

Who Keeps Chattering!

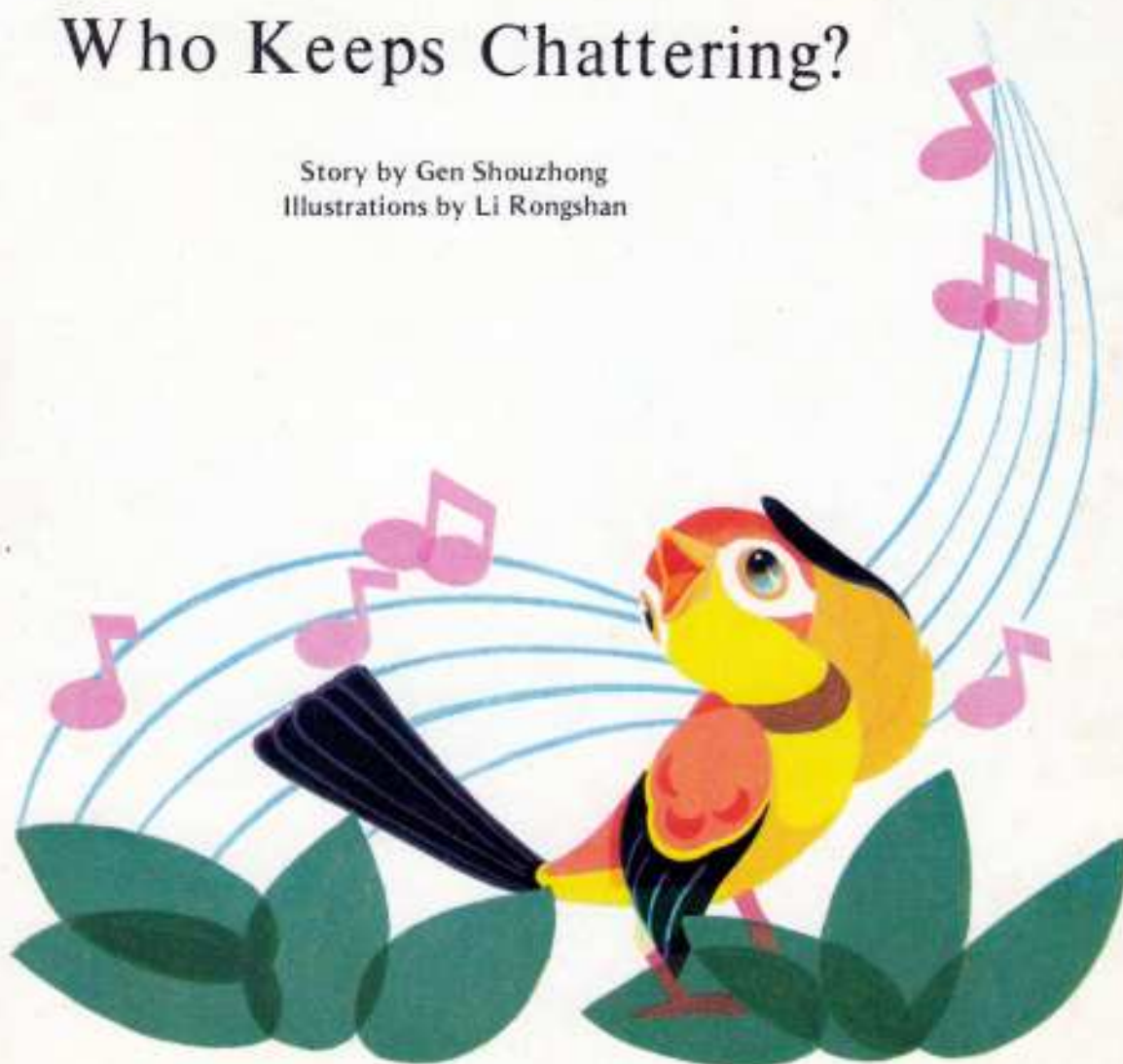


Beginning Science



Who Keeps Chattering?

