocked off his feet and got his legs in a tangle.

He looked into Ella's big eyes as she helped him up. "Thank you," he said, and he kissed her hands. All four of them.

Ella blushed and scuttled back to her hotel, leaving the handsome spider wondering who this exquisite creature was.