

KARA TALES III
THE BLACK BUG



written and illustrated by
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To my daughter...

"Hey, hey, wake up. It's morning outside!"
Kara was woken up by a giant cockroach one day.
"Did you hear me! Waiting for a reply here..."

She opened her eyes and screamed:
"Aaah! Scary bug, go away!"

The bug didn't approve of this behavior
"Why are you being so speciesist! Such a shame..."

She debated this point: "Speciesist? Why do you call it speciesism?
"You invaded my house, woke me up, carried all sorts of germs to my bed...
And I can't really help being scared of you"
with a weak voice she continued "Please go away?!"

"Ok Sis, I didn't intend to scare you anyway,
We just put a spell on you and I had to check if it was working.
Since it is working, I can leave now. Ciao, Adios, Bye!"

Kara yelled after the bug,
"What spell, hey! What kind of spell?
I'll poison you, I'll poison your whole family,
You owe me an explanation!"

HEY!



hey you... wake up!



Kara's black cat entered the room

"Mommy, what's going on? What's all this yelling about?"

"Well, a weird cockroach woke me up and started saying absurd things about spells and magic. Really frustrated me."

The cat almost belittled its master for being scared of a bug and said:

"Well, I dislike cockroaches too, I'll catch it for you, before the evening. It's just... you know the food you got me?"

"Yes", she said "I've just bought you some new food. What's wrong with it?"

"Yeah, I noticed it's new. It's very wrong on all levels. Could you get me a beef one please?"

When she got an order from her cat, Kara began to actually wake up:

"Did you just talk to me?" she asked.

"I talk to you all the time, we are besties mommy" cat replied.

"No", she said "Not like that.

Did you actually speak in English?"

Kara left home complaining
"The little lady does not like her food. Sometimes I get confused,
it gets hard to tell if she is my pet, or if I am her pet?
This is an extremely spoiled behavior in the middle of a food crisis!"

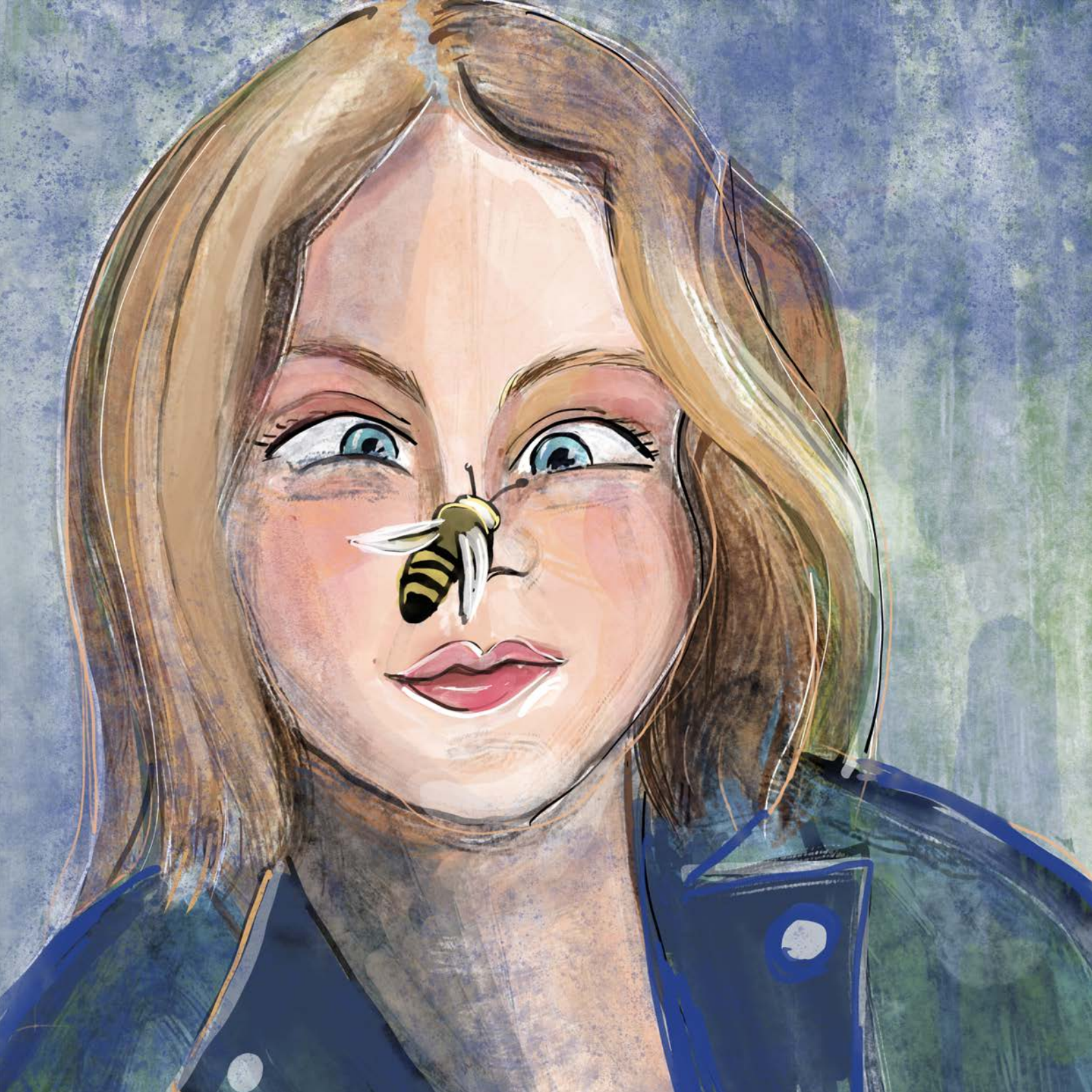
Then a bee buzzed nearby:
"Food crisizzz, yezz, you'll get plenty of themmzzz
Because you don't care about beez
You drain us in antibioticzz and destroy our food sourcezz"

