

Transcript for Story On Podcast: Cicely's Quest for Company - The Unexpected

Chapter 1: Opening

Hello friends! And welcome to Story On. I'm Laura, your host and I am so glad you are able to join us here today.

Boo! Weren't expecting that, were you!? Well....today's topic is the unexpected.

Unexpected details or twists help to keep a story interesting.

Sometimes, we can kind of guess what's going to happen in a story...like when we know that the hero is going to save the day.

And other times, details or events in the story may surprise us.

Being able to predict what is going to happen in a story is not a bad thing. It's often fun or comforting when a story feels kind of familiar and predictable.

But, an unexpected character or turn of events can add a lot to a story, too.

In today's story, I decided to make some choices that I think will surprise you.

For instance, my main character is a bit unusual. You'll see why in a minute....

I also wanted this story to end with an unexpected twist.

As you listen to my story, see if you can make a prediction, or guess, about what is going to happen!

Hey guess what!? It's time for the story!

[fading chimes]

Chapter 2: Story

This is Cicely's Quest for Company

"Wheeeeeeeee! Can't catch me! Can't catch me! I'm Cicely, speedy as a rocket, faster than a bee! Oooh! That rhymed! Eeeheheheh!"

[cheerful music]

Cicely zoomed around between the trees, gracefully dodging the colorful falling leaves. A bright red leaf floated down in front of her.

“Ooohh pretty!” She stopped suddenly.

“Wait, what was I doing?” She looked around the yard. “Where is everybody?” she asked, puzzled.

She didn’t see anyone. “Where are all my brothers and sisters?”

[music stops suddenly]

Oh, before we go any further, I should probably tell you a bit about Cicely.

[cheerful music starts again]

So, she’s pretty young. She had a huge growth spurt and she’s still adjusting to her new, bigger body.

She has ummm [quiet counting] 6 legs, she’s black with light grey stripes down her body.

She has two wings, and instead of a mouth, she has a proboscis, which she uses to...[clears throat] bite humans and other mammals so she can...drink their blood.

Yeah, Cicely is a mosquito. This is a story about a mosquito named Cicely.

She JUST formed into her adult body and immediately began flying around, ready to play. What she didn’t know, tho...was that all the other mosquitoes were already gone for the fall.

You see, her egg took a little longer to hatch than her brothers and sisters, so by the time Cicely arrived at the adult stage, [music stops] the weather was cooling down and all the other mosquitoes had disappeared.

But she doesn’t know that yet....

[buzz] Hearing a loud buzzing sound, Cicely got excited. “Oh! I think I hear someone! Brother?! Sister?! Is that you!?” She followed the sound over to a beautiful patch of sunflowers. [buzz]

The buzzing got louder and louder as she flew closer. She saw a large, round bee buzzing around, weaving in and out of the tall flowers.

“HI!” she shouted, cheerfully. “I’m Cicely! What’s your name!?”

The bee continued buzzing around totally absorbed in the task at hand. As it flew, it muttered, “More, more, more. More nectar. Need to find more nectar. Is this enough? Newp, must get more. Must keep going. Wait. Is this enough? Nope! Need more. Will this be enough to sustain the hive over the winter? Doubt it! Must. Get. As. Much. As. Possible!”

The bee seemed so focused on gathering nectar, it hadn’t even noticed Cicely.

Now as you probably already know, mosquitoes aren’t really ones to respect personal space. So of course Cicely flew right over to the busy bee and did that classic mosquito fly by we all know so well. [mosquito flying sound]

However, as she was about to zig, the bee zagged and Cicely crashed straight into her. [scuffle]

“Hey! Watch where you’re going! You don’t want to make a bee mad, do you!? Do you!??? Wait...a mosquito? What in the weeds are you doing here? I thought you guys were all gone till Spring.”

Cicely shook the pollen off herself. Luckily bees are surprisingly fuzzy so she didn’t get hurt.

“Mosquitoes! All gone?! Oh dear! But I just got here...Are you sure!? I..I’m Cicely, by the way.”

They both landed on a bright yellow petal.

“Charmed, I’m sure. Name’s Bliss. Yep, haven’t seen any mosquitoes for days. You guys can’t take the cold. Neither can us bees. That’s why I’m collecting all this nectar for my hive to eat while we snuggle together all winter long to stay warm. Oh no! Speaking of which! I need to get back to work! Queen Beatrice expects the most of her worker bees!”

Bliss’s buzzing started back up again as she awkwardly soared into the air and began weaving around the flower patch again.

