

# THE BICYCLE



One summer day, a pigeon delivered a parcel to Berry and Dolly. It was quite a big parcel and wrapped in pretty red paper and tied with a blue ribbon.



Dolly read the note attached.

"It's from the centipede! He's coming to visit us. And he sent us this present."

"To us?" Berry asked. "What do you mean? To me or to you?"



"It says in the letter that it's for us. It's a present for both of us, I suppose."

"That's silly!" Berry argued. "I'm sure it's meant to be for me because I was the one who found him in the snow last Christmas."



"But he stayed at my house! I looked after him and made him tea," Dolly replied.  
"But I read to him caterpillar stories from the storybook," Berry added.



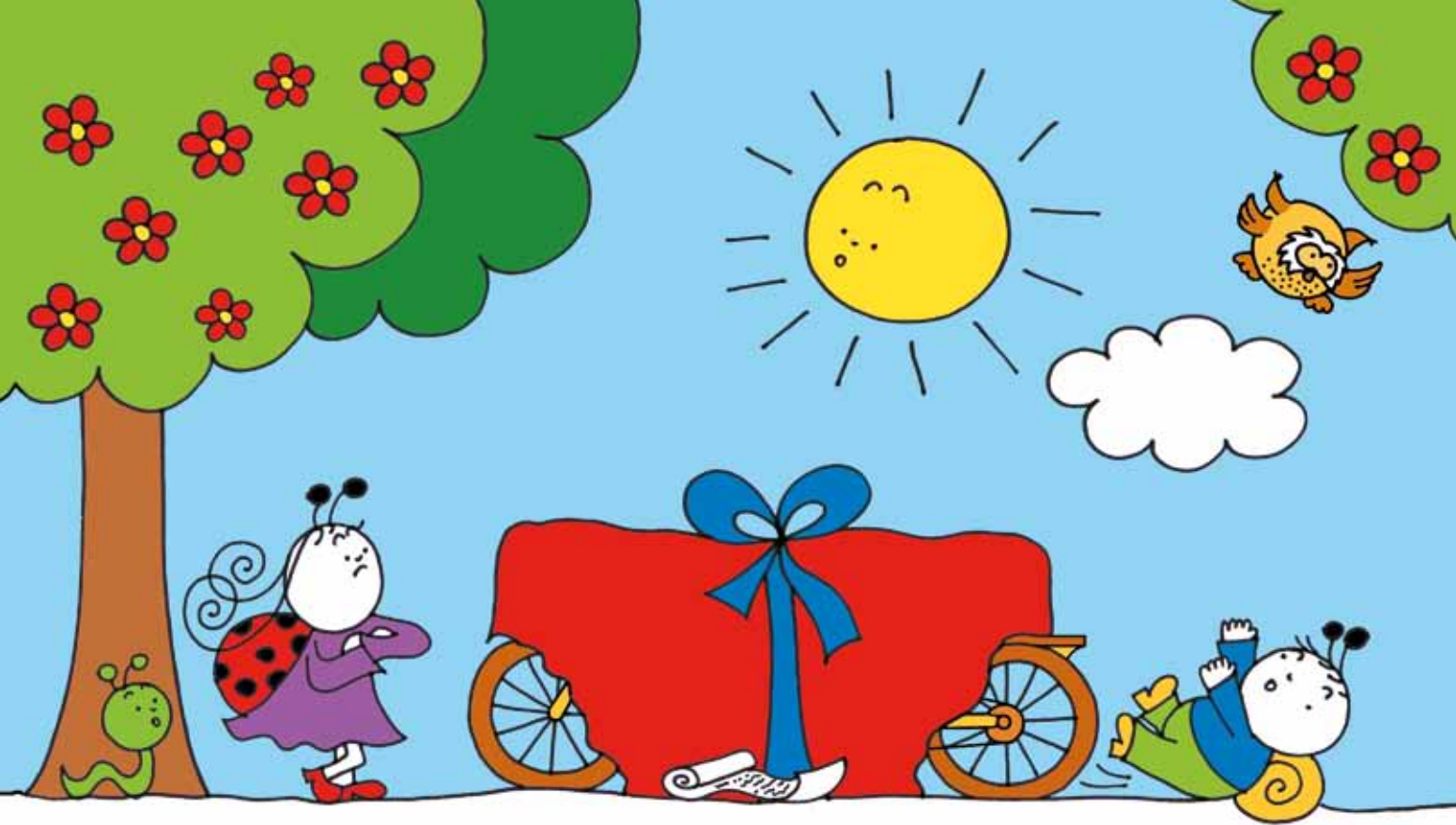
Berry and Dolly started pulling at the red package.  
"Give it to me! It's mine," Dolly said.  
"No, I won't. It's mine!" Berry insisted.