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FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS BEIJING

First Edition 1986

Hard Cover: ISBN 0-8351-1345-0

Paperback: ISBN 0-8351-1346-9

Copyright 1986 by Foreign Languages Press

Published by Foreign Languages Press

24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing, China

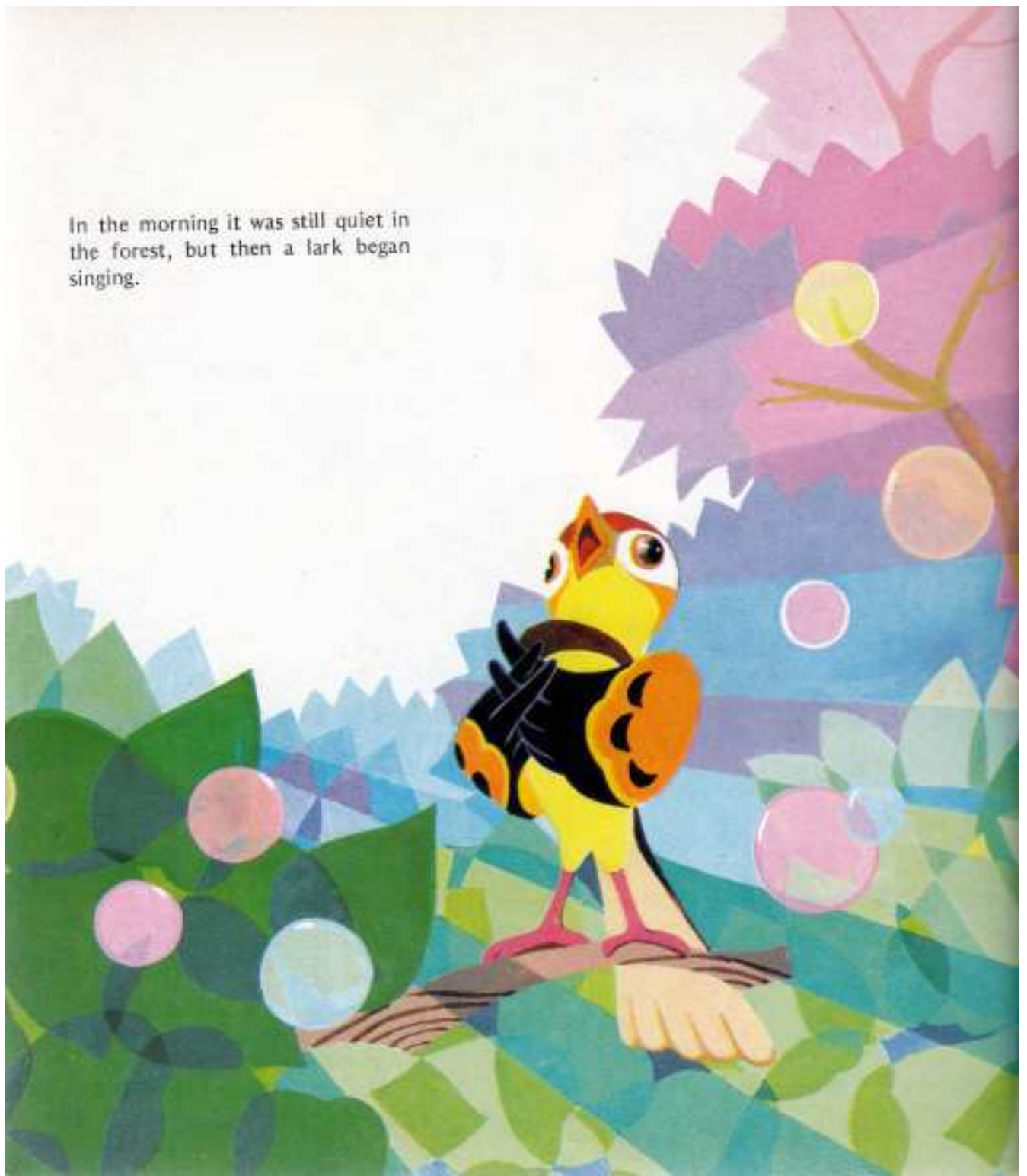
Distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation
(Guoji Shudian), P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

