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The Big Dog and the Bug

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From my office window in the city, I once watched something wonderful happen on the rooftops. The roofs are packed so close together they're almost a sidewalk, and you could stroll from one to the next.

A big brown dog sat at an open window overlooking the roof. Suddenly he spotted a brown bug, rather like a beetle, and became very interested. He stepped out onto the roof and sat down, staring. He crept a little nearer, then sat again, as if to say: *I'm not taking any chances. It may be a handsome bug, but it might be a poisonous one.*



The bug, meanwhile, was soaking up the sunshine and paid the dog no attention at all. The dog barked. The bug ignored him. The dog barked furiously. The bug went right on basking.

At last the bug decided to move on. He didn't hurry as if he'd been frightened away. He simply seemed to think it was time to head home. The dog trailed behind at a careful distance as the bug crossed to the next roof. There, to the dog's horror, he saw the bug's home: a hole near a chimney, and a big family waiting inside.

The great big dog fled from the little bugs and disappeared through the open window.

And the little brown bug, who was perfectly harmless, stayed safe from the big dog simply by acting as if he had nothing to fear.

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