



# Once, a Bird



*imagined by*  
RINA SINGH

*illustrated by*  
NATHALIE DION



# Once, the world went quiet.

**ONCE, AS THE WINTER ENDED, A LITTLE BIRD EMERGED TO FIND THE WORLD HAD GONE QUIET.**

The streets are empty and the playgrounds still. Puzzled but determined, the bird explores the town in search of a suitable place to nest. The residents of an apartment building notice her resting in a tree outside and take comfort in her song. Watching through their windows, they look beyond their lives and pause to appreciate the wonders of nature. The bird chooses to make this community her home and builds a nest, an act of resilience and hope that inspires the humans to emerge as well, reminding them that natural rhythms continue, seasons change and life goes on. Once again.

This wordless picture book is a hopeful contemplation of our interconnectedness with the natural world and the joy that nature brings us, even in unusual times.

**Rina Singh** is an award-winning children's author who is drawn to real-life stories about the environment and social justice. Her critically acclaimed books include *Grandmother School*, winner of the 2021 Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize; *Diwali: A Festival of Lights*, nominated for the Red Cedar Award; and *111 Trees*, winner of the Social Justice Literature Award. Rina has an MFA in creative writing from Concordia University and a teaching degree from McGill University. She lives in Toronto.

**Nathalie Dion** is an award-winning children's book illustrator. Her picture book *The Big Bad Wolf in My House* (*Le grand méchant loup dans ma maison*) won the 2021 Prix Espiègle and was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award, the Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award and the Harry Black Picture Book Award. Nathalie graduated from Concordia University in design arts. Her Intuos tablet and numeric paintbrushes are her favorite tools. Nathalie is based in Montreal.

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# Once, a Bird

**Author:** Rina Singh

**Illustrator:** Nathalie Dion

September 12, 2023

In this wordless picture book, a bird emerges after winter to find the world has gone quiet. As she settles on a tree outside an apartment building, its residents notice her through their windows and find hope in her resilience and the continued rhythms of nature.

## FORMAT

10.75 x 8.75"

32 pages

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## KEY SELLING POINTS

- A small bird has a big impact in this story of looking beyond ourselves and reconnecting with nature.
- This wordless story offers a hopeful contemplation on the rhythms of nature and the importance of connection in the face of disruption and isolation.
- Birders and budding birders will enjoy observing the behaviours of the American robin as she sings her early morning song, gathers materials to build a nest and tends to her chicks.
- Nathalie Dion's subtle illustrations carry readers through this wordless journey of finding connection after solitude.
- The author was inspired to write this story on a solitary walk during the COVID-19 pandemic.

AMRITA SINGH



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Rina Singh** is an award-winning children's author who is drawn to real-life stories about the environment and social justice. Her critically acclaimed books include *Grandmother School*, winner of the 2021 Christie Harris Illustrated Children's Literature Prize; *Diwali: A Festival of Lights*, nominated for the Red Cedar Award; and *111 Trees*, winner of the Social Justice Literature Award. Rina has an MFA in creative writing from Concordia University and a teaching degree from McGill University. She lives in Toronto.

NATHALIE DION-LAVERTU



## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Nathalie Dion** is an award-winning children's book illustrator. Her picture book *The Big Bad Wolf in My House* (*Le grand méchant loup dans ma maison*) won the 2021 Prix Espiègle and was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award, the Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award and the Harry Black Picture Book Award. Nathalie graduated from Concordia University in design arts. Her Intuos tablet and numeric paintbrushes are her favorite tools. Nathalie is based in Montreal.



