

THE SHORT STORY  
OF THE CENTURY

# THE GRASSHOPPER KNEW IT

—— MIRCEA COLOTELA ——

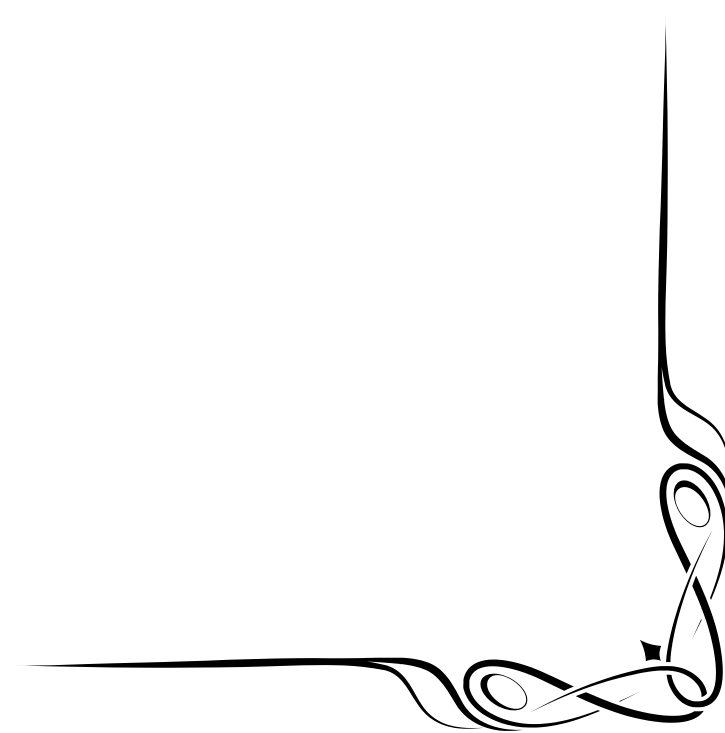
MANUSCRIPT



The family of newlywed grasshoppers is living hidden in one crack at the house base.

The place belongs to a Woman. She has retreated here, leaving the something called, city.

In a disaffected plantation of apples, out of which, only a few were saved, at the back of the house.



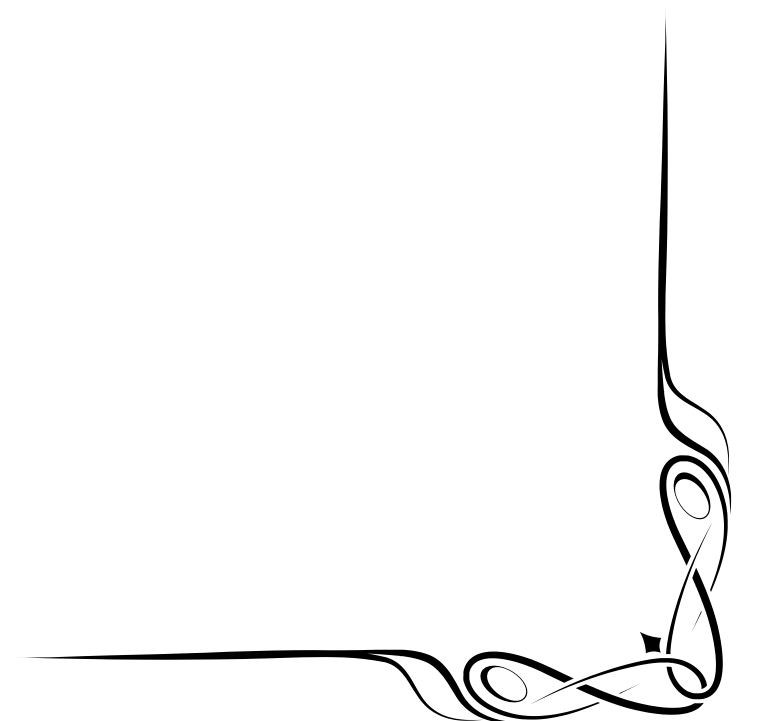
From time to time, the Woman picks an apple and for whatever reason, she throws it, after just one bite.

It is convenient for the hoppers. You see... the apples' skin is hard to bite and their diet is based on apple seeds.

The Woman's bite breach makes their way easier to the food.

A great joy for the grasshoppers to bring home the seeds found inside the fruit.

