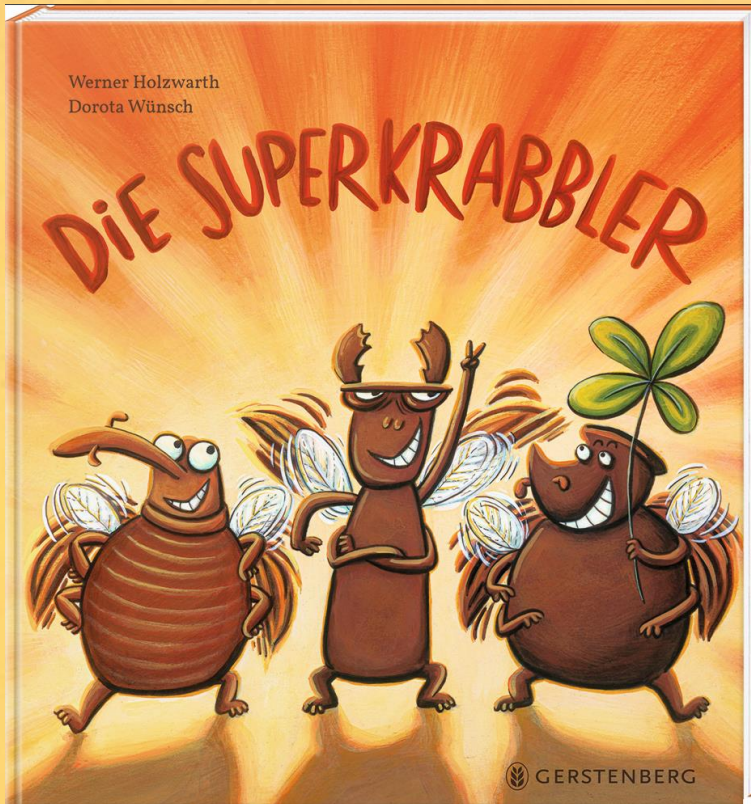


# Little Heroes and Big Friends



**4+**

Werner Holzwarth  
Dorota Wunsch

**Supercrawler**

32 pages, fully coloured  
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Just out of curiosity, Trunky the Weevil inspects an abandoned picnic area. He finds a small card with a picture of an animal with a trunk, just like him! The card says that this animal can weigh 7000 kilograms and grow up to 4 metres high. Amazing! His friend Nosey, the rhinoceros beetle, is very impressed and excited when they find another card, this one showing a rhinoceros.

And there is also a picture of an animal with antlers, just like the ones their stag beetle friend Little Hubert has. The three of them can hardly believe what strong animals they will be when they grow up. Their heroic fantasies are interrupted when a call for help brings them back to the forest floor. That's when they realize that they are great as little crawlers, and they're the best of friends.

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was born in Lodz, Poland in 1962 and studied for two years at the Art Academy in her native city. In 1984 she came to Germany on a scholarship, and she stayed until 1992, studying art at the University of Mainz. Since 2003 she has worked as a freelance illustrator. She lives with her family in Saarbrücken.

born in 1947, was Professor of Visual Communication at the Bauhaus University in Weimar. His 1989 book for children *The Little Mole* became a worldwide success. For Gerstenberg he invented the meerkat character in *I wish I were.... thought the Meerkat*.



Endlich waren die Zweibeiner weg.  
Wir jedes Jahr hatten sie ihr Flecknick  
direkt unter seinem Baum abgemerkt.  
Und wie immer hatten die Schiller  
einen ungläublichen Lärm gemacht.  
Mit gesch, was diesmal liegen geblieben  
ist, dachte Räuberchen, der Räuberkäfer:  
Ein Schokorange!!  
Ein halbes Karamellendörsel?  
So schnell er konnte, krabbelte er den  
Eichenstamm hinunter.  
Natürlich nicht, ohne vorher noch  
Spinnennetze Ausschau zu halten.



Mit diesen Worten trat er ganz nah an  
das Wasserloch heran und sah kilometer.  
Beinchen verwarfelt im Wasser  
paddelte.

Doch was war das neben ihm? Der kleine  
Nachbarskäfer, der ihn verwundert anblickte?  
Verwirrt blinzelte Superhorn mit dem  
Augen. Der Käfer blinzelte zurück.  
Dann hob Superhorn sein Horn.  
Der Käfer auch.

Nun winkte Superhorn mit dem rechten  
Vorderbein. Der Käfer mit dem linken.  
Jetzt wusste Superhorn, dass er in sein  
Spiegelbild blickte.



# Super Crawler - Rough Translation

Finally the two-legged ones were gone. Just like every year, they had held their picnic right under his tree. And as always, the students had made an incredible noise. Let's see what has been left behind this time, thought Trunky the Weevil. A chocolate bar? Half a jam sandwich? As fast as he could, he crawled down the oak trunk. Not without looking for spider webs first, of course.

"Nosey," he called seconds later, "come see!"