“But what do I do!? How do I find my family!?” Cicely questioned.

(Bliss): “Beats me, little one. Maybe there ARE some others around somewhere. You could check over there, by the creek.”

Cicely perked up. The creek! Of course. [cheerful music starts] Mosquitoes love to be around water! She felt hopeful.

Cicely blasted directly over to the creek. She zipped around here and there and circled through the trees calling "Hello! Hello? Mosquitoes!? Anybody there!? It's me, Cicely!!!"
Silence.

Cicely slowly floated down and landed on the ground, on top of a bright yellow leaf. She stomped her teeny little mosquito foot. [music stops]

(Cicely): "Arg! It's no use! It's just no use. I may as well stop trying. I'm never going to find any more mosquitoes."

She sat down on the ground with a tiny thump.

Just then, the leaf-covered ground beneath her began to wobble.

She quickly flapped her wings and hovered just off the ground, watching curiously as a gap formed between [rustling] some red and brown leaves. A large grey bug shaped like a shield lumbered out.

It was singing. "Bip-a-dee-be-bip-a-dee-boo, I found a nice spot to keep warm, and I'm telling you!"

Suddenly the air filled with a horrible stench, similar to stinky human feet. Like REALLY stinky human feet. Yuck!

Cicely covered her nose, "Oh pee-yew! What on earth is that smell!?"

The bug looked up at her, surprised. "Oh hehehe. Hello little mosquito. Didn't see you there. Sorry about the smell. I know many creatures find it gross. But I'm a stink bug. Stinking is what we do best. I found a great warm spot to escape this cooler weather and I was just sending out a signal to my P-U-tiful friends so they can join me. Life is better with company, you know? My name's Smelly, by the way."

Cicely smiled, "I'm Cicely! I wish I could find some company...[sad music] I haven't been able to find any mosquitoes anywhere. I'm afraid it's going to be a very lonely winter for little ol' me."

She hung her head sadly. It seemed like everyone had bugs to be with but her. Bliss the bee had the hive full of company, Smelly had his stink bug friends but Cicely, she had no one.

She shed a teeny tiny tear. She was giving up hope. She just felt so alone.

Cicely watched, enviously, as the other stink bugs arrived, one by one. Each one stinkier than the last, by the way.

They happily greeted each other with high fives and belly bumps. A big sniffle escaped Cicely's nose. All the bugs turned and looked. They hadn't noticed her there.

(Stinky Friend): "Huh? A mosquito!? What are you doing here little stinger? Shouldn't you be gone like the rest of 'em?"

Cicely couldn't hold it together anymore. She burst out in a loud, sad sob. She cried and she cried and she cried. Then she wailed.

The stink bugs made their way over to her. (Stinky Friend): "Whoa, what's her deal?"

(Smelly): "She can't find any of her family."

(Stinky Friend): "Oh no, she must be lonely".

The stink bugs circled around her. It got pretty funky in the center of them all. Cicely quickly grabbed a piece of grass and tied it over her nose.

"Phew. Now all I can smell is grass! Mmm smells like green!" she announced between sniffles.

It sure was nice to see they cared enough to crowd around her.

"Well, you guys better get going to your warm spot. Don't let me hold you up. I'll be ok," she suggested, though the idea of being alone again really bummed her out.

"Wait," said Smelly, "Why don't you come spend the winter with us? In the warm spot?"

Cicely fluttered her wings. Spend the winter with a bunch of stinky bugs!?

That sounded...just perfect!

[upbeat music starts]

Cicely wrapped a couple more layers of grass around her nose. It was going to be a long, and wonderfully stinky winter, afterall.

With a smile on her face and warmth in her heart, Cicely disappeared under the leaves.

The End

Chapter 3: Discussion

I had a lot of fun writing this story about Cicely the mosquito!

I know that we usually think about mosquitoes as annoying or bad since they drink our blood and make us itchy...but have you ever wondered where they all go at the end of the summer?

I thought a mosquito could be an unexpected and fun main character for a story.

What did you think would happen at the end of this story? Did you think Cicely would spend the winter alone?

I thought that ending up with some smelly bugs would be an interesting twist for the end of this story.

How can you use the unexpected in your own story?!

Can you think of a surprising character or personality trait? What about a surprise ending!?

I really love hearing your stories! Share them with me laura@storyonpodcast.com

[cheerful closing theme song begins]

That's our show for today.

We hope that you had as much fun as we did and we really hope you'll join us again soon.

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Oh and don't forget to tell your friends about us. Until next time!

[music fades]