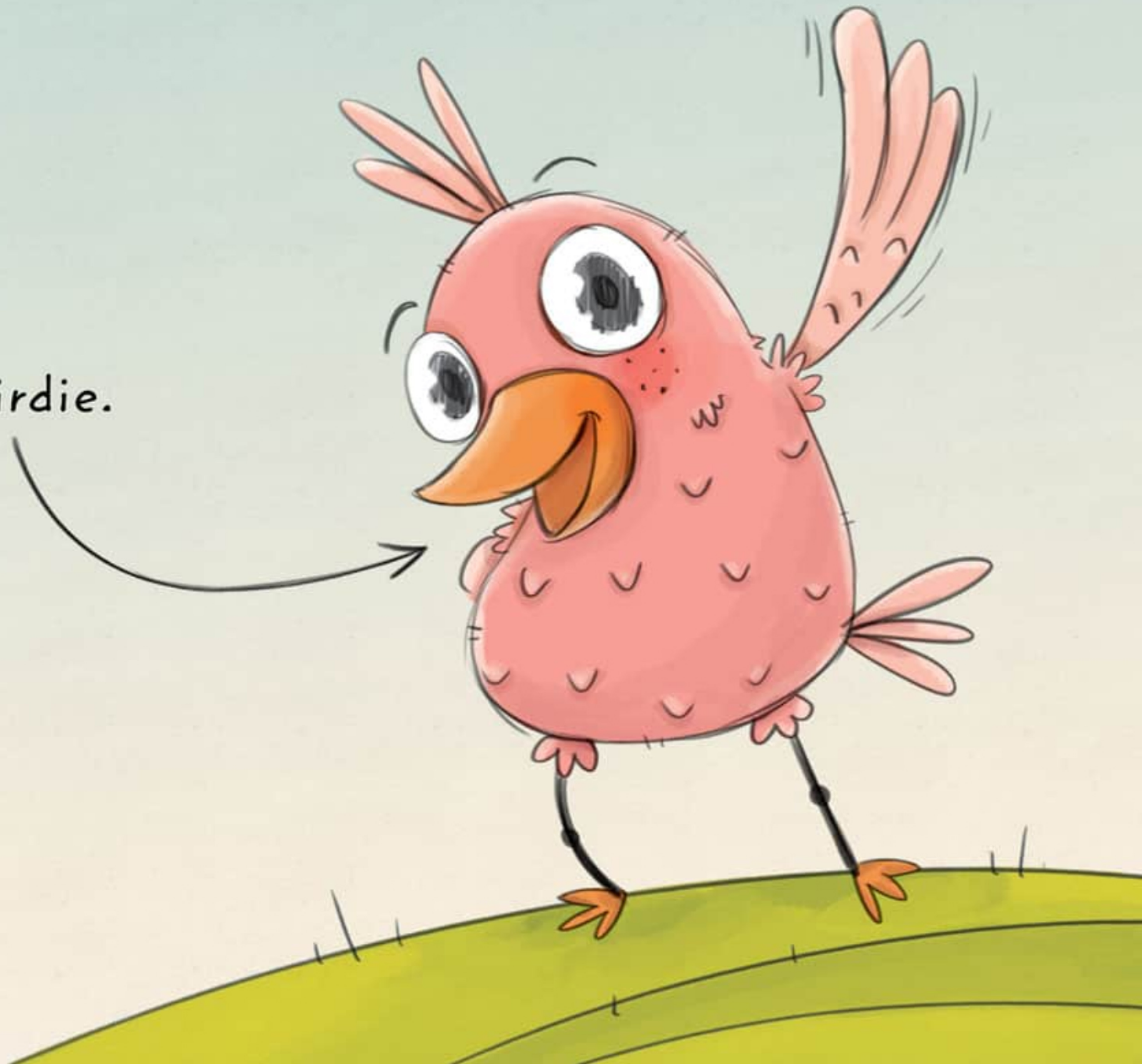



ANDREA MURRAY & ANIL TORTOP

BIRDIE and the FIRE



This is Birdie.





Birdie is a happy bird who likes to sing.
She lives in a nest in a
tall tree near a forest.
Birdie feels cosy and safe in her nest
high up above the ground!

Birdie likes to catch worms
and talk with her friend Mr Frog.
Mr Frog lives in a pond
with green lily-pads.



One day when Birdie was looking for worms,
she heard a strange crackling and popping noise.


She wondered what it was.

She sniffed the air – sniff sniff.

“Yuck. That smells like burning,” she thought.

Then her eyes began to burn and sting.





Birdie flew back up to her nest
and looked around.

All the birds were chattering and chirping.

The insects were buzzing!
There was lots of hot wind –
whoooooo.

“Come on, Birdie – we have to go!
There is a fire coming!” said her friends.



The crackling and popping got louder and louder.
Everything hissed and spluttered.

Birdie didn't like the black smoke – it made her cough and it made her eyes sore.
Birdie was very frightened. She flew off to find a safe place.

Birdie and Mr Frog hid near the fire truck that came to help. The fire truck had a loud siren. The fire-fighters shouted in loud voices to each other. They used their big hoses to spray the fire with water. Noisy helicopters came too and dropped water on the fire - chop chop - whoosh.



Birdie and Mr Frog didn't like all the noise. It was very scary.
They hugged each other and closed their eyes tight.
They waited and waited for one whole day and one whole night.
Luckily, their friends had brought some food.



When the fire was over, Birdie flew back to her tree.
Oh no! The trees were gone! Her nest was gone.
Everything was dirty and black and stinky — even her feathers!
Birdie was very sad. She started to cry.



Lots of helpers came.
They brought buckets and shovels and saws,
to clean and fix and plant.
z - z - z went the saws; swish went the hoses;
dig dig dig went the shovels;
chop chop chop went
the blades of the helicopters.
Birdie didn't like all the noise.
She covered her ears with her wings.



Some helpers brought food to eat.
Other helpers brought sticks to build Birdie a new nest.
Some of Birdie's friends brought feathers
to make her a bright new coat.
Birdie felt better.



Soon the trees and bushes started to grow.
The animals and birds of the forest came back
and there were happy sounds again, bees buzzing and birds chirping.
Birdie and Mr Frog were both safe. Birdie was happy again.



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