However, the Mother hopper is expecting, and the apple seeds are not going to be enough soon.

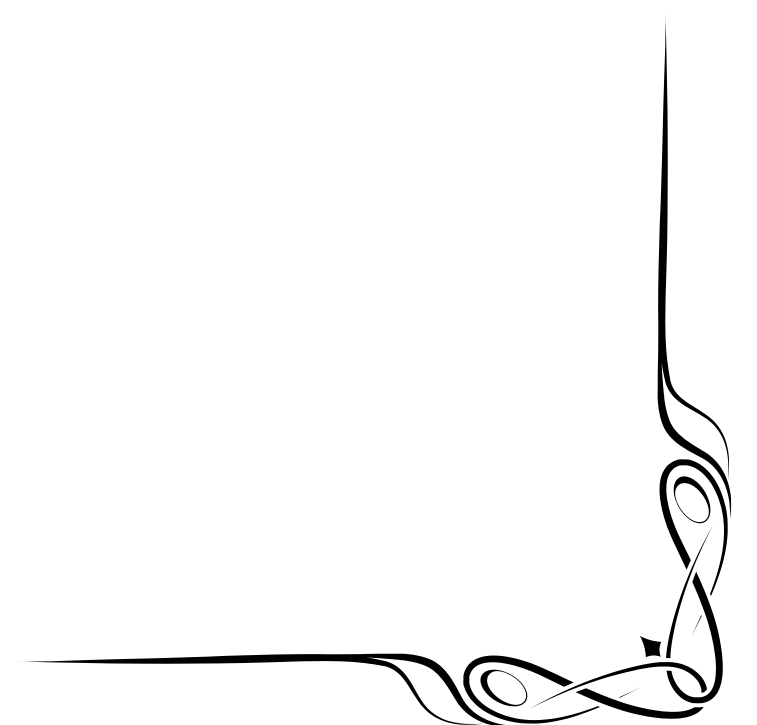


Not seemed to be worried, the family takes the daily sunbath at about half of the house wall.

Close to the horizon, in their view, there is a small, small building they have heard it is called, barn.

Strange tiny little creatures, like their Woman but much smaller, go in and out the barn.

Even she goes there, sometimes, with a basket full of apples.



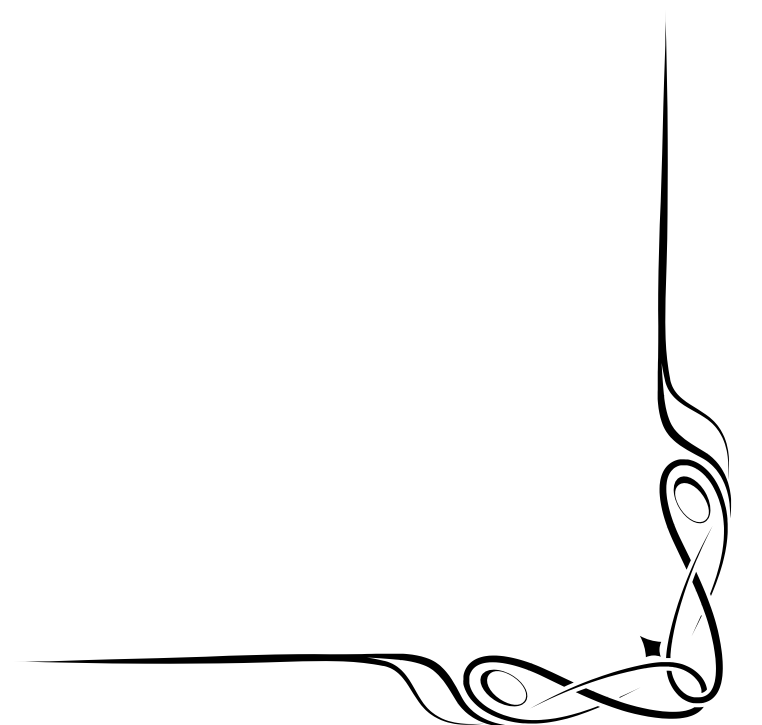
Not sure why the Woman becomes smaller as she gets closer to the barn.

It makes sense, otherwise, she would not fit inside. She grows back once home.

In the beginning, the Woman's trips to the barn were not a problem for the grasshopper family, but now, the apples are gone, and they ran out of seeds.

