

FADE IN:

EXT. THE SEA OF THE SUN - AFTERNOON

Dark clouds and an amber sunset loom over an endless field of BLUE FLOWERS. They sway in a gentle breeze.

A LOCUST zips through the field. A red diamond-shaped eyeball painted on his forehead. It makes a beeline towards--

SACRIFICIAL SHRINE - CONTINUOUS

A SHRINE made of stone atop a desolate hill. INSECT CULTISTS in black robes gather around an ALTAR where a ANT PRINCESS lays, struggling to break free. THE SWARM OF SANGRIA.

A CULT LEADER, in a scarlet robe, approaches her with an iron dagger in hand.

He raises it over the princess when battle horns BLARE out.

Dark clouds part as an armada of MURDER HORNETS swarm overhead in tight formation.

Leading the charge is ADMIRAL VESPA, an eye-catching murder hornet with the physique of a goddess. She stands before cultists, draws her spear, and points at them.

Hornet soldiers ZOOM full speed overhead.

SANGRIAN WARRIORS rise from the shrubs, meeting the hornets mid-air. A tense battle ensues!

The hornets SLASH through the Sangrian frontlines and free the princess.

A ROOKIE HORNET SOLDIER falls to the floor. Desperate for his life, he scrambles back as the enraged Cult Leader raises his dagger before him.

Vespa's spear drives through the leader. Just in time.

With a benevolent smile, she helps the rookie to his feet.

The battlefield calms. The Order of Sangria falls. The hornets celebrate their victory. It's brief...

The ground trembles, effigies crumble. A gargantuan PRAYING MANTIS bursts from underground! Four legs, vivid yellow eyes, and razor-sharp raptorial arms. The face of a monster!

It snatches the princess and scales the shrine.

Soldiers flee. Vespa stands tall. She locks eyes with the mantis and darts at it like a speeding bullet.

Face to face, the mantis SWINGS its arm at Vespa.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A LADYBUG CHILD gives a book report in front of a classroom of INSECT CHILDREN. A chalkboard reads: "WHAT INSPIRES ME:"

LADYBUG CHILD

--And then, Vespa flew faster and faster and faster! She looked that gross monster in the face and shoved her spear down its--

Her teacher, LEAF, a yellow butterfly with blue wings and beak-like face, cuts her off.

LEAF

Okay! I think we'll stop here for now! T-thank you Delilah.

An awkward beat as he stares at his class.

DELILAH

Aww, come on... I was getting to the best part. Didn't you like it?

LEAF

Of course I did. Your writing has improved so much this season! You had me at the edge of my seat the whole time.

DELILAH

Do you like the drawings with it?

Leaf turns to the next page-- a crude, crayon drawing of Vespa GORING the mantis.

LEAF

Oh, yeah... They're...
(clears throat)
Very creative...

DELILAH

I used my whole red crayon for this one!

LEAF
Did you now?

Leaf glances at the sundial on the wall. End of class.

LEAF (CONT'D)
That's all the time we have! Before
you go, I want to say it's been a
pleasure teaching you this season.
I hope you all have a great--

He turns back to an empty classroom. Not a single goodbye.

Leaf begins to pack his things in a MESSENGER COURIER. He stops at the stack of reports and flips through them. All of them about accomplishments by Vespa and the Armada.

Leaf sighs at the collection.

OUTSIDE WINDOW:

EXT. ARBORDALE - CONTINUOUS

A town high up in the grove of a mighty oak tree. VARIOUS INSECTS zip around wicker buildings and wooden walkways that snake around the tree's branches. It's full of life!

TITLE: **FLUTTER**

ARBORDALE - MARKET - CONTINUOUS

Leaf flies over an endless row of storefronts abuzz with activity. MERCHANTS peddle a variety of goods to PATRONS.

Center of it all, WORKERS put the finishing touches on a statue of Vespa. FERN, a yellow butterfly with teal wings and an ascending sloped nose, directs the effort. A LEAFY CLIPBOARD in one hand, a QUILL in the other.

FERN
A little more! You got an inchworm
to work with.

The statue SNAPS into place.

FERN (CONT'D)
And... perfect! Great job everyone!

Fern checks off the last item on a TO DO list.. A reminder at the bottom reads: "BECOME A LEADER!"