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Opening extract from

Ella

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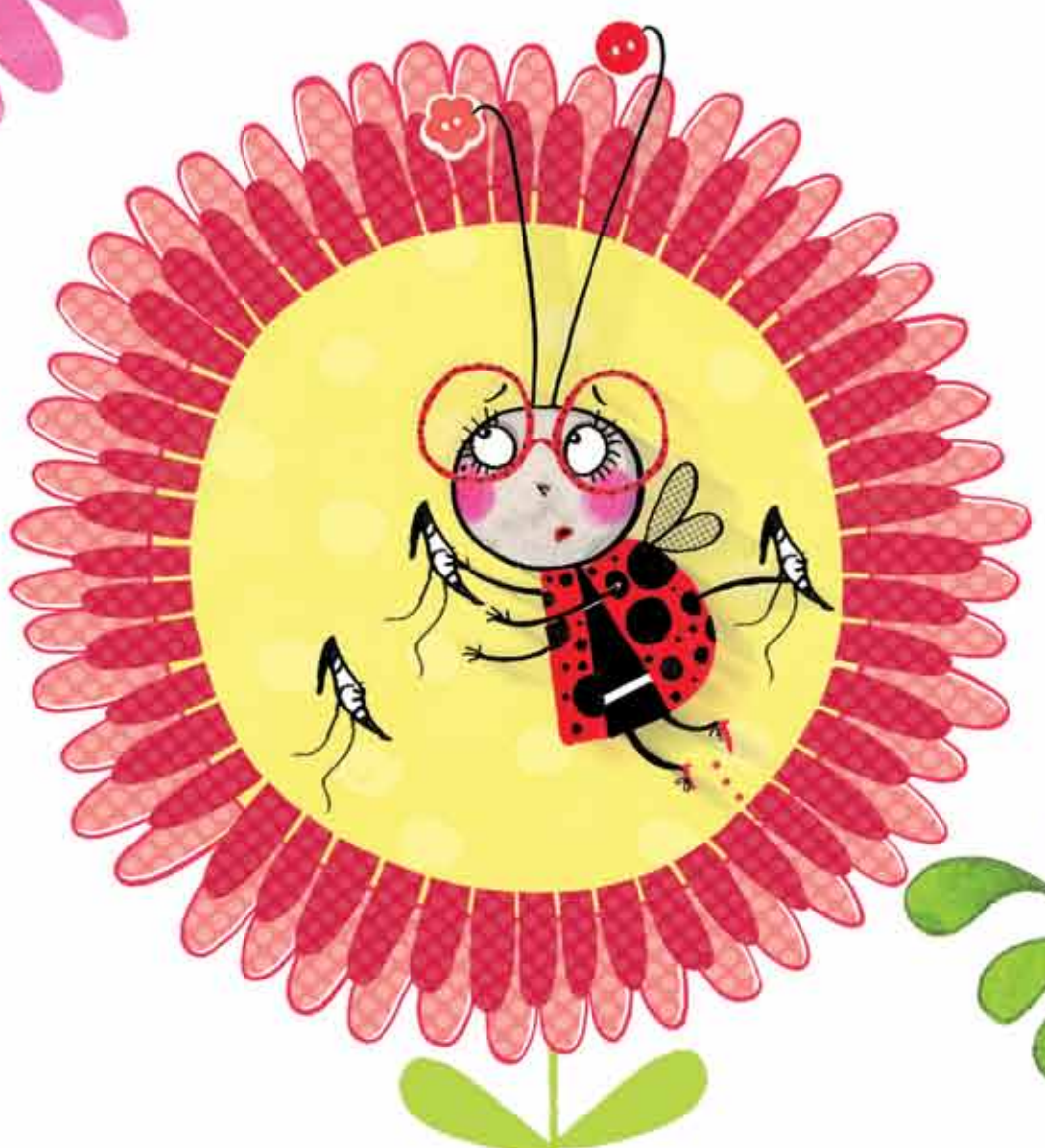
Please print off and read at your leisure.