The red wrapping paper wasn't that strong and it soon tore open. Wheels poked out from underneath.

"It's a bicycle!" Berry exclaimed. "It's just perfect for me!"

"No, it's just perfect for me!" Dolly insisted.



They started pulling the paper again. Then Dolly let go and Berry fell over.  
"All right! You can have the bicycle if you want it so much. I'm going to be sensible. You're behaving like a silly baby!"





That upset Berry.

"That's not fair! I'm going to be sensible and you're the silly baby! You can have the bicycle!"



In the end, neither of them took the bicycle. They walked away and left the half-unwrapped bicycle in the meadow.



Not long after that, Balthazar the bee and Flutter the butterfly came by. "What do you think this is? Is it a bicycle?" Balthazar asked. "Yes, it looks like it," Flutter replied. "There's a note stuck to it. It's for Berry and Dolly from the centipede." "Let's take it to them," Balthazar suggested.



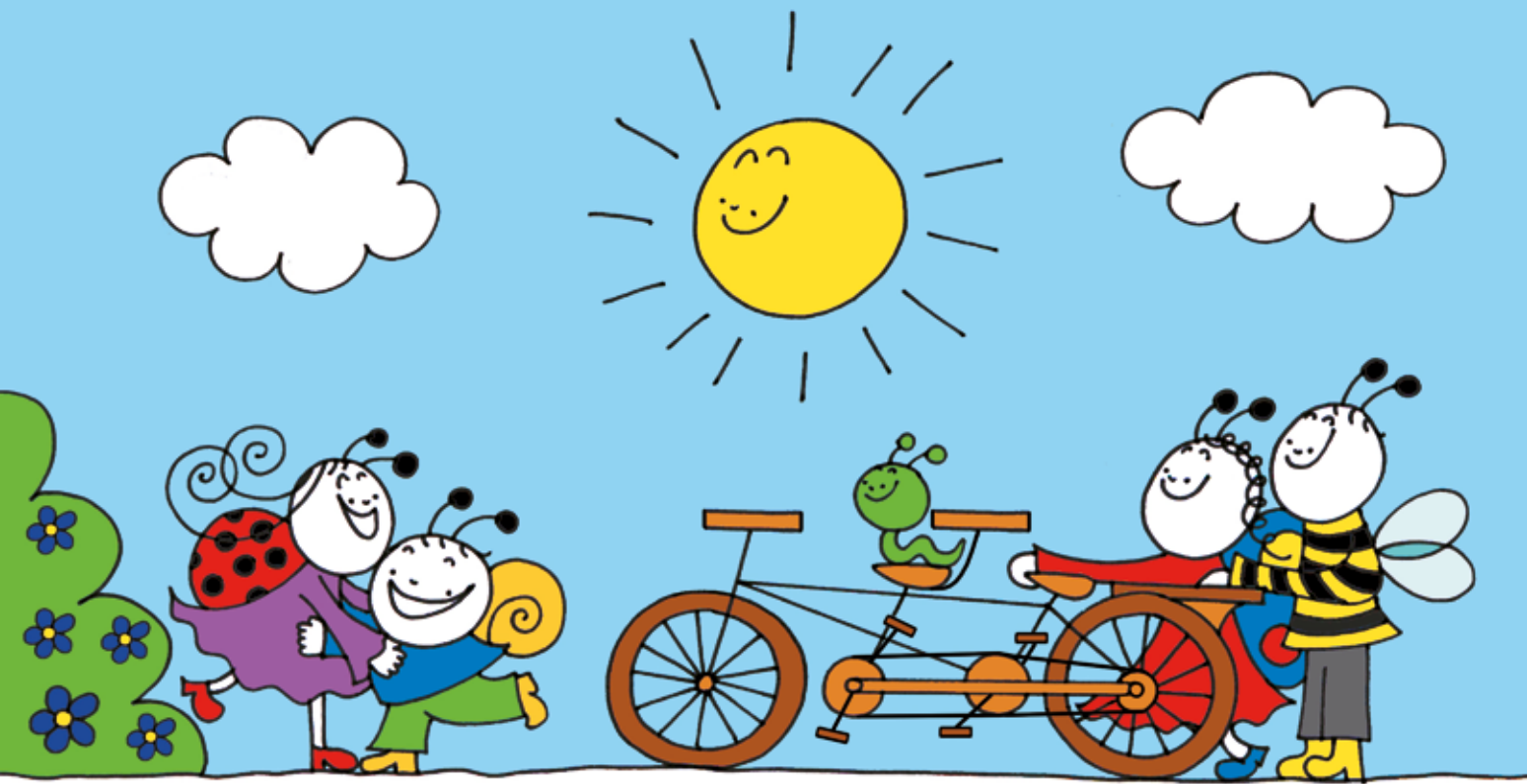
They touched the bicycle and the rest of the wrapping paper fell off. This made them laugh.