"What's wrong?" grumbled his friend, the rhinoceros beetle. "Feelers pinched? Trunk bent?"

"Look," whispered Trunky, pointing to a small picture lying on the ground directly in front of him.

"African elephant ... largest living land mammal on earth. Prominent characteristics: tusks and trunk."

"Trunk?! Like ... Like ...", Nosey stuttered.

"Yes, just like me! Only much bigger!

So that's what I'll look like when I grow up!"

Proudly, Trunky grabbed his little trunk and read on:

"Weight up to 7000 kilograms, size: 7 metres long. Height up to 4 metres."

"Cool," whispered Nosey, "super cool."

Then he quickly peered up to make sure that no bird was around.

"And what, pray tell, is that?!" squeaked Little Hubert, the stag beetle, who was scratching around in the fallen leaves behind them at that moment.

Just then, two more collectible pictures appeared there: a huge animal with a pointed horn and a slender one with magnificent antlers.

"Look at that horn!" shouted Nosey excitedly, "That's me! And it says when I grow up I'll weigh four tons. Is that a lot?"

"That's awesome," replied Trunky. "And ... read on ... you can chase away predators. And your horn's as hard as concrete."

"And what's that, please?!" Little Hubert squealed again and lifted up the last collectible card with his little antlers.

"The largest antler-bearing animal in our forests. Its antlers serve as a fighting weapon against enemies ... Enemies, meaning the stupid spiders. I'll show them with my battle weapon!"

"We'll show them all!" shouted Trunky and Nosey, falling into each other's arms in jubilation and clapping each other off.

"We are the greatest!"

"The amazing bugs!

"The super crawlers!"

"The heroes of the hedgerows!"

"The lords of the forest!"

"Guardians of the forest!"

"Come on, let's go destroy spider webs," cried Little Hubert.

"Trunky, you blow them ...."

"Er, you ...", Trunky interrupted him. "You'd better call me Giant Trunk from now on!"

"And please don't call me Nosey any more," Nosey said, "but .... Super Horn!"

"What about me?" squeaked Little Hubert.

"How about ... Big Hubert?" said Nasi.

"Big Hubert!" beamed Little Hubert. "I like that."

"So, Giant Trunk, you blow the cobwebs away. Super Horn, you spear them. And I'll shred mine with my antlers!"

"No escape for the spiders!" shouted Giant Trunk.

Cheers and high-fives.

"After that," Super Horn shouted, "we'll hunt the slow worm, because it killed my brother. Big Hubert will flush it out, Giant Trunk will blow it to me and I'll spear it at my Super Horn!"

"Sneak, you worms!" shouted Big Hubert.

Another high-five and a huge cheer.

"And then," cried Giant Trunk, "we'll chase away the owls who always want to eat us!"

"Then there'll be bumps for the owls," cried Super Horn.

High-fives! Enthusiasm! Huge applause!

"Come on, let's get to the spiders!" roared Giant Trunk and scrambled off.

At that moment, a strong wind came up and tore the spider's web apart.

"All I did was breathe in!" cheered Giant Trunk.

Afterwards, when the wind swept a branch from the tree and the slow worm retreated into the undergrowth, Super Horn was sure: "The slow worm is scared to death of me."

And when Big Hubert finally stood in the middle of the clearing and shouted "Come on, show yourself, you stupid owl!

... they suddenly heard a call for help.

"Sounded like Max," said Giant Trunk.

"Coming from the direction of the clearing," whistled Big Hubert.

"Don't worry, help is on the way!" cried Super Horn and scrambled off.

The waterhole was right in front of them in the ground. Just big enough for a beetle to fall into.

"Am I glad you're here," they heard Max the dung beetle call from below.

"Quick, get me out!"

The three of them looked down at the hole.

After a while Super Horn said sadly, "We'd like to help you, Max. But we can't get in there. The hole is too tiny for us."

"If we were smaller ...", Big Hubert squeaked.

"Yes, just normal beetles," sniffed Giant Trunk now.

"Then ..." sighed Super Horn, his eyes filling with tears, "... then we could save you. But like this ..."

With these words, he stepped very close to the waterhole and looked down.

And saw Max paddling desperately in the water with his little legs.

But what was that next to him? A little rhinoceros beetle looking at him in surprise?!

Confused, Super Horn blinked his eyes. The beetle blinked back.

Then Super Horn raised his horn. So did the beetle.

Super Horn waved his right antenna. The beetle waved its left.

Now Super Horn knew he was looking at his reflection.

"Yay," he cheered.

"We're not big at all! We are still little.

You're still Trunky and you're Little Hubert and I'm Nosey.

And the best part – we can save Max!"

Trunky and Little Hubert looked at each other in amazement, shook their heads in bewilderment, then put their antennae up and yelled, "Come on, let's save Max!"

"You are the greatest," said Max when he had solid ground under his feet again.

"No," said Trunky, Nosey and Little Hubert as if from the same mouth: "We'd rather be small!"



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