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DIARY OF A BEE

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JUST BORN

Oh, how I enjoyed being a larva! The bees fed me and I just lay in my cell, eating and sleeping for days on end. After that, they sealed the cell and I turned into a prepupa and later a pupa. And then slowly I became a bee.

Hello,
I'm Matilda.



larva



egg



bigger larva



prepupa



pupa



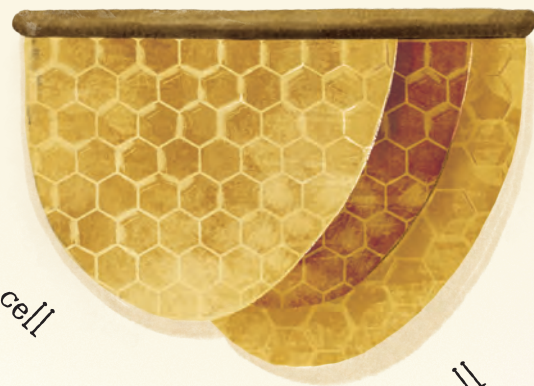
It only took
21 days for me
to be born!



WELCOME TO OUR HIVE

Wow, this is our hive! It's so beautiful and it smells just wonderful! I must take a good look around it immediately.

Our hive is composed of wax combs made up of hexagonal chambers or cells. We ordinary workers develop in the smallest cells, but drones have larger ones.



The royal chamber - the cell of the queen bee - looks completely different. It's only proper that the queen has a grander chamber, as befits her status.



queen cell



This is me next to the queen, my mother, and the drone Victor is also here. He was born on the same day as I was. Drones are boy bees. It takes them 24 days to develop in their cells, whereas queens emerge in only 16 days.

DAY 21 IN THE HIVE

It's a sad day for all of us, one of the oldest bees in our hive died. Her wings were completely worn out from all the flying she'd done in her life. To pay our last respects, we carried her out of the hive and returned her to nature.



DAY 22 IN THE HIVE

I'm now no longer a youngster and I'm transferring to duties as a forager bee. I'll be flying missions outside the hive. I'm looking forward to meadows and blue skies. But many foragers never return from their journeys. They get swallowed by birds and trampled by humans. It's a dangerous business being a forager.



Shhh, don't disturb her, she's still sleeping.

DAY 26 IN THE HIVE

Our hive is getting to be a bit cramped. There's a new queen developing in the queen cell, and so our old queen and her retinue of workers and scouts are going to swarm and start a new colony. That's why they spend all day taking honey from the honeycombs and filling their honey sacs – they need supplies. One thing is for sure, I'm going to miss my mother.




IT'S WINTER. SHHH ...
THE BEES ARE SLEEPING ...

I, the drone Victor,
bid you farewell.

DAY 37 IN THE HIVE

I'm afraid our Matilda is no longer with us in the hive. Two days ago, she flew off to forage and never came back. Such is life! That's just the way it goes with us bees. Don't be sad, children, there are plenty of new young Matildas swarming around me. And since autumn has arrived, we old drones have to make space for them.





How do bees live? How do they spend their days and the course of their lives? And what do they do in the hive? If you have ever asked yourself these questions, then you'll be happy to know that the answers are right under your nose. That's because the flowery and buzzy book you're holding right now is the diary of a bee. Did you know that during their lifetime bees have a series of different jobs? And do you know what drone bees actually do? But the time for questions is over. It's time to start reading the diary of the hard-working bee called Matilda. Those of you who prefer looking at pictures will also enjoy it. Bzzz... the bees are calling you, let's get started!