

ZOMBIE CREATURES



EMILY SCHLESINGER

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Chapter 1

ZOMBIE COCKROACH

Green wings flash.
The jewel wasp waits.
Her next victim is near.

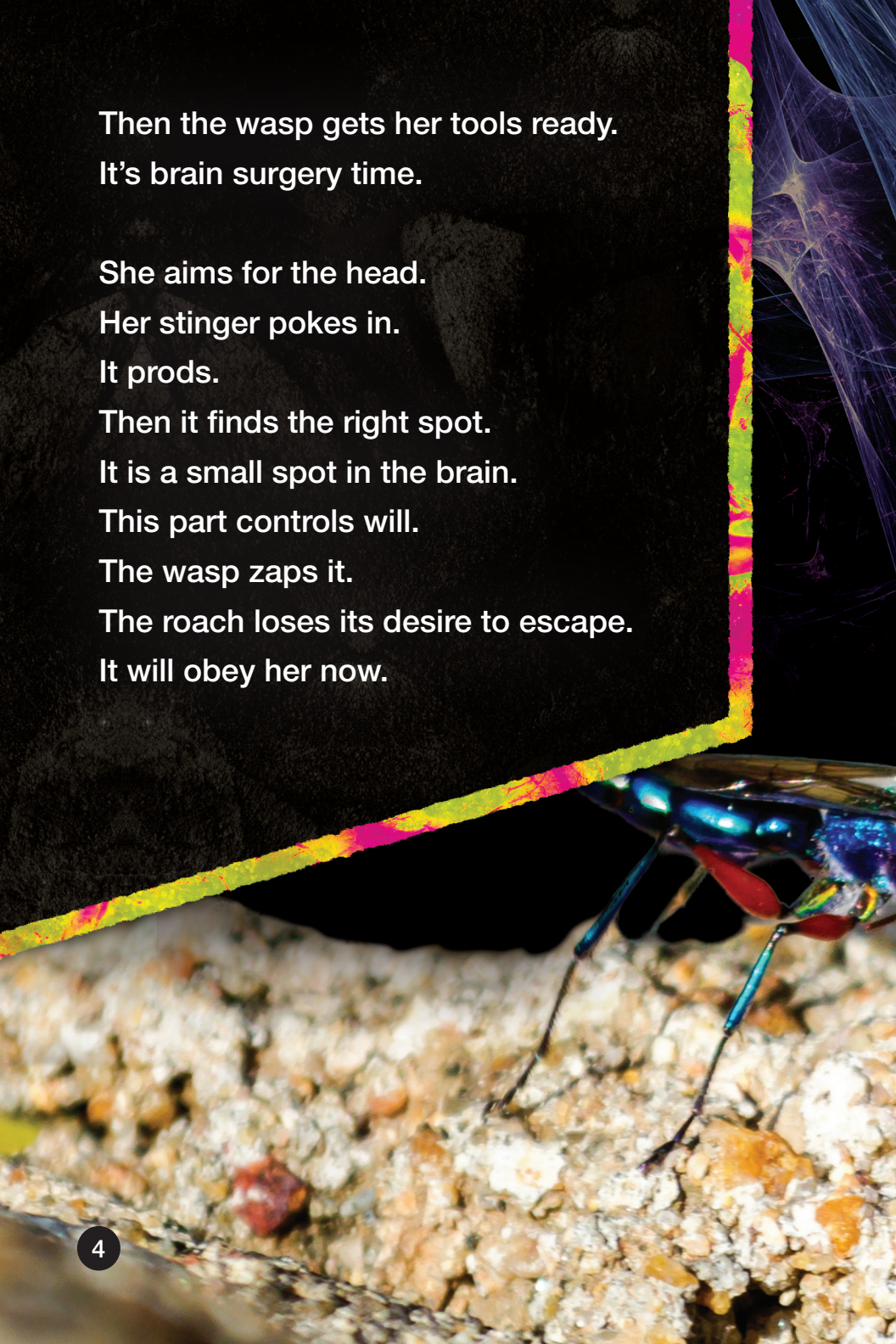
She is no match for its size.
But that does not matter.
She will take over its mind.

The **roach** is fast.
But the wasp is faster.
Poison is her plan.
She zaps the roach's legs.
They freeze.
The roach stops cold.



