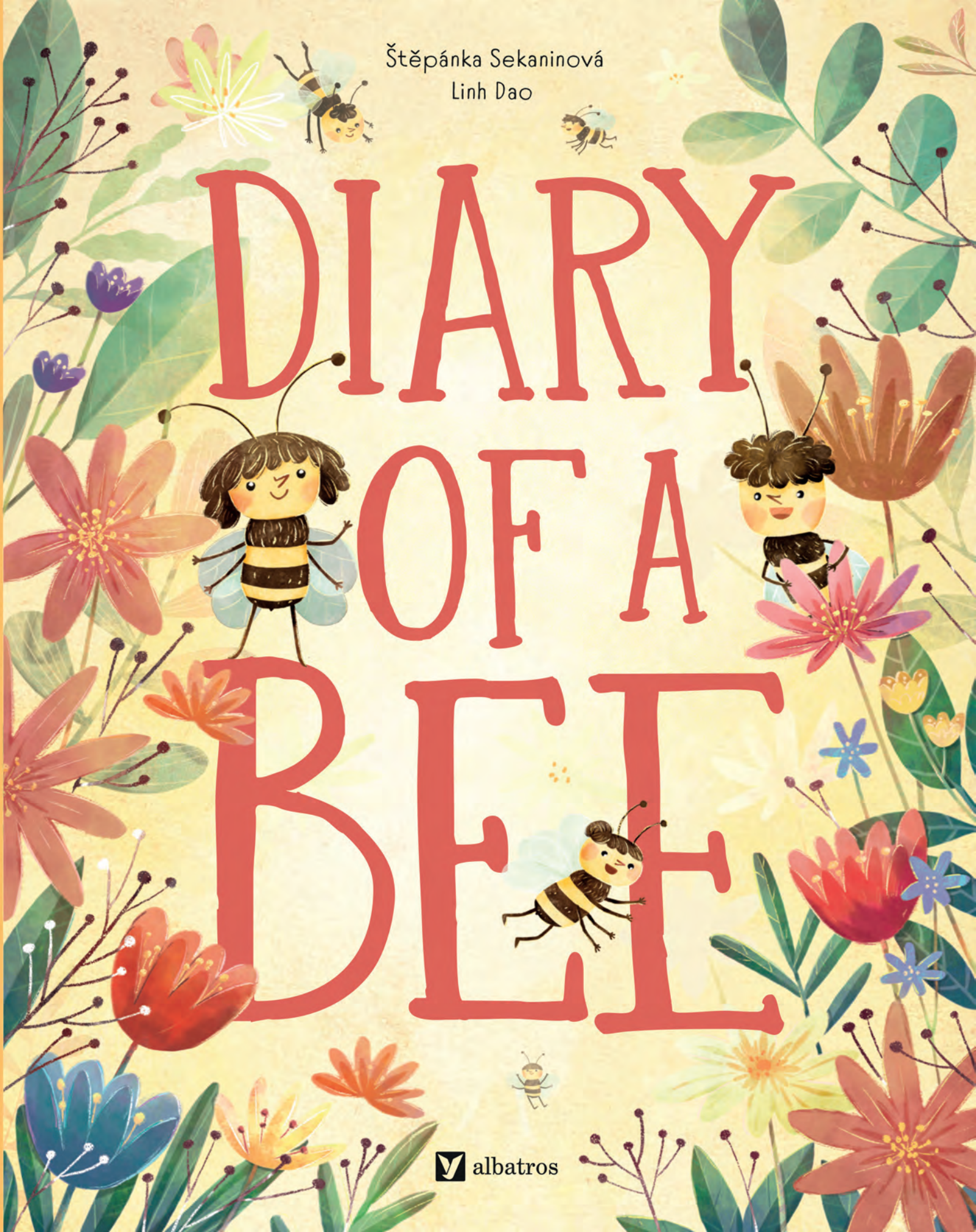


Štěpánka Sekaninová
Linh Dao

DIARY OF A BEE





SPRING IN THE MEADOW

In a sunlit meadow near a forest, there is a beehive. It's humming and buzzing with busy little bees flying off and returning from their journeys for water, pollen, and sweet nectar from flowers. Would you like to take a look inside their kingdom? Come on then! Tread softly and let's quietly observe what's happening in the hive.



DAY 1 IN THE HIVE

Let me tell you, after I hatched I was quite the mess - very weak and confused. However, the older bees rushed to my aid at once and fed me sweet honey and pollen, which boosted my strength.



DAY 3 IN THE HIVE

Hooray! Today I got a new job! I'm a feeder. I can now feed myself honey and pollen. And, what's more, I can make honey in my honey sac. So now I can feed others.



I also love feeding.

I love cleaning.



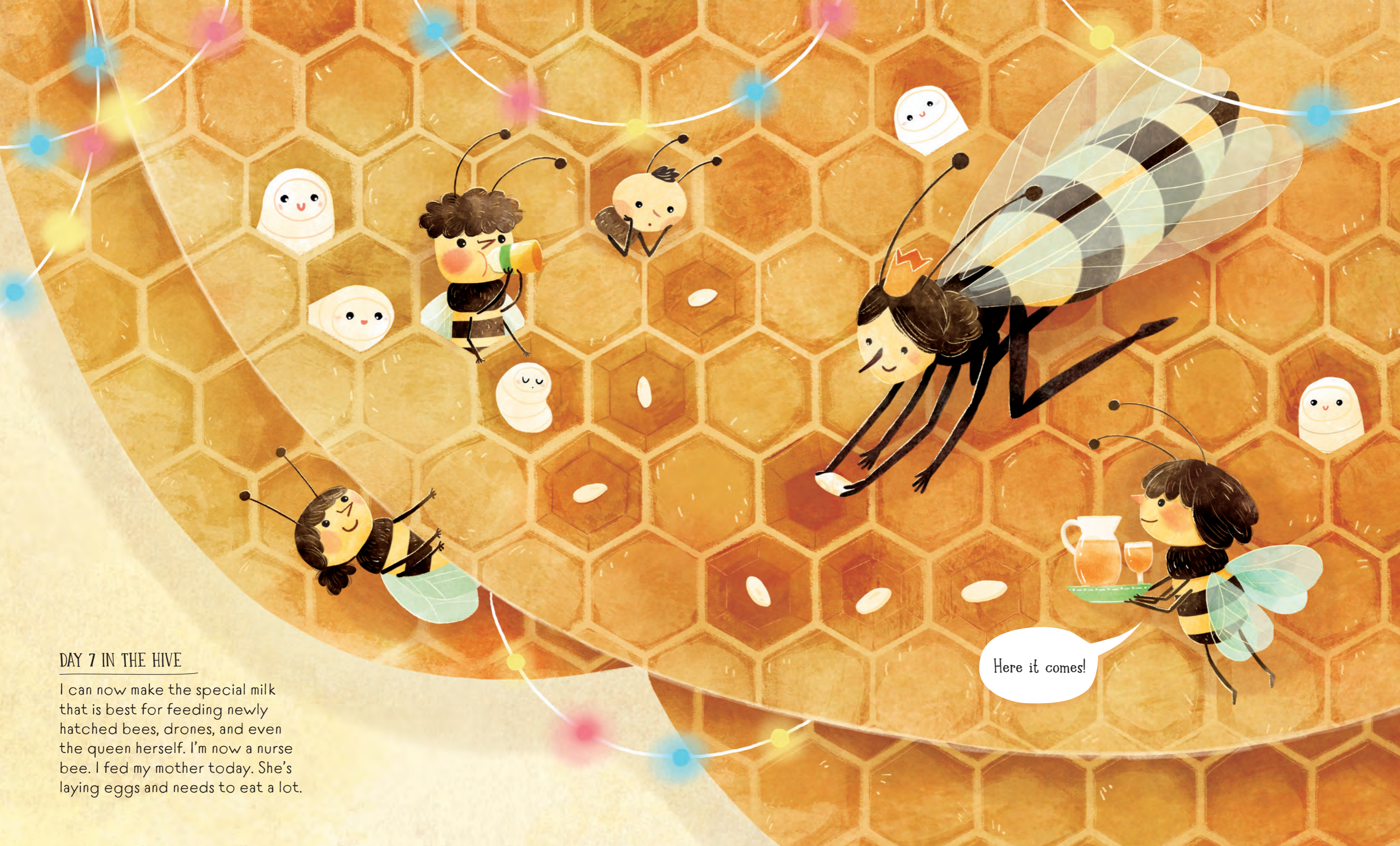
DAY 2 IN THE HIVE

After I was up and about, there was no time to waste. As a worker bee, part of my job is to clean, so I started tidying up the cells. I make them nice and clean to prepare them for new eggs.

DAY 4 IN THE HIVE

I feed and feed and do nothing but feed. I have only a few seconds for each larva! Why oh why wasn't I born a drone! How is it that Thomas does nothing? Apparently, he needs to rest before he flies off on his wedding flight. It was also nice to take a peek outside for the first time today.





DAY 7 IN THE HIVE

I can now make the special milk that is best for feeding newly hatched bees, drones, and even the queen herself. I'm now a nurse bee. I fed my mother today. She's laying eggs and needs to eat a lot.

Here it comes!

DAY 8 IN THE HIVE

Today I celebrated the eighth day of my life. I'm no longer on nursing duty, as I have a new task. I wait by the entrance to the hive and take the nectar brought by the forager bees. I then store it in the honeycomb and seal the cells when they're full. I talk a lot with everyone, including Thomas. It's only six days before his wedding flight.

A little more wax and the new chamber is done.



DAY 14 IN THE HIVE

The big day has arrived! It's the day of the wedding flight. Thomas is the youngest of all the drones, at only 14 days old, which is the minimum age to take part. They say that those drones who succeed in mating with the queen will not return to the hive. Having fulfilled their task, they will die. The others will fly back to us. I sure do hope Thomas comes back - I like him.

DAY 12 IN THE HIVE

As of today, my body is able to produce wax. So I'm helping to build new cells. I'm a builder. I heard that the wedding flight of the young queen and the drones is only two days away. That's why Thomas is strutting proudly around the hive with his nose in the air.



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, so I'm starting my 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 or trampled by humans. It's a dangerous business being a forager.

DAY 31 IN THE HIVE

There's plenty of space here in the hive again ... and a new queen too. Having only recently hatched, she's still young, but she's also clever and kind, just like our former queen.



DAY 35 IN THE HIVE

I love how excited the young forager bees are about the world. They're just like I used to be. It aches my wings to think about the amount of water, pollen, and nectar I've gathered. At one time, I would spend two whole hours outside. Today I'm glad to be back after a few minutes. Oh well, I have my 155th flight ahead of me. I'll give my wings a little massage and then off I go!



A whimsical winter scene with a green beehive, a bee, and falling snow. The beehive is a three-tiered structure with a snow-covered roof and a small entrance hole. A bee with a yellow and black striped body, a fuzzy grey head, and large, translucent green wings is flying towards the left. The background is a soft, light green and yellow gradient, with white snowflakes falling. There are also some brown leaves and branches scattered around.

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

Thomas here,
bidding 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, though, kids. 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!

For example, did you know that during their lifetime, bees have a series of different jobs? And do you know what drone bees actually do? To answer these questions – accompanied by some lively and informative pictures – let's dive into the diary of a happy, hard-working bee named Matilda. *Bzzz...* The bees are calling. We'd better get started!

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