

Little Bird's Song

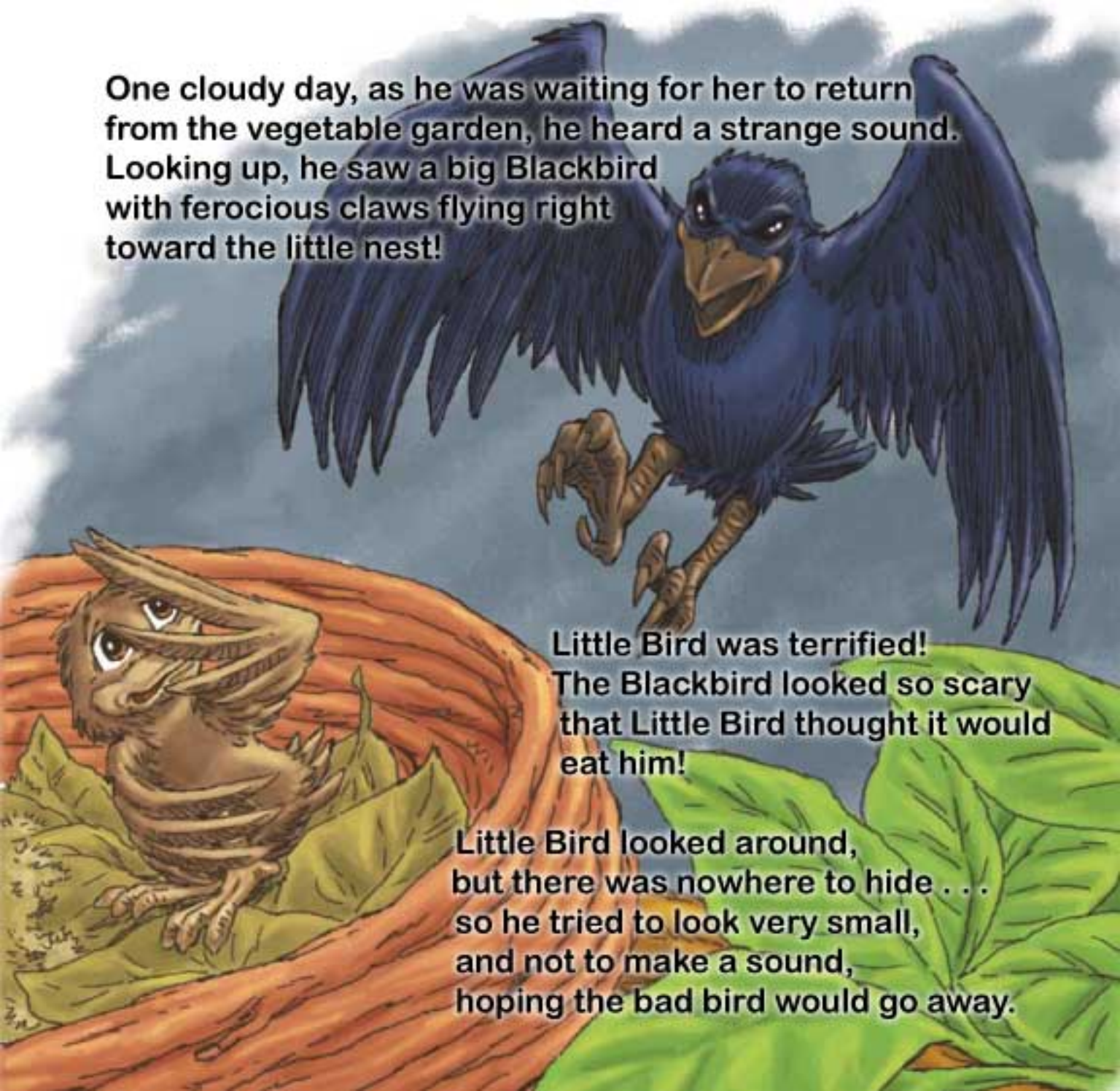


By Emily Isaacson

Illustrated by Ken Save

Each morning as the Millers made breakfast, the Bird family would sing to the new day. Even Little Bird, the littlest of them all, had a song to sing.





