

Where Am I?

Written and Illustrated

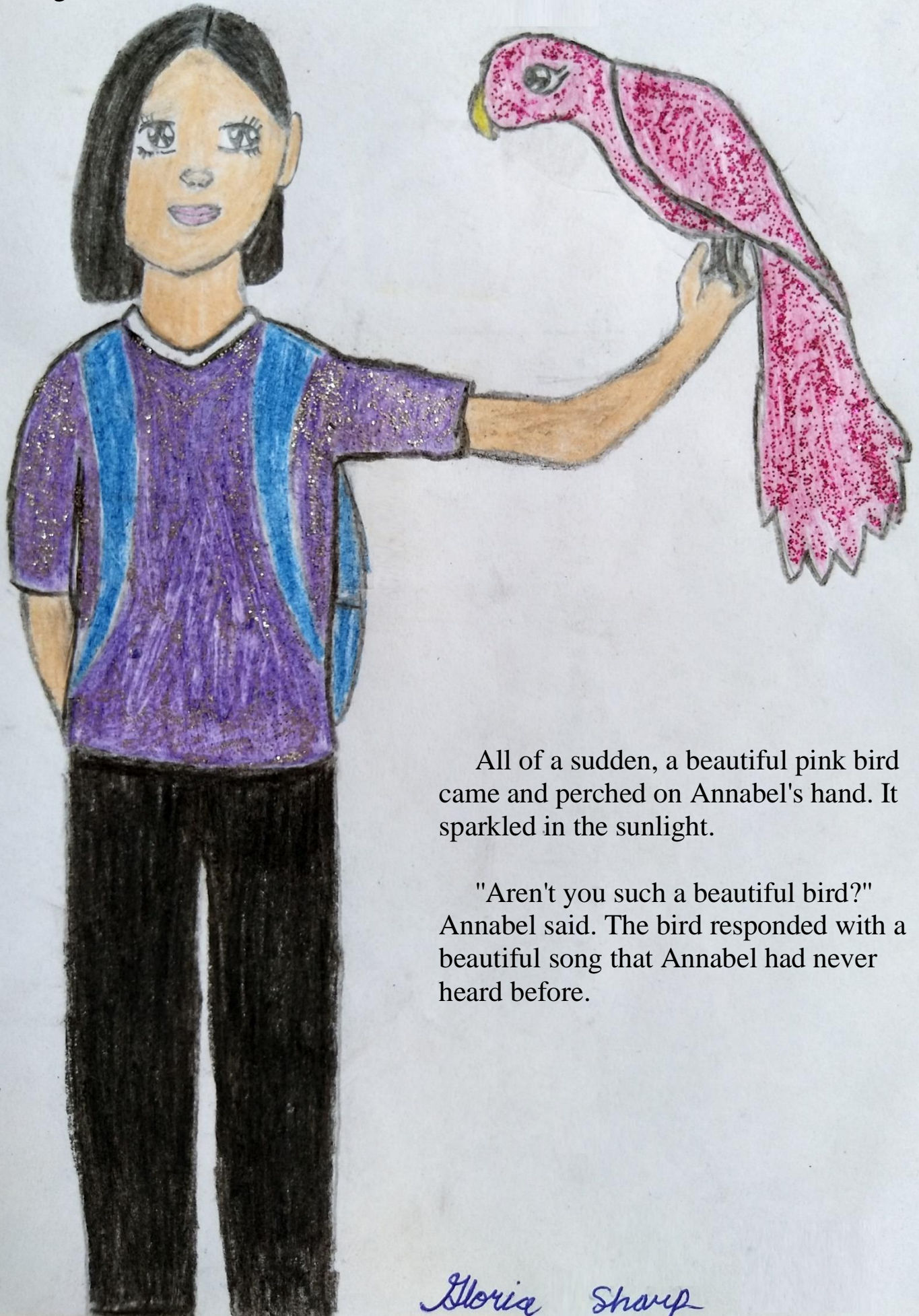
By Gloria M. Sharp

August 13, 2020

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Today was just like any other day. Annabel was walking home alone from school wishing she had someone to talk to. And as she was walking, she thought, *"I sure wish I had a little sister."*



All of a sudden, a beautiful pink bird came and perched on Annabel's hand. It sparkled in the sunlight.