Kara stared at the bee
Just stood there unable to comprehend

The bee made fun of her:
"You seem quite offended by the reality"

"What reality? Nothing that I've experienced today, can possibly be real.
I suppose I'm still asleep and dreaming.
A bee lecturing its own importance, can just be a dream.

The bee called its friends over and
Together they danced singing:
"Not a dream, no it'z not
Not a dream no it'z not
it'z not a dream,
it's real oh zzzo real"



"Move out of the way!" yelled a dove, piercing the dancing bees.

"Let me introduce myself Miss Kara. I am Dove, Peace Dove. I am the spokesman of United Animals General Secretary." It paused.

Kara felt timid: "Nice to meet you?"

"First of all I'd like to thank you for your collaboration. UA appreciates your voluntary participation in this operation."

"Mr. Dove, you look like an authorized pers... bird. I think there is a misunderstanding. Whatever this quest is, I'd like to pass it on someone who actually wants it, thanks."

The dove ignored Kara's objection and continued his speech
"UA is very glad to work with you. Your mission is to go the address that's written on the paper hanging on my neck. There, my friends will guide you."

"What if I don't, will you force me to?"

"Volunteering is essential in all United Animals operations."

The dove gazed menacingly into Kara's eyes when it named their allies:

"Bees, bugs, fleas, camels, lions, tigers, bears and wolves; seagulls, crows, eagles and many more animals come together in a multi-species setting leaving no room for antidemocratic practices."

"Sure," Kara said "I guess I didn't know UA that well".

"I'd like to help you."

She collected the message and headed to the address.





She rode her bike out of town,
On the bike road near the channels.
A gadget was holding it's phone and
The phone was showing her the way.

A slight scent of dung hit her nose and
a cow's cry rang in her ears:

"Hooooow can you dooooo this
What did we dooooo to deserve it?"

She wouldn't stop
"I dooon't want toooooo"

When her GPS indicated that she was approaching the target
It became clear, this cow was the problem Kara was sent to solve.

Meanwhile a dog stopped her and said:
"Hey Kara! I am Muscat, I was expecting you!
Follow me, come on!"



Waiting at the door of the barn with Muscat, watching inside,
Kara listened to the conversation of cows.

"They're going to kill us, they're going to kill us all!"

One of the cows was constantly shouting.

The other cow could not stand it and replied:

"Hazel! For God's sake shut up, you're screaming twenty four – seven!
We understand what you mean, but we disagree, because it's ridiculous!

