

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A MAYFLY

I

As a Mayfly, a proud member of the species *Dolania americana*, I today take up a pen betwixt my vestigial limbs to record the myriad events of my happy and eventful life. As I'm sure you know, Mayflies have the shortest life span of any insect, and females like myself can only expect to live for five minutes. So I thought it was vitally important to take this time to sit down and record for posterity the incredible

II

I came upon the above manuscript, my mother's unfinished autobiography, by chance, and it fell to me, amongst my 7,000 odd Mayfly siblings, to complete this, the story of her life. Although she died before it's completion, she existed for a long and productive span of almost four and a half minutes, and so I thought it only right and fitting that

III

As perhaps the world's most famous female Mayfly archaeologist, it gives me great pleasure to share with you my most recent discovery: the "Autobiography of a Mayfly" above. This fascinating document provides real insight into the daily lives of ancient generations of Mayflies. The insects that crafted these words lived over *three days* ago. But their concerns, their hopes, their dreams, are just as