

Patricia the Painted Lady Butterfly



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Patricia stretches her wings as they need to dry with the help of the soft Atlas mountain winds.

After a nourishing drink of nectar from a desert wildflower, Patricia flutters up, up, up into the sky to begin a miraculous journey all the way to the green countryside of Ireland.

This dangerous journey in the jet stream may take several days. Patricia and millions of other leaf sized butterflies cross over dry red lands, blue oceans, and through turbulent storms until....



Patricia lands safely in a garden full of flowers and most importantly, a small wild corner of nettles, docks, meadow grass's and shrubs.

Alighting at a Buddleja Bush, Patricia meets Reginald a splendid Red Admiral Butterfly. Reginald is pleased this garden has nettles and pellitory for his caterpillars to eat. Patricia drinks the energy rich nectar from the Buddleja which makes her feel much better after her long journeybut it is not Reginald Patricia has come to meet, so she flutters off to the next flower.





Softly landing on a Sunflower, Patricia is greeted by Barry the Brimstone, a dashing butter yellow butterfly. The nectar from the sunflower tastes delicious. Barry is delighted that this garden has alder buckthorn shrubs for his caterpillars to feed on..... but it is not Barry that Patricia has come all this way to meet so she flutters off to the flower nearby.



Settling on a Sedum plant, Patricia says hello to Peter the Peacock, Peter is a butterfly, adorned with striking colours to warn off predators. Peter is pleased that this garden has nettles for his caterpillars to eat. The sweet nectar of the sedum is much appreciated by Patricia and Peter..... but it is not Peter who Patricia has come all this way to meet so she flutters off towards another flower.





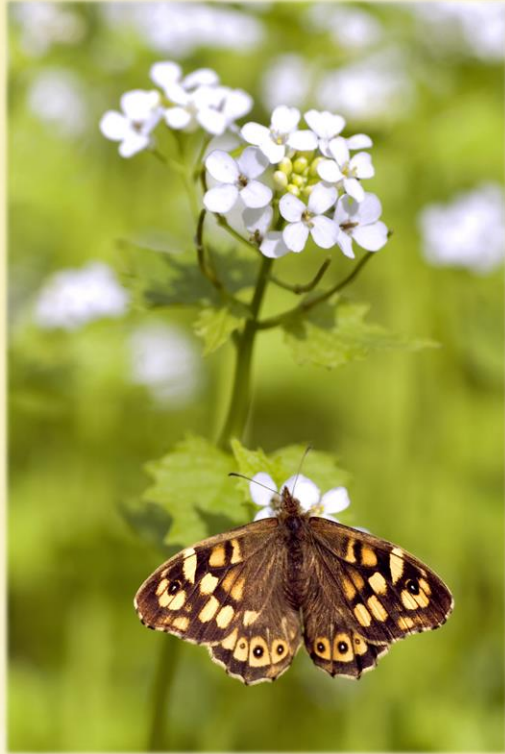
Halting next to Henry the Holly Blue Butterfly in his suit of blue suede, Patricia shares the nectar of some Mint. Henry is happy that this garden has Holly Shrubs so that his caterpillars will have food to munch on.....however, it is not Henry that Patricia has come all this way to greet so she leaves him to look for another flower.





Landing on some lavender, Patricia is welcomed by Tommy the Tortoiseshell Butterfly. He is dapper as always. After they both take their fill of nectar, Tommy is tickled pink that this garden has nettles so that his caterpillars will be able to grow big and strong. Alas.... it is not Tom that Patricia has come all this way to meet, so off she flutters to find more garden flowers.





Settling next to Steven the Speckled Wood Butterfly on some verbena, Patricia samples some more nectar. Steven is grateful that this garden has a patch of meadow grasses which will be a wonderful food source for his caterpillars. Still Patricia is not happy.....as it is not Steven who she come on this long journey to see. She flaps her wings graciously and continues her search.





Pausing at a cone flower, Patricia places herself near Connor the Small Copper Butterfly. The cone flower is a favourite source of nectar for Patricia as it is similar to flowers back in the desert. Connor is chuffed too that this garden has dock leaves and sorrel for his caterpillars to feed from. Sadly..... it is not Connor that Patricia wishes to visit. Once more, she spreads her delicate wings hoping that this time she will find what she seeks.





Patricia has been to many nectar rich flowers and is now feeling much better but her journey is far from over. Suddenly she spies another buddleja bush. This bush has endless golden flowers and branches which are plentiful. She flies and lands beside Paul who is another Painted Lady Butterfly. Paul has kindly saved a special place for her next to him!!





Patricia and Paul fly across to the wild patch of thistles, burdock, and mugwort, where Patricia can lay her eggs, which will soon hatch into caterpillars. The caterpillars will crunch and munch, eventually transforming into chrysalides. After a long rest, they will emerge to make the miraculous journey back over faraway lands and oceans to the deserts of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco.





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