

"I Can't Believe It Doesn't Grow on Venus!"

By Oliver Tixi

Picture the pines of Wilmington, North Carolina. Everything seems in order, except at the ankle-high level, where a unique plant only found here looks for food idly.¹ A fly lands on what it doesn't know is the Venus Flytrap's gaping maw.² Drinking from the plant's generous offering of nectar,³ its limbs brush the hairs of the plant.⁴ Then, sensing the potential Happy Meal, the Venus Flytrap's trap snaps shut, and the fly is now halfway on its way to becoming the food coloring for the new flavor of Gatorade. It devolves into slime, becomes sustenance for the plant, and is no more.⁵

However, this oddity in the botanical world is easily dispatched by hungry raccoons and famished rats.⁶ Even some insects manage to get in on the fun!⁷ And thus, the circle of life rolls on.

¹ Carl Zimmer, "Fatal Attraction," *National Geographic*, March 2010, Vol. 217, Issue 3, pp. 80-82.

² "Fatal Attraction," pp. 80-82.

³ "Fatal Attraction," pp. 80-82.

⁴ Audrey Anderson, "The Venus Flytrap's Circle of Life." In Susan Wise Bauer, *Writing With Skill, Level Two Student Workbook*. (Charles City, Va.: Peace Hill Press, 2013), pp. 176-177.

⁵ "Fatal Attraction," pp. 80-82.

⁶ "The Venus Flytrap's Circle of Life.", pp. 176-177.

⁷ "The Venus Flytrap's Circle of Life.", pp. 176-177.

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