The humans come and milk us every day.

We are quite profitable. Why would they kill us?"

The other other cow laughed at this statement:

"You are so young and naive and it's so obvious.

A lot of our friends left and did not return.

Why do you think?

First they went to the slaughterhouse, then to the humans' tables, then to their tripes.

Hazel is right. We should shout until the slaughterhouses are demolished!"

The rebellious Hazel, continued to explain her conspiracies:

"Who even refuses to believe in slaughterhouses than this gullible gal?

The murder I'm mentioning, is not that.

It's different. I've overheard humans talking:

They are not going to let us live, we won't exist.

Because of nitbon levels. "

"There's no such thing as nitbon"

Kara entered the barn and the conversation

The cows were surprised a human cared.

Kara tried to explain the situation.

"There's no such thing as nitbon, however, there are two different elements: Nitrogen and carbon and the meat industry is largely responsible for their emissions. I've heard they are trying to reduce both."

First cow asked "How are they going to reduce it?"
"Milk us less?"

The second cow said "Meat Industry" in an excited way:

"Meat industry means slaughterhouses!
They are going to close slaughterhouse, they will save us!
Perhaps we will live freely like our ancestors, in the pastures
We will have families again, with our bulls and cows!"

Hazel got even more nuts:

"No nooooo nooo! Not like that.
They are going to use those slaughterhouses one last time, to kill us all.
Our children won't even have the lives we have lived!"

Kara felt sad for Hazel:

"I don't know the details Hazel, but I'm sure it's not as horrible as you think.
Cows are really beneficial to humans,
Let me do some research and I'll come to clarify the situation."



She decided to go around the farm and ask about the situation from the others.

First she stopped by the sheep. Introduced herself. "Hi, I'm Kara".
"I had a question: Have you heard of the cow depopulation agenda?"

"I'm not interested in politics" Simpleton said carelessly.

"Why?" Kara asked "If we solve the situation, if we explain it to Hazel, than at least she's be quite and you'd find more peace. Wouldn't you?"

"No. This is dangerous stuff. I haven't seen anybody find peace this way. The second kid of the third niece of our grandmother, for instance. She was really into this stuff, she dug really deep. She was determined to solve the puzzle. Do you remember Wooly?"

"Don't I?" The sheep on the right continued the story.

"She followed the shepherds, and their shepherds.

Later she said the shepherds of the shepherds also had shepherds. One day we went to the graze and she didn't return. Didn't want to live in this order."

"The problem is.." Simpleton explained "she didn't live."

"Not even a weak had passed, a vulture yelled at us: Our relative had such tasty bones!!"

"That's why, you need to listen to me. Write this on a piece of paper: 'The one who leaves the flock is picked up by the wolf', hang it on the wall. Every day you wake up, look at it, eat your food, do your job. If you interfere in the shepherd's business, both you and your flock will be sad."





"We are flying"

"Yaaaaay we are highhh!"

The goats were hanging on a tree, pretending they were flying.
Kara climbed next to them and asked about Hazel.

"Mate" said one of the goats.

"What happens if the cows live, what happens if they don't?"

"Why do you think so..." asked Kara.

"The cows are as animal as you are, aren't they?"

The goat laughed out loud: "We are different honey, we are flying!"

"OK OK", said the other goat, "Let me explain."

"The thing is, we know how to enjoy life.

There's something that makes life meaningful in our pleasure.

The World, the universe and life, makes sense when we climb high."

"OK, I'll agree with that..." she said,

"But isn't it unfair to judge a bunch of animals stuck in a barn for not enjoying life?"