They have no choice but to go to the barn themselves.

They will do it tomorrow.



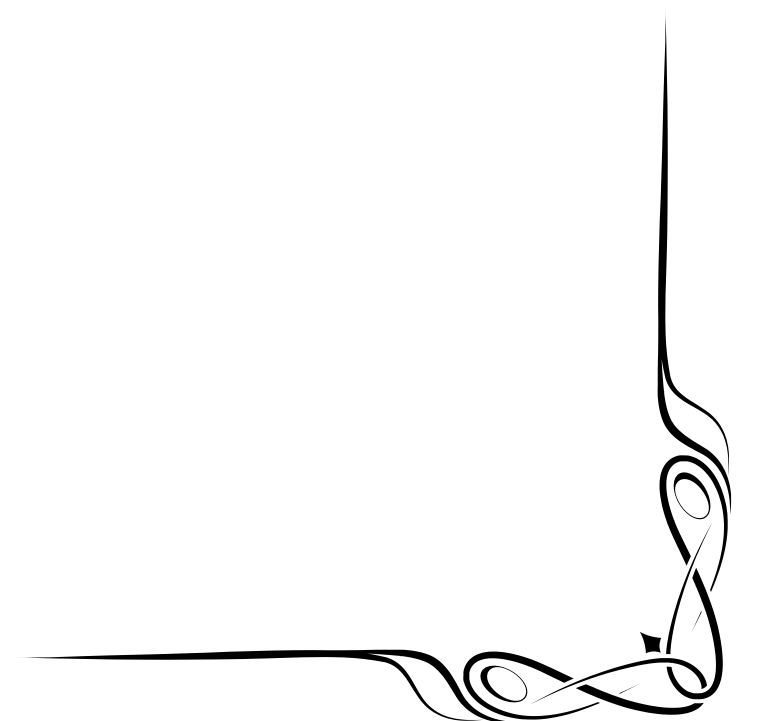
Wow! Over the night the Mother gives birth to a tiny little baby.

Both parents are tremendously happy.

They name the little one,  
The Grasshopper.

The hoppers start to jump immediately after birth, so soon, the baby is hungry.

As settled, the parents head to the barn to bring food for both them and The Grasshopper.



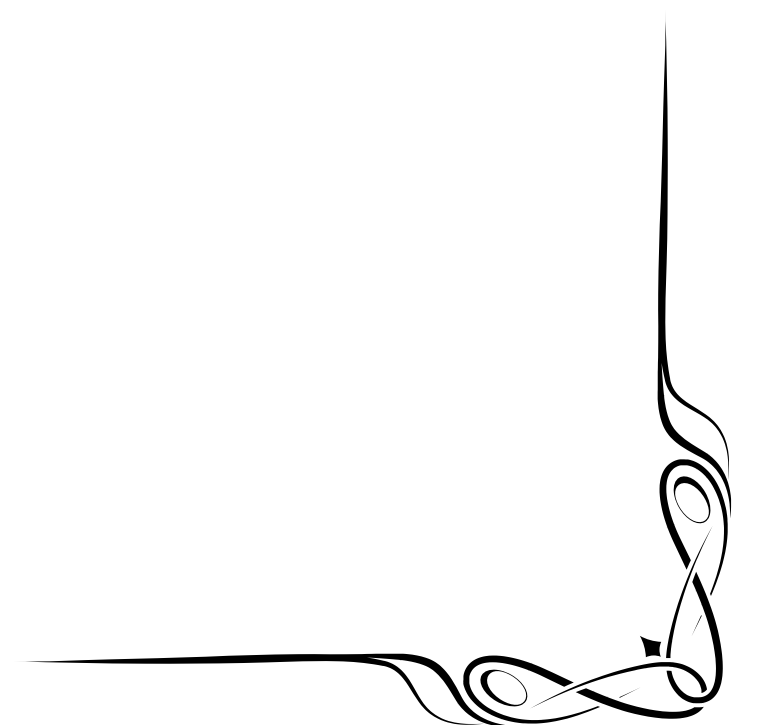
They have never been away from the house.

Funny thing, the more they walk, the barn becomes bigger and the house smaller.

The hoppers look at each other and decide to continue as their size remains the same.

