

The Flutterbys



The Shy Firefly

By Nita Lesley

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MEET THE FLUTTERBYS

The Flutterbys are four friendly Butterflies who live in Flutterby Meadow. They love to explore, play and help their meadow friends. Bringing kindness, curiosity and a sprinkle of fluttery fun to every day.

Bold Red Ruby is full of energy and always ready to take the lead.

Sweet Pink Rosie is full of big ideas and endless excitement.

Thoughtful Bue Benny loves to figure things out.

Playful Orange Ollie, a mischief-maker, keeps everyone laughing with his playful ways.

Together the Flutterbys make the meadow a brighter, happier place, one flutter at a time.





The sun was setting over Flutterby meadow, painting the sky
in soft pinks and purples.

The Flutterbys flitted happily among the flowers, their
wings glowing in the golden light.

Rosie twirled midair. "The stars will be out soon. Let's play
one more game before bedtime."

"Ooooh! Hide-and-peek in the dark?" Ollie gasped, spinning
in excitement.

Benny nodded. "It will be fun. Everything looks different at
night."



The Flutterbys zipped towards a quiet clearing near the trees, where tiny fireflies had begun to flicker like dancing stars.

"Let's start!" Ruby said. "I'll be the seeker first."
Just as she started counting, a tiny glowing light peeked out from behind a leaf...then quickly vanished.
Rosie blinked. "Did you see that?"



The Flutterbys fluttered closer and spotted a small firefly, hiding behind a flower.

Its glow flickered once, then dimmed completely.

Benny tilted his head. "Hello there! Why did you turn off your light?"

The little firefly peeked out shyly. "Oh...um... I don't like being seen too much," it whispered. "What if I glow and everyone looks at me?" Ruby flapped her wings. "But glowing is what makes you special."

The firefly wiggled its tiny legs. "I know...but I feel so...shy."



Rosie smiled warmly. "It's okay to feel shy. But I think we can help."

Ollie clapped his wings. "Let's turn Hide-and-Seek into Glow-and-Seek!"

The firefly blinked. "Glow-and Seek?"

Benny grinned. "Yes! Instead of hiding, we all take turns glowing. That way, you'll see how fun it is to shine!"

The firefly hesitated... then gave a tiny nod. "O-okay...I'll try."

Ruby started the game by flashing her red wings in the moonlight. "Find me if you can!" she called.

The firefly and the others fluttered through the trees, searching for Ruby's glow.

"There she is!" the firefly giggled, spotting a red shimmer behind a tall sunflower.



Next, Rosie twirled in the air, her pink glow swirling like a ribbon. "Over here!" she called.

The firefly followed the soft pink light, growing a little braver with every round.

Then it was Benny's turn. His blue glow shimmered like the evening sky.

"This is fun!" the firefly whispered.



Ollie, of course, made it extra silly - twirling and zigzagging wildly, making his glow look like a lightning bolt.

"You're glowing too much!" Benny laughed.

"Impossible! There's no such thing!" Ollie twirled until he wobbled into a bush. "Ooops!"

The firefly giggled.



Now it was the firefly's turn. It hesitated. "What if my glow is too small?" it asked.

Ruby smiled. "It doesn't matter how big or small it is. Every glow is special."

The firefly took a deep breath...and lit up softly.

The meadow twinkled around it, as if the stars themselves had come down to watch.



"Wow!" Rosie whispered. "You look amazing!"

Benny grinned.

The firefly smiled, and this time, it didn't turn off its glow.

Ollie spun around. "You're the best glow-and-seeker ever!"

The firefly laughed happily, feeling braver than ever
before.



"Look at that! You're glowing brighter than a lantern bug at a firefly disco!" Ollie cheered, flapping in excitement.

Benny smirked. "Wait, are firefly discos a real thing?"

"I don't know, but they should be." Ollie twirled in excitement and bonked straight into Benny.

"Ollie!" Benny groaned, rubbing his head. "Sorry. I got too excited." The firefly giggled. "I think I like glowing after all."

And as the moon rose over the meadow, the Flutterbys and their new friend played beneath the stars, shining together, bright and free.

THE END

FUN FACTS about Fireflies

1. ✦ Fireflies are not flies—they're beetles with glowing bottoms!
2. ✦ Their glow is called bioluminescence, and it creates *cool light*, not heat.
3. ✦ They use their glow to talk to each other, mostly to say "Hello" or "I like you!"
4. ✦ Each species of firefly has a different blink pattern, like a secret code.
5. ✦ Not all fireflies glow—some only do when they're babies or only the males.

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Happy Fluttering

Nita Lesley