"Aren't you such a beautiful bird?" Annabel said. The bird responded with a beautiful song that Annabel had never heard before.

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All of a sudden Annabel was in darkness, then she saw a light coming through what appeared to be the cracks of a door.



"Should I open the door?" ... "Yes."

When she opened the door, the light got so bright she had to close her eyes.

When she opened her eyes again, she found herself in another world. The pleasant scent of the grass and trees under the spring like sun smelled so fresh and good.

It was all so strange; it seemed like a dreamworld.



"Annie! Annie!" Cried a voice coming from afar. "ANNIE! ANNIE!" Cried the voice even louder. Then coming from behind a tree a young girl wearing a beautiful pink skirt with a white top asked, "Annie why didn't you answer me when I called?"

Annabel, startled and confused to why she called her, "Annie," asked, "Who are you?"

"Are you okay?" The girl questioned. "You know, I'm Asha, your little sister!"

"You are...?" Annabel started to question, but stopped herself and said, "...of, course you are!"

Annabel not knowing where she was, or how she got there, decided to pretend as she thought that it might be just a dream.

"Come on let's go home," said Asha.



"Okay," Annabel said. Then she noticed the pink sparkly bird she had seen earlier.

Annabel was in deep thought as they walked alongside a river, thinking, "Where am I? Why am I here? I must be..."

"ANNIE! ANNIE!" Asha interrupt her thoughts.

"Yes?" Annabel said.

"You have been daydreaming a lot lately," She said.

"Well I have a lot to think about," Annabel said. They didn't talk much the rest of the way to Asha's home.



Asha and Annabel soon came to a house. It was a white two-story house, with brown trim. On both sides of the house were unusual looking trees with bushy tops. In front of the house was a woman doing some gardening, next to a rose bush.

When she saw the two girls' approach, she said, "My, there you two are! I've been worried." Then she kissed them on the forehead. "Go on and wash up for dinner, and put some plates on the table please."

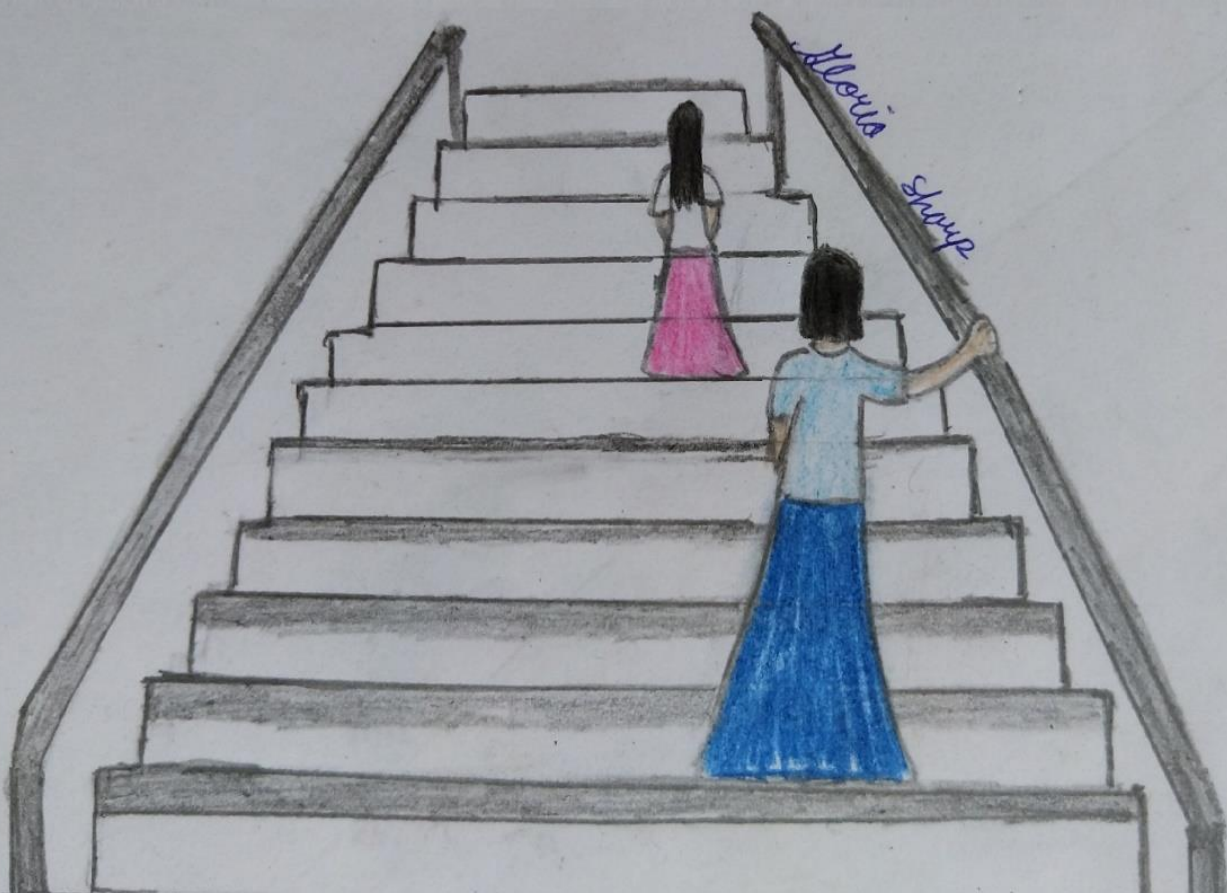
"Okay," Asha said.



