

# 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.



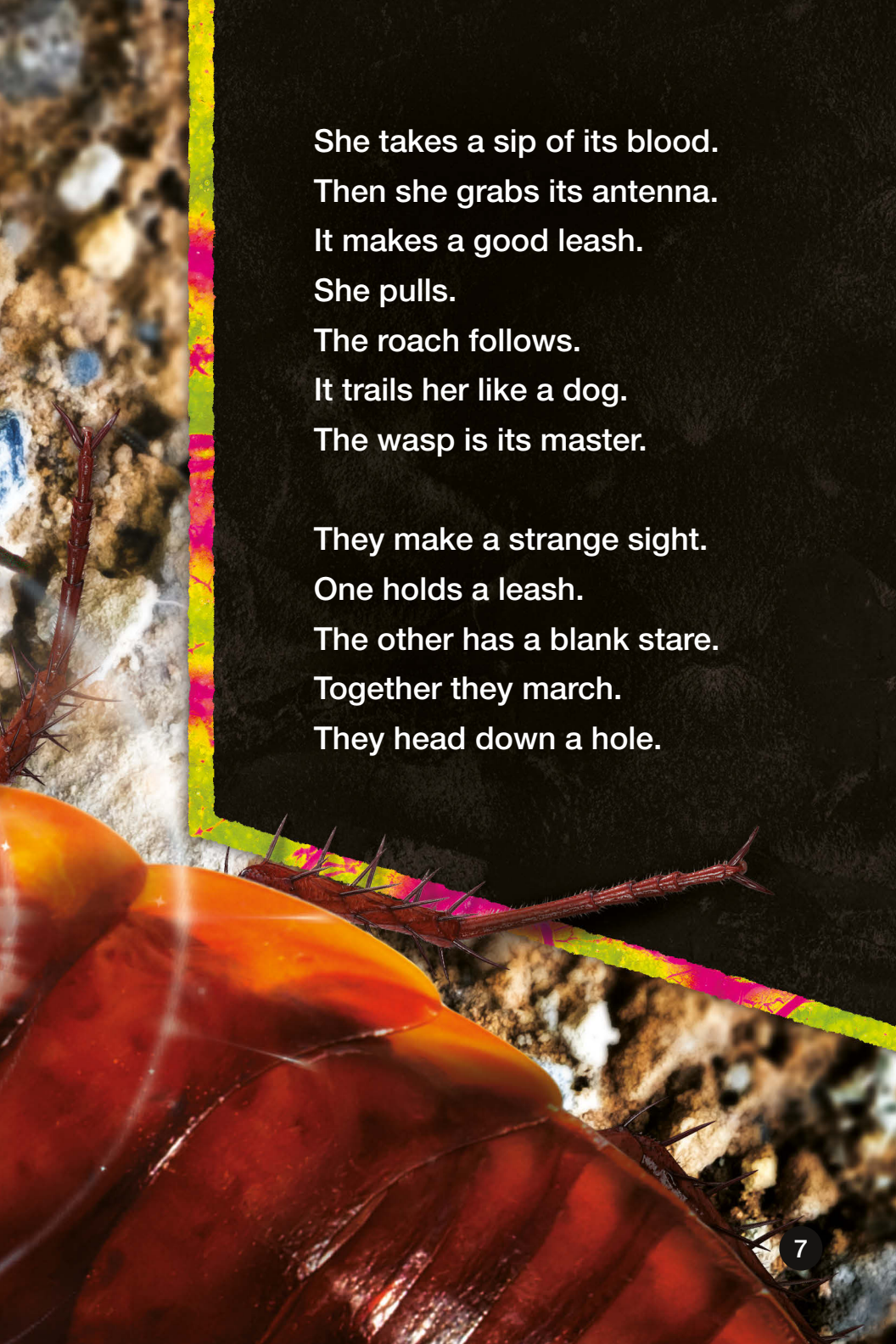










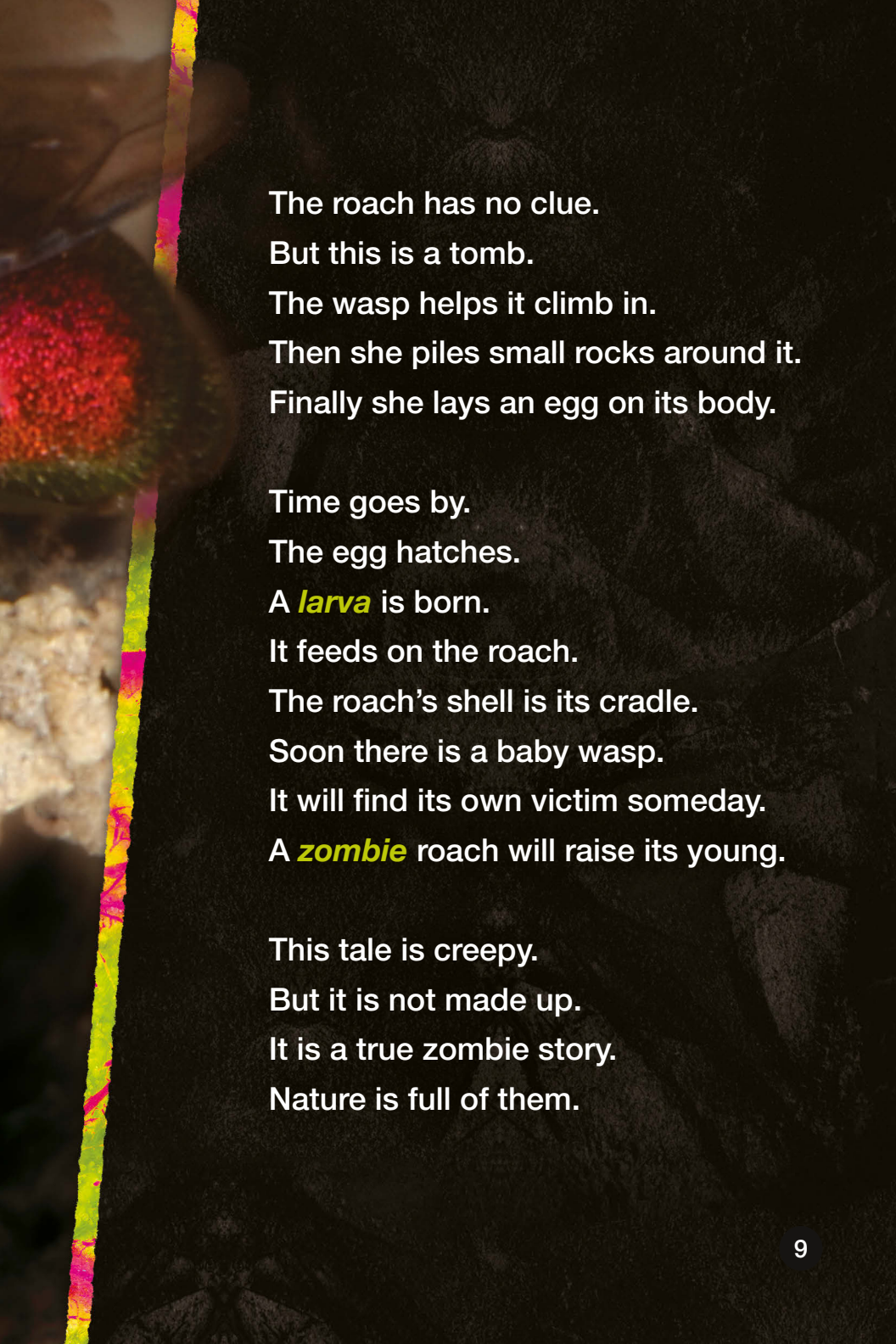


She takes a sip of its blood.  
Then she grabs its antenna.  
It makes a good leash.  
She pulls.  
The roach follows.  
It trails her like a dog.  
The wasp is its master.

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







The roach has no clue.  
But this is a tomb.  
The wasp helps it climb in.  
Then she piles small rocks around it.  
Finally she lays an egg on its body.

Time goes by.  
The egg hatches.  
A *larva* is born.  
It feeds on the roach.  
The roach's shell is its cradle.  
Soon there is a baby wasp.  
It will find its own victim someday.  
A *zombie* roach will raise its young.

This tale is creepy.  
But it is not made up.  
It is a true zombie story.  
Nature is full of them.



# 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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