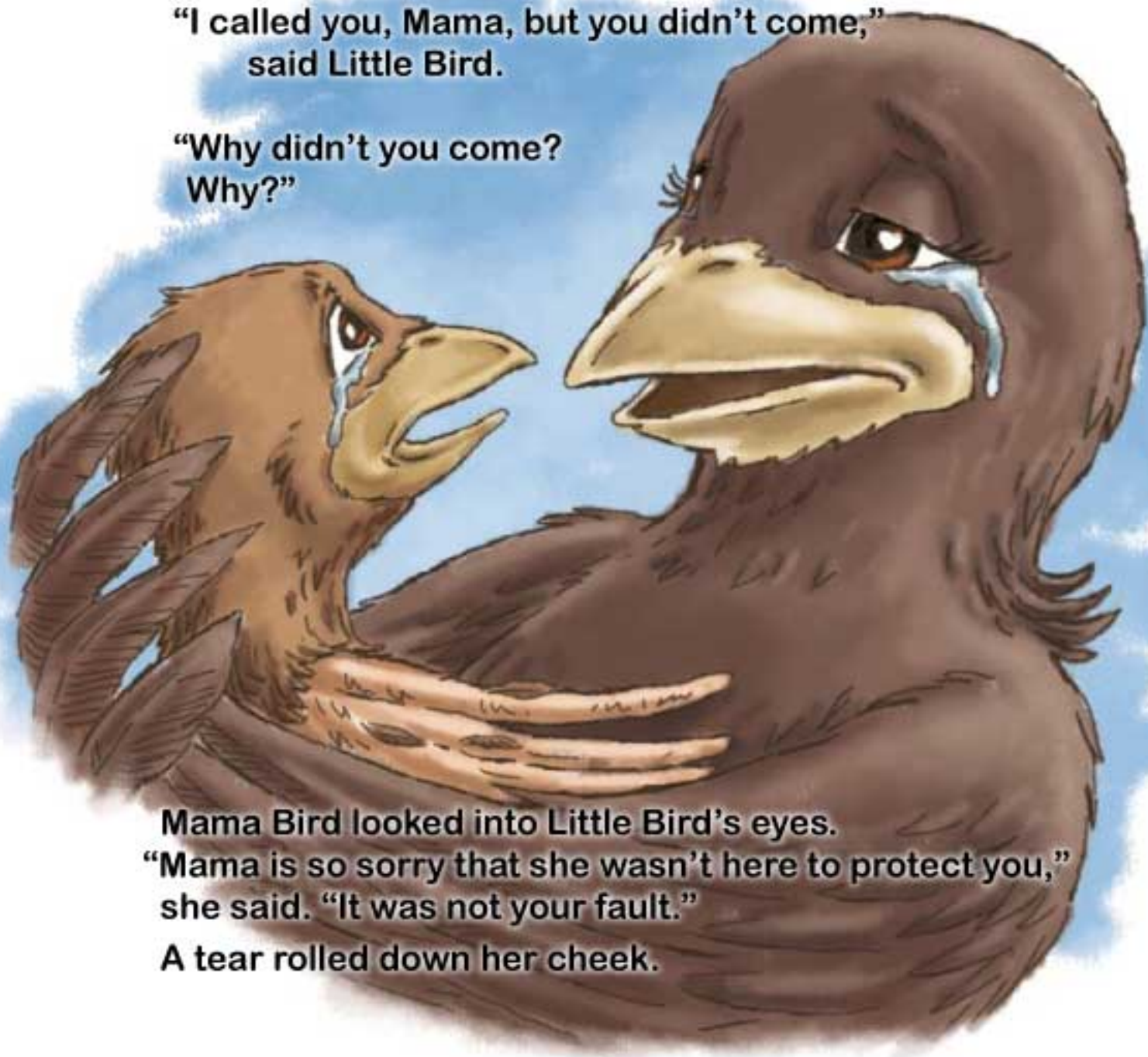
One cloudy day, as he was waiting for her to return from the vegetable garden, he heard a strange sound. Looking up, he saw a big Blackbird with ferocious claws flying right toward the little nest!

Little Bird was terrified! The Blackbird looked so scary that Little Bird thought it would eat him!

Little Bird looked around, but there was nowhere to hide . . . so he tried to look very small, and not to make a sound, hoping the bad bird would go away.

