

The Big Red Flower

Illustrated by Vannia Rizky



Do you recognize this flower?

It's one of the biggest flowers in the world.

It's massive and red, and stands out from all the others.

It's a Rafflesia flower! This one's name is Rafa.

She is very happy to be growing where she is.

Rafa is very different to most other flowers in this jungle.

The forest orchids are purple and have long, slender leaves.

Rafa has big petals that stand out in every way.

Sometimes the other flowers get very jealous of how big and healthy she looks!

It's all part of her beautiful design.





Rafa is a very friendly flower, but the others do not seem to like her very much.

She is happy to sit in the jungle alone.

There are only a few places where Rafflesia flowers grow.

This makes them very special!

Daffodils are white and yellow, and they give off a nice smell.

Rafa's smell is completely different to theirs.

It is very, very strong, and sometimes makes the daffodils sick!

But Rafa cannot help the way she smells.

She even calls it her 'special cologne'!



These are roses, and they are very proud of their red colour.

Rafa is also mostly red, but there are white lumps all over her petals.

The roses think they are ugly, but they are just part of Rafa's beautiful design.

She does not care what they think!



None of the other flowers are very kind to Rafa.

But she still does not mind.

She grows in her spot in the jungle with great dignity and grace.

The other flowers are simply jealous.



Rafa does, however, wish she had one thing that the other flowers had.

She often wonders what would happen if her smell was like the others, sweet and fragrant.

Bees and butterflies always come and visit the sweet and fragrant smelling flowers.

They always ignore Rafa.



But Rafa does not really think about this too much.

After all, she has her own special kind of visitors that love the way her cologne smells.

Her smell is unlike any other flower.

It has often been compared to rotting meat!

What kind of visitor would love that?



Flies, of course!

They love rotten meat, and anything else that smells like it.

They first come one by one, drawn to her smell like a magnet.

Then, more and more of them arrive in great clouds.

Soon Rafa is covered in hundreds of flies!



The other flowers are disgusted.

But more flies visit Rafa than there are butterflies or bees to visit the other flowers.

Her cologne truly is powerful!

The flies help take her pollen to other Rafflesia flowers.

This is how more flowers like Rafa can grow!



There is one more reason why Rafa is a special flower.

She is the biggest kind of flower in the world, and that makes her very famous!

People come from far and wide just to see her.

They love taking pictures with her.

But they tend to do so from far off, away from her cologne!





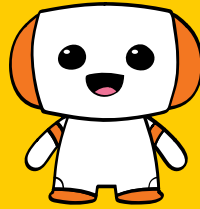
Rafa the Rafflesia flower may not be liked by the other flowers, but she does not care.

She doesn't need butterflies or bees, she has her loyal flies.

She doesn't need to smell nice, she loves her meat cologne!

And she always has plenty of human visitors.

It's great to be a Rafflesia flower!



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