Ashamed to speak, they talk to themselves:

*"Strange... the world is changing while we remain the same."*



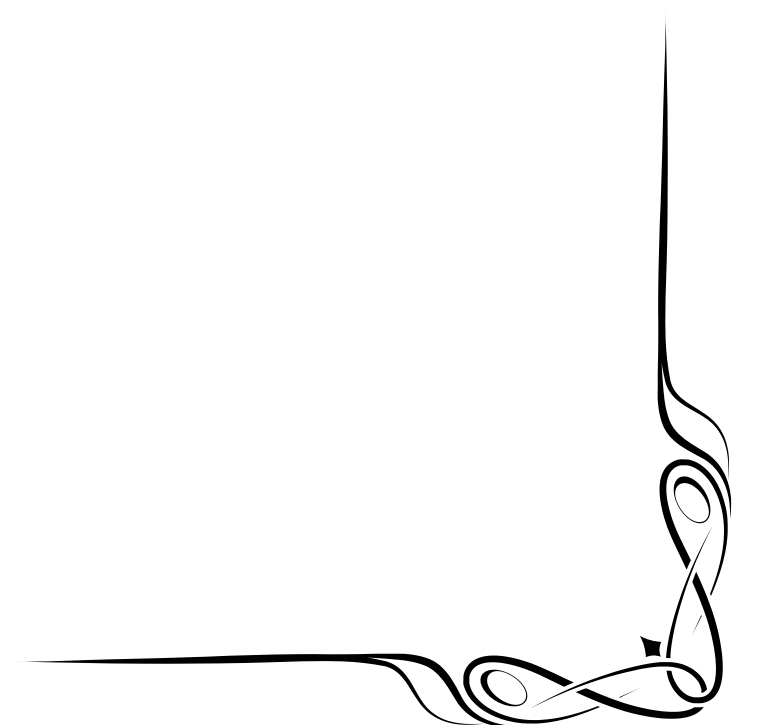
By the time they get there, the barn becomes huge, and the house almost disappears from their view.

Everything is bigger here, even the cracks in the wall. They take courage and enter what appears to be the main crack of the barn.

It is dark, silent, and nobody inside.

The outside light brightens the cloud of dust from the air.

They freeze for a moment.





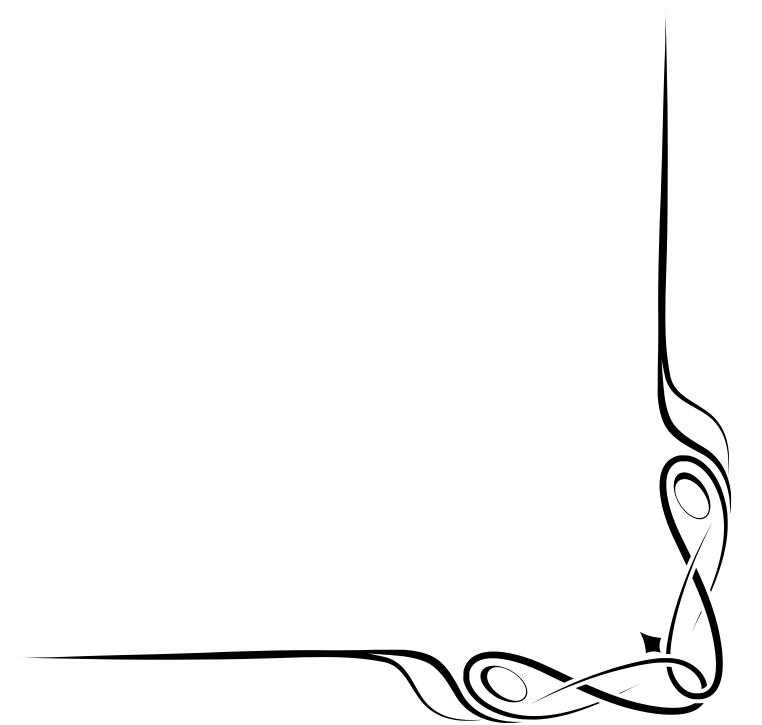
Their breath stops when a giant Rat closes the entrance.

