

Leslie Bulion

Hey There, Stink Bug!

Illustrated by Leslie Evans

For Rubin—L. B.

To Charlie—L. E.

2008 First paperback edition

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Free Sample



Go Buggy!

Do you
think butterflies are ornamental?
Are marching ants just accidental?
Are lady beetles sentimental?
Take a closer look.

They've spent
four hundred million years evolving
elegant, devious tricks, involving
bug-get-buggy problem solving.
Take a closer look.

They can
bug-hunt each other on chemical cue,
play dead, spin thread, turn guts to stew,
boast two hundred million per one of you.
Take a closer look.





This is
an insect world with humans in it.
We'll seize the day, but they will win it.
You've been forewarned, now let's begin it—
Take a closer look . . .

at BUGS!

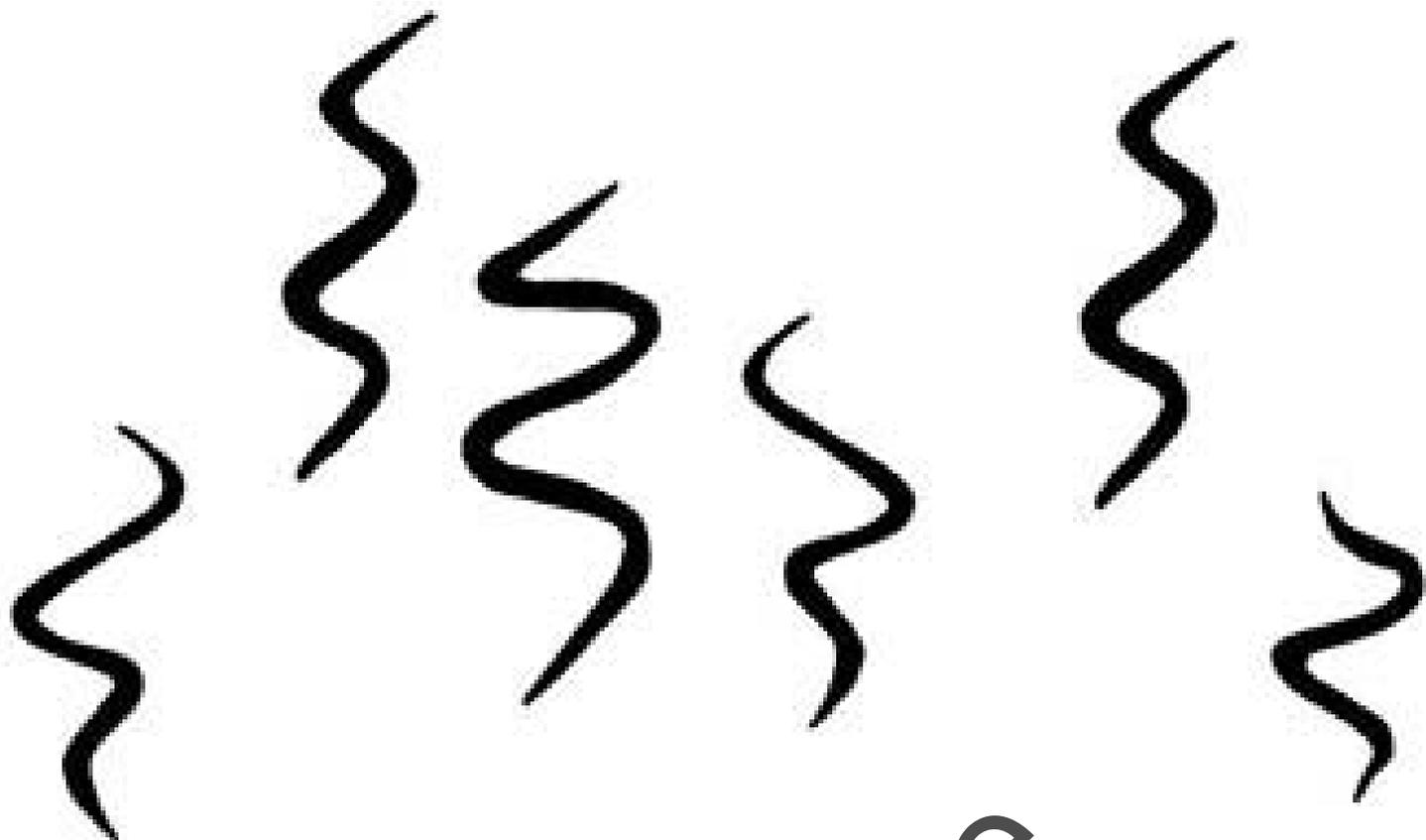


Hey There, Stink Bug!

