

*The Flowers I know*

---

I flip and flap  
With joy and with mirth  
I flutter and sing  
From flower to earth

I was born as I am  
With color and glee  
I float through the air  
Lively and free

But as I grow bigger and venture out far  
I learn of the mantis, the hawk, and the car  
This big wide world is not as I dreamed  
I see unsheltered, the scary, the mean

It's safer for me to choose not to explore  
The world is less scary if I lock all the doors  
And what am I missing? when I have all that I need  
Flowers are the same whether they're red blue or green

It's all just nectar and here I have friends  
And I'm afraid If I leave those friendships will end  
But one day I overhear a sad sound  
My friends say they don't like me around  
They think I'm so strange for flying upside down

My way of flying was more fun for me  
A curious way to go from A to B  
I like the look of the world when its turned on its head  
But my friends keep telling me to watch the ground instead

I want to fit in and feel like I'm loved  
So I decide to fly 'normal' from flower to bud  
I paint my wings red tho I think blue is best  
It's just easier for me If I blend with the rest

We all look the same and I feel I belong  
But I'm not really sure why before I was wrong  
I loved the patterns I chose to paint on my wings  
But now that I'm normal at least they invite me to things

One day at a party with all the best bugs  
We drank the queens jelly and I was feeling the buzz  
I confessed to a beetle how I loved to explore  
Be happy, says the Beetle, don't ask for more  
I used to be like you in years before  
But I'm telling you now, explorings a chore  
It's full of such dangers with nothing to gain  
It's better near home in case there is rain

The beetle he says he used to have wings  
Vibrant and purple with iridescent rings  
But he gave them up after meeting a crow  
That chased him for hours up high and down low  
The beetle explains it's better not to be found  
To live a long life much closer to ground

The next day I think my garden enough, tho it no longer grows  
I'm better off tending the flowers I know  
I sink in the nectar, it's all that I need  
What more could I want than a safe place to feed

I look beyond and see blue flowers  
They look beautiful misted by early spring showers  
But I hear nearby the screech of a hawk  
And I'm too scared to fly or to walk

So I crawl down low, to the pale yellow buds  
It's so much safer down here by the mud  
It's better to tend the flowers you know  
Than risk the wild of wasp, hawk, and snow

In muted dull tones I look to my world  
Safe in the shadows, my wings they are curled  
It's been many days since I've last flown  
But why would I leave and where would I go?  
It's just safer to tend to the flowers I know

The beetle walks by and salutes me a wave  
Good morning my neighbor, what a beautiful day!  
I try to wave back, but my wings feel weak  
And I hear a hawk, I'm afraid to speak

Smart choice says the beetle

It's safe where you are  
Make sure you never venture out too far  
And keep those wings dull, try not to stand out  
Know your way home and the safest route

I watch over days as the beetle scoots by  
I like this routine down away from the sky  
I swear it didn't hurt when my wings fell off  
Down in the dirt in the beetles trough

The days grow long and I eat my fill  
I no longer want any form of thrill  
My skin hardens and I make a cocoon  
And out of my shell under a brand new moon  
I burst forth as a butterfly reborn to be  
Safe and secure a caterpillar is me