



Helena Haraštová • Linh Dao

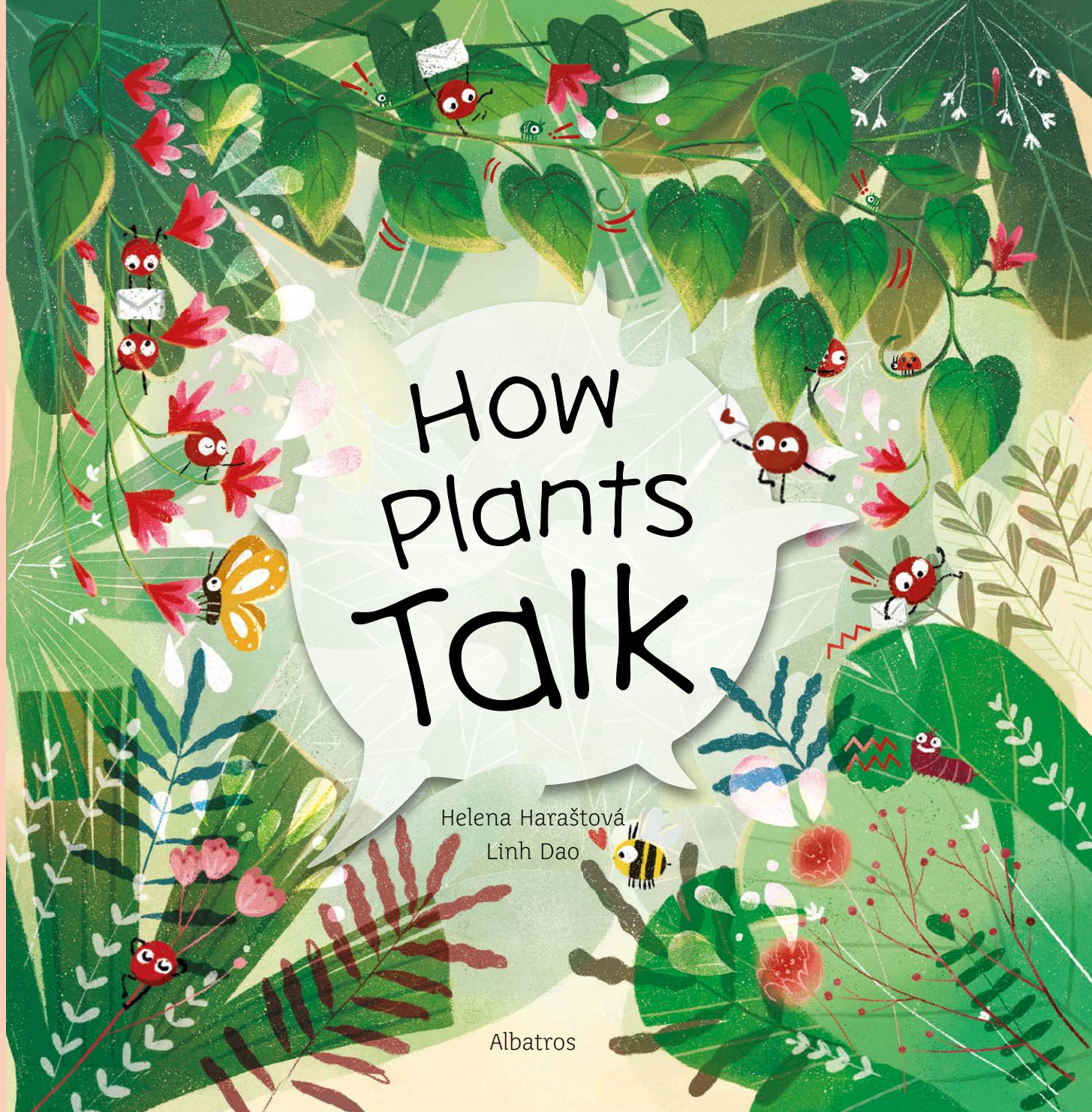
How Plants Talk



# How Plants Talk

Helena Haraštová  
Linh Dao

Albatros





## A big move

If you were a plant, you would grow where you had been planted, or where the wind had blown you. You couldn't run away from danger, or move to a new, prettier place. Soon, however, you might learn that nature has given you other **superpowers**. Amazing as it may sound, plants are aware of their surroundings. Not only do they **hear** and **feel**, but they even **talk** to each other. These talkative lovelies from a flower shop are about to make a big move . . .

Well, well, friends!  
Where are we?

I don't think  
I like it here.

We're FREE!

Ow! You're standing  
on my leaf!





## A big move

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Well, well, friends!  
Where are we?

How handsome you are!  
I've changed my mind.

Ow! You're standing  
on my leaf!

SEE!





## Roots here. Are you hearing us?

There is a great commotion in the park. Trees, grass, fungi—all are aware of strange newcomers and trying to assess the situation. *Are we in danger?* they wonder. Through an underground system of intertwined roots, including **fungi roots**, an important warning is whispered from plant to plant. Fungi act as local messengers.

