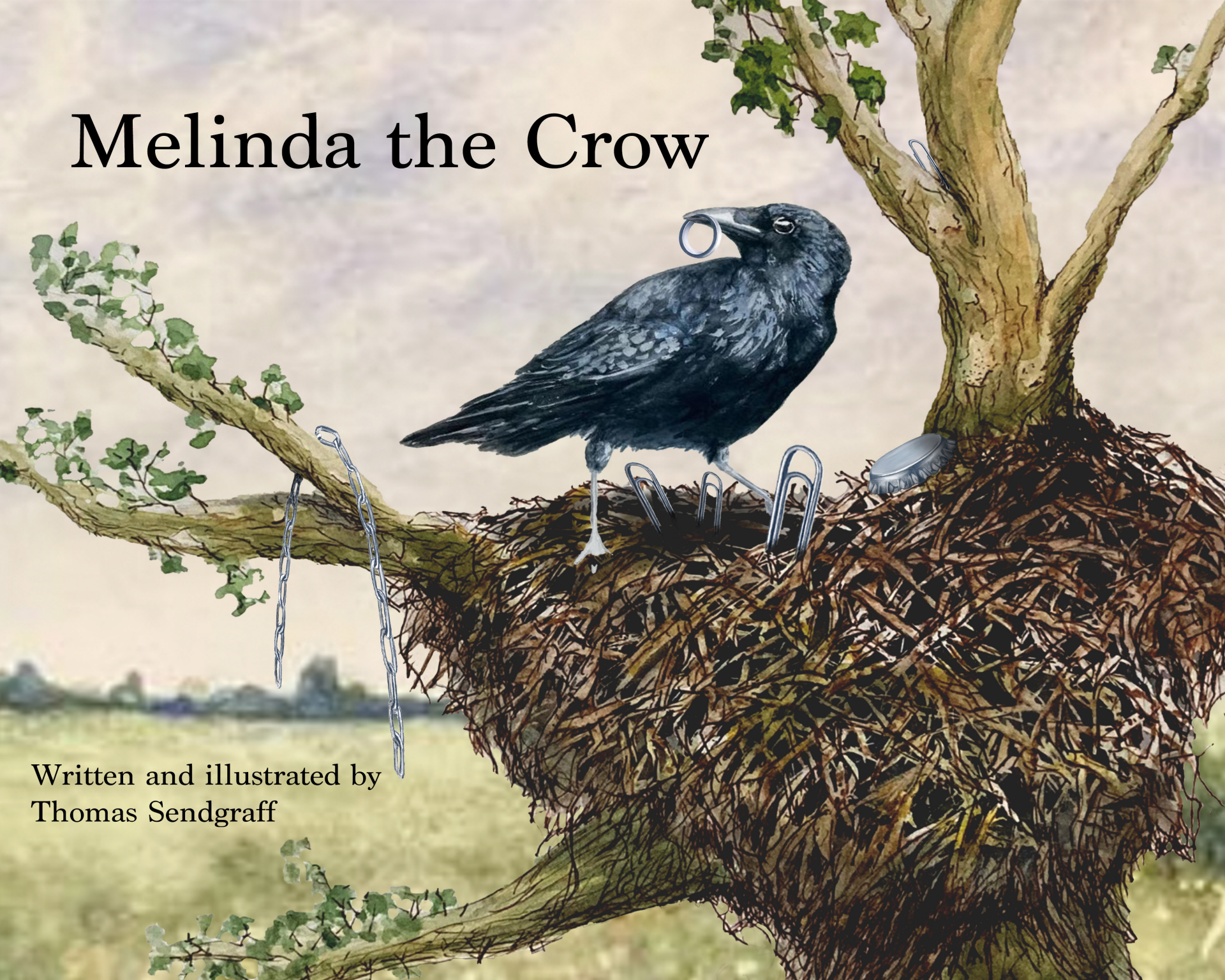


Melinda the Crow



Written and illustrated by
Thomas Sendgraff



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A tiny black crow named Melinda lived in a big nest within a mighty tree.

Melinda absolutely loved shiny objects. She collected and filled her nest with treasures of all different shapes and sizes.



Each day, Melinda sat proudly upon a branch. She waited to spot a new shiny object in the distance to collect.

Melinda heard scurrying and squeaking below her tree. She would look down to see the wild woodchucks, chippy chipmunks, sneaky squirrels, the beautiful bear, and the lovely human couple.



Melinda loved her shiny objects, but she wanted more than just treasures. Melinda wished to have one of the most valuable things of all. She wished for friendship.

Melinda felt lonely with a life only full of shiny objects. Every day she looked up, down, and all-around to see if other crows lived close by. Melinda even shouted, "CAW-CAW HELLO!"

Sadly she never heard a returned...



