

Half the size they were when I started.
But they're kind of cute, I think.
Could you—?

Pilar hands Zora the hive lid, scoops out a sample, and puts it in a test tube.

Then we just take a sample.
Anddddd we put the sample in here.
Easy-Peasy.

ZORA.

The honeycomb—why does it look like that?

PILAR.

I think it's always been like that.

ZORA.

The classic honeycomb pattern is created by surface tension.
The wax softens from the heat and gets / pulled—

PILAR.

So you're like, really a PhD person.

ZORA.

It's just basic—
Sorry.
Never mind.

PILAR.

No, it's—
No one ever explained it to me, so—
Surface tension.

ZORA.

The wax gets pulled at the junctions where the walls meet so the circles indicate there's something interrupting that process. It's unusual. Well, at least—in the classical sense.

PILAR.

Have you always liked bees?

ZORA.

I was obsessed with them when I was a kid.
Diagrams on my wall. Things like that.

One time a bee landed on me when I was on the playground—
I was young, maybe six?
And all the other the kids ran away screaming—
but I just got real quiet and waited until the bee
Warmed up and flew away.

PILAR.

This may be hard for you then.

It's a lot of sweeping up dead bees.
A lot of dead bees.
A lot a lot of dead bees.

ZORA.

I think it's important.

Not everyone wants to be there for the end.
But someone should be here.
Give them that.

PILAR.

O wow.
That's super beautiful.

I mean for some people this job is just a paycheck.

Like CeCe was a paycheck person.
She was here before you.
CeCe was all—
clock in, clock out, who cares, eat lunch alone, whatever.....
She quit—mm—a month ago?

Yeah.....

Some people are paycheck people
And for some people, people like you, this job is like—
Way more than that.
It's noble.

Okay, so now we measure the thickness of the wax—

ZORA.

Are you a paycheck person or a / “more than that” person?

PILAR.

I think,
Thank you for asking,
I really...
When I first started I was excited to work here.
I saw the job description and it was like—
Me (!)

I can lift at least fifty pounds. I can collect data. I'm not afraid of bees.

Yeah. I was excited to work here.

So—zero point one one three millimeters.

Just write down this other number. Sixty point blah blah...

ZORA.

You'll know what it means?

PILAR.

The humidity. Yeah.

What was I saying?

ZORA.

When you started—

PILAR.

Right right right
So when I started,
I was really—

Hopeful?

But now,
It's sort of all the same.
Or, you hope it's the same.
You want the numbers to, you know,
Stabilize.

.....

I think you'll like it here.
The bees are very sensitive and so so smart.
They dance!
They tell jokes.

ZORA.

They tell jokes?

PILAR.

Yeah, totally.
Hive 2 is so funny sometimes.
This one time—o, man, this one time—

Gwen reenters.

You had to be there.

GWEN.

Okay, so Zora? Right?
That's your name?

ZORA.

Zora.