Have you  
heard?

Look out!  
Look out!

A suspicious heavy  
object. Over there in  
the grass by the path.

Warn  
everyone!





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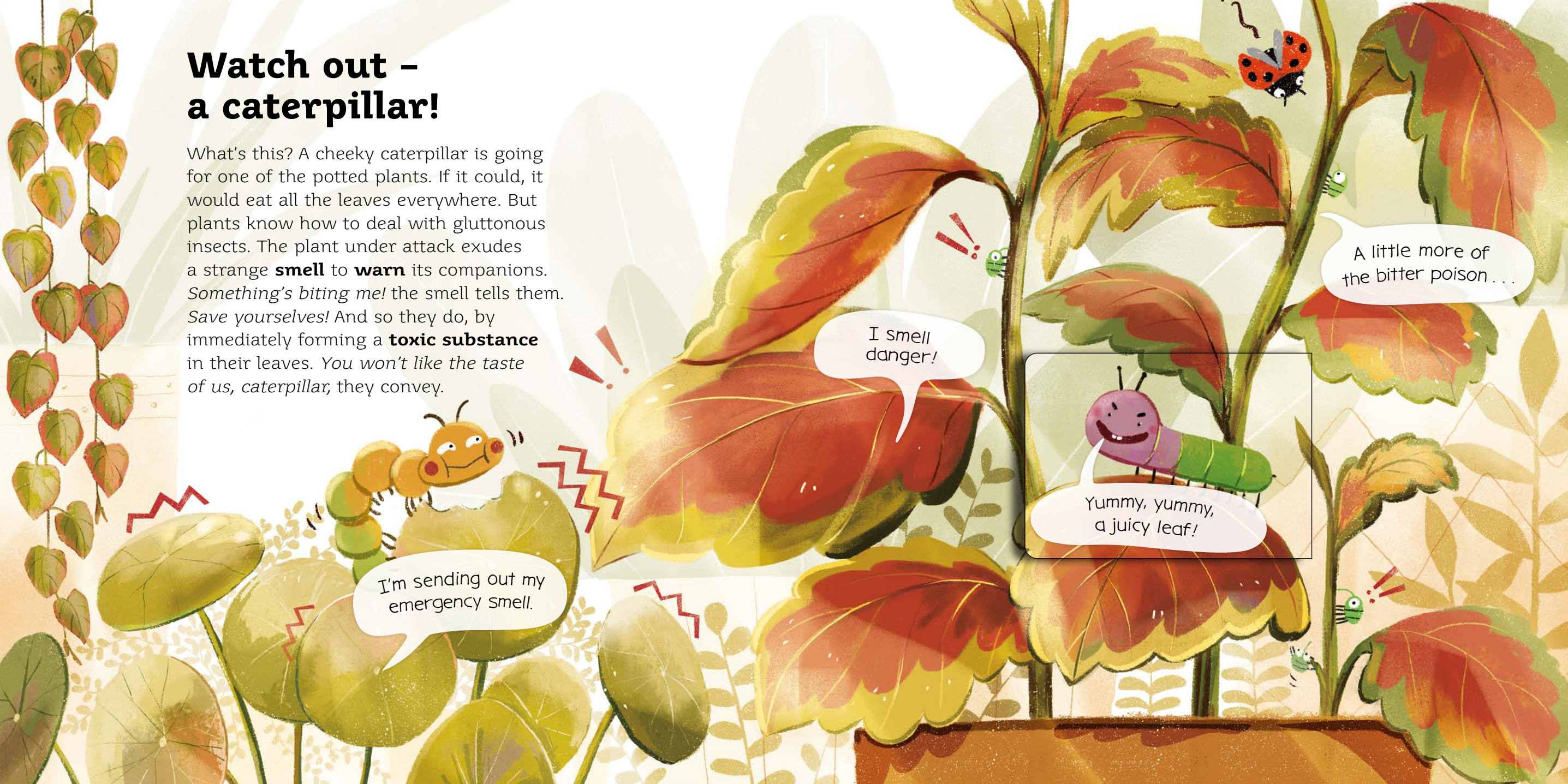
A suspicious heavy  
object. Over there in  
the grass by the path.

Message received  
and understood.



