



# Come Back, Gosling

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TO MY LOVELY AGENT, ANNE CLARK XX – A.B.

FOR POPPY, MINNIE, TREVOR, MAGGIE MAY  
AND OTHER MUCH LOVED PETS – D.L.

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# Come Back, Gosling





There was once a little girl  
who loved a gosling.

And the gosling loved her back.





They had lots  
of fun together.



Their very favourite thing was to go to the library  
each week and choose new books.







Then they would come home  
and take the books up to  
their special tree house.



Gosling wasn't very good at climbing. So the little girl used  
the bucket and rope to pull Gosling right up next to her.



They both agreed the tree house was  
the perfect place for reading books.



One week, Gosling chose a book about baby animals.



They looked at all the pictures together – and then they played puppies and kittens.



The next week, the little girl chose a story about pirates.



She read it to Gosling from beginning to end – and then they played treasure hunts.

The third week, they chose a book with a gosling on the cover. But before Gosling could look inside, the little girl slammed it shut.



So they did.



That night, Gosling  
wanted to look at the new  
book, but he couldn't find  
it anywhere!

Gosling searched  
all over, and the  
little girl helped.

They both agreed the book was lost.





The next morning, they went back to the library.



"OH DEAR," said the librarian.  
"I HOPE YOU FIND YOUR BOOK SOON. HERE ARE SOME  
MORE BOOKS, UNTIL YOU FIND THE LOST ONE."



So Gosling and the little girl went back  
to the tree house with their new books.



The first book was a funny one.  
They giggled and laughed, and then  
Gosling laughed so much that...



HONK!

"WHAT WAS THAT FUNNY  
NOISE I MADE?"  
said Gosling,  
surprised.

"I DON'T LIKE THIS BOOK ANY MORE,"  
said the girl. "LET'S READ  
A DIFFERENT ONE."







The second book was all about racing cars.



After they'd read it, they raced each other round the garden. The little girl was faster.



But as Gosling ran, he stretched out his wings and flapped the...

And suddenly he caught up with the little girl.

WHAT A FUNNY JUMP I DID!

I DON'T LIKE THIS BOOK ANY MORE. LET'S READ ANOTHER ONE.





So they went back to the tree house and read the third book together. It was a book of fairy tales with a lovely picture of a flying carpet.

THAT PICTURE MAKES ME  
FEEL ALL HAPPY AND FIZZY  
INSIDE. IT MAKES ME WANT  
TO SPREAD MY WINGS AND  
JUMP UP AND DOWN!

"GOSLING! STOP  
JUMPING!" cried  
the little girl.  
"YOU'LL FALL OFF."



But it was too  
late. Gosling had  
already tumbled  
off the edge of the  
tree house.



As he fell, he  
spread his wings  
out. They caught  
the wind and he...

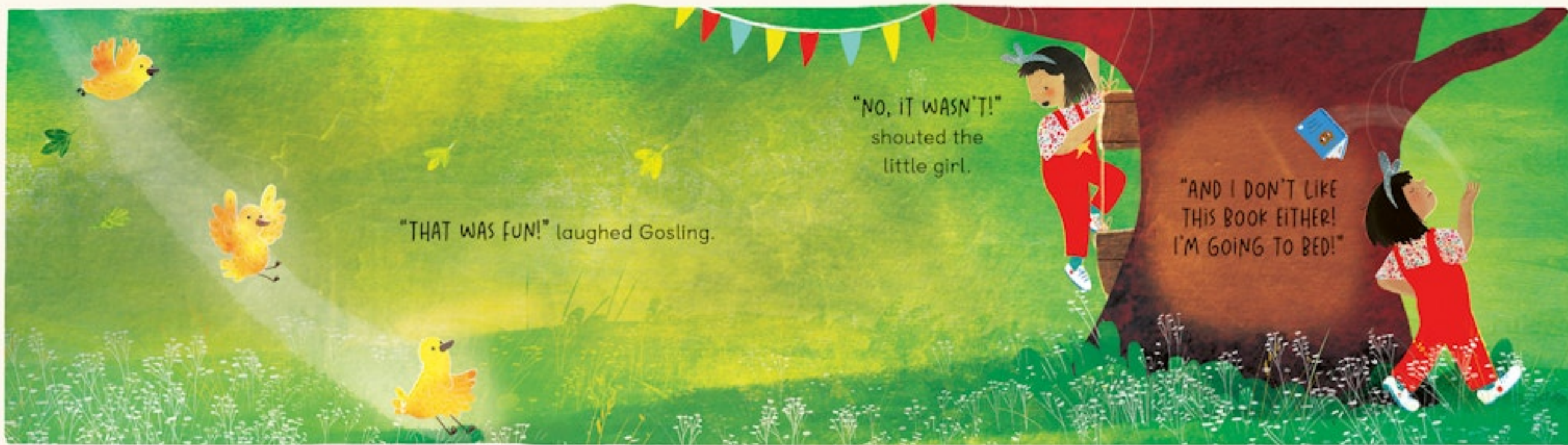




...FLEW!









In the morning, Gosling had gone.



The missing book was on the table.

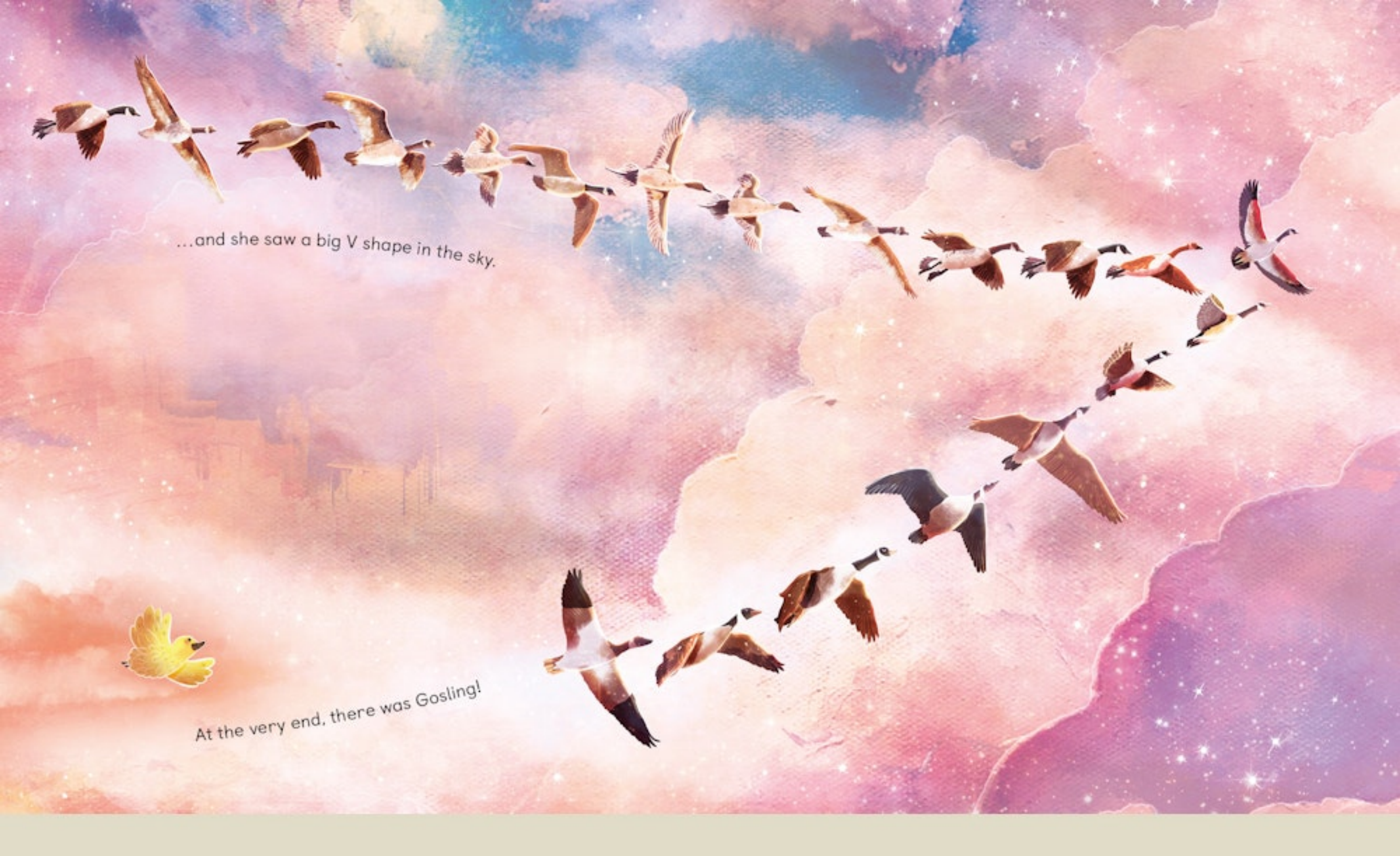
The girl went outside to look for him.

"COME BACK, GOSLING!" she called.  
"GOSLING, PLEASE COME BACK! I'M SORRY!"




All at once she heard lots  
of happy honking and the  
flapping of wings above her...




A large flock of geese is flying across a vibrant, colorful sky. The sky is filled with soft, pastel clouds in shades of pink, purple, and blue, and is dotted with numerous small, bright stars. The geese are arranged in a long, winding V-shape, with their wings spread wide. They have brown bodies, white underparts, and black wings and necks. The text "...and she saw a big V shape in the sky." is written in a simple, black font, following the curve of the V-shape.

...and she saw a big V shape in the sky.

A small, fluffy yellow gosling is flying alone in the lower left corner of the image. It has a bright yellow body, a small black beak, and a black cap. The text "At the very end, there was Gosling!" is written in a simple, black font, following the curve of the V-shape.


At the very end, there was Gosling!






"I'M SORRY I HID THE BOOK," called the little girl.  
"I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU WERE A GOOSE"

AND TO FLY AWAY FROM ME. BUT YOU ARE A GOOSE,  
AND I LOVE YOU AND I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY!"



"I AM A GOOSE WHO FLIES AWAY EVERY AUTUMN," replied Gosling.

"BUT I AM ALSO A GOOSE WHO LOVES YOU  
VERY MUCH. DID YOU FINISH THE BOOK?"



The little girl  
shook her head.

"YOU SHOULD," Gosling said. "YOU'LL GET A LOVELY SURPRISE IF YOU DO."

He gave her another hug, then  
he flew back to the flock.



Up in the tree house,



the little girl read the book  
all the way to the end -



and started to feel  
a bit better.



She waited all through the autumn...



and the winter...



until the spring came.



And just like the book said...



...GOSLING  
CAME BACK!



And because the  
gosling loved the  
little girl, he did so  
every spring.



