

Charlotte and Flora

One afternoon, in the Grassy Green Woods, there lived a sweet and friendly bumble bee, named Charlotte. Charlotte spent most of her days in her hive with her bumble bee friends, who appreciated and cherished her friendship. Charlotte was always curious about the other creatures of the woods, so she decided to go exploring early one morning, and try to make new and different friends.

As Charlotte was flying above the treetops, she saw a group of white tailed deer, so she buzzed over to introduce herself. As soon as the deer heard her coming, they scattered like roaches in different directions. Charlotte was confused, "why did they run away?" she asked herself. "I know! I need to bring some gifts!" so she buzzed back to her hive to collect some honey. Just as she finished gift-wrapping the honey, she heard two playful bear cubs wrestling down below. "Perfect!" she thought to herself, "bears LOVE honey!" so she flew down and shouted, "hello little bear cubs, I'm Charlotte, want some delicious honey?" One bear cub said to the other, "let's get out of here! Mama Bear said to stay away from bees!" Before she could even say goodbye, they ran away. "This doesn't make any sense... I'm bringing gifts and being super polite! What's wrong with me?..." she thought to herself. Charlotte sat on a leaf to sulk in her sadness.

Meanwhile, a little skunk named Flora was just emerging from her burrow. "What a lovely day," she said to herself. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw two squirrels walking by the stream. "Hello squirrels, can I hang out with you guys?" she asked. When the squirrels heard her voice, they froze in fear. One of the squirrels nervously said, "I think I hear mama calling us. We better go now. Bye Bye!" In the blink of an eye they were gone. "What just happened? Did they not like me?" Flora asked herself. "Oh, wait! I know! I can bring some pretty gifts!" So Flora went back to her burrow to collect pinecones, berries, and flowers. Just as she had finished gift-wrapping her goodies, she heard a little bee buzzing softly and sadly. Flora could tell the little bee was upset about something. "Hello little bee! What's wrong?" she

asked while greeting her. "Oh. Hi skunk." said the little bee. "I'm Flora." "I'm Charlotte." "Nice to meet you Charlotte! So, what's wrong?" Flora asked. "Oh. Um... nothing much...just a little lonely, but don't worry I'm fine," answered Charlotte. "Well you are not alone anymore, friend! I was lonely too, so I tried meeting other animals, but that didn't work, but now I met you!" Flora said. "Oh thank you Flora! You are very nice!" Charlotte said. "Do you like honey, Flora?" she asked. "Honey?? Are you kidding? I LOVE honey! It's one of my favorite snacks!" Flora answered. "Great! I have a bunch of honey at my hive!" chimed Charlotte.

Charlotte happily shows her new friend the way to her bee hive. As they were approaching, the other bees at the hive saw Flora and started to panic. One of the bees screams, "Skunk!! Everyone hide!!" Flora and Charlotte exchange puzzled looks. "Why are those bees freaking out like that, Charlotte?" asked Flora. "I actually have no idea..." said Charlotte. "Hey you guys!!" yelled Charlotte to the other bees. All the bees froze, then, faced Charlotte. "Uh... who-who is that Cha-Charlotte?" one of the bees asked Charlotte in fear. "Oh! This is Flora my new friend!" Charlotte responded. "Hi! It's very nice to meet you guys!" said Flora as she greeted the other bees. "Hello Flora!" said all the bees at once. So, they all sat and started to talk and got to know each other.

Later, after a fun night of laughing together and becoming the best of pals, Charlotte and Flora called it a night. Flora made her way back to her burrow. "Bye Flora! Goodnight! Sleep well! See you soon!" called the other bees, including Charlotte. "Bye guys! Bye Charlotte!" said Flora. When both Charlotte and Flora got home, they thought to themselves that they should never judge something or someone by their looks but instead get to know someone and give them a chance. From that point on, Charlotte and Flora were friends for life and they lived happily ever after in the Grassy Green Woods.

THE END