

# 'CK' and the Green Cockroach



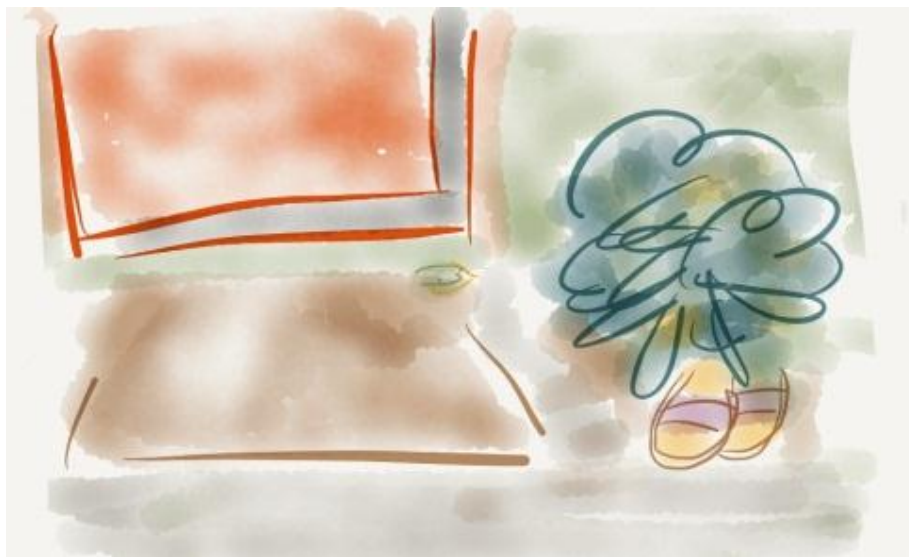
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## 'CK' and the Green Cockroach

The teacher was looking impatient but was trying not to show it. Outside the Multimedia Room the students were in two lines ... all except for Nadhah, who was standing barefoot on the doormat looking very worried.



CK could stand it no longer. Walking back to the door, she lifted the leaves of a shrub next to the doormat. There were Nadhah's shoes which, like everyone else, she had removed before entering the room, and CK had quietly hidden them under the bush.

'Sorry!' whispered CK with a little snicker. Nadhah punched her shoulder gently and they both joined the girls' line with their heads down, avoiding the teacher's frown.

That was the first time she saw the Green Cockroach, just by the edge of the doormat, but she didn't say anything, she just gave it a long, hard look.



Cockroaches are supposed to be brown, or maybe black, and they are ugly, dirty creepy insects. But this one had silky green wings, and a pair of long yellow feelers waving about in front. It was beautiful and fascinating. And CK felt like it was looking back at her. She hurried along in the line back to the classroom.

CK and her friends, calling themselves the “Green Apple Girls”, were practising hard for the Action Songs competition. They were very good at it, and they felt that they had a good chance of winning. They got themselves into line, and turned on their music.

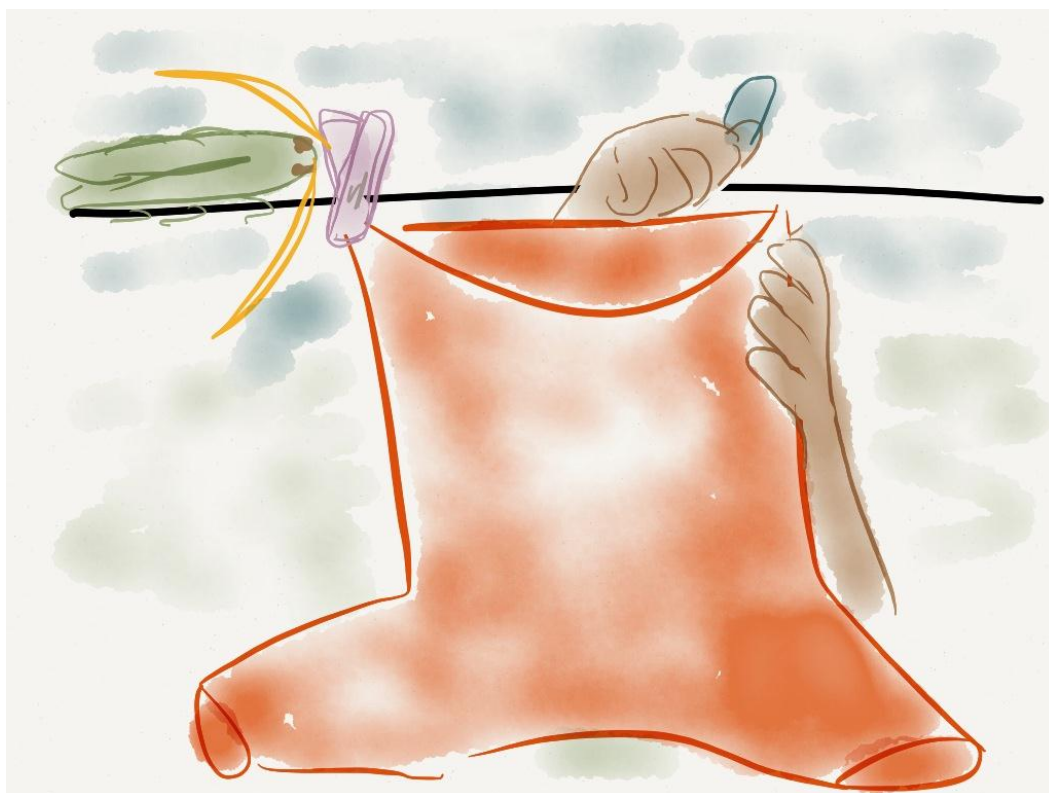


In the middle of their song and dance, CK looked at the floor and noticed the Green Cockroach right there near her feet. She was so surprised that she almost stepped on it. Lots of people would step on a cockroach without thinking twice, but CK was trying so hard not to hurt the beautiful creature that she missed her steps and fell on the floor.

“CK! What are you doing?” asked her friends.

But when she started to explain, she looked around for the cockroach and it was nowhere to be seen.

Then it was the weekend, and CK had chores to do at home. She soon forgot all about the weird green insect. That is, until she was hanging the washing, and there it was, right on the washing line.

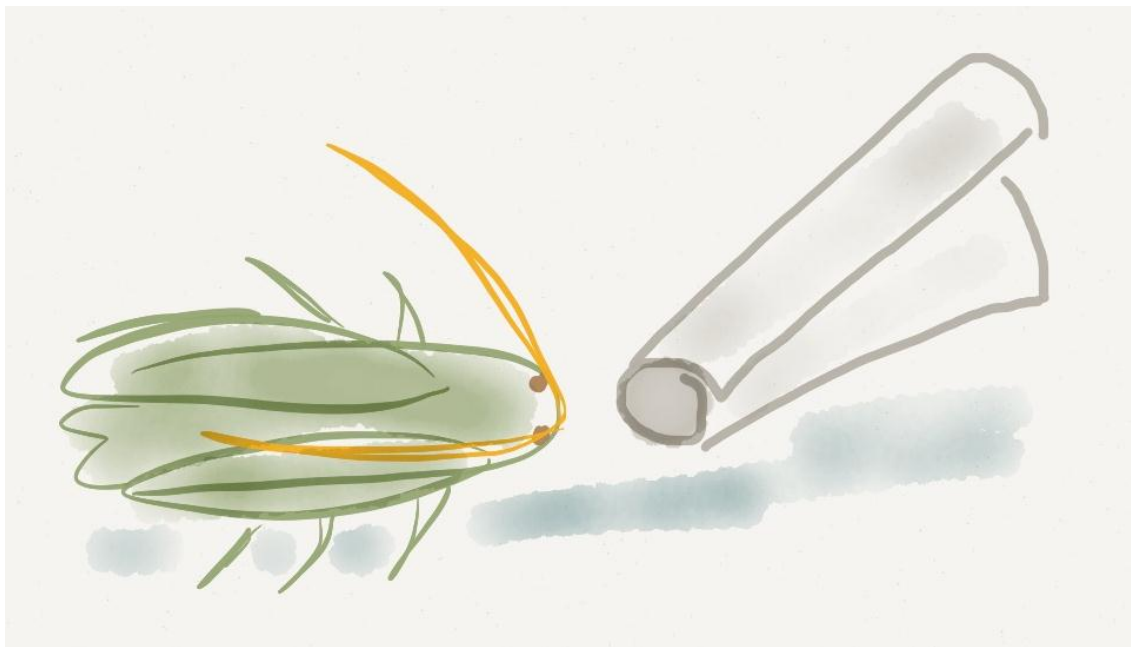


And it was definitely looking right at her.

CK didn't know whether to feel afraid, annoyed, or pleased to see it again. At least this time it didn't disappear so quickly and she could have a good look at it.

All of a sudden, she realised that she could hear a little sound, almost like a tiny voice.

Then she had an idea. There was a piece of paper in her pocket, and she took it out and rolled it into a funnel shape, something like a megaphone, and held it near the insect's head.



“One wish!” she heard the tiny voice say more clearly now. “I grant you one wish only!”

Maybe because she was afraid that the cockroach would disappear again or maybe just because she was always a bit impulsive and would rush into things without stopping to think, CK answered very quickly.

“I want to fly!” she said eagerly.



Immediately she realised that she was high in the air, floating effortlessly, and there was the Green Cockroach with its wings open flying in front of her.



Flying was easy; she didn't have to flap her arms or anything. She looked down at her house, and she could see her friends' houses and her school, and, in the distance, the sparkling South China Sea.

Soon it was time to go down and finish her chores – she could hear her mother distantly calling.

As her feet touched the ground, she wondered whether her wish was all used up – was that the one wish, that one short flight? Or had she really wished to

be able to fly any time. If only she had thought longer about her wish.

The Green Cockroach was nowhere to be seen, so she couldn't ask him. Maybe she would see him again one day.