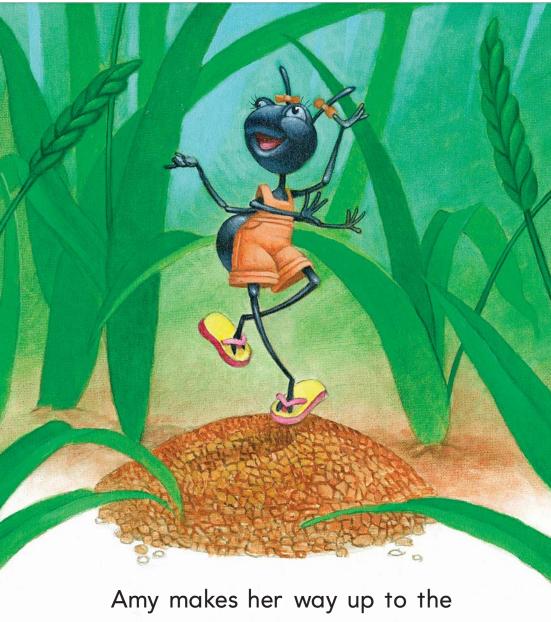
## Amy Ant

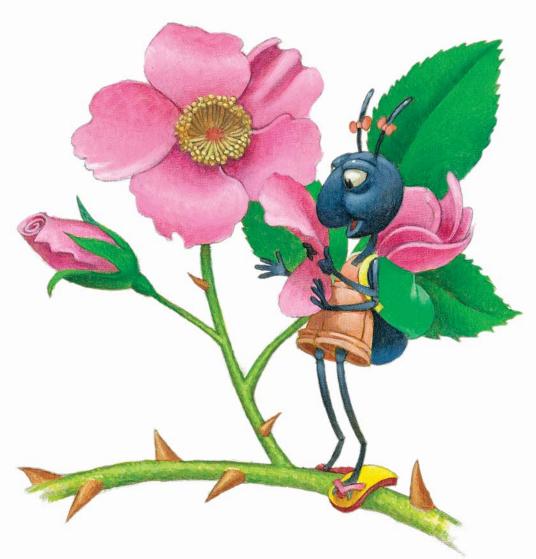
by Denise Dinkleman illustrated by Jon Goodell



Amy Ant wakes up. It has been a long, sleepy winter. Now winter is over. It is time to leave her cozy bed.



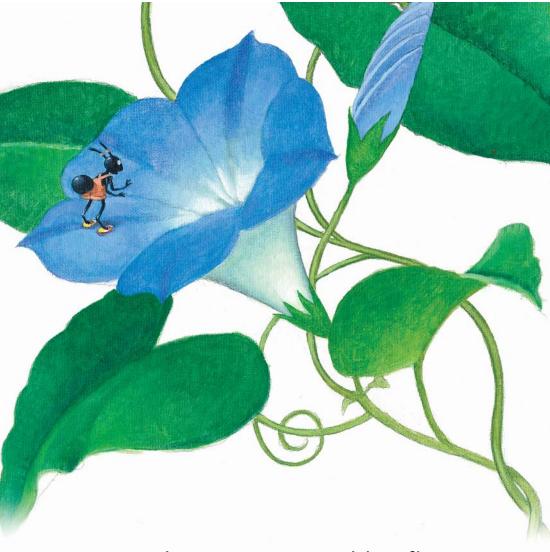
Amy makes her way up to the field. It is sunny. How good that sunshine feels! Spring has come at last.



Flowers are blooming. Amy decides to pick some. She sniffs the roses. She loves that smell the most. It reminds her of sunny days.



When her backpack is full, Amy returns home. The sweet smell of roses fills each room. Amy is so happy she hums a tune. Soon music fills each room, too.



One day, Amy sees a blue flower.

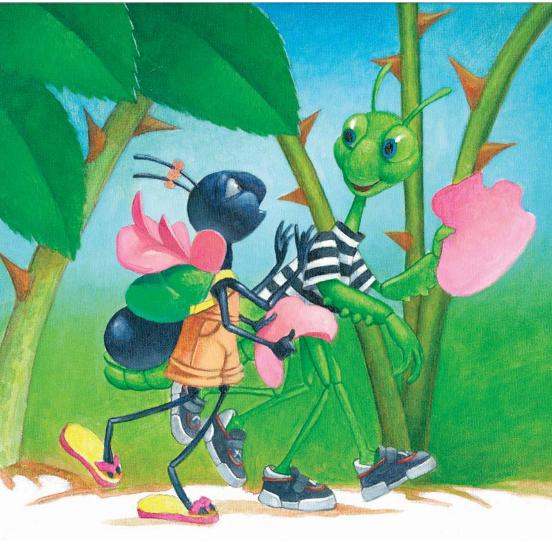
She did not see it before. She crawls up for a better look. Amy slips!

Down, down, she slides. She is not able to get out.



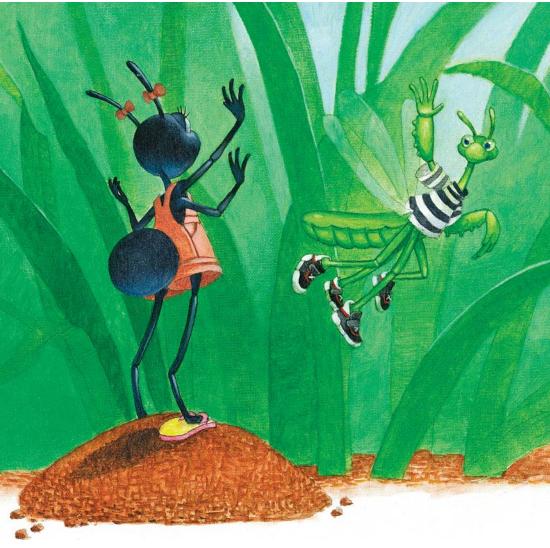
Amy shouts for help. A flying mantis hears her. He flies into the flower and saves Amy!

Amy thanks him and thanks him! He tells her that his name is Rupert.



"You're as brave as a tiger!" Amy tells him.

After that, Amy and Rupert meet every day. They take walks and look at flowers. They talk and have fun.



Summer is ending. Winter will soon be on its way. Amy has to go back down into her home. She waves at Rupert. She is not sad. She will see him in the sunshine next spring!