As the girls entered the house, they walked into a big living room. There Annabel noticed a large family photo on the wall.

As she glanced at the portrait, she saw what she thought to be Asha's family. And when she got closer, she quickly recognized the mother, Asha, and a girl who looked just like herself.

"Wow! She looks just like me!" Annabel thought, as she followed Asha up the stairs to wash her hands.



After they finished dinner, Annabel and Asha went to bed.

Later that night Asha asked, "Is something wrong?"

Annabel responded, "I don't know how to explain this, but before today I had never met you before. Remember when you called me earlier in the forest, and I did not answer, that was because my real name is Annabel. The only reason I did not say anything at that time is because I thought maybe I was just dreaming. But to make things stranger, when I first came to your house your mom recognized me. Then when I entered the house, I saw your family picture on the wall with a person who looks just like me. At my real home, I don't even have a sister. I am totally confused...."

"What do you mean? Where is Annie? And how did you get here?" Asha asked.

"I don't know how I got here, all I know is as I was walking home from school a pink sparkly bird unexpectedly perched on my hand and suddenly, I was here... I just want to go back home."

"Was it like the one by the river?" Asha asked starting to believe Annabel.

Annabel thought for a second then said, "Yes."

"Did you wish for something before the bird came to you?"

"Yes," Annabel said. "...why?"

"I believe it was the Wishbird," Asha concluded. "And if you aren't my sister, all you have to do is wish to go back home. First thing in the morning we'll go to the river to find the Wishbird."



"Okay goodnight," Annabel said.



The next morning after Asha and Annabel quickly ate their breakfast, they ran to the river.

"Do you... think... it will work?" Annabel asked breathlessly.

"It should." Asha replied.

When they came to the river, Asha and Annabel stopped running.

Annabel started to walk closer to the river. She looked around then said, "I wish to go home to my house and be with my Mom and Dad." Nothing happened at first, but then the Wishbird flew by Annabel and sang her beautiful song.



The next thing Annabel noticed was that she was in her backyard. She could hear sirens. She went to her front porch and saw her Mom, Dad, and some police officers talking to each other. When her Mom saw Annabel, she ran to her and gave her a hug.

"WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN!?" She said with tears in her eyes as she hugged her daughter.

"I...I. I don't really know." Annabel said.



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