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!”





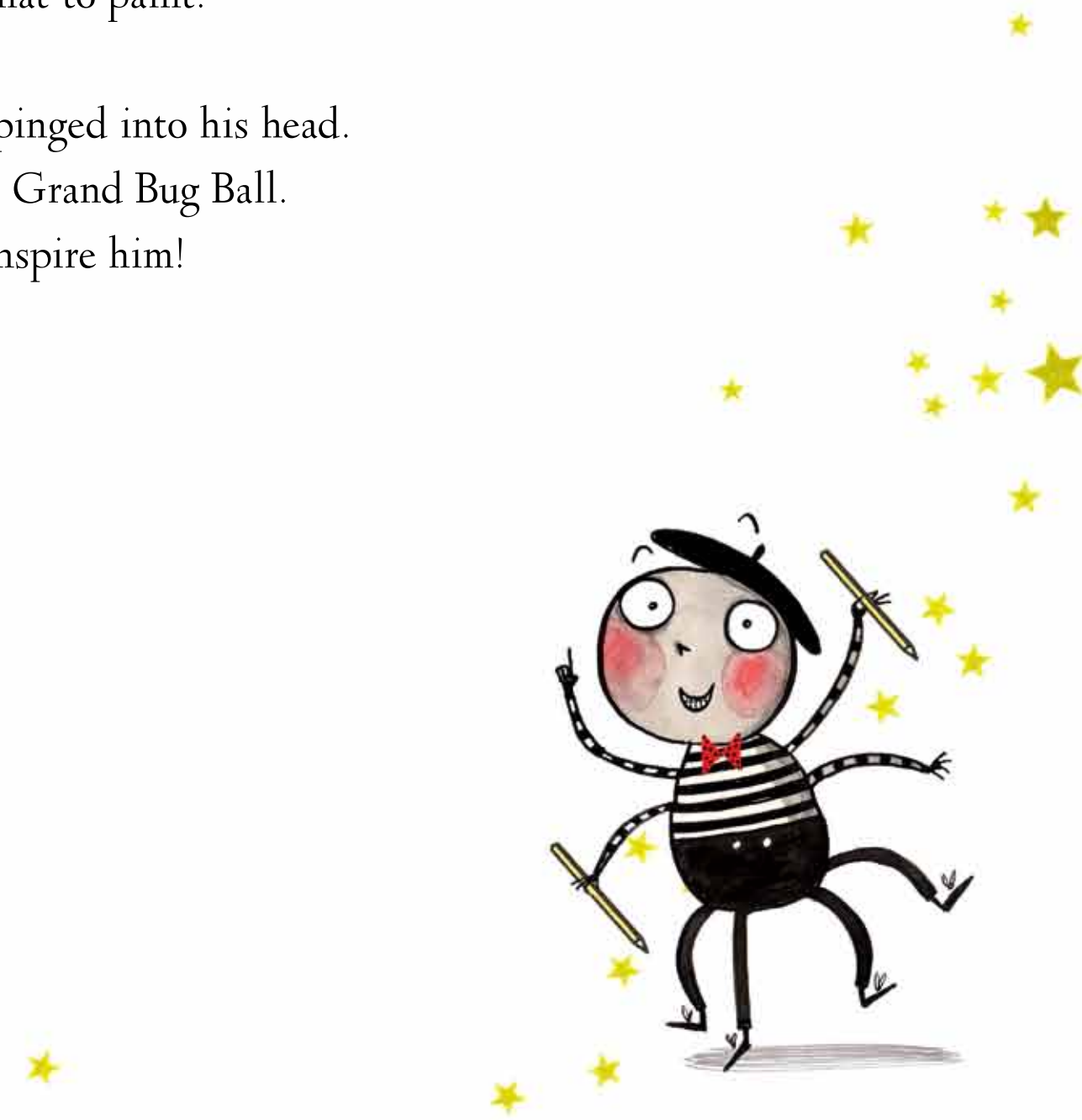
At that very moment in Paris, a famous artist named Pierre was sighing.