This set Melinda on an adventure
to find friendship



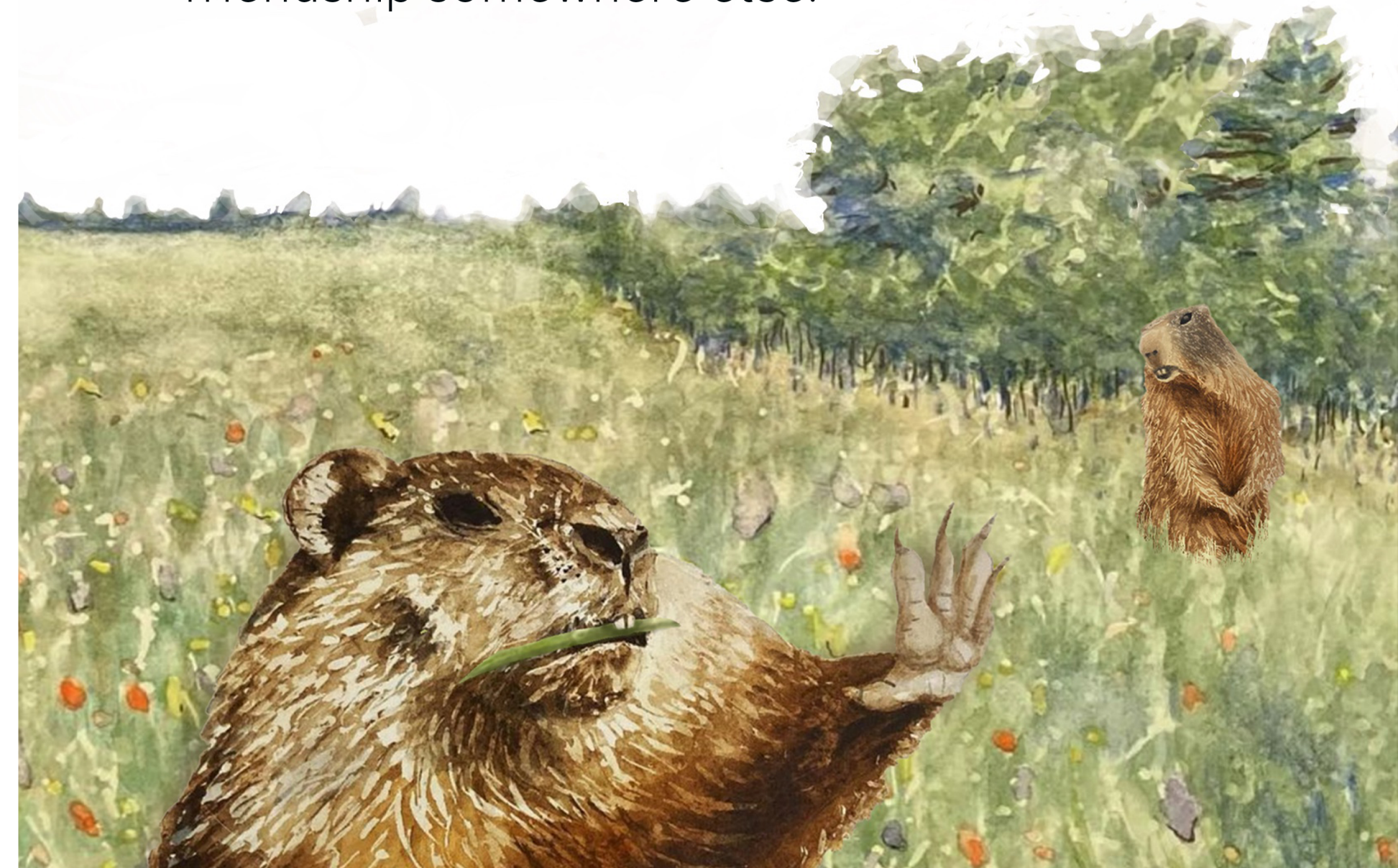
Melinda decided to first visit the wild woodchucks, Roland and Patrick. She swooped down from her branch. Where Roland and Patrick were gobbling on the grass for breakfast.

She happily shouted, "CAW-CAW HELLO!"

Roland jumped and squeaked, "THIS IS NOT A GOOD TIME TO BE VISITING DURING OUR BREAKFAST!"