"Look, it's a tandem. Two people can ride it."

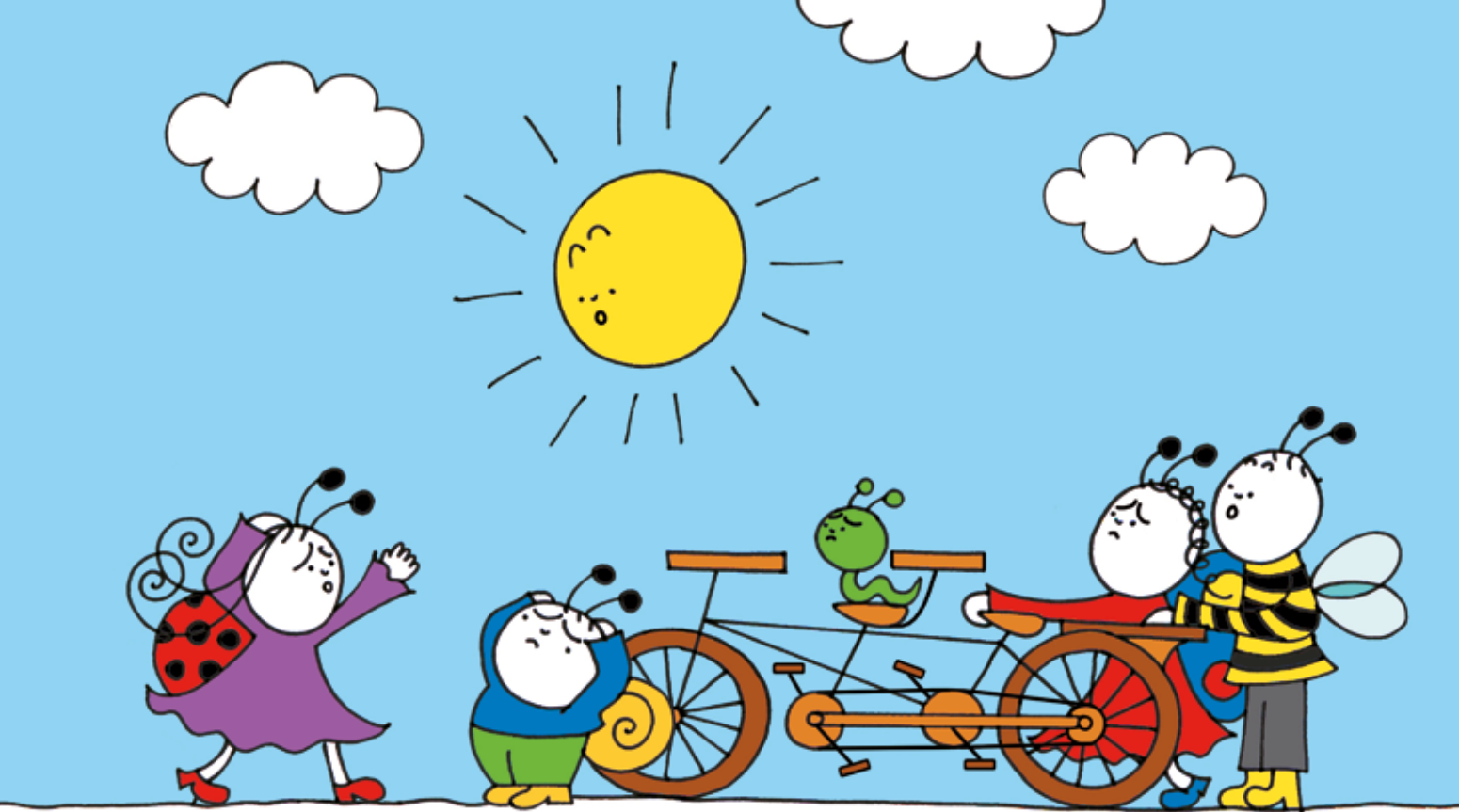
"Let's have a go," Balthazar said.



“Hello, Berry! Hello, Dolly! We brought you your bike. You left it in the meadow,” Flutter shouted. Berry and Dolly came outside. They saw Flutter and Balthazar on the bicycle and felt very silly.



“It’s a tandem! We can both sit on it. And we had such a fight about it!”  
They made friends again and hugged each other happily.



“What a super present! We wasted all our time quarrelling and we haven’t made anything for the centipede. He could arrive at any minute,” Berry said in a panic.



"Let's make him a colourful windmill. We can use pretty petals," Flutter suggested.

"Yes, that's a great idea," Berry and Dolly agreed.

The four friends gathered red, purple, white, yellow and pink petals and made a windmill.