PUPUPUPUPUPUPU PUPUPUPUPUPUPU
PUPUPUPUPUPU Hey there, stink bug! What do you think, bug? I'm not a bird or a lizard or a bat. You're not a treat that I'm wanting to eat. I'm just watching you lunch on your leaf habitat. Uh-oh, stink bug! Know what I think, bug? I think you're lost 'cause you're walking up my arm. But I won't tease you, wouldn't dare squeeze you—please don't trigger your stink alarm!

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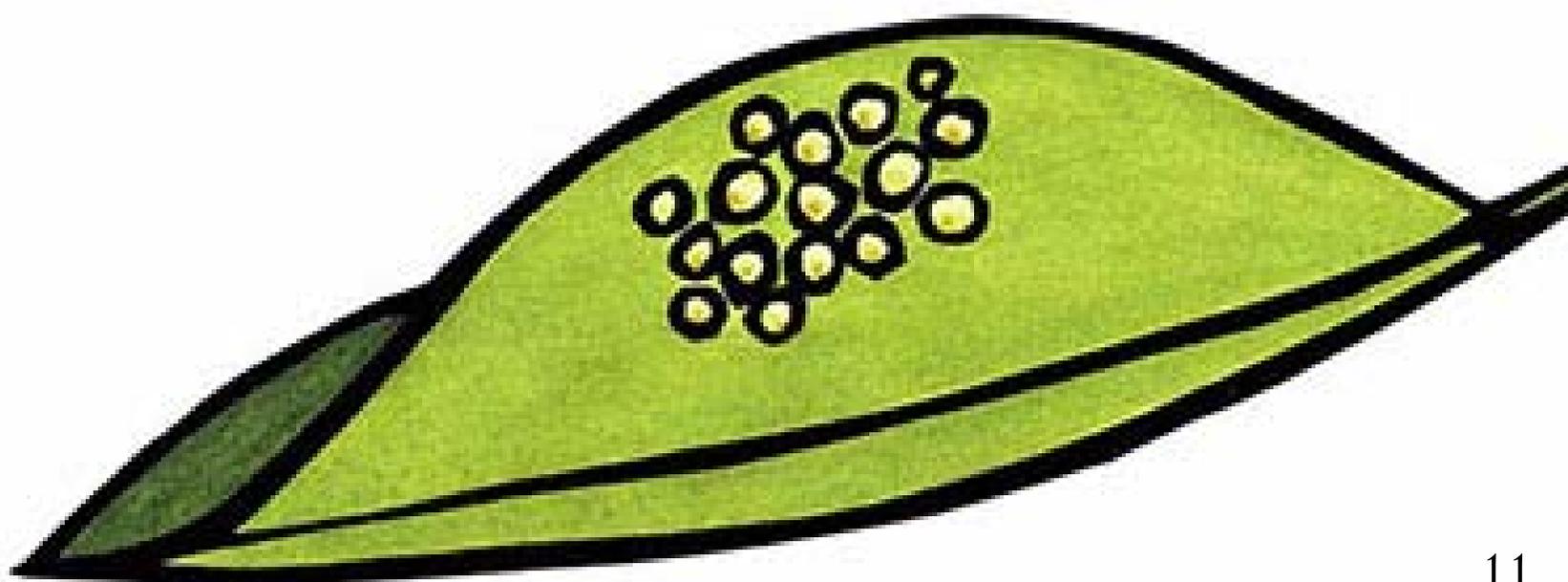




When stink bugs are scared, they let loose a stinky fluid that oozes from two holes on their underside.

A tiny whiff of the chemicals in stink bug fluid might smell almost sweet. But the stink bug's mixture is so strong that it smells awful.

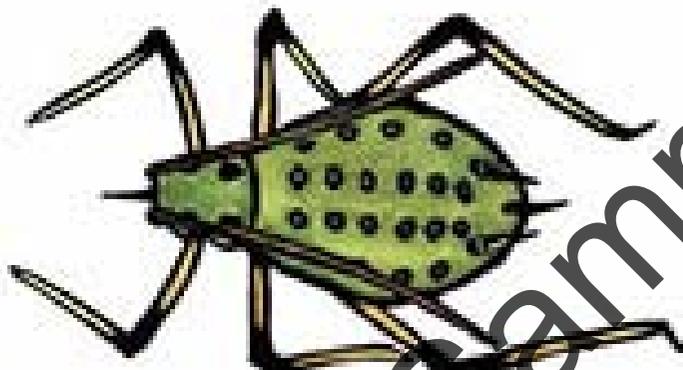
Stink bugs lay their eggs in bunches. Their eggs stink, too, and predators get the warning: Stay away!