*"Who are you and what are you doing here?"*

*"We are grasshoppers, looking for apple seeds for our child."*

*"Go away! There are a lot of us and no seeds to spare. Unless..."*

*"Unless what? Please tell us!"*



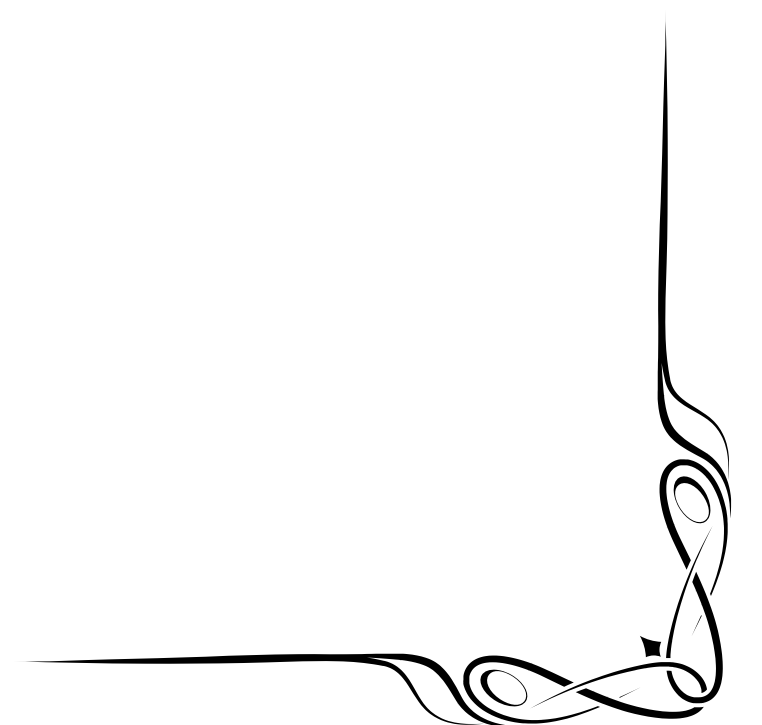
*"Look! Our colony should be home soon.  
I always come first, for safety.*

*We have everything we need, yet we  
lack entertainment.*

*I have heard grasshoppers singing a lot.  
Sing for us and we will give you seeds."*

*"Oh!" says the Father hopper.*

*"What you have heard it is for our own  
amusement. We did not know that  
others are pleased to listen."*



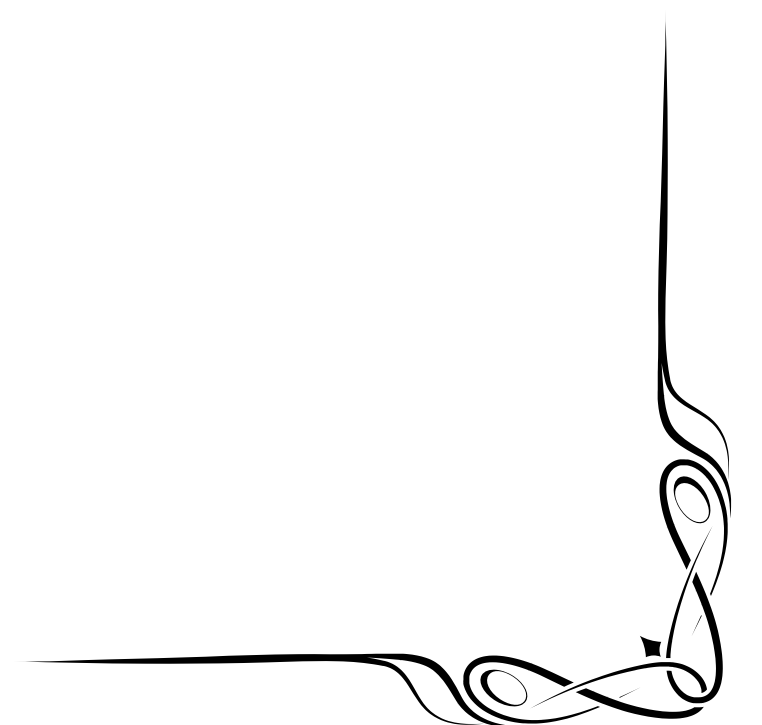
The rats gather one by one till they fill up the room.

The hoppers are introduced and start to play.

Everybody is happy and wants them again.

The apple seeds are paid for the day and promised more if they will bring their son with them, tomorrow.

Said and done, the whole family plays the next day and The Grasshopper is especially appreciated.



