

# Firenze's Light



By Jessica Collaço    Illustrated by Angela Li





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For my family - J.C.

Special Thanks to: Ann Bombich, Karyn Crispo, Tom and Lois Jaques,  
and The Lipinsky Family. This book was made possible by the generosity  
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Firenze's Light

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Firenze likes  
dancing.



Firenze likes books.



But there is one thing Firenze does not like....



Firenze does not like her light.  
"It's always shining at the WRONG TIME!"



At the movies.....



at slumber parties.....



during games of hide and seek.





"Your light makes you unique,"  
said her Mother. "No one shines  
just like you."



"I'll cover up my light" Firenze  
thought. She gathered leaves and  
wrapped them around her until her  
light was hidden.



The next day Firenze's friends needed her help. At the movies, Tick dropped his snack under his seat. "Firenze, can you shine your light down here?"

"What light? I don't have a light!" snapped Firenze.




At the slumber party, Gnatalie whispered "Firenze! Make your light shine. I'm scared of the dark,"



but Firenze let out a loud snore and pretended to be asleep.





During a game of hide and seek,  
Firenze hid in her best spot, deep  
in the dark bushes.

"Come out, Firenze!" shouted Legs.  
"It's too hard to find you when your  
light doesn't shine"

"Come out, Firenze!"

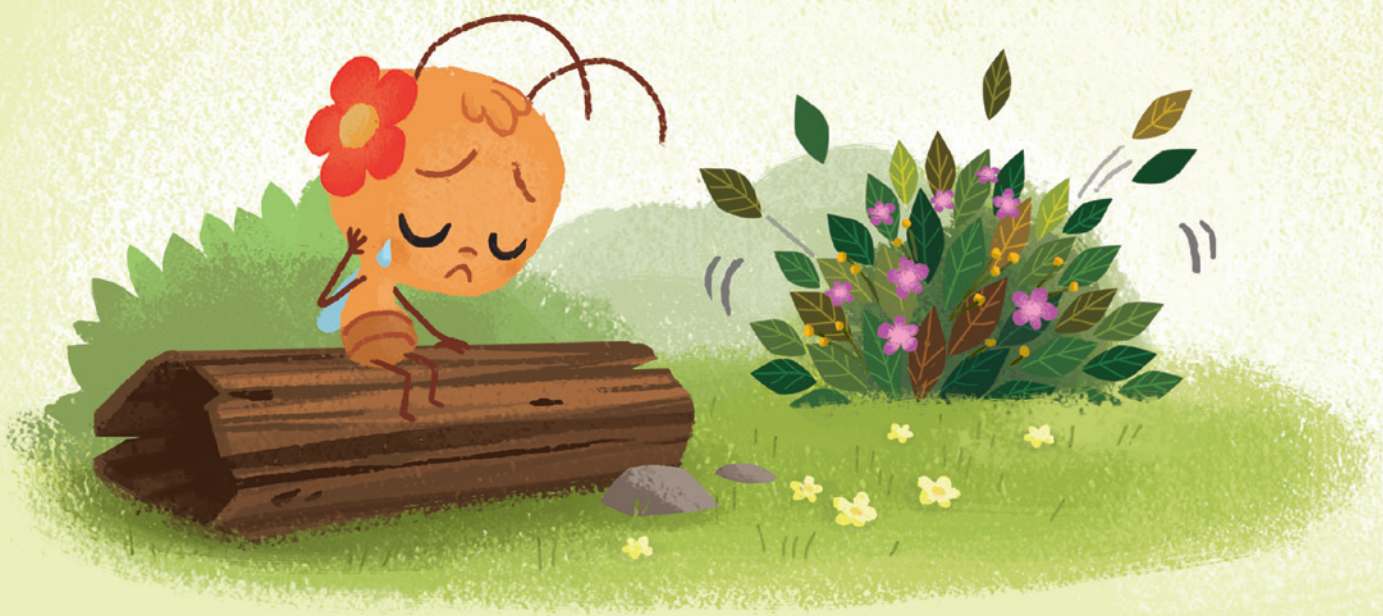
but Firenze pretended not to hear and  
flew away as fast as she could.



