

RIPE RED FRUIT

果子紅了

A fruit fly spies a bright red pomegranate dangling from a branch. What a delicious meal! He thinks. But is someone watching him? Cookie Lin and Liao Chien-Hung depict an entire food chain through a series of shocking surprises.

A wandering fly lays his big eyes on a bright red pomegranate dangling from a branch. He buzzes over, hoping for a delicious meal. But wait! His senses are tingling. Is somebody watching him? Somebody is, in fact – a spider eyes him greedily. But wait! The spider suddenly panics. Is somebody watching *him*? There's always somebody watching, and even the hunter with his rifle gets a sudden shock from the lonely pomegranate.

Cookie Lin adapts an ancient Chinese fable about pursuing short-term benefit without thinking of risk into a series of illustrated encounters, each imbued with the animal's simple inner monologue. The illustrations glow with collaged color, their style somewhat reminiscent of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The author blends her exposition of the concept of the food chain with novelistic excitement, as the "apex predator" is suddenly foiled by a falling piece of fruit.

Text by Cookie Lin 林秀穗

Cookie Lin has been a dreamer and a writer since her childhood. Her children's titles have won several prizes, including two First Prizes from the Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Awards, the Judge's Choice for the Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award, and the seventh Chen Kuo-Cheng Children's Literature Award. She has also been longlisted for a Golden Tripod Award.

Illustrated by Liao Chien-Hung 廖健宏

Liao Chien-Hung is a prizewinning illustrator of multiple children's titles. His work has garnered him a Judge's Choice Award for the Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award, a Hsin-Yi Children's



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It was a fine, sunny afternoon
and the tree was full of ripe red fruit.



Along came a fruit fly,
his tummy rumbling.
"I'm hungry. This ripe red fruit
looks delicious!"



OH NO!

I can feel eight eyes behind me?
Who can it be?
Who is **watching** me?



A spider appeared behind the fly.
“Mmm, a tasty fruit fly!”



OH NO!

Is that some wings flapping?
Who can it be?

Who is **up** on the leaf?

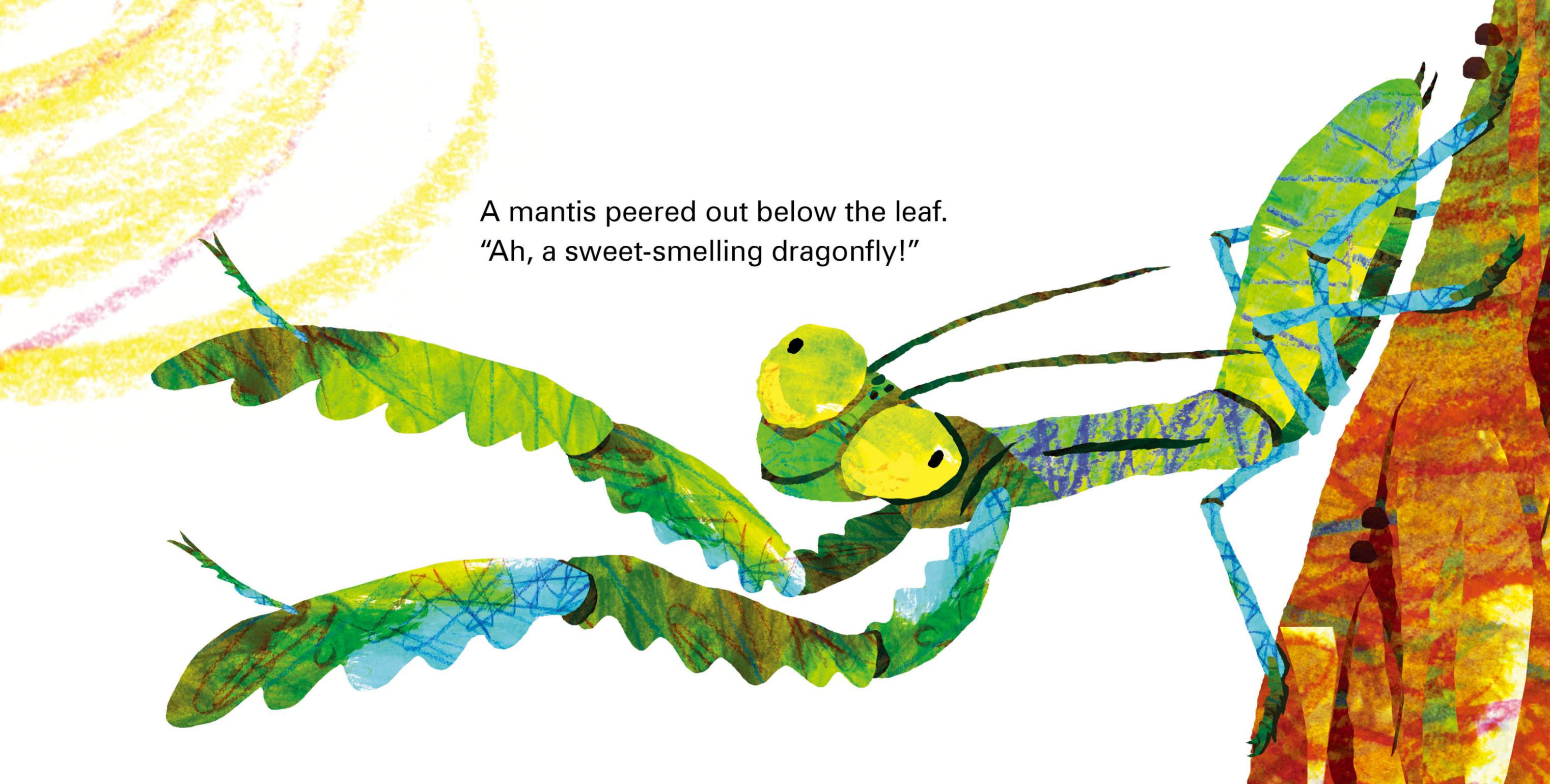
A dragonfly landed on a leaf.
“Mmm, a scrumptious spider!”



OH NO!

Is that two sickles dancing?
Who can it be?
Who is **under** the leaf?





A mantis peered out below the leaf.
"Ah, a sweet-smelling dragonfly!"

OH NO!

There's a shadow moving down there!

Who can it be?

Who is **climbing** the tree?



A lizard ran up the tree.

"That little mantis would fill my belly nicely!"



OH NO!

The grass is moving!

Who can it be?

Jumping up at me?

