



How the Birds became Friends

Retold by Noa Baum, Illustrated by Zev Labinger

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Long ago when the world was very young, the birds did not get along.

They were always fighting about who was better.

Beaks pecking! Feathers flying!

Squawks and screeches everywhere!

Little Quail feels lost in all the noise, but with each bird trying to outdo the others, Quail bravely takes an unexpected approach. In this delightful take on a Burmese folktale, told by award-winning storyteller Noa Baum and illustrated by renowned ecologist and artist Zev Labinger, watch the power of kindness change the world.

"Promoting kindness and humanity without preaching, How the Birds Became Friends is a gentle fable about how small choices make big differences. This benevolent, cheerily illustrated tale uses simple, effective narrative to distill the noise of conflict into the harmony of fellowship. Zev Labinger's watercolor illustrations brightly depict full-of-personality avian characters without losing their bird-ness. Baum's retelling of this Burmese folktale lends itself to reading and telling aloud, and this story is sure to find a home in the hearts of young listeners."

Janice M. Del Negro, PhD, Professor of Youth Literature, SOIS Dominican University

"Noa Baum's clear, colorful retelling of this simple story reminds us of the simple truth - kindness and acceptance are the basis of friendship and peace. Quail's surprising act changes everything for all the birds - and reminds us we're capable of doing the same."

Bill Harley, author, Grammy Award winning storyteller and musician

"It's my strong belief that nature conservation has to go hand in hand with environmental education starting with children as soon as they can talk! The skillful and colorful illustrations of Zev Labinger and the inspiring story of Noa Baum told in an original way give a message of friendship, peace and the beauty of nature and the variety of birdlife. Messages like these are so much needed all around the globe."

Ysbrand Brouwers Sr., Founder and Director of Artists for Nature Foundation

"The power of artworks to enhance a story is something to celebrate. Through splashes of color and meaningful gestures, Zev Labinger's vibrant illustrations add depth and meaning to Noa Baum's retelling of the Burmese folktale, 'How the Birds Became Friends.'"

Kathy Kelsey Foley, Director, Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, Wisconsin

"Birds have the marvelous ability to bring people together and raise the awareness for protecting our shared environment. This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of courage and peace through the amazing world of birds and "dove-tails" perfectly with my life-long work under the motto "Birds Know No Boundaries".

Professor Yossi Leshem, Tel Aviv University; founder of the Israeli Ornithological Center of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel