

The Madness of Insects

by

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- Mommy! Mommy! Look what I just found!

The little boy is named Billy, he is eight years old.

- What do you have there again?
- I found a big bug. It's really cool!
- Ah! Throw that outside! You know that I hate to see those insects. Especially in the house.
- But mom...
- Can you imagine if it escapes, it and all the other insects that you collect everywhere. It would be an invasion!
- Ah! That's not fair...

Billy leaves the kitchen by the door he came in through with his insect. Returning to the garden, he sits on the ground and deposits the black coleopter which filled his hand completely. He watches it moving quietly. Then, crosses his arms and thinks that his mother is not fair with him. He loves his insects alot. He finds them intersting and attracting. He does not understand why his mother hates them so much, they are not so dangerous. One only has to handle them correctly to not be pricked or gripped. Billy founds his mother more and more irritating. She always scolds him and tell's him what to do. Sometimes, Billy would like to punish her. He would like to tell her to shut up and to let him play as he wishes. His mother has been getting on his nerves for a long time. He

accumulated a certain rage over a few years. The coleopter always moves away and Billy fixes it attentively. Then he gets an idea. He gets up, takes the big coleopter and puts it in his left pocket of his pants. He then goes back to his room. He takes the insect out of his pocket and places it in a glass bottle which lies on his cabinet.

At nightfall, Billy leaves the house by his bedroom's window, goes down by the gutter and goes to the forest close to his house. With a flashlight and a rucksack, he begins to search for interesting insects. After ten or fifteen minutes of searching, Billy comes across a millipede of approximately ten centimeters. He steps on it to flatten it a little before clutching it with both hands and puts it in his bag. He continues to search and manages to find another black coleopter, but twice the size of the the one he found this afternoon. He also picks up a spider almost of the size of his head. With these three insects, he comes back home and empties his bags on his bedroom floor. He leaves the house again via his window and goes back to the forest. All night long, he continues the same way, collecting insects all more or less the same size. When his work finished, around five o'clock in the morning, he decides at last to sleep. The floor of his room is full of insects of all kinds and all colours. There are everywhere : on the walls, on the furniture, in its clothes and even in his bed. But it seems to not disturb the little Billy who goes to sleep in spite of the insects, tired of this night.

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The following day, Billy is awakened by a call from his mother. Dinner is ready. He gets up as if he had not missed sleep at all. He looks one moment, his insects are everywhere in the room. A smile appears on his face. He leaves his room quietly and leaves his door open. He stops in front of the stairway which go down to the kitchen

where his mother awaits him. The insects swarm past his feet and go down along the stairway. Tens, maybe hundreds of insects move towards the kitchen. Billy remains there without moving, looking at his insects. And then, the moment that he waited arrives finally : the scream of his mother! It is the moment to go down to the kitchen. Softly, step by step, Billy listens intently to the pleasant cries of his mother. He finally arrives at the kitchen and can contemplate the fullness of his *chef-d'oeuvre*. His mother is shouting and does not know what to do. There is an immense yellow and black spider on her head. Blood runs on her face. The kitchen is filled of insects of all kinds. She notices her son who looks at her attentively. She shouts at him to help her, to get rid of these insects, but Billy remains silent and just watches the spectacle. She starts to cry and tries to escape by not knowing too much where to go. The insects are everywhere where she can go? She tries to cut a path through them, but the insects start to go up to her legs. She continues to shout. She tries to slap the insects with her hands, but they are too numerous. They are now up to her neck. A mantis starts to bite her neck. A horrible cry escapes from her mouth. A cockroaches welcome the opportunity to enter. The cries are delicious in the ears of Billy. The insects start to be increasingly numerous on the body of his mother. The cries decrease and finally she becomes quiet, the body collapses under the weight of insects.

It is good to dream... Billy is always in the garden contemplating the coleopter that his mother asked him to throw outside. He always had much imagination. He gets up and decides to leave his insect. He finally returns to the house and goes up to his room. He starts to look at a large bottle of glass on the chest of drawers who contains two insects. They are brown and white insects in the form of a triangle. They are flat and fast.

They are not able to climb the wall of glass and are imprisoned. There are several small black spots in the content of glass. One of the two insects does not move much and is missing part of behind as well as a leg. The other insect is more vigorous and did not seem to have hesitated to eat its companion to survive. Billy looks at them passionately. The fact that they are prisoners, they died of hunger and they devour each others excites him very much. He looks at them for a while. In the evening, before Billy goes to bed, the insect which is now the meal for the other, show's some more nibbling. The other insect is on its back and its head is located on the wound of its companion who is still alive. Billy goes to sleep with smile and ends up falling asleep.

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In the middle of the night, small sounds wakes Billy. He rises up, faces the wall in front of him and wonders what could make such a sound. The room is not completely black because of the window. The noise starts to frighten him. The sound becomes stronger and Billy guesses that what is making this noise is in his room. The sounds approach slowly. He does not dare turn around. He starts to shake. His blankets move a little. Something goes up onto his bed. Then, very quickly, the thing rips him from his bed without knowing what hit him. While falling, he knocks the left knee on the floor. Unaware of the pain, he succeeds in turning himself and sees what slamed him out of bed. It is one of those insects like those prisonners in the bottle of glass, but this one measures at least two meters. It is upright and looks at Billy attentively. At the end of some alarming seconds, it leans towards him quietly and with its large grips, it starts to devour his legs very slowly. All the while, little Billy Screaming without being able to defend himself.