

# Marvin the Giant Duck

by  
**Oscar Blu**

**Illustrated by Shana Cahoon**



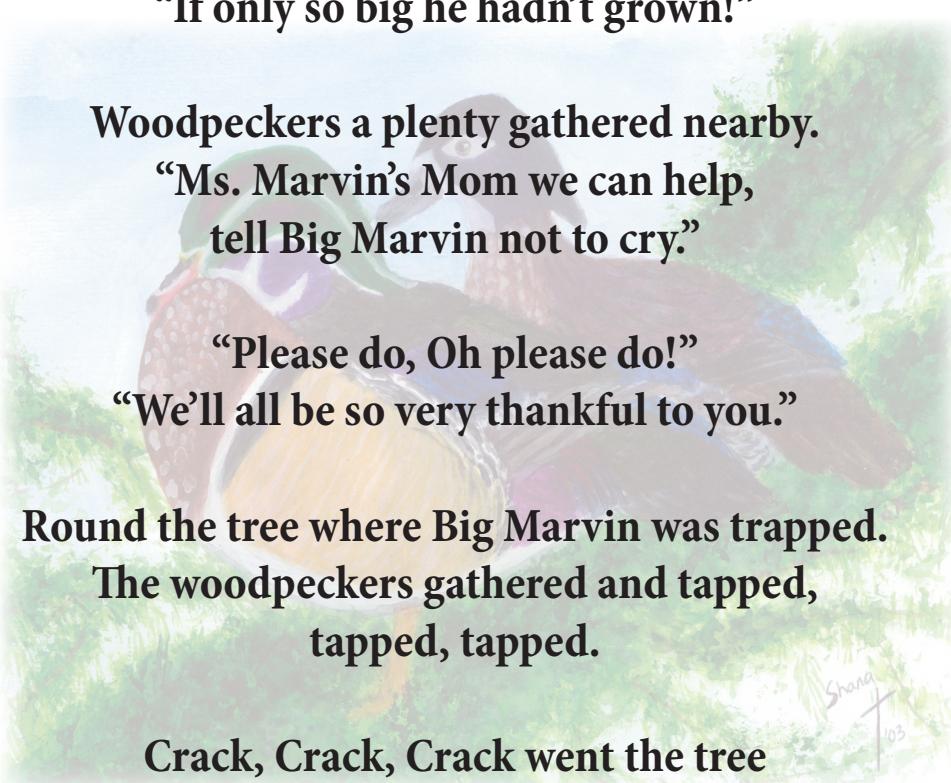
**In all the world Marvin was forever the biggest  
duck ever.**

**If there was ever a duck as big as a truck it was  
Marvin the Clever.**

**How he got his whole name you'll come to see.  
And you can tell all you heard it from me.**

**In a tree were Marvin and his brother Melvin born.  
Melvin his brother so small he could get lost behind  
a kernel of corn.**

**It came time to leave the tree.  
Only Marvin's beak could go where Melvin left  
easily**



**His beak barely in sight, “This hole’s too small!**

**Help!” Marvin moaned.**

**Marvin’s Mom quacked sad, loud and long,**

**“If only so big he hadn’t grown!”**

**Woodpeckers a plenty gathered nearby.**

**“Ms. Marvin’s Mom we can help,**

**tell Big Marvin not to cry.”**

**“Please do, Oh please do!”**

**“We’ll all be so very thankful to you.”**

**Round the tree where Big Marvin was trapped.**

**The woodpeckers gathered and tapped,**

**tapped, tapped.**

**Crack, Crack, Crack went the tree**

**in which Big Marvin sat.**

**Woodpeckers flew in a chatter**

**scattering this way and that.**

Down it crashed and there sat Marvin  
his eyes shut tight.

Afraid to move afraid to take flight.

Gathered in awe round in the trees  
and on the ground.

Otters, squirrels, birds of all kinds, deer and  
rabbits made not a sound.

Till one small chirp broke the quiet with the song.

“He’s so big if he tries to swim he’ll sink to the  
bottom and be gone.”

Marvin opened one big eye  
and peaked slowly round.

Way down there, so far away was Melvin  
and Mom on the ground.

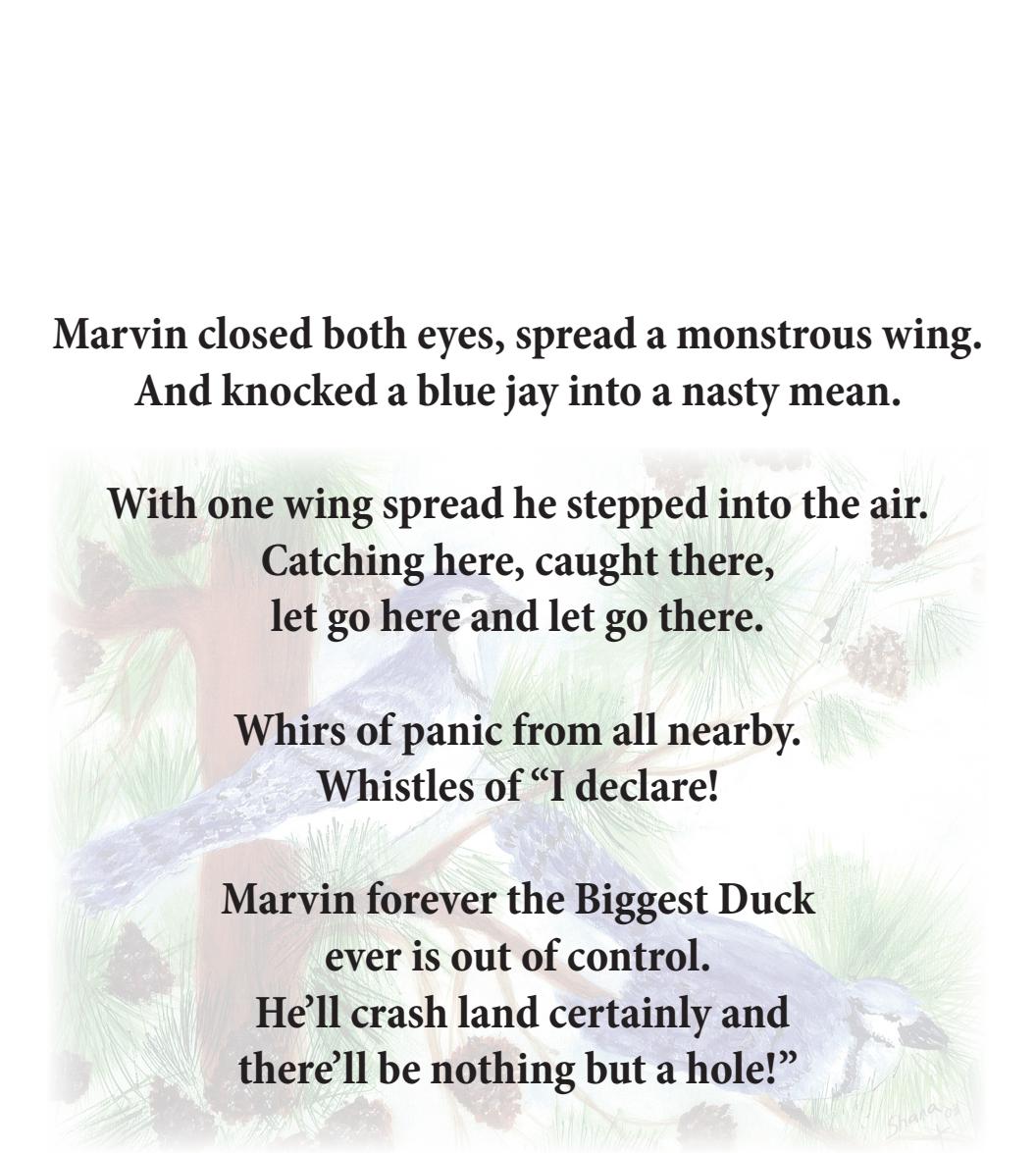
“To the pond,” his Mom quacked  
with a wave of her wing.

“And don’t listen to those ole birds sing.

“Be brave,” she quacked.

“You’re forever the biggest duck ever.”

Wise Ole Heron from the pond beyond  
was heard to say, “May be big but is he clever?”



**Marvin closed both eyes, spread a monstrous wing.  
And knocked a blue jay into a nasty mean.**

**With one wing spread he stepped into the air.  
Catching here, caught there,  
let go here and let go there.**

**Whirs of panic from all nearby.  
Whistles of “I declare!**

**Marvin forever the Biggest Duck  
ever is out of control.  
He'll crash land certainly and  
there'll be nothing but a hole!”**

**All ran here and all ran there  
While Marvin fell and tumbled,  
quacked and rumbled through the air!**

**Dear Ms. Otter bless her soul got tangled up,  
looked up and yelled!**

**Big Marvin finally with both wings spread eased  
down not so lightly on her tail.**

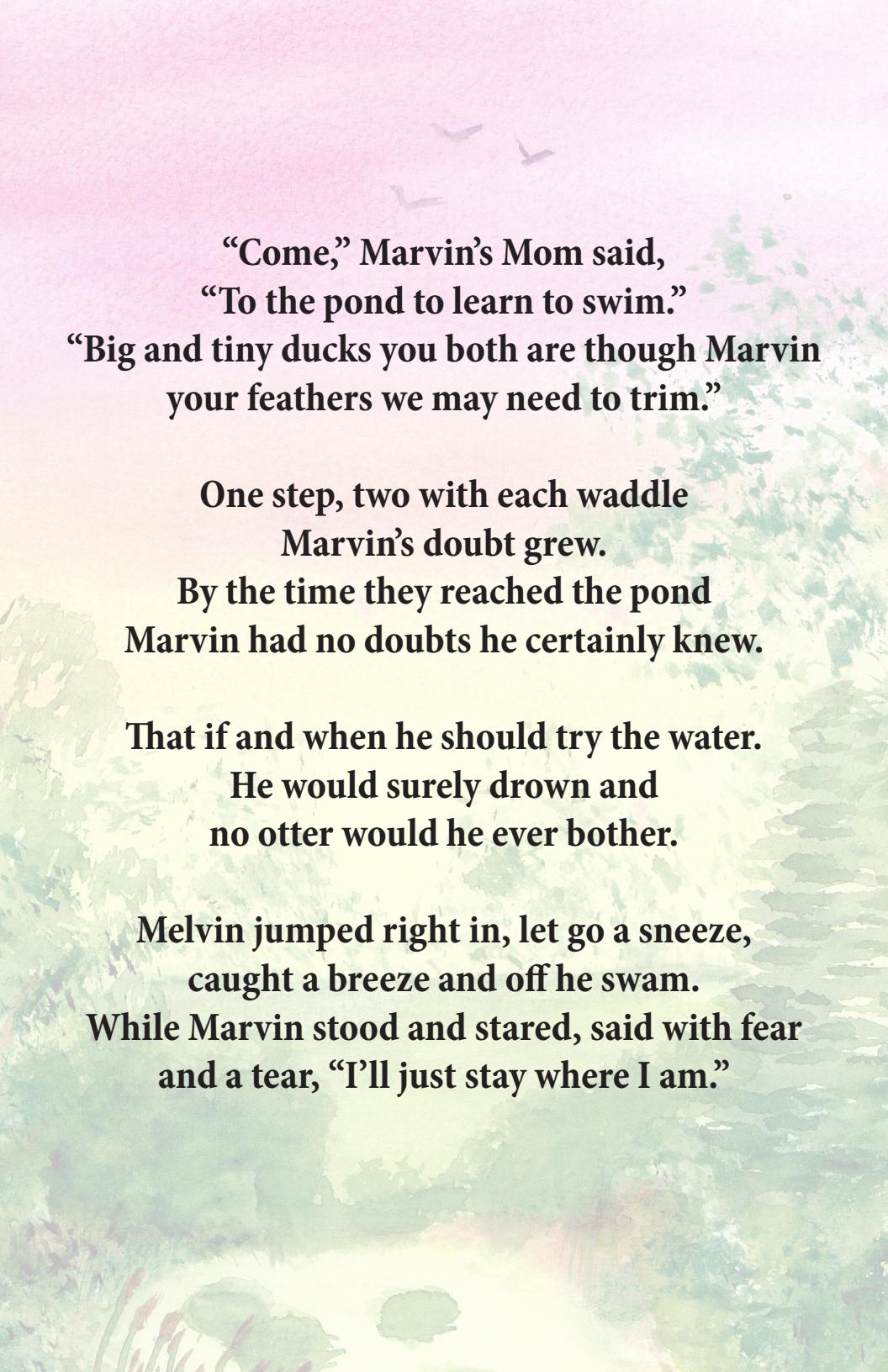
**“May it be true that when you try to swim,”**  
**screamed Ms. Otter.**

**“That because you’re so big you sink and  
will no longer be a bother to any otter!”**

**A great big tear filled Marvin’s eye and  
made a splash near knee high.**

**Ms. Otter uttered meanly so only Marvin heard,  
“You’re too big to cry.”**

**Brave woodpeckers gathered about wanted to shout  
but quietly said with a sigh.  
“Don’t believe all you hear  
for no one’s too big to cry.”**



“Come,” Marvin’s Mom said,  
“To the pond to learn to swim.”  
“Big and tiny ducks you both are though Marvin  
your feathers we may need to trim.”

One step, two with each waddle  
Marvin’s doubt grew.

By the time they reached the pond  
Marvin had no doubts he certainly knew.

That if and when he should try the water.  
He would surely drown and  
no otter would he ever bother.

Melvin jumped right in, let go a sneeze,  
caught a breeze and off he swam.

While Marvin stood and stared, said with fear  
and a tear, “I’ll just stay where I am.”

Half sister to the otter mom,  
whispered too loud for all not to know.  
“To the bottom he’ll go, surely as any rock  
we might throw.”

Marvin stepped back from the water’s edge and  
bumped into a pair of green frog legs.  
“Croak! Croak! Croak!” went bullfrog Sedge.

“You biggest ever, giant duck forever  
be careful my spindly legs!”  
“I need them to get around, without  
them I cannot this water dredge!”

“Dis-Com-Bob-U-Lated he is,” whispered mother  
otter to a friend.

“He’ll never find water he can get in.”

“Oh no!” sang the birds because they had all  
mother otter heard.

“He is dis-com-bob-u-lated indeed  
that is such a terrible thing for a bird!”

**“Please, shhhh if you all will,”  
sang softly Wise Ole Heron.  
Marvin flopped down and  
shook the ground his face  
all twisted into a frown.**

**Ole Heron gently chimed,  
“My dear Marvin, biggest duck  
ever let us see if you’re clever.  
Please stop squawking and  
consider that you’re mostly made of feathers.”**

**Marvin looked left, then looked right  
at all the animals in the morning’s light.  
He ruffled his feathers with such fierce despair  
that into the air one took flight.**

The bright blue feather swirled and curled, up and  
down drifting straight for the water.

The breeze faltered, the feather paused then did drift  
toward an otter.

Wise Ole Heron sang slight fatherly, “Move my  
friendly otter.

And let the feather light upon the water.”

The feather barely a ripple made, came to rest as  
gently as the evening shade.

Said Ole Heron, “If one floats so well, you with so  
many why be afraid?”

Marvin quacked hesitantly, “If one feather floats why  
not three even more easily?”

Croaked Sedge the frog, “Is Marvin the Huge inclined  
mathematically?”

Marvin ignoring Sedge quacked, “If three float better  
than one?

Why not six, nine, twelve, three more here, this  
counting I’ll never get done.”

Wise Ole Heron chirped ever so gently to Marvin’s  
mom, “If Marvin can add

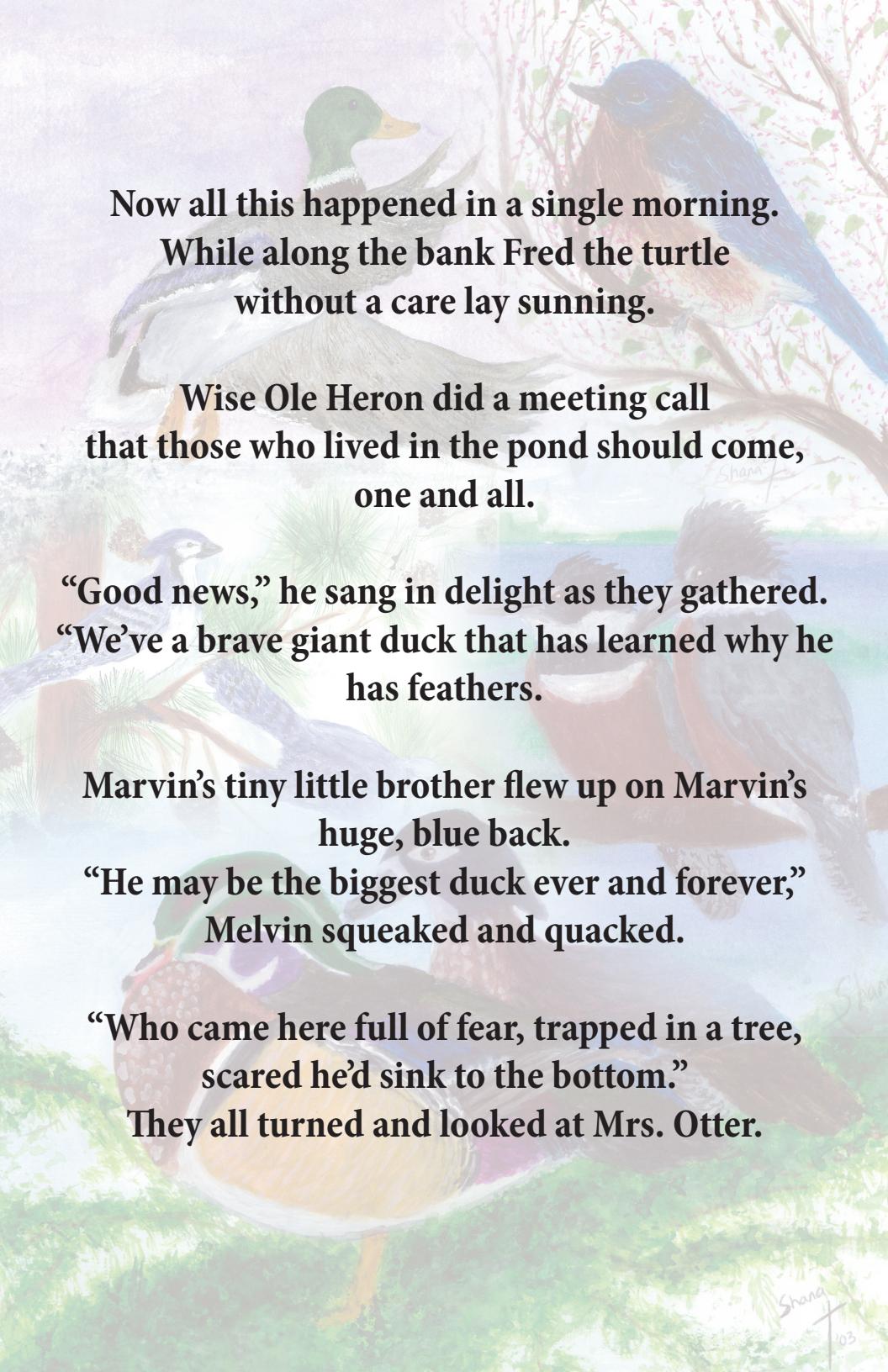
I see no reason he can’t swim even if he is a giant lad.”