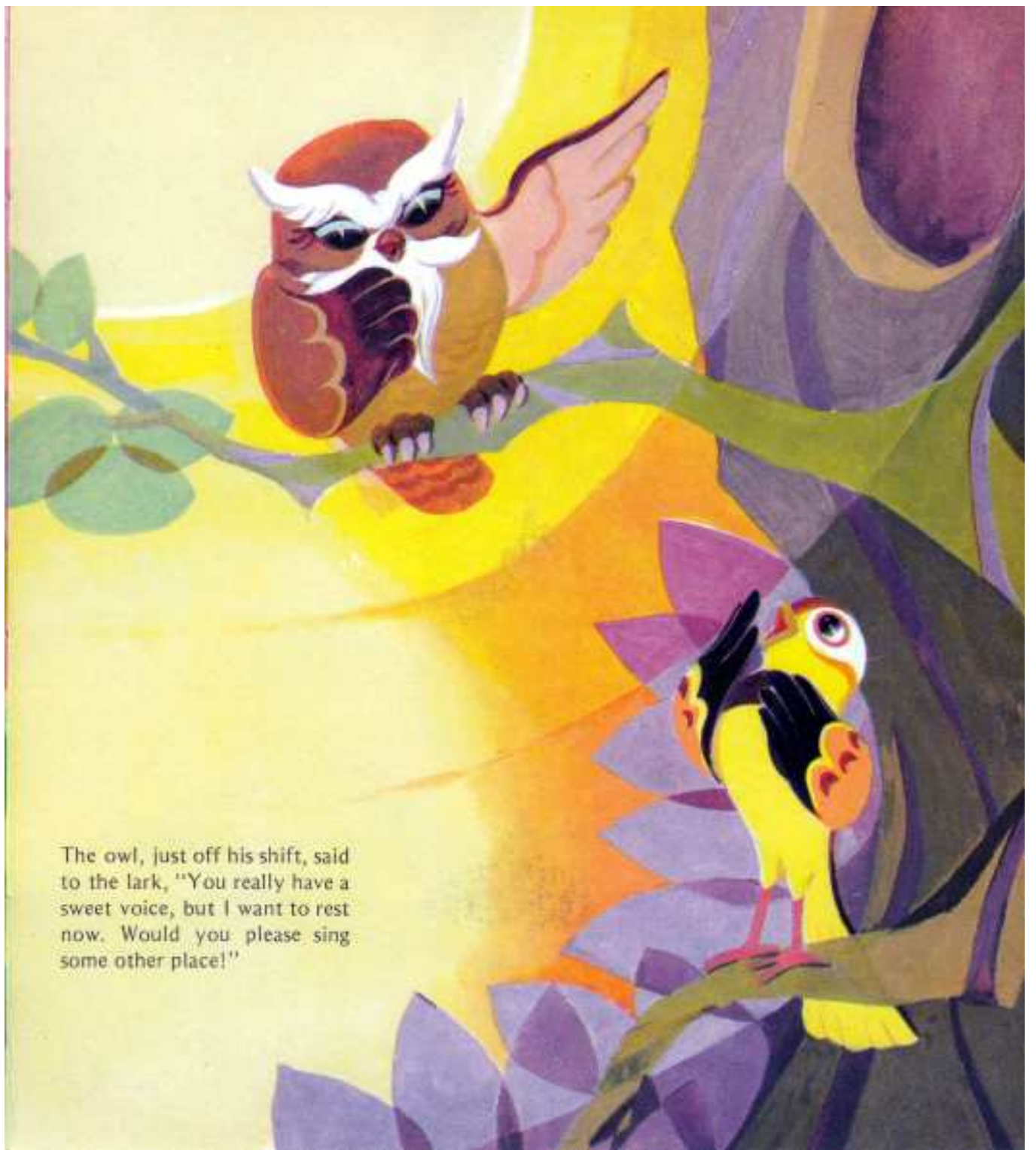
Printed in the People's Republic of China



At midnight, when almost all the birds were sleeping, an owl was busy working on the night shift. He hooted sometimes, and dived at a mouse.