# Watch out – a caterpillar!

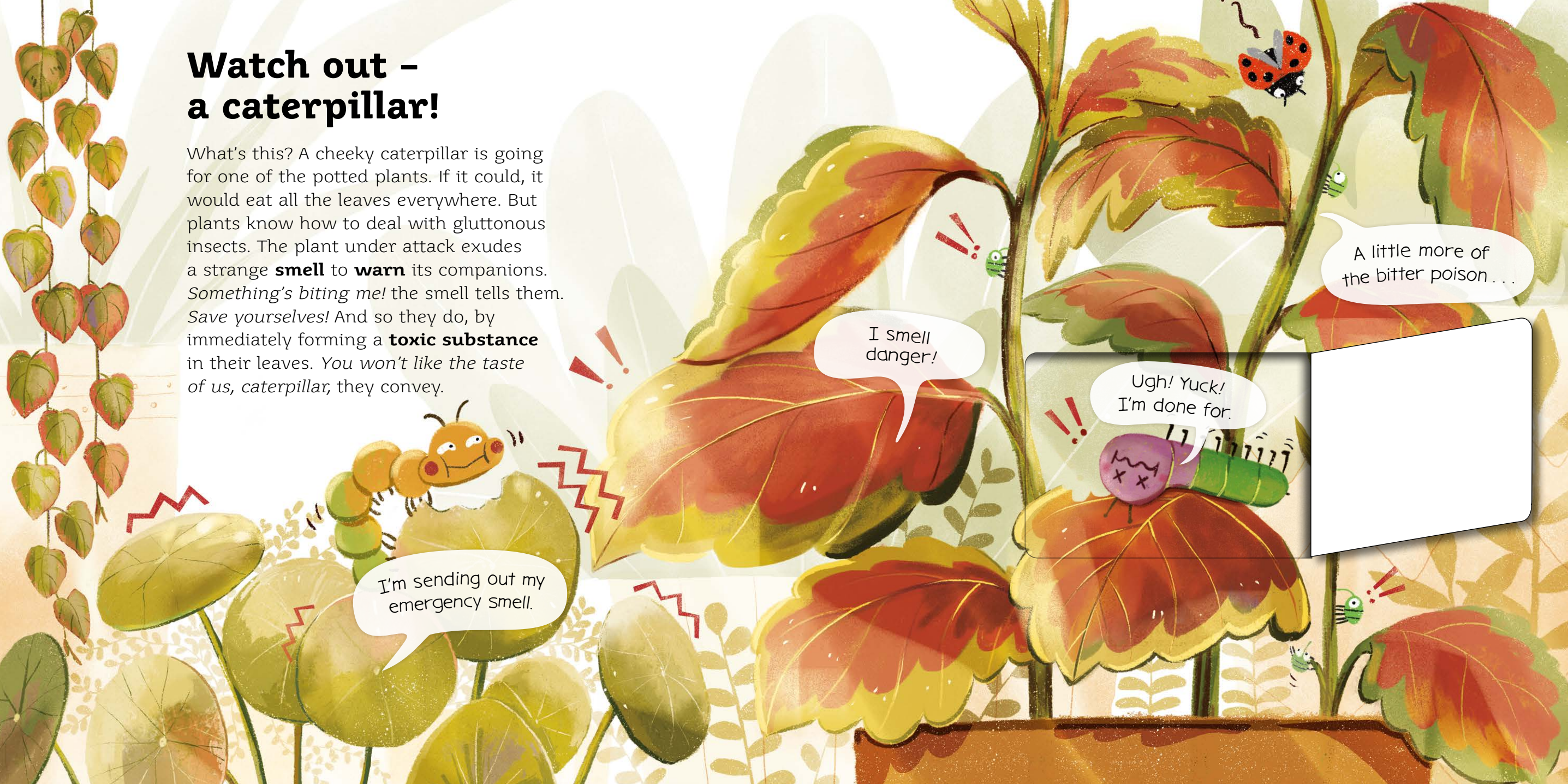
What's this? A cheeky caterpillar is going for one of the potted plants. If it could, it would eat all the leaves everywhere. But plants know how to deal with gluttonous insects. The plant under attack exudes a strange **smell** to **warn** its companions. *Something's biting me!* the smell tells them. *Save yourselves!* And so they do, by immediately forming a **toxic substance** in their leaves. *You won't like the taste of us, caterpillar,* they convey.





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I'm sending out my emergency smell.

I smell danger!

Ugh! Yuck!  
I'm done for.

A little more of  
the bitter poison...



# Facing fear

The plants don't know that they are being transported in a car. And if they did, they wouldn't like the idea. Why put us in harm's way? they might ask. They know straight away that something unusual is going on. As their **leaves** and **flowers** take in the sudden dark and strange hum of an engine, they quickly evaluate the situation: *Should we act, or should we wait to see what happens?* Some plants don't let on that they are scared. Others immediately let their **leaves droop**, and some even **shed flowers**—for safety's sake, as this saves energy. What if they should need to fight for their lives?



Whatever happens,  
friends, survival  
is our top priority!

What a dreadful noise!  
Are we in the belly of  
a hungry beast?

I'm scared!

Agh! So many changes!  
What am I to do?



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Whatever happens,  
friends, survival  
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What a dreadful noise!  
Are we in the belly of  
a hungry beast?

I'm scared!

Without my flowers  
I'll have much more energy  
to keep myself alive.





Have you ever noticed that the plants in our woods, parks, streets, and homes are tremendously talkative? Although plants speak no human languages, they tell each other of their experiences, issue warnings and comfort, and give help when it is needed—as this book shows. By opening a window on each double-page spread, you will soon understand how plants communicate without words. With this book, you will never be lost in the plant kingdom!

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WARNING:  
Choking hazard.  
Not suitable for  
children under  
36 months.

