



THE CARNIVAL



Winter was nearly over and the forest friends were sitting in Dolly's house. "It's time we started getting ready for the carnival," Flutter the butterfly said. "What are you going to dress up as?" Berry asked.



"It's a secret," Flutter answered. "You have to keep your costume a secret so that we can surprise each other at the carnival."
"You're right. Let's go home and get started. We've only got a few days left," Balthazar said.



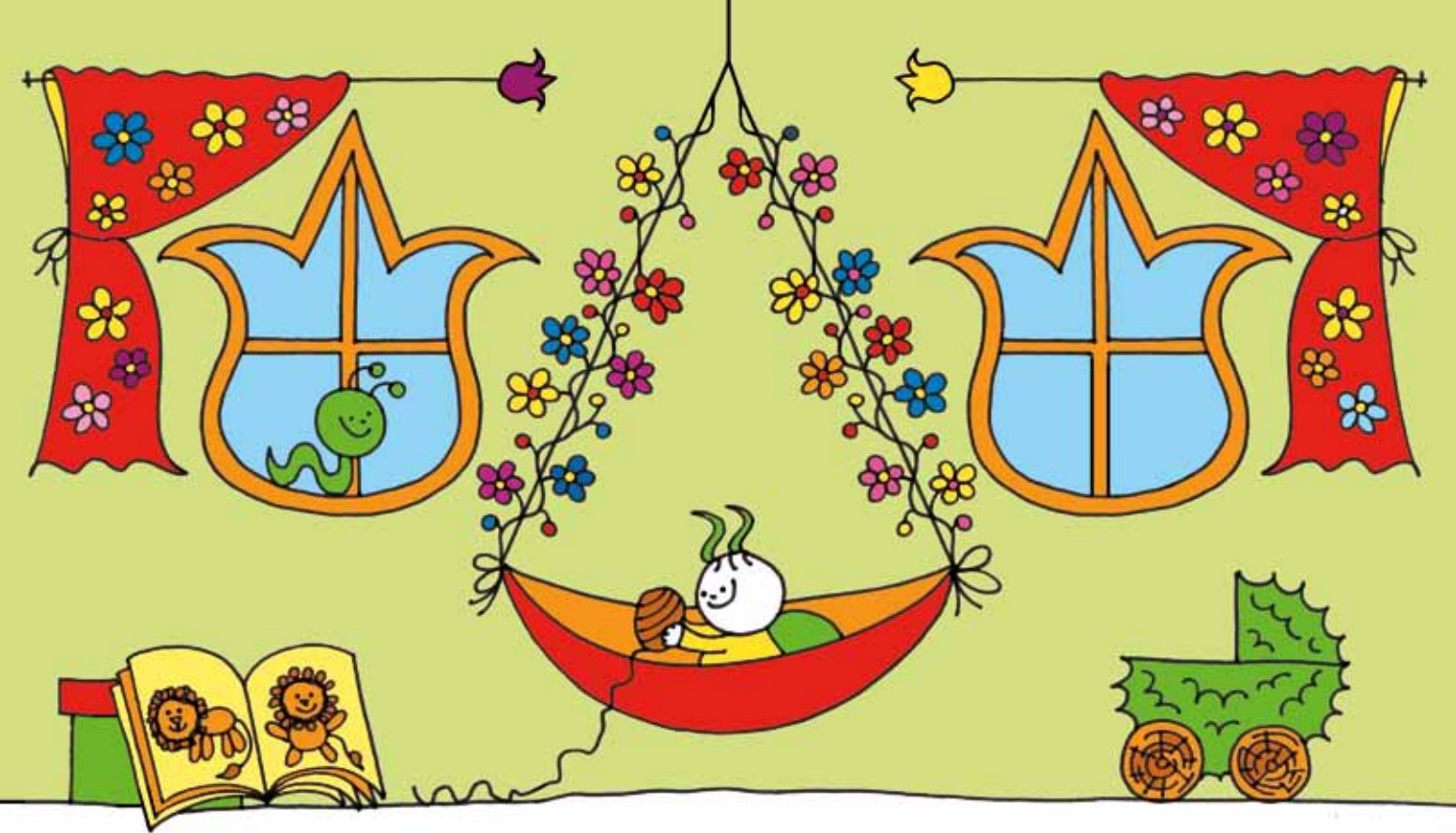
Berry quickly made up his mind. He decided to dress up as a mushroom. He used a white sheet for his cape and made a hat out of a red bowl. He painted white dots on the bowl.



Dolly made a flower costume. She cut leaves out of a green paper and sewed them on a green blanket. That was her dress and she made petals out of purple paper.



Balthazar the bee and Betty the bumblebee worked together. Balthazar dressed up as a devil and Betty dressed up as an angel.



Bubble the baby beetle sat in his hammock and started to make his lion costume.



The lights were on in every home in the forest on the night before the carnival.



Everybody was working on their costume and busy preparing for the celebrations the following day.



Then the big day arrived! The forest friends decided to have the carnival at Stanley's house. They all worked hard and decorated the stag beetle's home with coloured streamers and balloons.



While this was all going on, Rosita the rose beetle was busy making delicious cakes at her house. Dolly, Leapy and Eddy the potato beetle all lent a hand.



Then the time came for them all to put their costumes on. Stanley dressed up as a dice and sat waiting for his friends. The first to arrive were Berry and Dolly. He was dressed as a mushroom and she was dressed as a flower.



Then Balthazar came as a little devil and Betty as an angel with Flutter in a crab costume.



Leapy looked just like a cactus, Bubble was dressed as a lion, Eddy was a chef and Rosita was a bunch of grapes. Her dress was covered in shiny balloons.



The flea was dressed as an octopus, the firefly was a pencil, Sam Snail came as a soldier and one of the little ants was dressed up as a pancake.



Then Zephyr the dragonfly came in crying.

"It's gone! My beautiful princess dress has disappeared! I washed it and hung it out to dry but the wind blew it away!"



Zephyr sobbed and the others tried to comfort her.
"I'll give you my soldier hat. I don't need it, I've got a sword," Sam Snail suggested.
"No! That's for boys! I had a lovely princess dress but the wind blew it away."



"I know! We'll make you a new costume," Leapy said. "A sun costume."
Zephyr liked this idea very much.
"This yellow curtain will make a great cape," Dolly shouted.



“And these yellow pieces paper can be the sun’s rays,” Stanley said and took some of the streamers down. They cut and glued, sewed and stitched, and the beautiful sun costume was ready in no time.



"I can lend you my little lantern. A pencil really doesn't need a lantern," laughed the firefly.
"Thank you," Zephyr said. She was so happy she blushed.



The owls arrived just as it was getting dark. Doctor Owl was a wizard and the owl chicks were clowns. The forest friends danced and sang. They all agreed that Zephyr had the most special costume of all. What could be more special than a sun that shone at night?



Zephyr thanked her friends for the pretty sun costume. She took it home with her and hung in a special place in her wardrobe as a reminder of the wonderful carnival.