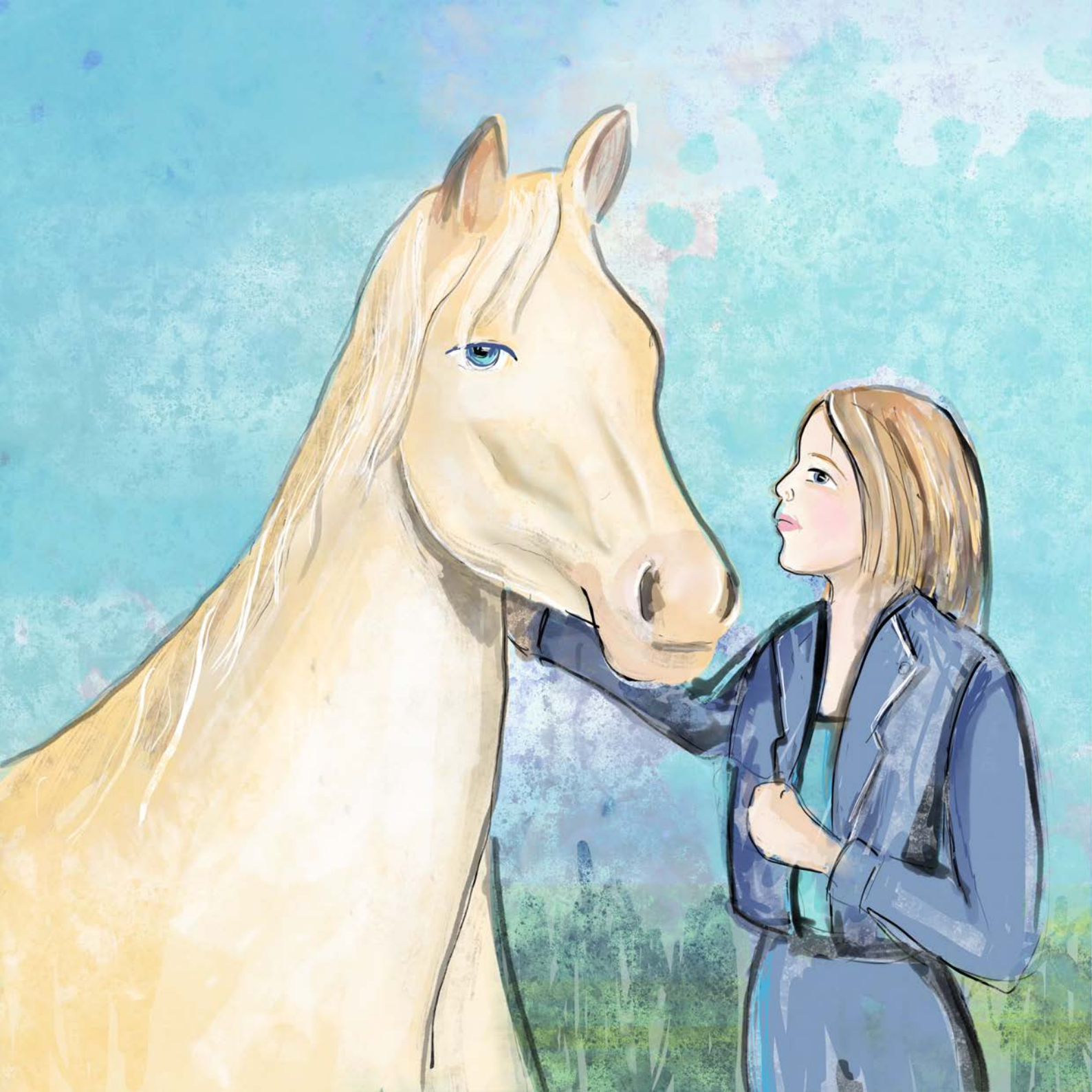
"Nope. Barn is just an excuse, they do not have the passion in them.

If they were as stubborn, as willing and as passionate as goats,

The circumstances they were born in wouldn't matter.

That's why I'm glad humans can finally see the right path,

Cows are just a waste oxygen and resources."



As Kara snorted, puffed and rolled her eyes,
She noticed a horse staring at her.

The horse swung its golden mane
"Come here, girl," he said, "Come, let's talk a little."

Kara ran up to him excitedly: "Do you know something?"

"Everybody knows everything!" said the horse.
"But do you know the legend horses have handed from generation to generation?"

"I'm listening"

"They say that civilization once belonged to the horses as well as humans
We were hundreds of thousands, on every continent, in every city,
We carried food, we carried people,
We would go to the frontier together and fight.
We were both comrades and heroes.

Then the machines came, they didn't need us anymore,
We have disappeared, as if we were never a part of the cities.
We're sample circus animals now, kept for entertainment!"