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 Ghandelier 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.



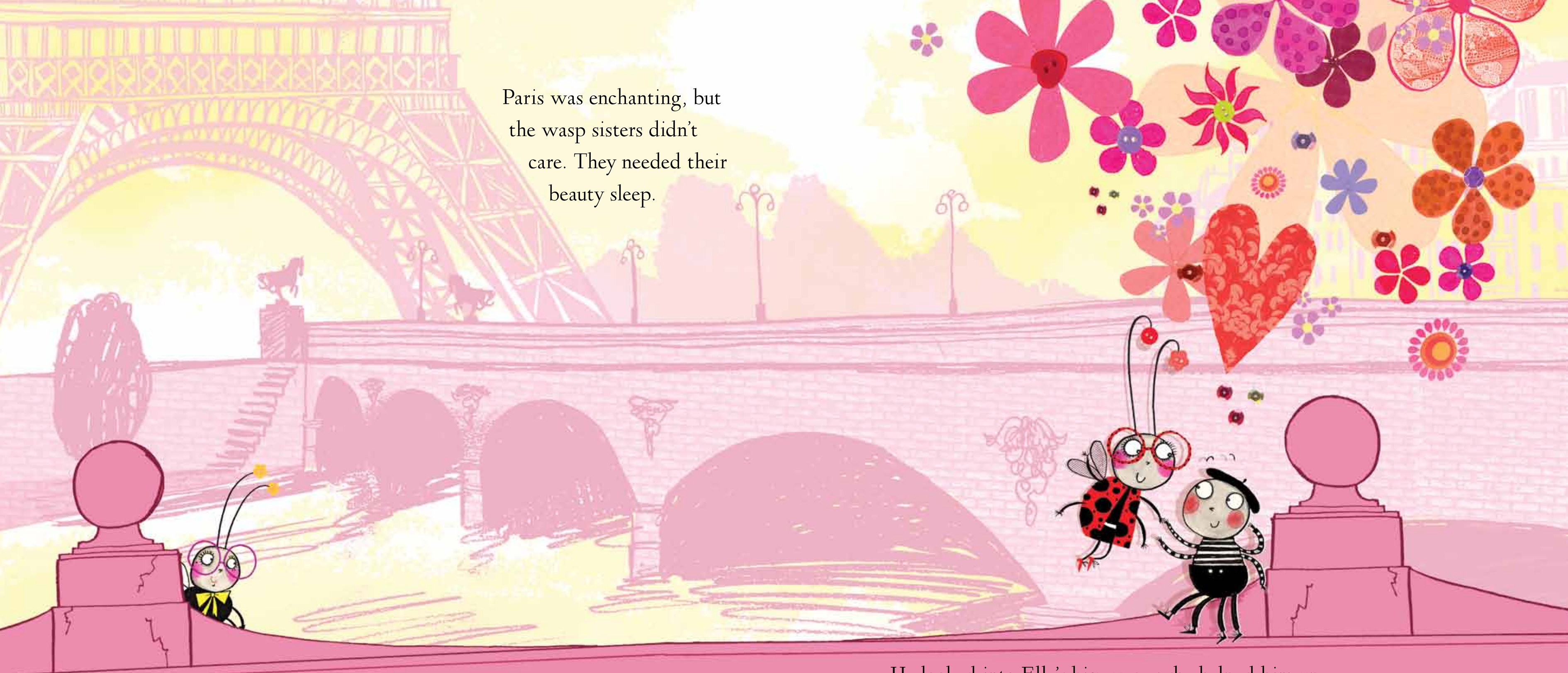
Belladonna and Ivy were all of a flutter, as both
secretly hoped that handsome Pierre would fall
in love with them.

“You must come...”
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.