**“I called you, Mama, but you didn’t come,”
said Little Bird.**

**“Why didn’t you come?
Why?”**



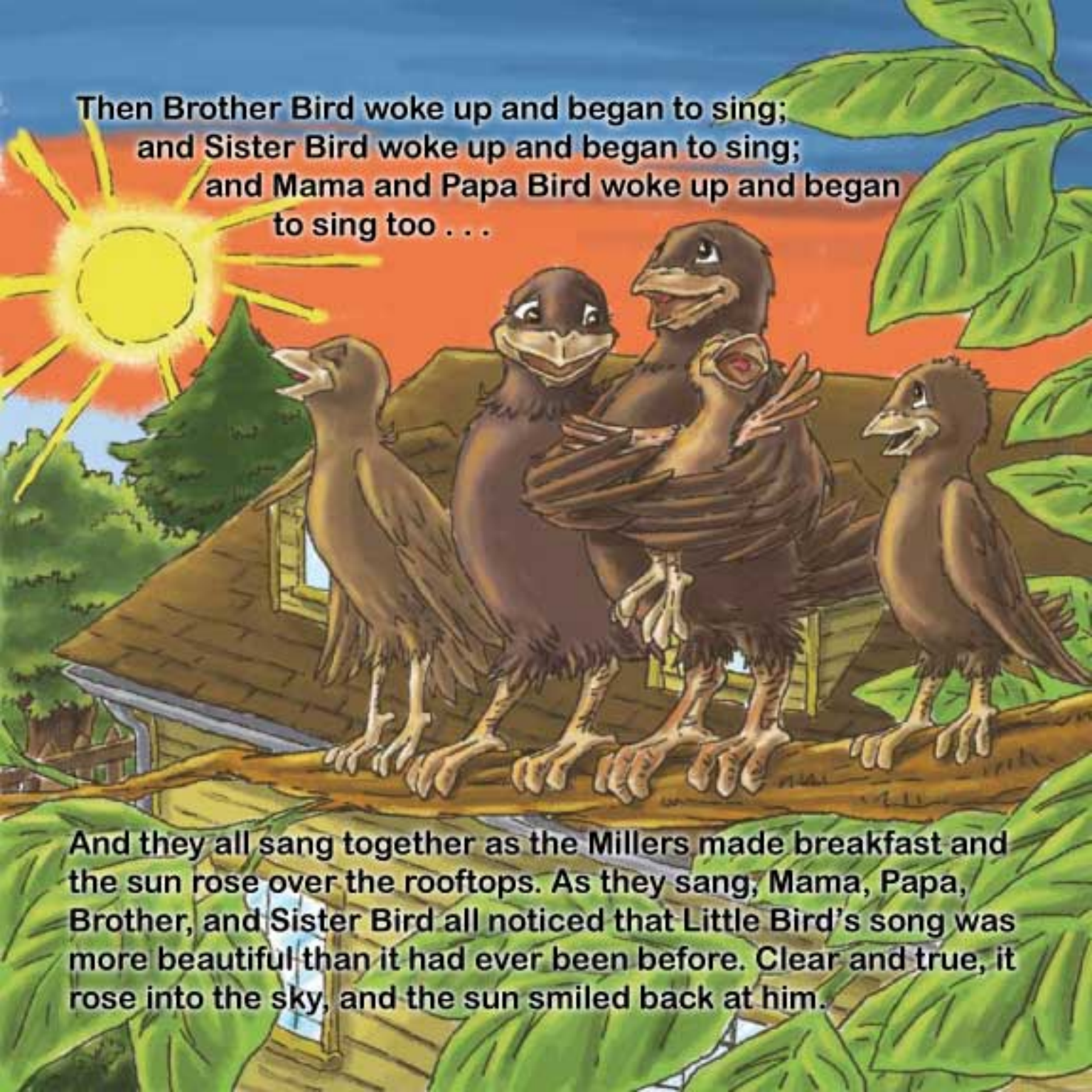
**Mama Bird looked into Little Bird’s eyes.
“Mama is so sorry that she wasn’t here to protect you,”
she said. “It was not your fault.”
A tear rolled down her cheek.**



Papa Bird, Mama Bird, Sister Bird, and Brother Bird all pulled feathers out of their own wings to keep Little Bird warm. They put the warm feathers around him like a warm blanket so he would feel safe.

He nestled down in the warm feathers and closed his eyes as Mama Bird began to sing. This was her song:

“Every little bird has a song to sing,
a song to sing, a song to sing.
Every little bird has a song to sing,
and no one can take it away.”



Then Brother Bird woke up and began to sing;
and Sister Bird woke up and began to sing;
and Mama and Papa Bird woke up and began
to sing too . . .

And they all sang together as the Millers made breakfast and the sun rose over the rooftops. As they sang, Mama, Papa, Brother, and Sister Bird all noticed that Little Bird's song was more beautiful than it had ever been before. Clear and true, it rose into the sky, and the sun smiled back at him.

AFTERWORD

For many years I have used the story in this book to help children express their pain. Children will be overwhelmed with confusion, fear and despair when someone or something has overpowered them.

For some, this book has been a living parable stimulating children to write their own stories with their own characters and words that paint themselves into the picture.

There have been times when a little child looked at this story and said "That's me!" and yet did not receive the warm support of their family like Little Bird. The story surfaced that child's own feelings around lack of protection and it became a doorway for healing to come to the child's heart.

At other times, children who believe in God have seen the story symbolically represent the loving care of God and His desire to bring comfort and healing to their pain. Many, after reading this book, were able to talk, heal and then begin to sing again.

Little Bird could be any child, or the child within, who has lost his sense of who he is. He or she has lost his song and his ability to fly. The black bird who took all of Little Bird's feathers could be a bully at school or a sibling who doesn't listen. It could be a disease with which the child is struggling. The black bird could be a person who abused a child emotionally, physically or sexually. The child is left feeling discouraged and afraid. The black bird can potentially steal the child's identity. The black bird could represent anything that overwhelms a child such that the child is stuck and needing comfort and understanding. Little Bird's family represents those courageous and healing persons who bring love and support to a small broken heart. Listening and truth-telling authorities inspire the little ones to risk and to sing their song and to fly again.

The author has sensitively portrayed this reality from a child's perspective. This simple, articulate book has had a powerful impact on many children. It has been my dream for years that it would be available to others who love children and want them to be free.

I heartily recommend "Little Bird's Song" to you.

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