"So" asked Kara, "Do you think the cows will be wiped out too?"

"No one can see the future, but anything is possible.
Things appear, things disappear."

"Look, look, look, look at me! I told you to look at me!"

Kara was calling out to her, but the chickens were talking among themselves.

"Look, you are gonna know your place.
You came later, you are going to act like it!"

"Looked looked, I looked at you, now you look at me!
This figure, this height, this beauty...
Now look at me and admit, will he look at you when I'm here to look at?"

A third chicken snapped them both

"Do not fight in vain,
You are secretly looking at me, you're looking at me too
Everyone is looking at me
I am the most viewed,
That's why he looks at me the most."

"What are they saying Muscat?" asked Kara, looking puzzled.

"Don't ask, they debate from sunrise to sunset about who the rooster is into.
The rooster loves it, he says 'you are the most popular' to one
'you are my first love' to the other, 'you are the prettiest' to the third.
They bleed and bicker as the rooster gets his ego boosted."

At that moment Muscat sniffed the air and shouted hastily,
"They're coming!" he said, "Hide!"







The two farmers were chatting sadly.
"What are we going to do now?
You had an officer friend, what if you ask him?"

"These are not things within his jurisdiction.
I think we should get together as partners and consider the options."

"What options? Did they leave us a choice?"

"Then we make sure we can't choose anything else,
We gather as many people as we can find and..."

"... Protests. you are suggesting protesting.
I guess you forgot what happened last time.
We were both hurt and accused, on top of that..."

A - CHOO!

Kara learned about her allergies to the lavenders she hid behind,
in a very unfortunate time.

"What was that sound? Who is there?"

Her face was flushed and his feet were trembling.
Kara raised her hands and stood before the farmers.
She forgot all the languages she knew.

"Who are you? Are you a spy?"
The other farmer looked more menacingly: "Looks like a civilian police to me."

"No, I am here.. for .. U.. U. Animm.."

While trying to cope with the rush of getting caught by the farmers,
Kara was startled by a hissing voice.

"Don't tell them about the United Animals.
If you are allergic to lavender
I don't think you would react very well to my poison either."

"I" said Kara
"I came here to check the animals, uh...
My father sent me for the Sacrifice Feast, you know, Eid al-Adha."

"Lady, this is not an animal market
Tell your dad to do these things in person
Or teach methods to the people he's outsourcing to.
Now go, and we'll pretend we haven't seen you here."



She ran to her bike in tears.

Hazel's cries still echoed in her ears.

"Obviously the farmers aren't happy about it either."
she said to herself.

"But as the sheep say,
Shepherds' shepherds have shepherds,
maybe even more senior managers!

And there are vultures!

And what about that snake?!"

Kara noticed desperately:

"I can't save Hazel."

She remembered her grandmother's advice.

"Everybody finds their way, everything comes to pass,
What happens, happens to Kara."

When Kara came home, she found the cockroach at the entrance of the door,
injured and unconscious.

"Look mommy, I caught it like I promised." said the cat. "Did you bring me nommies?"

Kara, began to shout at the black insect with all her anger:
"Hey you, wake up! Hey, wake up and break the spell!"

The bug that tried to sober up: "What? What magic?"

"That animal-talk spell you cast on me without asking me!

"But wasn't it nice? You have a superpower. You have got memories.
I think you should thank me."

She raised her voice even louder:

"Don't comment, just break the spell!"

"Okay" said the cockroach,

"I can't really move now, but

You have a splinter like chip on the thumb of your right hand.

If you remove it, everything will go back to normal.

However, I wouldn't recommend it.

I know you despise me for being who I am

But in their eyes, you are not much different:

You are a black bug just like me.

But if you ally with United Animals, you could even be a leader

We have comrades all around the Wo..."



When Kara removed the chip,
The cockroach got muted.
Her cat just meowed.
The birds flying outside just tweeted.

She took a deep breath.

"Rather than being a leader among bugs like you,
I'd rather be an insect among leaders."
were here last words to the roach.

But years later when she was crushed, battered,
when toxic synthetic food was thrown in front of her,
instead of healthy essential food,
She would remember this moment with great regret.

-the end-

