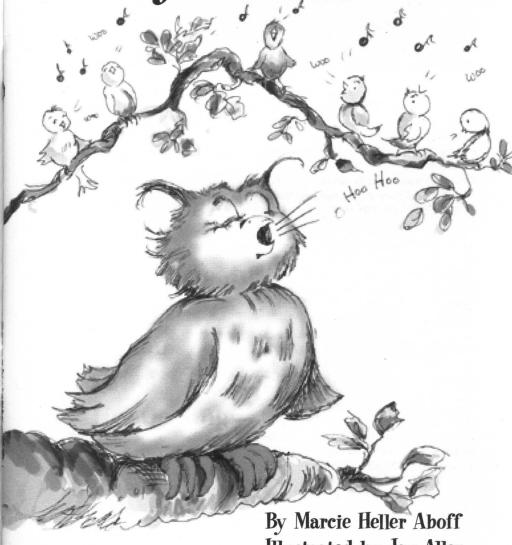


# HOOTE

JOINS IN



Illustrated by Joy Allen

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To my mother and father MHA

To my daughter Beverly, "My new songbird."



#### Chapter 1

### Moving

Hootie could not sleep. He had dark circles under his big round eyes. All day long, cars and trucks honked and beeped. The noise was keeping Hootie awake.

"I have to do something," Hootie said. "What can I do?"



Hootie thought and thought. Then he had an idea. "I'll move to a new tree. I'll find one that is **far away from** all the cars and trucks," Hootie said.

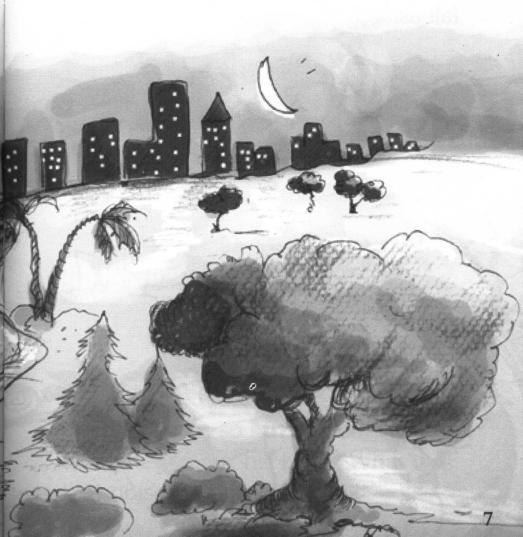
Hootie began to **pack** his bags. The sun was setting behind the tall city buildings when he finished.

"Good-bye, old tree," he said. "I'm **moving to** a place where it is





Hootie **flew off**. He flew over many trees in a big park. Some trees were tall, but their **branches** were very thin. Some trees had thick branches, but those trees were very short. Then he saw a tall tree that was just right.



Hootie found a branch he liked. He worked all night **setting up** his bed.

At last, Hootie was ready to go to sleep. The early morning sun was just reaching Hootie's branch. Hootie closed his eyes. He began to





Suddenly, Hootie's eyes **popped** open. He was so **surprised**, he nearly fell out of his tree. "What was that noise?" he asked.

### Chapter 2

### New Neighbors

Hootie stood up on his branch. He tried to see where the noise was **coming from**. "What's going on?" he cried.

A little brown bird looked down from a branch above Hootie. "Who are you?" the little brown bird asked Hootie.





"I'm Hootie. I'm trying to sleep, but I can't sleep. There is too much noise," said Hootie.

"But it is morning," said the bird.
"It's time for birds to **wake up**."

"Not me," Hootie said. "Owls sleep during the day. Who are you?"

The little brown bird stood as tall as he could. "My name is Singer. I am a song sparrow. I love to sing songs."

"What's going on here?" asked a

gray bird.

"This owl does not want us to sing in the daytime," said Singer. "He wants to sleep all day."

"Who are you?" asked Hootie.

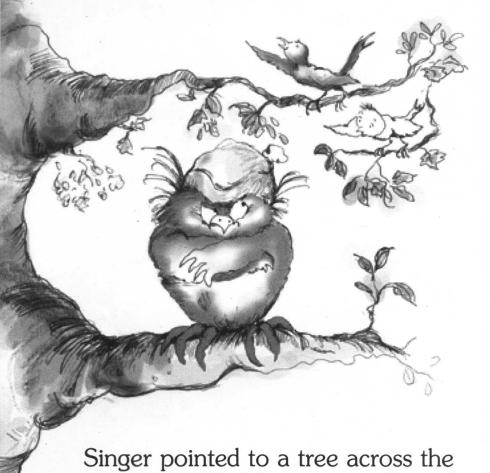
"My name is Kitty," the gray bird said. "I am a catbird. I make all kinds of sounds. I can even sing 'meow' like a cat."





More birds **poked** their heads **out** from behind the branches. They all looked at Hootie. Singer said, "All the birds in this tree sing. We are the Oak Tree Songbirds."

Hootie looked angry. "Well, I need to sleep!" he cried.



Singer pointed to a tree across the park. "Why don't you sleep in that tree?" he asked Hootie.

"It's too small," said Hootie.

Kitty pointed to another tree.

"Why don't you sleep in that tree?" she asked.

"No. It's too close to the cars," said Hootie. "I want to sleep here." The birds had a problem.

What should songbirds do about Hootie?

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#### Chapter 3

## Songbirds Must Sing

Kitty and Singer called all the Oak Tree Songbirds to a **meeting**. Singer spoke first. "We have lived together in this tree for a long time. We all love to sing, but what should we do about Hootie?"





"We were here first," said Kitty.

"Hootie should move."

"Hootie doesn't want to move," said Singer.

All the birds thought for a long time.

Then a tiny bird with a short tail chirped up. It was Rose. Rose was a **smart** wren.