I Am Who I Am
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With a nod to Stellaluna by Janelle Cannon

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Setting: Garden with some rocks.

At Rise: Roxy Roly Poly is sitting by some rocks and Fritz Firefly enters.

[FRITZ FIREFLY]

Hi Roxy. I haven't seen you in a long time. How are you doing?

[ROXY ROLY POLY]

Oh, hi Fritz.. I'm doing OK I guess.

[FRITZ FIREFLY]

Just OK? What's the matter?

[ROXY ROLY POLY]

Oh I don't know. I've been thinking and it seems like everybody has something that they're good at, that makes them special but me.

[FRITZ FIREFLY]

I wouldn't say that. We'd be up to our antennae with fungi and decaying things if it wasn't for you and your family. You're pretty good at keeping things cleaned up around here.

[ROXY ROLY POLY]

Oh, that's not a big deal. Everybody's got to eat.

[FRITZ FIREFLY]

Well, I think it's a big deal.

Stage action: Enter Patti Praying Mantis

[PATTI PRAYING MANTIS]

Hi guys! What's with the long face Roxie?

[ROXY ROLY POLY]

Oh, it's nothing.

[FRITZ FIREFLY]

Hi Patti. Seems like Roxie feels that she's not good at anything and is feeling a little down about it.

[PATTI PRAYING MANTIS]

What do you mean not good at anything? I don't know anybody else that can roll themselves up into a ball like you can. [ROXY ROLY POLY] You mean like this? Stage action: Roxy Roly Poly rolls into a ball. [PATTI PRAYING MANTIS] Yes, that's so cool. How did you learn to do that? [ROXY ROLY POLY] I don't know, everybody in my family can do that. It keeps us from overheating and drying up. [PATTI PRAYING MANTIS] Well, no one in my family can. I think our long skinny legs would get in the way. What about you, Fritz? Can you roll into a ball like Roxie? [FRITZ FIREFLY] Sure can't. But I can do something that's pretty special. [ROXY ROLY POLY] What's that? [FRITZ FIREFLY] I can light up my **abdomen**. [PATTI PRAYING MANTIS] Abdomen? What's that? [FRITZ FIREFLY]

Oh that's a scientific word for my "behind" if you know what I mean. Here, I'll show you.

Stage action: Fritz Firefly lights up.

[PATTI PRAYING MANTIS]

Whoa! That's super cool.

[ROXY ROLY POLY]

Yeah, if I could do that I'd stay lit all the time. [PATTI PRAYING MANTIS] Me too. Why do you do it? [FRITZ FIREFLY] We guys mostly light up to attract girls. But we also light up to attract **prey** or food. Also when we light up we don't taste so good so predators learn to stay away from us. [PATTI PRAYING MANTIS] Well, whatever the reason, I think it's pretty neat. [ROXY ROLY POLY] What about you Patti? What's special about you? [PATTI PRAYING MANTIS] Gosh I don't know. I've never given it much thought. Let me think. [FRITZ FIREFLY] I know one thing you're excellent at. [PATTI PRAYING MANTIS] What's that? [FRITZ FIREFLY] Hunting! [PATTI PRAYING MANTIS]

I guess you're right. I sure do love to hunt!

[ROXY ROLY POLY]

Yeah, your long sticky legs can reach out and grab some poor, unsuspecting cricket for your dinner.

Stage action: Patti Praying Mantis wiggles her front legs.

[FRITZ FIREFLY]

Also, your green and brown body really made it hard to see you in a flower bed. You have great camouflage.

[PATTI PRAYING MANTIS]

You're both right. Those things do make me special. Thanks guys.

[ROXY ROLY POLY]

You know it seems we all have things that make us unique and special if we think about it. I'm glad we had this little talk. I feel much better. Well, I'd better head home. It's time for me to roll up and take a little nap. See you later.