**And with that said Big Ole Heron pushed  
with all his might Marvin into the water.  
The splash was so big that a wave they caught  
and surfed did two young otters.**

**Marvin quacked long and loud, splashed largely  
about before he realized he couldn't drown.  
Big old frog splashed up so high,  
on Marvin's back Sedge came down.**

**Marvin turned and looked at Sedge who said,  
“Marvin would you be so glad  
to take me to the other side.  
I'd like to show my friends  
a duck so clever he can add.”**

*Shana X*



**Now all this happened in a single morning.  
While along the bank Fred the turtle  
without a care lay sunning.**

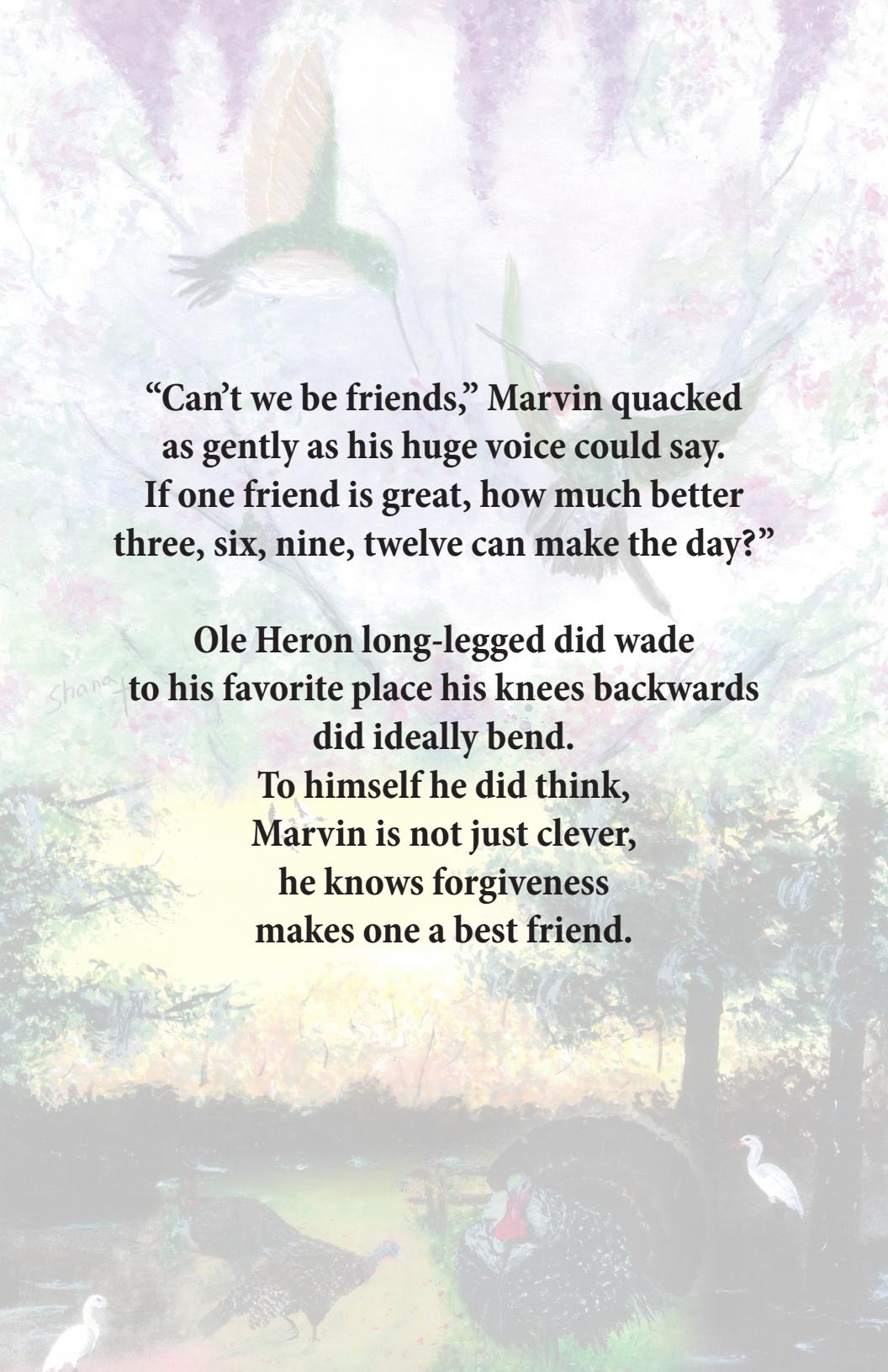
**Wise Ole Heron did a meeting call  
that those who lived in the pond should come,  
one and all.**

