

# THE LIFE OF FRIENDS

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## RESPECT WINS



NOW FOR THE STORY OF HOW I LEARNED  
TO APPRECIATE THE MEEK,  
TO STOP THINKING I WAS THE GREATEST,  
WHILE PUTTING DOWN OTHERS MORE WEAK.

DURING THE SUMMER ON OUR FARM,  
THERE WERE THREE CHICKS IN A GRASSY PEN  
WHERE THE FARMER CARED FOR THEM VERY WELL,  
AND I DECIDED TO BE THEIR FRIEND.

WHILE I WAS FLITTING FROM TREE TO TREE,  
WITH FREEDOM TO GO WHERE I PLEASED.  
I THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS ONE OF THE BEST,  
AND SO THE CHICKS I DID TEASE.



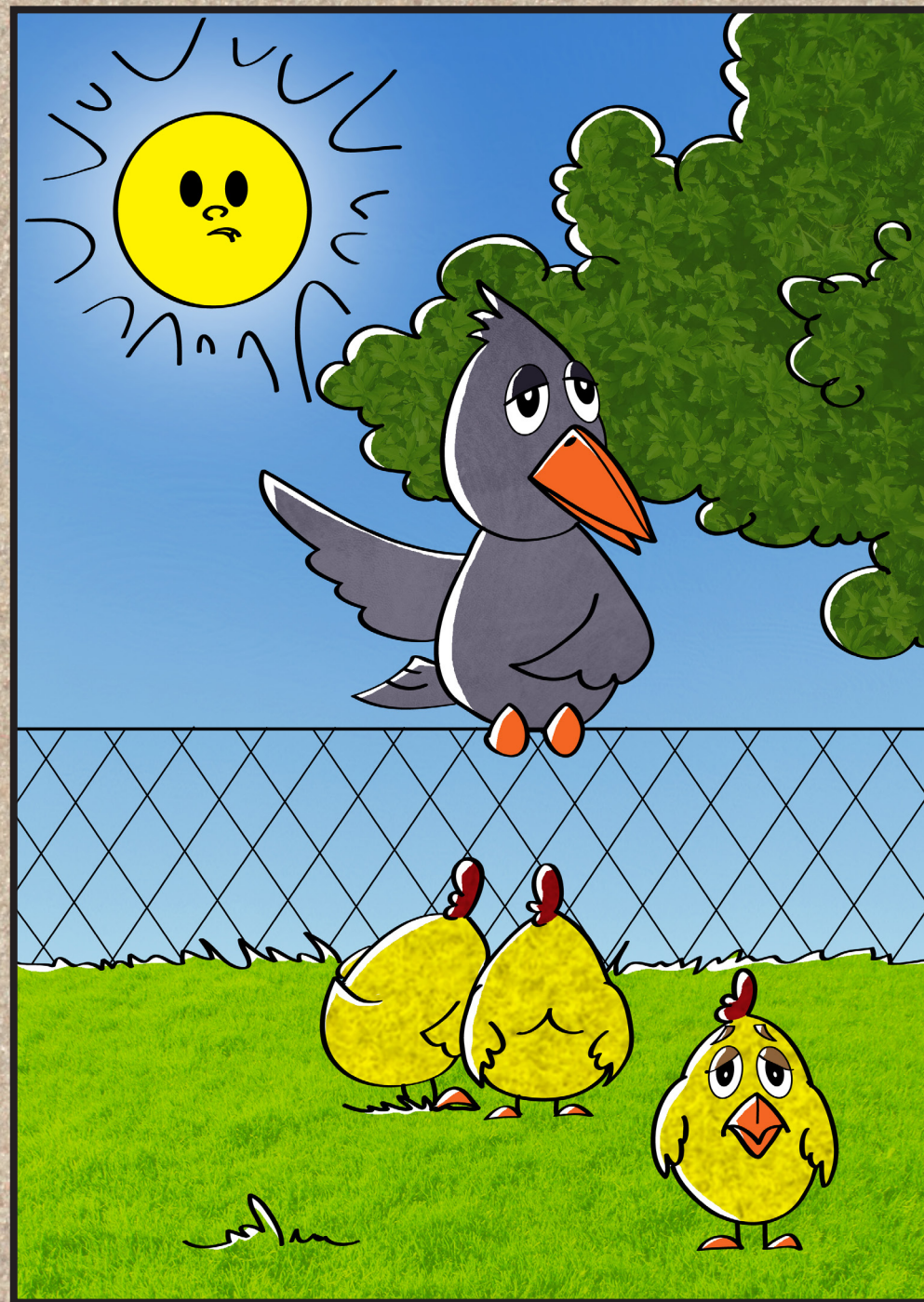




"AH, YOU POOR LITTLE BIRDS,  
YOU'RE SO SMALL AND DUMB,  
THE FARMER KEEPS YOU COOPED UP  
UNDER HIS PROTECTIVE THUMB."

