



— HONORABLE MENTION —

Betty's Beehive

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Phewww! I am one tired bee. My name is Betty, and I am a honeybee. I just survived a difficult winter. After harsh winds, our hive is not the strongest and needs to be reinforced. My hive is in a box, but Farmer John frequently leaves the top off so we can roam anywhere we want. There are going to be as many as 70,000 bees that are going to help me build this majestic castle. I started off the day by drinking my favorite meal, nectar, with my best friend, Belle.

“We have to go get more supplies for our hive to make it stronger and get this year’s first honey for Farmer John and the Bee’s Business Farm,” remarked Belle.

Before the two friends could even leave, Sawyer the Skunk showed up to the beehive. He climbed up on top of the box and entered. When he entered, he unleashed a disgusting stench, stood on his hind legs, and flared his sharp teeth. All the bees instantly flew out of the hive in horror and would not return for at least a few more hours. It sounded as if an airplane was flying over the hive because of how fast the bees were flying out. He was infamous around the area for causing trouble for smaller animals. As Betty and Belle were flying away, they could see their hive being ransacked and were devastated.

“A hive is made of beeswax, which is made from honey. We need to bring back pollen to the hive so that the others can turn it into honey. From there, we female bees will turn the honey into wax after they swallow it and produce sweat glands of wax in 91-degree heat. Let’s get started. I plan to go roughly over 2 miles away from the destroyed hive to pollinate a fresh patch of new daisies,” informed Betty.

“Cool! I’ll come with you. I went swimming last night in a murky pond so go slowly. My wings are still damp,” said Belle. Belle and Betty pollinated the field for a little over two hours and were now set to return to the hive. They killed a little more time by taking a joyride over to Farmer John’s house just to make sure that Sawyer the Skunk was gone. When they got back, the hive was already under construction because the other bees were all working together. They laboriously worked for about an hour transporting beeswax to the larger load so the other honeybees could place it on the wall as reinforcement. They were happy to see that their work contributed to a good cause and even finished early doing their part because of their collaborative efforts. Bees are animals that thrive through teamwork, so their other peers conscientiously worked.

Belle and Betty were extremely determined to help the other bees finish the hive so that their house would be completely constructed. Now, they helped to add to the project by planting wax onto the wall to fortify the base. The hive was coming along and was almost done.

Eventually, everybody finished their part, and the hive was fully constructed. Farmer John came by to collect the honey that they all tirelessly created. He was surprisingly very impressed with the performance and gave Betty a small pat on the back. Betty was filled with a rush of energy and was entirely overcome with joy. Farmer John left a couple of gallons of honey for them to party with. Belle and Betty planned to stay up all night to celebrate the fantastic job that they all did together.

My favorite activities of the party included the honey pool, the honey ride, and the honey dispenser. I pushed Belle in the honey pool, and she screamed with surprise.

“In the end, it was a fun and productive year of producing honey for your company,” said Betty to Farmer John.



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