

The Visit

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Once, a six spotted ladybug landed on a leaf high above the ground. She looked so brightly red against the fresh leaf-green.

After a while a butterfly came visiting and settled on the leaf stem beside her.

"How doodle dee doo?" said the yellow butterfly and the ladybug nodded her hard black head.

In a bit a blue jay lit on the twig to which the stem and leaf were attached. He was visiting too.

"How diddle dee you?" said the blue jay rasping loudly and the delicate butterfly dipped her large-eyed head.

By and by a lynx came by and sat on the small branch to which the twig, the stem and the leaf were attached.

"How dangled the doodle?" said the spotted lynx and the blue jay cocked his cheeky head and laughed.

Not long after a coyote came trotting and sat on the big branch to which the small branch, the twig, the stem and the leaf were attached.

"How barkham snuggles?" said the sandy coyote and the sleek lynx purred and purred.

Soon enough a honey bear waddled onto the limb to which the big branch, the small branch, the twig, the stem and the leaf were attached.

"How wiggly snifter?" said the black bear and the coyote closed his sly brown eyes.

Minutes later along came an elephant.

"May I visit too?" he asked through his long and bendy nose.

“No! You are much too heavy,” said the bear, coyote, lynx, blue jay and butterfly. However, the reddest ladybug said: “Yes, my dear elephant, you may visit. Scoot over everyone.”

So the elephant trundled onto the tree limb as the bear moved to the big branch, the coyote shifted to the small branch, the lynx slinked to the twig, the blue jay hopped onto the stem, and the butterfly stepped delicately upon the leaf as the ladybug opened her wings and took to the air.

“Are you settled?” asked the ladybug hovering above them.

“Yes, we’re settled,” said everyone. “But where will you sit?”

“I shall sit on the elephant’s mighty back,” said the ladybug. “There’s lots of room for me there,” —but as soon as she landed on the elephant’s back—SNAP! CRACK!—the branch broke and they all fell to the ground with a CRASH!

And who do you think they blamed for breaking the branch?

The ladybug of course!