In the morning it was still quiet in the forest, but then a lark began singing.



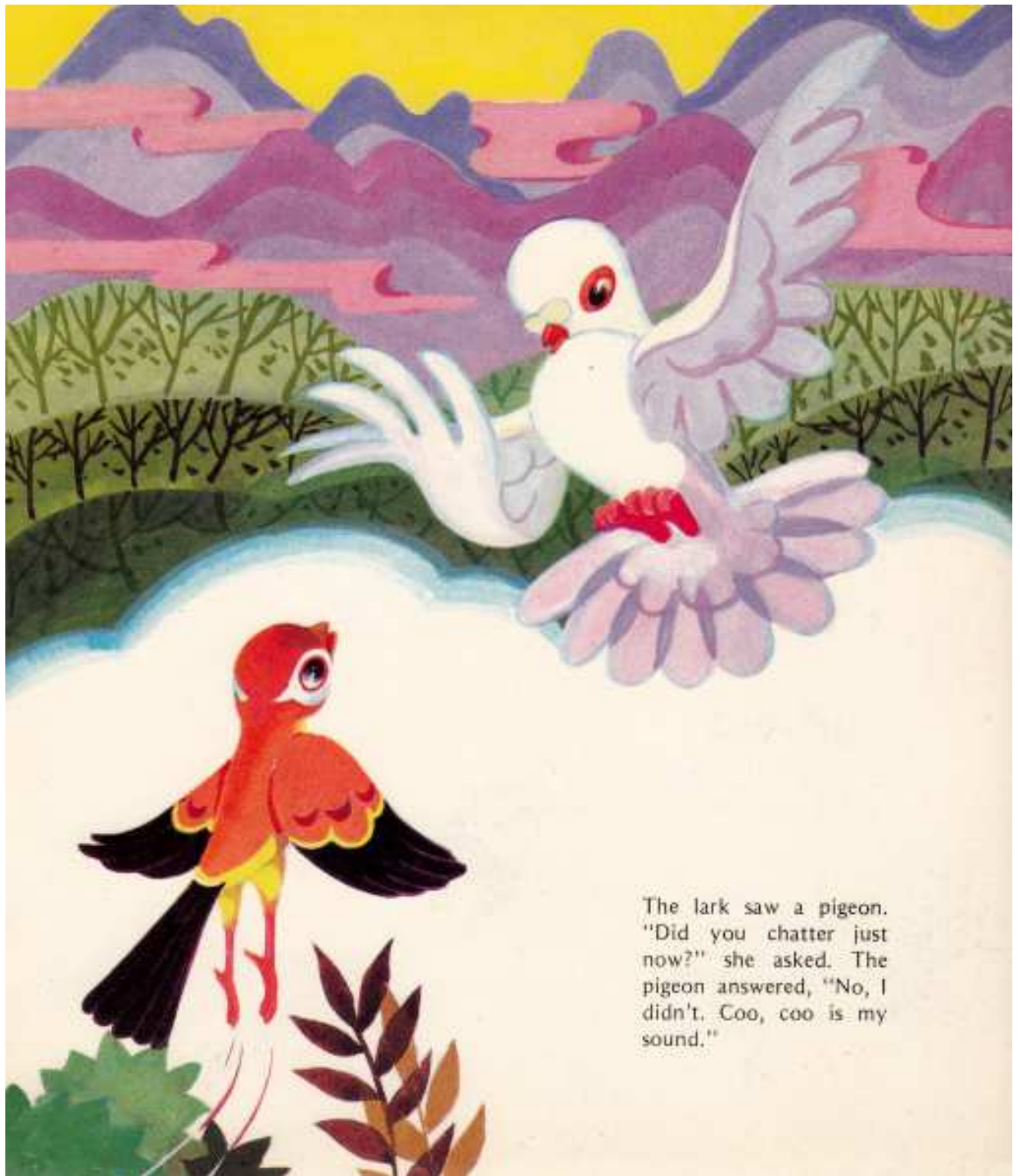


The owl, just off his shift, said to the lark, "You really have a sweet voice, but I want to rest now. Would you please sing some other place!"



The lark stopped singing. But then she heard chattering coming from some other place. She wondered who was chattering, and said to herself, "I must tell them that the owl needs to have a rest because he worked for the whole night."





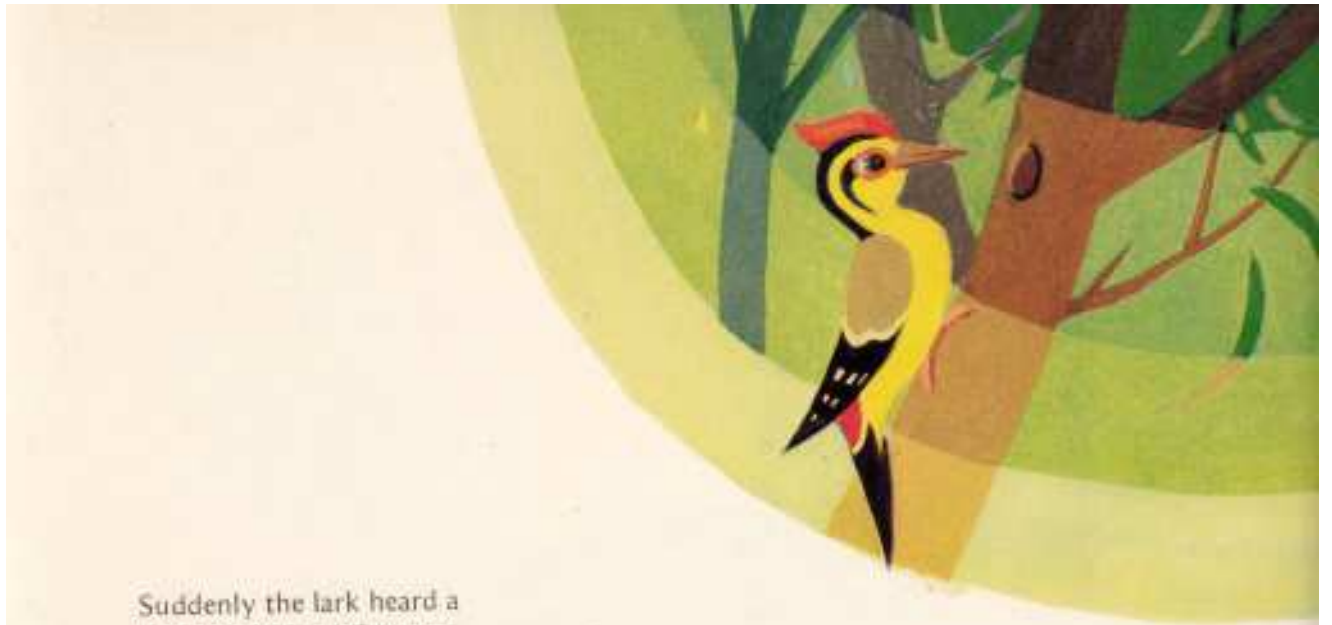
The lark saw a pigeon. "Did you chatter just now?" she asked. The pigeon answered, "No, I didn't. Coo, coo is my sound."

The lark then met cuckoo and asked, "Did you chatter just now?" "No, I didn't. I can only cuckoo," the bird answered.



The lark saw a wryneck and asked, "Did you chatter just now?" "No," the wryneck answered. "My voice is short and sharp: kay, kay, kay."





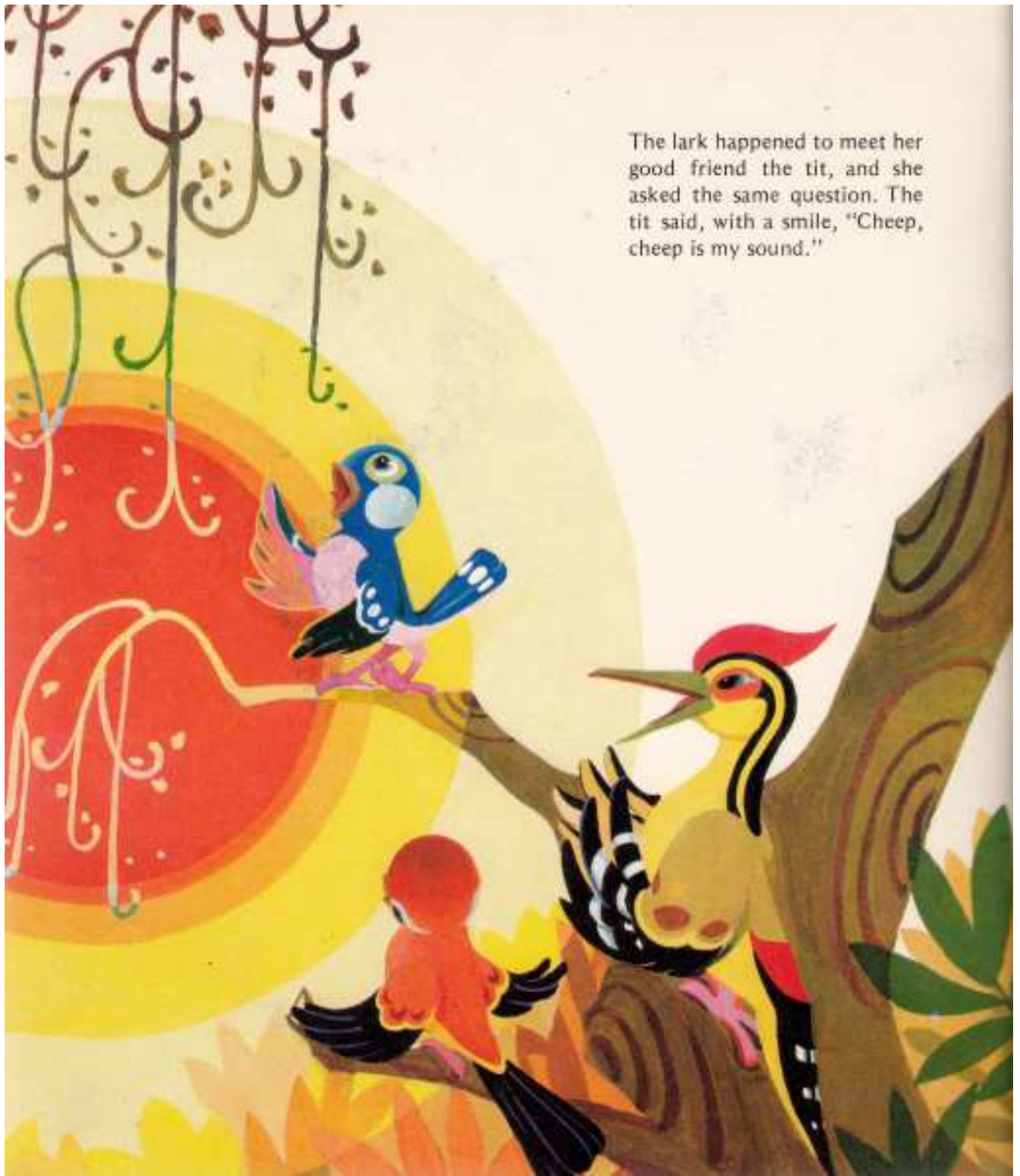
Suddenly the lark heard a woodpecker tapping on a tree.