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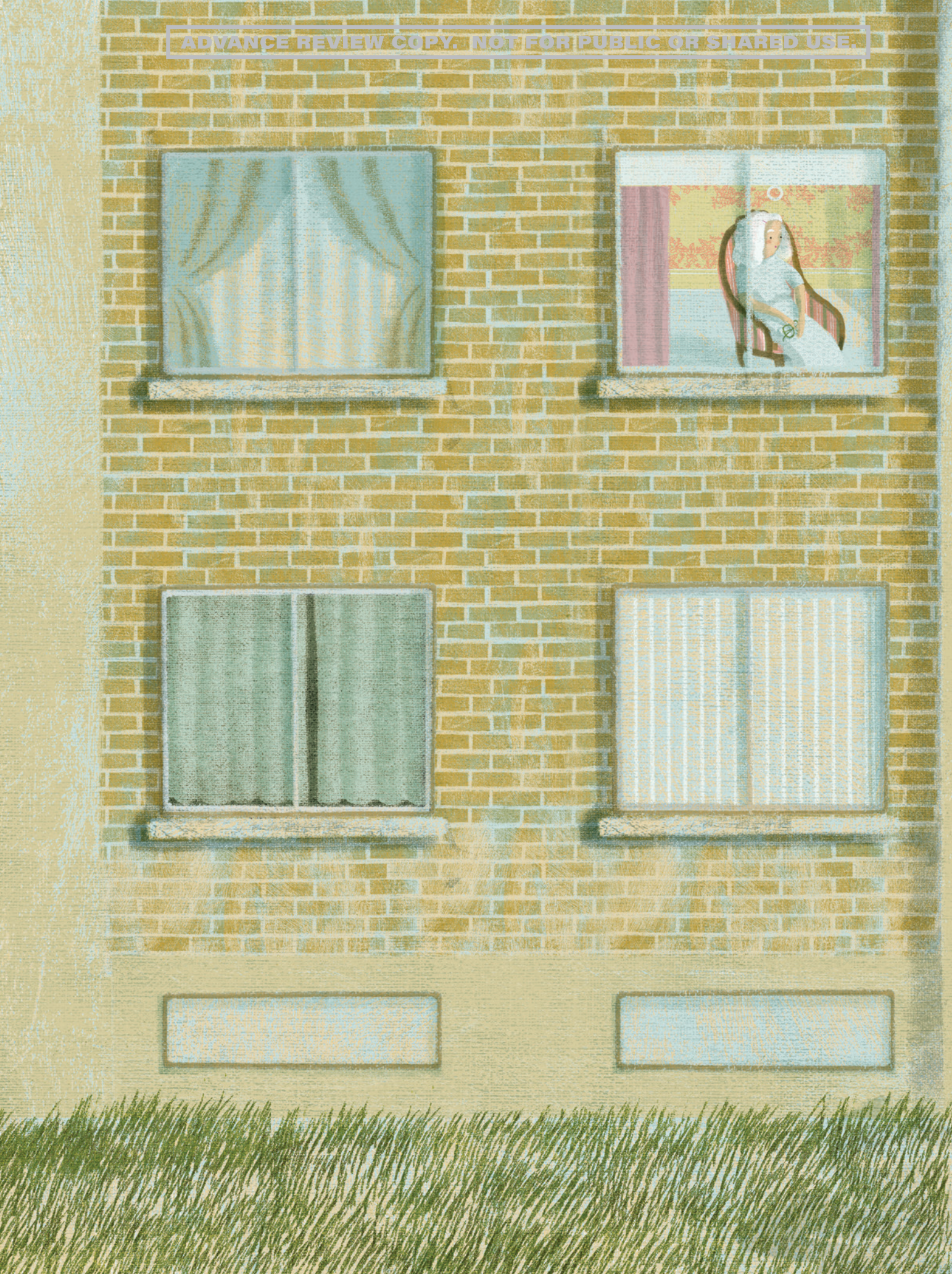










































For Chan,  
who listened to the birdsong with me

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**Summary:** In this wordless picture book, a bird emerges after winter to find the world has gone quiet. As she settles on a tree outside an apartment building, its residents notice her through their windows and find hope in her resilience and the continued rhythms of nature.

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