**“Good news,” he sang in delight as they gathered.  
“We’ve a brave giant duck that has learned why he  
has feathers.**

**Marvin’s tiny little brother flew up on Marvin’s  
huge, blue back.**

**“He may be the biggest duck ever and forever,”  
Melvin squeaked and quacked.**

**“Who came here full of fear, trapped in a tree,  
scared he’d sink to the bottom.”  
They all turned and looked at Mrs. Otter.**



**“Can’t we be friends,” Marvin quacked  
as gently as his huge voice could say.  
If one friend is great, how much better  
three, six, nine, twelve can make the day?”**

Ole Heron long-legged did wade  
to his favorite place his knees backwards  
did ideally bend.

To himself he did think,  
Marvin is not just clever,  
he knows forgiveness  
makes one a best friend.

My favorite definition of a friend is a person on the same side in a struggle; one who is not an enemy or foe; an ally willing to make a sacrifice for another's benefit. We most often take Jesus' description of the greatest love for a friend, willing to lay down his life for another to only mean one willing to die for another. However we can lay down portions of our days, take time out of our own lives by briefly setting aside our wants and needs as did the Woodpeckers, Marvin's Mom, and Wise Ole Heron when Marvin was trapped and fearful. There is no better place for old wisdom than in young minds and there may be no better wisdom than to understand friendship and forgiveness. No matter how big, small, what color or type of individual we find ourselves sharing life with if we understand friendship we, like all who gained Marvin as a friend can at the earliest time in our lives come to know that one must be a friend to have friends.

*Oscar Blu*

Note from the Illustrator - Nature is where I am closest to God. He talks to me in His creation and I can listen when I am in the woods, on a lake or near a stream. God has always called me to the woods. Even as a very little girl as young as four He would call me to be alone with Him in the woods and I still cherish those times. I hope and pray that y'all get out in nature and just be Still; listen and enjoy the sounds and gifts from God. I also pray that you learn to trust God in all things. I enjoyed illustrating this book and seeing Marvin learn to trust and let go and let God. God made Marvin a bigger duck than others but no matter how God made him; Marvin needed to trust in God's plan for him. Marvin had struggles but he learned life lessons in the struggles. We learn the most when we go through trials in life and succeed. Trusting God is a beautiful trait I pray you trust God in everything early in your life. Just because you are young doesn't mean you are wise, some of the smartest people are children. In all you do seek God's help and be His light in this world. You see all that happened in this book happened in a period of one day and Marvin learned so many valuable lessons from the rising of the sun to the setting of the same and so can you. Psalm 96:11-12  
11 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. 12 Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

*May God bless you always and forever ~ Shana Cahoon*



Shana