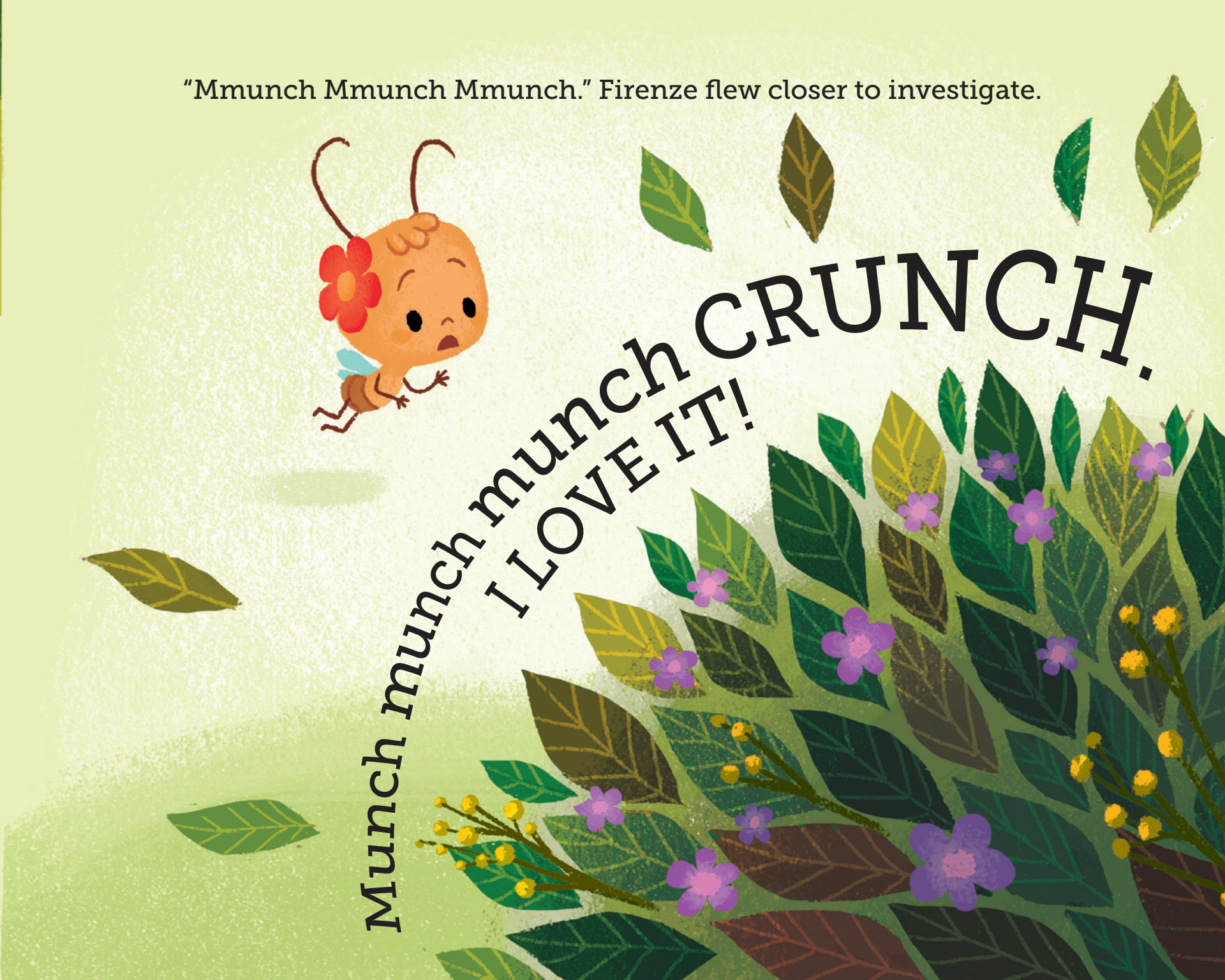


Firenze found herself deep in the forest, far away from her friends.

She had hoped they would forget about her light. She felt very sad. Just as she began to cry, she heard a strange sound coming from the bushes behind her.



"Mmunch Mmunch Mmunch." Firenze flew closer to investigate.



Munch munch munch CRUNCH.  
I LOVE IT!



"What are you doing?" asked Firenze.  
"Creating my MASTERPIECE!!!" exclaimed a beetle, clicking his huge pincers.  
"I'm Kirie. I am using my magnificent pincers to make  
**WONDERFUL ART!!!** Isn't it **AMAZING?!!**"




"It's lovely," said Firenze.

As she looked at Kirie's art, Firenze's light began to  
**shine** through the patterns in the leaves.







"Oh how beautiful!" Firenze gasped,  
enchanted by the colors and shapes  
that appeared all around her.

"Wow!" whispered Kirie. "Your light is making my art even more magical.  
What a wonderful gift you have."



"Oh! No," said Firenze. "I don't like my light. I wish it would go away." She began grabbing leaves to wrap around herself.



"I understand," said Kirie. "I used to feel the same way about my pincers, but then I realized

I am **BRILLIANT!** I am **WONDERFUL!**

I am **UNIQUE!!!**"







"I wish I could feel like that about my light, Kirie, but I don't!" Firenze exclaimed, and she flew home.

A few days later, Firenze received a package...











Firenze felt nervous as she arrived at the art show the next day. But as her light glimmered through her skirt, she saw the faces of her friends.



"How lovely!"

"Brilliant!"

"See what happens when you let your light shine?"





While Firenze twirled on the stage, she realized how powerful her light was. It was creating magical art, joy for her friends, and happiness in her heart.

Suddenly, Firenze felt very grateful she was a firefly.





Firenze grew to love her light, even when it was difficult.  
She always remembered the night she let her light shine for everyone to see.







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