

From *Insect Alphabet*, extract from chapter B (“Bee”)

She can still picture his grimace. It somehow reminded her of someone squinting, blinded by the light. ‘How is *melissa* called in English?’ A grimace. He was trying to find something to say that could interest her.

‘Bee. It’s called *bee*. It doesn’t really differ from verb *to be*.’ And after a short pause: ‘*Tu bi or not tu bi.*’ Gibberish.

‘Say again?’ He must have grimaced once more, trying to understand.

*To bee or not to bee.* Because ever since he had become a widower, bees were a synonym for life.

See also chapters B (bee) and L (libellula, dragonfly) from “Insect Alphabet” in English translation:

<https://verityla.com/2020/03/26/b-dimitra-kolliakou/>

<https://intranslation.brooklynrail.org/archive/france/>