Just then, the centipede arrived in a cart pulled by a mouse. The little mouse stopped in the meadow, and the centipede climbed out. He gave Berry and Dolly a big hug.



"I see you got my present. I hope you like it."

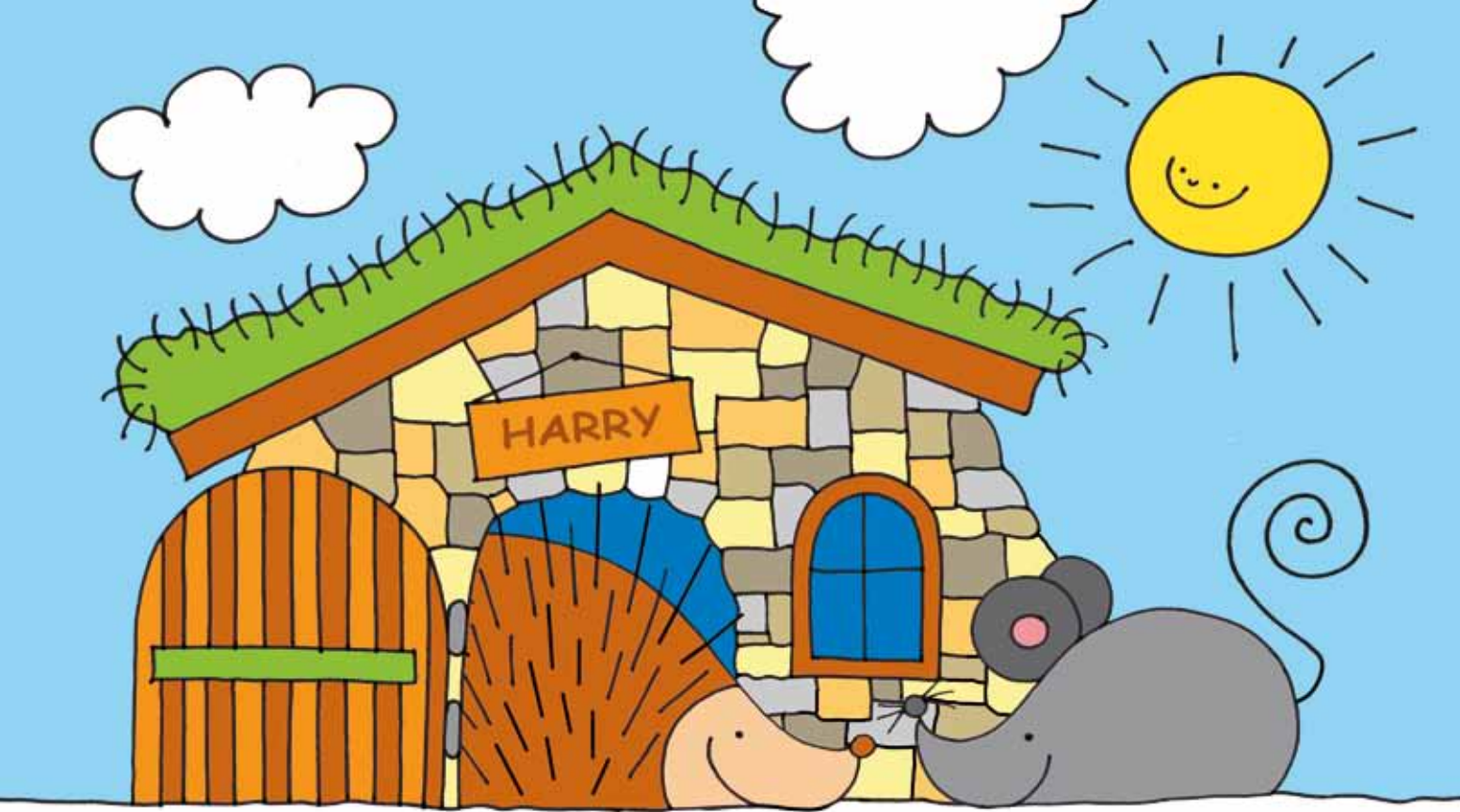
"It's beautiful. We love it," Berry and Dolly said. "And we made you this windmill."



The centipede stayed with Berry and Dolly for ten whole days. They went for long rides on their bicycle. They talked, sang and played a lot. They had a very good time.



They invited the queen ant to Dolly's house for tea one day.  
"Do you still have the boots we sewed for you last year?" the queen ant asked.  
"Of course I do. I wore them all winter," the centipede replied.



The little mouse made friends with Harry Hedgehog and stayed at his house for ten days.



But their time together passed very quickly.

"We have to go home now. I've had such a super time here," the centipede said.

"Do come and visit us again next summer," Berry and Dolly said together.