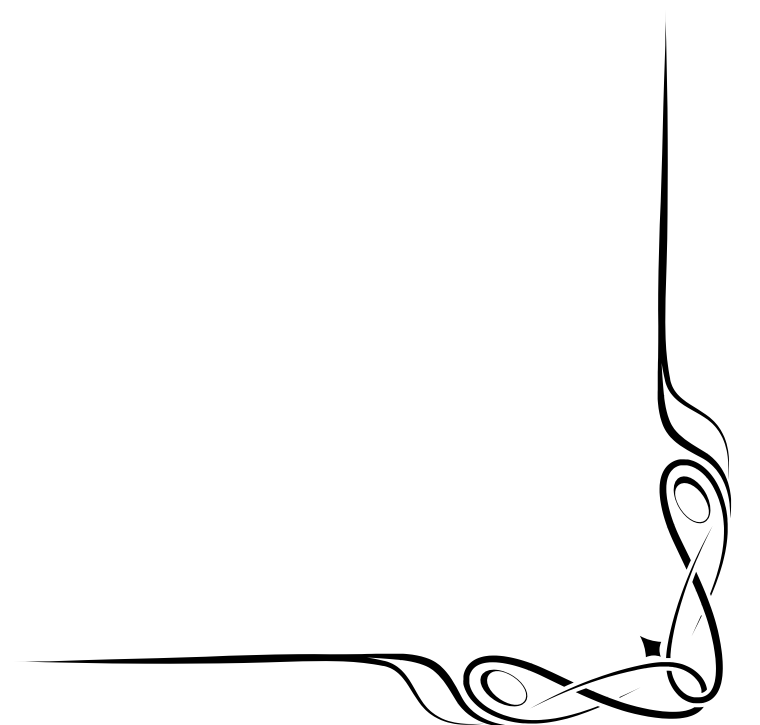
On the way back home, the little one is thrilled.

*"Mom, it was awesome! One day I am going to play to millions."*

*"Son, don't be too excited, the rats are many but they are never going to be millions."*

The second she finishes the sentence the sky turns black.

An Eagle grasps both parents and vanishes.



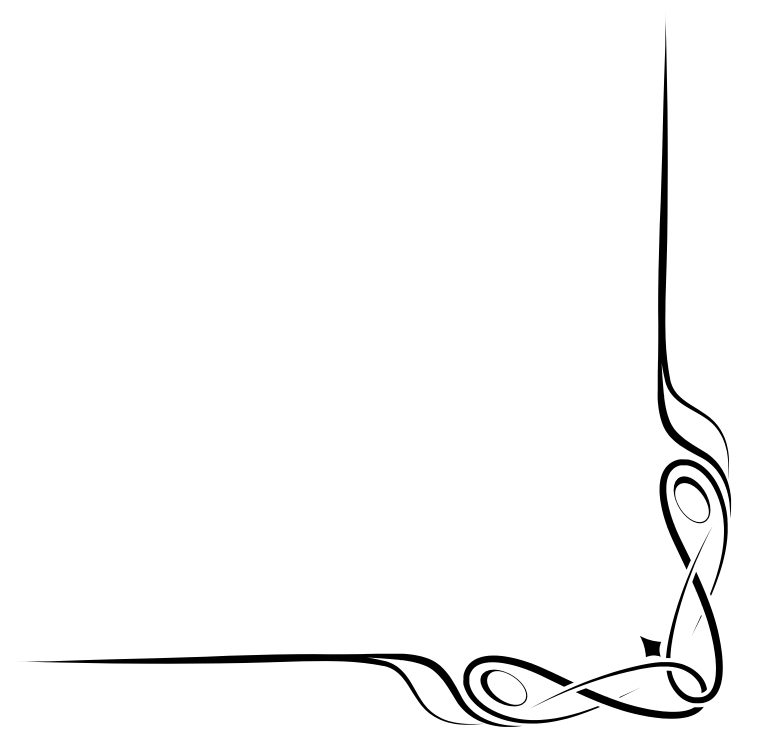
The Grasshopper is petrified.

He was told that eagles do not eat insects.

Alone, in the plain field, he drops a tear even if he was not thought to cry yet.

He does not know what to do and sits, staring at himself into the teardrop rested on a leaf.

Suddenly, an Ant appears out of nowhere and looks down to him.



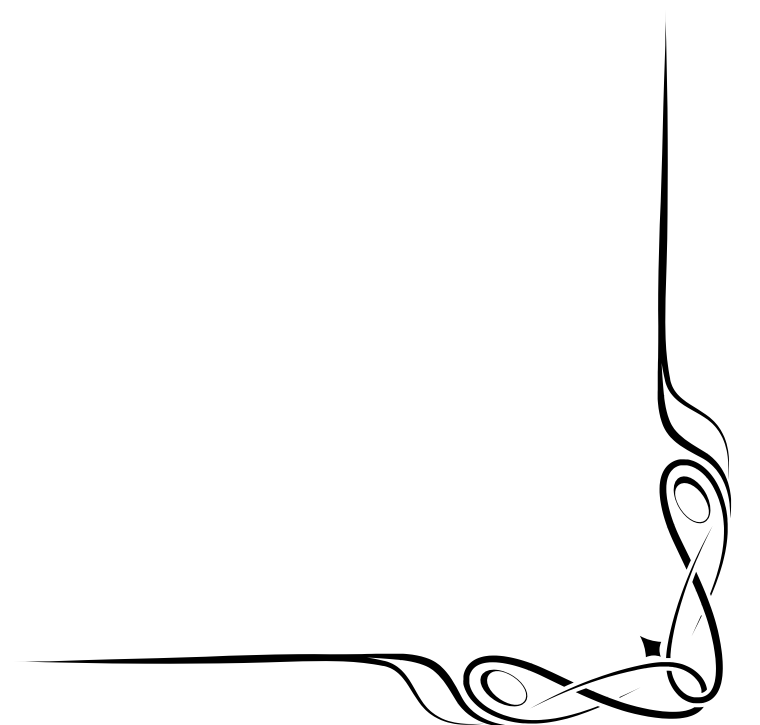
*"Look! I have been following you from the barn.*

*Come to entertain our colony but with one condition.*

*You leave here after me and pretend we do not know each other.*

*Our Queen is very rugged and does not allow entertainment.*

*Yet, we are secretly going to receive the joy of your play into our hearts."*



The Grasshopper fills with hope.

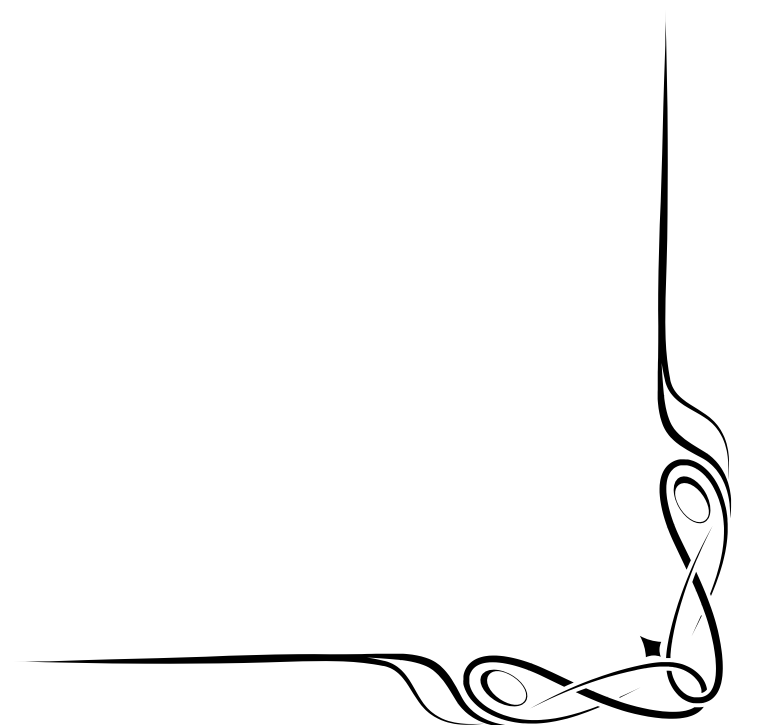
*"Done! Just one question. How many are you in the colony?"*

*"Millions."*

The Grasshopper drops another tear, rises the eyes where his parents vanished, and whispers:

*"See... Mom? I knew it!"*

The End



# THE GRASSHOPPER KNEW IT

*"The mindset is the opposite of the unset mind.  
The mindset produces results while the unset mind  
produces miracles."*

Mircea Colotela