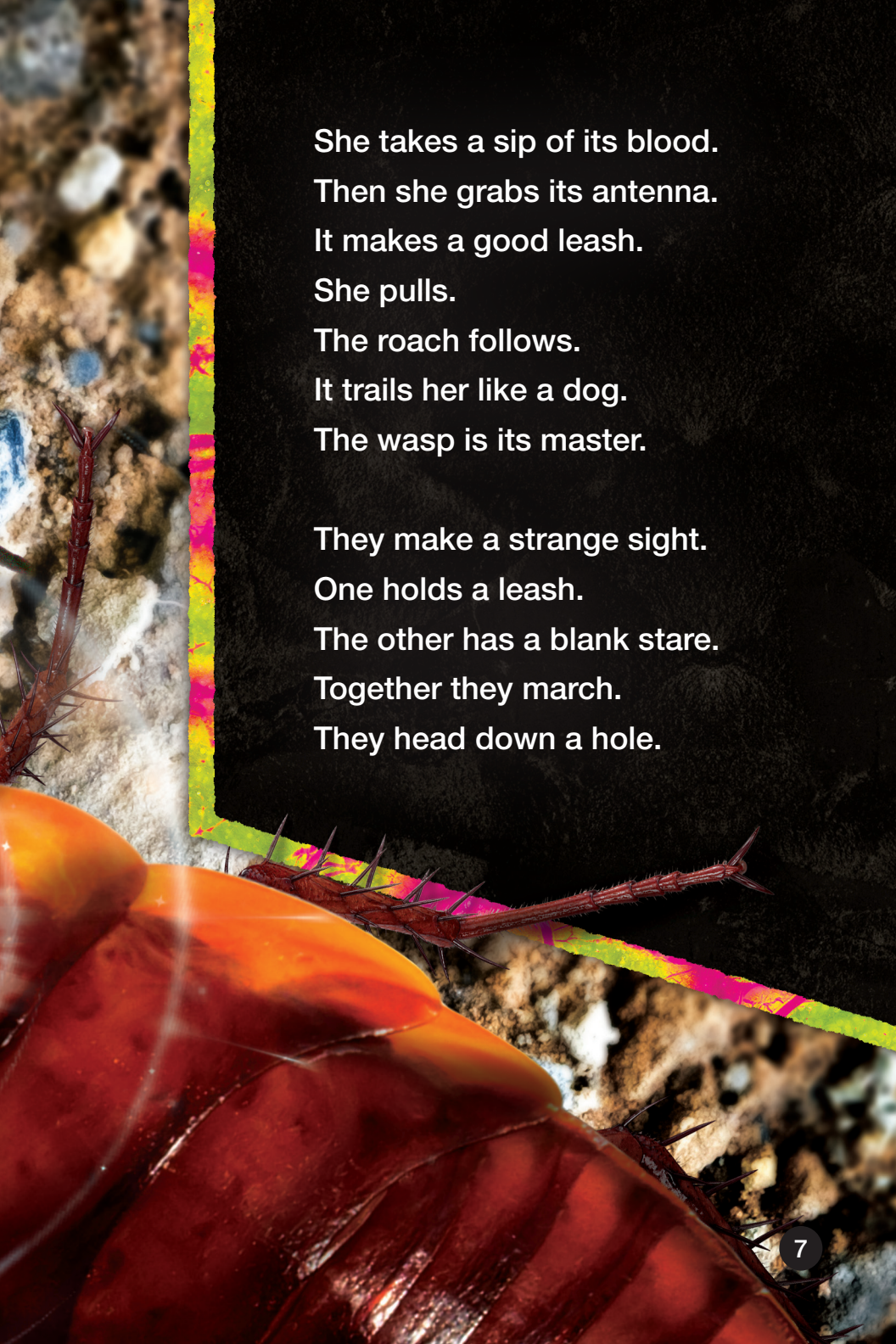
Then the wasp gets her tools ready.
It's brain surgery time.

She aims for the head.
Her stinger pokes in.
It prods.
Then it finds the right spot.
It is a small spot in the brain.
This part controls will.
The wasp zaps it.
The roach loses its desire to escape.
It will obey her now.









She takes a sip of its blood.
Then she grabs its antenna.
It makes a good leash.
She pulls.
The roach follows.
It trails her like a dog.
The wasp is its master.

They make a strange sight.
One holds a leash.
The other has a blank stare.
Together they march.
They head down a hole.



GLOSSARY

adapt: to change to fit better into an environment

barnacle: a small ocean animal with a shell

drug: a chemical that changes the body

flu: a virus that spreads from person to person

germ: a tiny organism or part of one that causes illness

host: an animal or plant with another organism living in or on it

larva: a young insect or other creature that is not yet an adult

life cycle: steps in an organism's life including birth, reproduction, and death

liver: an organ that helps clean the blood

mucus: a slimy substance produced by the nose or lungs

ZOMBIE CREATURES

What are zombies?

How could a bug become a zombie?

Why might a creature take control of another?

What does it mean to be mindless?

Could the flu make someone a zombie?

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