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Diminutive Dispositions

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Diminutive Dispositions

Ross Karp

At first, the Ladybug may seem harmless,
Like a little, round, old lady wrapped in a spotted
shawl.

But for all of her maternal features, do not trust her:
Nothing is more important to her
(Not even a caring for a child)
Than a new red dress.

The Cricket seems
(To the uneducated)
The picture of a bold, elegant gentleman
But even his thick, glossy coattails can't disguise
this musician as a fraud:
At the first hint of confrontation,
He leaps away to greener ground.

And don't be fooled by the delicate little Mosquito.
She might have thin, waiflike limbs and baleful
eyes,
But if you come close to comfort her,
(She cries far too often)
This lecherous one is sure to get under your skin,
And bleed you dry.

But comic Daddy Longlegs is not like those three.
Like a minute jester, his bandy legs wobble and
jerk, and his shoulderless arms sway.
But if you are having trouble with another,
He will defend you from harm,
(He stays forever loyal)
No matter what.

The tiny Ant may seem useless in his minuscule
size,
But his stature does not compare to his work ethic at
all:
He hauls and carries objects
(Many are three times his size)
For hours on end,
And never complains about a single pained
appendage.

And the poor Silkworm always hides his homely
face.
This short, stocky artist lacks self-confidence and
feels he knows only the unlovely.
But get to know him,
(This takes some gentle reassuring)
And discover that he sits
Upon long threads of beautiful workmanship.

But none can fool you like the beautiful Spider.
Her entrancing hourglass figure and her deep,
mystifying eyes
(She has eight)
Lure you and hold you and you cannot resist her.
But her kiss is a treacherous one.
One lovely bite and her poison takes hold, and you
are gone.