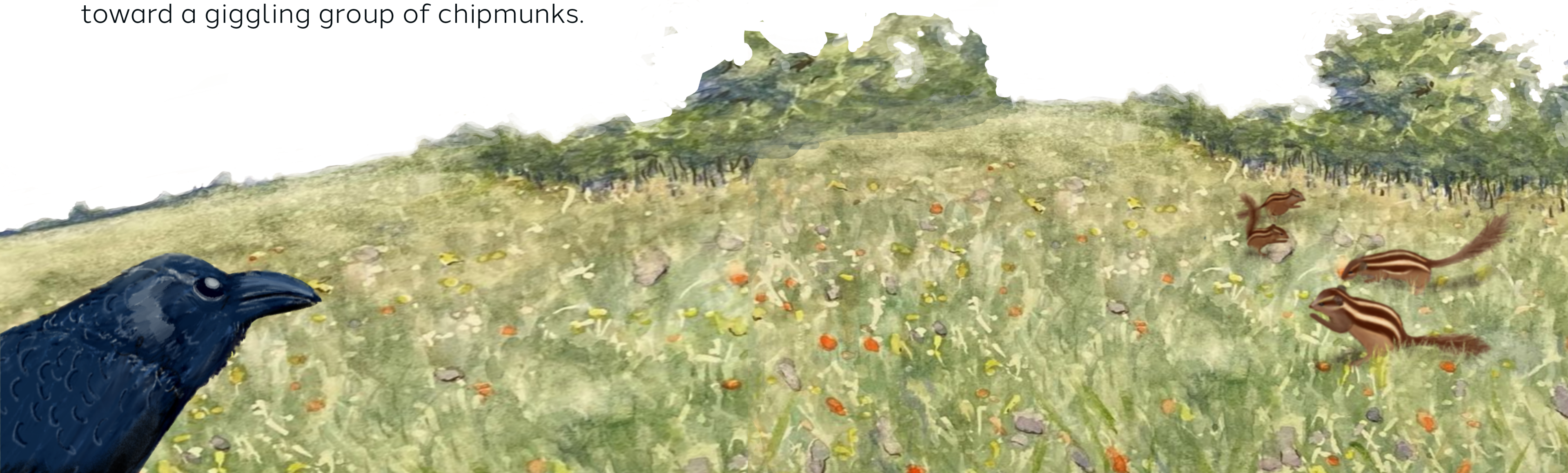
Patrick squeaked, "YOU SHOULD COME BACK AT A DIFFERENT TIME."

Melinda felt bad and decided to look for friendship somewhere else.



Melinda decided to visit the chippy chipmunk family. She swooped over to the nearby bushes toward a giggling group of chipmunks.

She excitedly shouted, "CAW-CAW HELLO!"



The next day, Melinda decided to try and find friendship again. she decided to visit the sneaky squirrels Sarah and Sam. She eagerly swooped down and shouted, "CAW-CAW HELLO!"

The sneaky squirrels said a quick "HELLO", as they hung upside down on a bird feeder.

Melinda asked...



DO YOU LIKE SHINY OBJECTS?

Sarah and Sam looked at each other, laughed, and sang together,

"BIRD SEEDS ARE
WHAT WE LOVE,
LOVE, LOVE, AND YOU
MUST ACCEPT WE
DON'T LOVE
SHINY OBJECTS".



Melinda and the sneaky squirrels didn't share the same love for shiny objects.

Suddenly, the sneaky squirrels scurried away. Melinda heard a loud rustling and from the bushes appeared a large shadow. Melinda stepped back and decided to shout a friendly...

CAW-CAW HELLO!



The beautiful bear Bianca emerged and looked at Melinda with long eyelashes. Bianca sighed and huffed,

“HONEY, YOU’RE CUTE,
BUT CAN YOU HELP ME GET
THAT BIRD FEEDER DOWN?”



Melinda responded with an honest,
“I DON’T THINK SO BECAUSE
I’M TOO TINY”.



Bianca whipped her paw through her luscious fur and sassily said,



“HONEY, IF YOU CAN'T HELP, THEN WE DON'T NEED TO BE FRIENDS!”

Melinda felt flabbergasted and decided to fly back to the comfort of her shiny treasures.



Melinda sat alone
and thought maybe
she couldn't find
friendship.



She wanted to talk
and laugh with friends.

The next morning, a sudden “CAW-CAW HELLO” came from below the tree. Melinda thought another crow had arrived.

When she looked down, there stood Richard and Polly holding a shiny gift in their hands. Melinda realized that she had forgotten about Richard and Polly.

She never thought a crow could be friends with humans. She thought animals and humans seemed too different.

She responded with a loud, “CAW-CAW HELLO!”



Richard smiled at Melinda and responded with another, "CAW-CAW HELLO!".

Melinda flew down to greet Richard and Polly. Melinda was shocked to receive such a beautiful and shiny gift.



She realized that friendship starts with kindness. She had finally found the friendship that she set out to find.

In the end, Melinda lived among the...





Each day Melinda looked forward to a "CAW-CAW HELLO", from Richard and Polly.

Melinda discovered that the most glorious treasure of all is friendship.