"BUT ME, I'M ALWAYS OUT AND ABOUT.  
THERE ARE NO OBSTACLES FOR ME!  
ONE MOMENT SEARCHING THE BARN FOR BUGS,  
AND AT A WHIM, I'M UP IN A TREE."

"AH THE FREEDOM THAT ONE CAN HAVE  
WHEN ONE HAS THE GIFT OF FLIGHT.  
I FILL MY DAY WITH ALL SORTS OF FUN  
BECAUSE I AM SO BRIGHT."





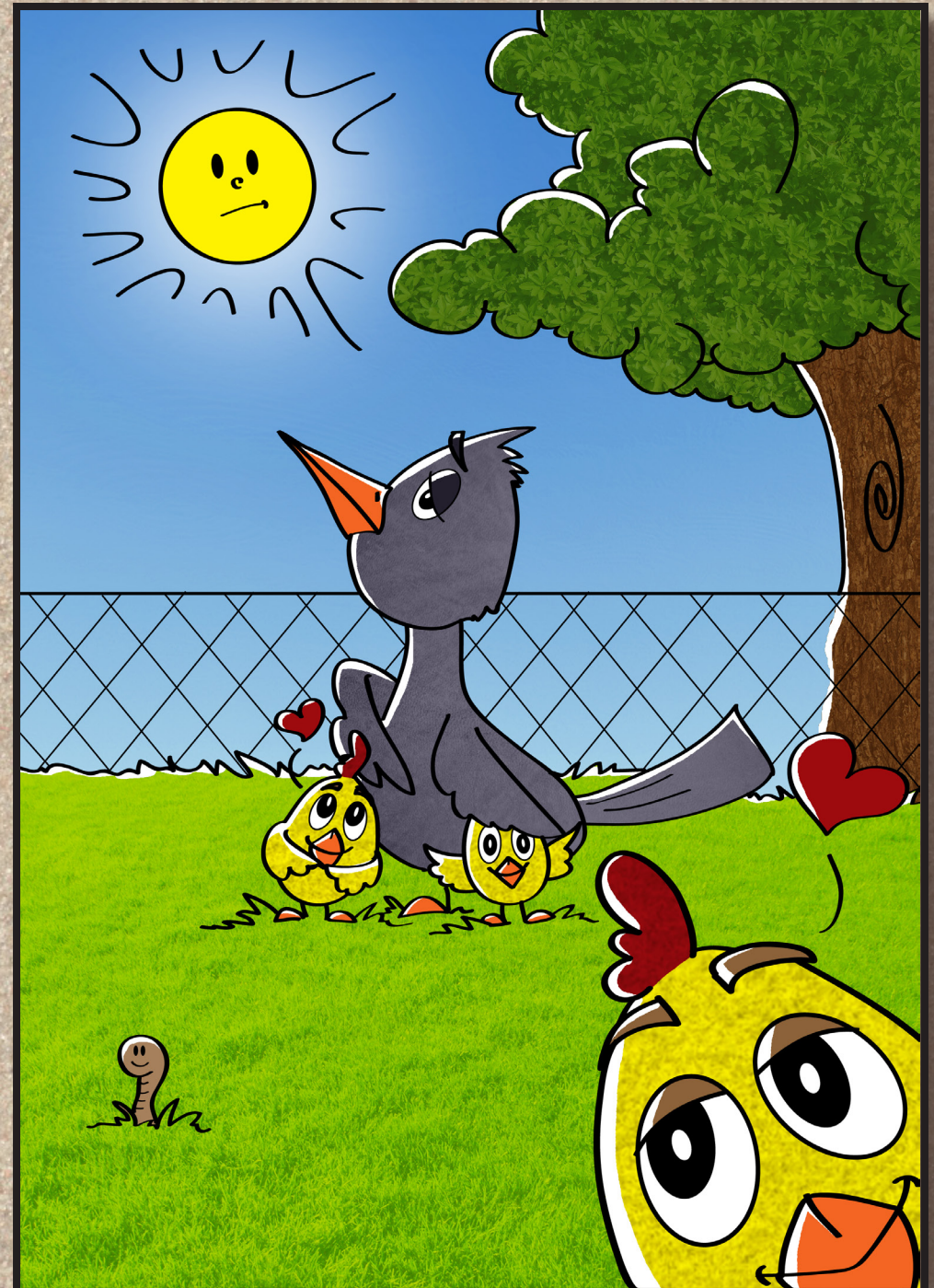


"WE'RE TRULY HAPPY, BEEP BEEP,  
FOR A RAVEN FRIEND LIKE YOU.  
WHO TRAVELS ALL OVER THE FARM,  
WHILE VISITING US HERE TOO."

"YOU ARE SUCH A BRILLIANT BIRD,  
SO KNOWLEDGEABLE AND CLEVER.  
WE ADMIRE YOUR INGENUITY  
IT SEEMS NOTHING STOPS YOU, EVER!"



"WELL, THANK YOU, MY LITTLE FRIENDS,  
I KNOW IT'S SO UNUSUAL  
FOR ONE AS GREAT AND SMART AS ME  
TO BEFRIEND THOSE WHO ARE SIMPLE."







"BECAUSE THE FARMER KNOWS I'M WISE,  
I'M FREE TO EAT WHAT I PLEASE.  
FROM EATING FROM THE DOG'S DISH  
TO NIBBLING FRESH FRUIT ON TREES."

"FOR YOU THE FARMER DOLES OUT  
THE WATER AND FOOD YOU NEED.  
HE PROBABLY FEARS THAT IF YOU WERE OUT  
YOU MIGHT EAT A POISONOUS WEED."

"YOU SEE, IF YOU WERE OUT ON YOUR OWN  
YOU'RE JUST NOT CAPABLE TO FIND  
A PLACE TO REST, OR FOOD TO EAT  
AS I CAN WITH SUCH A SHARP MIND."



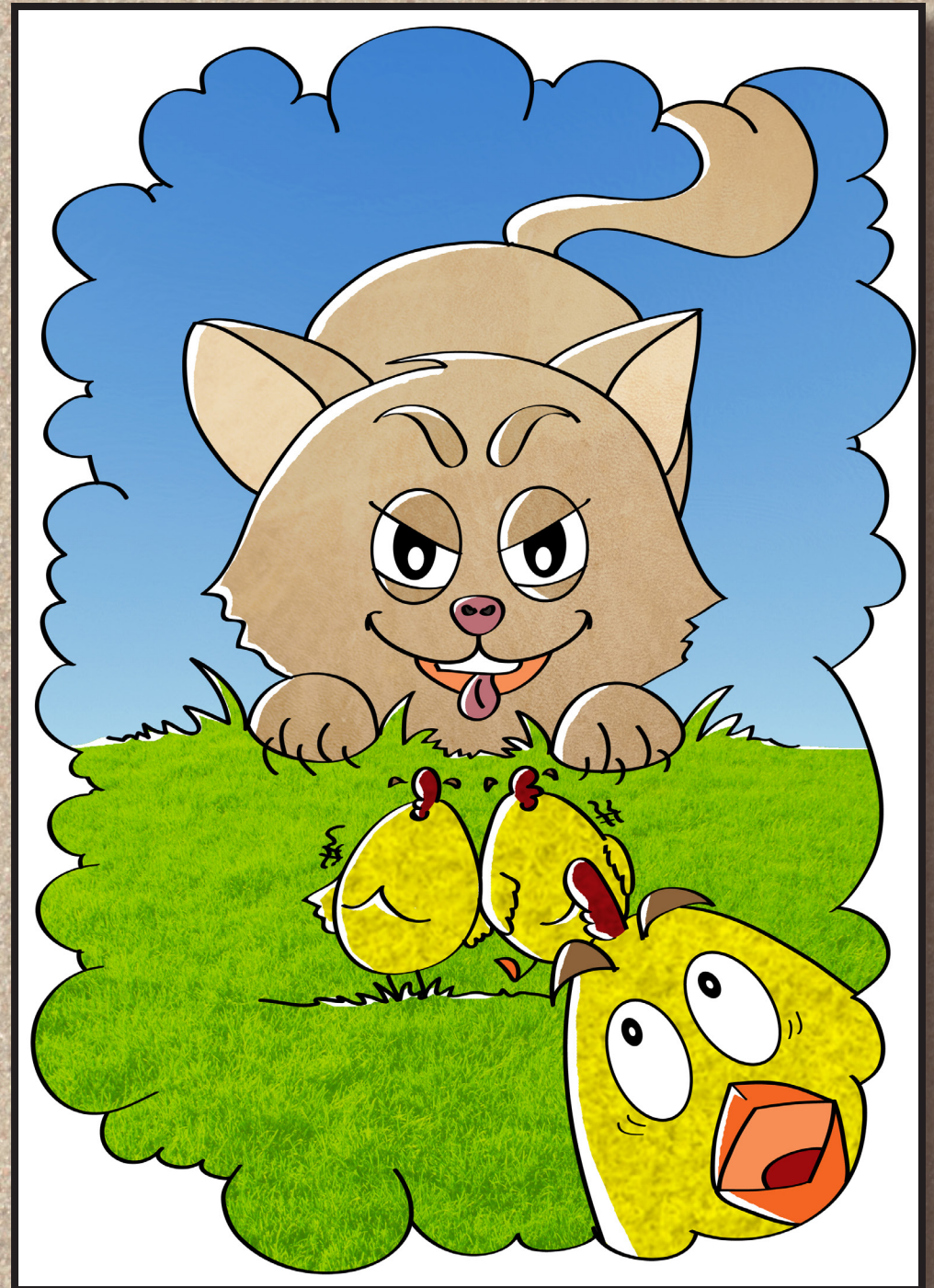




"THE FARMER FEARS THAT ONE OF THE CATS  
WILL THINK YOU ARE GOOD FOR FOOD.  
THEY WON'T THINK TWICE BEFORE THEY POUNCE  
AND EAT YOU IN A HUNGRY MOOD."

NOW HOW DO YOU THINK THAT MADE THEM FEEL,  
THESE FRIENDS STILL YOUNG AND SMALL?  
DID I HELP BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE?  
YOU CAN TELL, NOT AT ALL!

AND YET WHAT ASTOUNDS ME  
AND HUMBLER ME TO THE CORE  
WAS HOW THEY NEVER WERE UPSET AT ME,  
THOUGH I DESERVED THAT AND MORE.







THEN ONE DAY, MY DEAR FRIEND SID  
TOOK ME ASIDE FOR A CHAT.  
HE ASKED IF I HAD EVER  
HEARD HIM TALK THAT WAY TO A CAT.

I HAD ALWAYS BEEN PERPLEXED  
AT HOW THEY WERE FRIENDS INDEED.  
THOUGH ENEMIES THEY COULD EASILY BE,  
BOTH STRIVING TO TAKE THE LEAD.

BUT TRUE AS SID HAD POINTED OUT  
BEST FRIENDS THEY ALWAYS WERE.  
AT NIGHT THE CATS EVEN OFFERED SID  
THE WARMTH OF THEIR BODIES AND FUR.





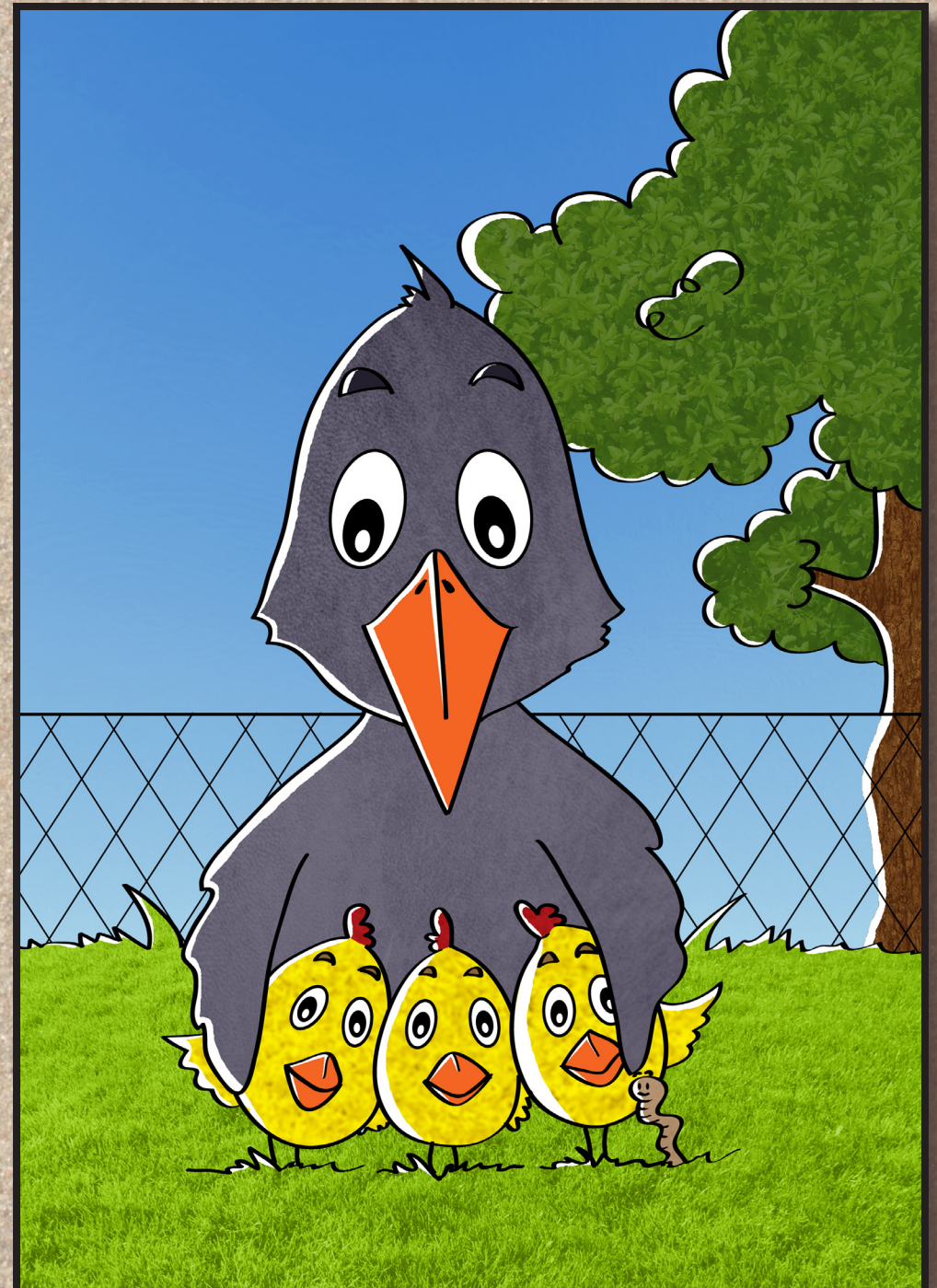


THESE YOUNG CHICKENS HAD THEMSELVES  
BEEN CHAMPIONS OF HUMILITY.  
THEY NEVER RESPONDED TO MY PROUD WORDS  
WITH CROSS REMARKS OR HOSTILITY.

"I'VE COME TO OFFER MY APOLOGIES  
FOR MY RUDE UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR.  
I WISH TO ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS.  
THOUGH I'M UNDESERVING OF YOUR FAVOR."



"YOU'LL ALWAYS BE OUR FRIEND, BEEP BEEP.  
THOUGH YOUR REMARKS AT TIMES DID HURT US,  
WE HAD DECIDED AMONGST OURSELVES  
TO FORGIVE EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T NOTICE."







"WE KNOW THE VALUE OF TRUE FRIENDS,  
AS YOU SEE, WE HAVE EACH OTHER.  
WE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE ALONE  
WITHOUT A CLOSE FRIEND OR BROTHER."

"AND SO WE TURNED AWAY FROM HURT  
TO TREAT YOU AS OUR GOOD FRIEND.  
HOPING THAT ONE DAY SHOWING RESPECT FOR YOU  
WOULD YOUR BOASTFUL HEART FULLY MEND."



AND THAT, MY DEAR READER FRIENDS,  
IS HOW TO CROSS OVER A DIVIDE.  
OFFERING TRUE FRIENDSHIP IS THE WAY  
TO OVERCOME HURTFUL PRIDE.