Multiplication

An aphid has a sharpened snout to stab then slurp a plant's sap out, but that is not her habit most unfriendly.

To help her drain that poor plant dry she clones more little aphid fry, who squirt out by the dozens, other-endly.



When an insect makes an exact copy of itself, that's a kind of cloning called parthenogenesis.

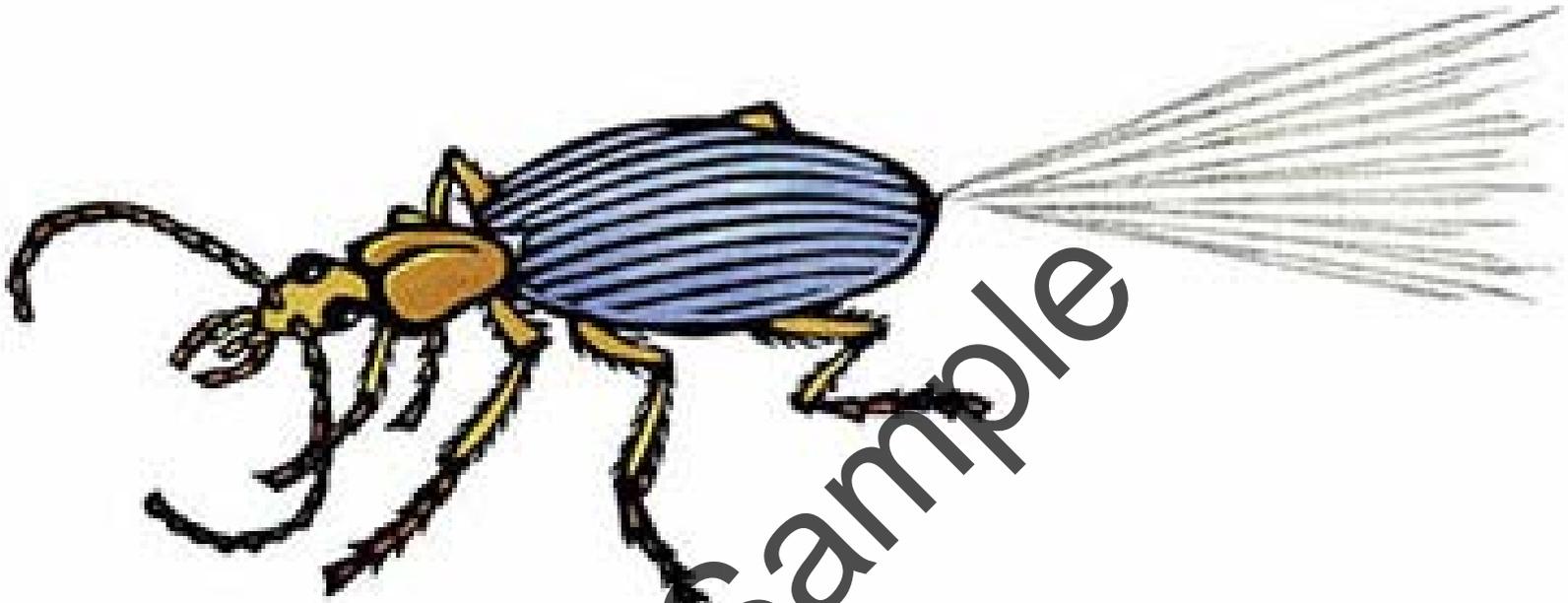
Aphids are born with live daughters already developing inside of them. Those daughters have daughters inside, too. One of these little plant suckers can create an enormous, thirsty family very quickly!

It is lucky for plants that aphids are the favorite snack of such helpful insects as ladybugs.



The Hot Shot

Bombardier bombardier bombardier beetle,
slow on the wing but thinks fast on its feetle.
Blasting poor predators into retreatle,
with boiling hot acid it aims from its seatle.



When an enemy bothers a bombardier beetle,
two chemicals mix inside the beetle and explode
with a pop into acid spray.

The bombardier beetle has great aim and can
fire its spray in any direction.

Birds, mice, lizards, and even ants work hard to
rub off the bombardier beetle's burning acid.

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