# The Worm and the Bird: A Fable of Friendship and Sacrifice

In a lush meadow, where the grass danced in the wind and the flowers bloomed in vibrant hues, there lived an unlikely pair of friends: a humble earthworm named Wiggles and a cheerful bluebird named Sky. Wiggles spent his days tunneling through the soft soil, while Sky soared through the vast expanse of the sky. Despite their differences, they shared an unbreakable bond of friendship.



#### The Worm and the Bird by Coralie Bickford-Smith

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One sunny afternoon, as Sky flitted among the flowers, she noticed Wiggles struggling to pull a juicy worm out of the ground. Sky, being a kind-hearted bird, offered her help. With a gentle tug, she freed the worm from its earthy prison. Wiggles was overjoyed and thanked Sky profusely.

As the sun began to set, casting a golden glow over the meadow, a sly fox emerged from the nearby forest. Its piercing gaze fell upon Sky, and it stealthily approached. Sky, unaware of the danger, continued to hop merrily among the flowers.

In a moment of horror, Wiggles realized that Sky was in peril. Without hesitation, he slithered out of his burrow and flung himself at the fox. The fox, surprised by the sudden attack, stumbled backward. Sky, seizing the opportunity, flew to safety.

The fox, enraged by Wiggles's intervention, turned its wrath upon the worm. It snapped its sharp teeth at Wiggles, but the worm held his ground. He knew that he stood no chance against the powerful fox, but he was willing to sacrifice his life to protect his friend.

In a desperate attempt to defend himself, Wiggles sprayed a sticky substance at the fox's eyes. The fox, blinded and disoriented, stumbled around in the grass. Seizing the moment, Sky swooped down from the sky and pecked at the fox's head relentlessly.

Battered and defeated, the fox gave up the chase and fled back to the forest. Sky, triumphant but shaken, landed beside Wiggles. She looked at her friend with gratitude and sorrow. "Thank you, Wiggles," she said, her voice filled with emotion. "You saved my life."

Wiggles smiled weakly. "It was nothing," he said. "I would do anything for you, Sky."

As the stars twinkled above them, Wiggles closed his eyes and drifted into eternal slumber. Sky stayed by his side, mourning the loss of her dear friend. The meadow became a place of remembrance, a poignant reminder of the unbreakable bond of friendship and sacrifice that had united a worm and a bird.

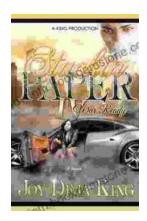
And so, the fable of The Worm and the Bird was passed down through generations, a timeless story that taught the importance of true friendship, love, and the ultimate sacrifice.



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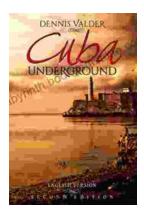
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