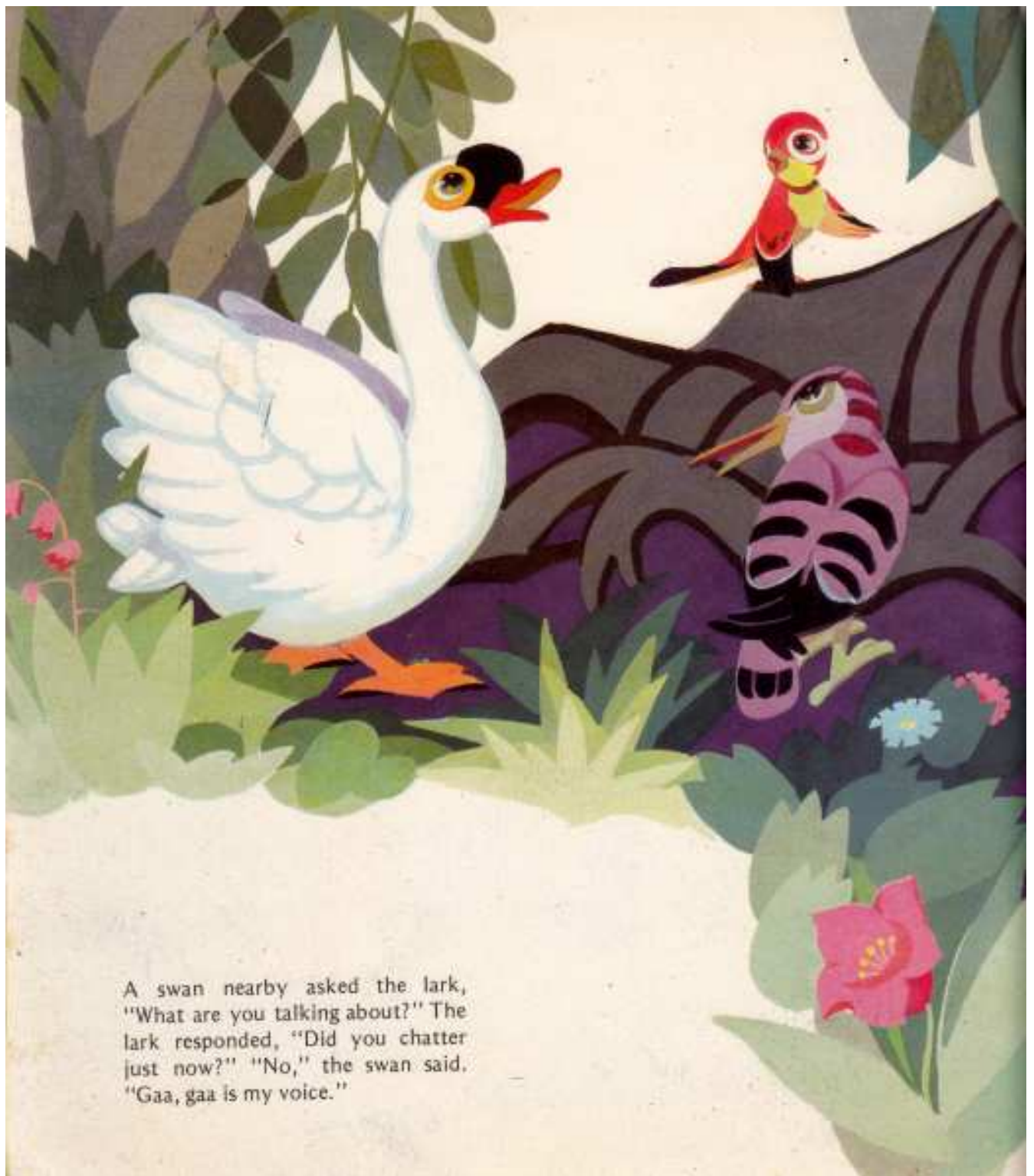
The woodpecker said, "Tap, tap, tap is the sound I make when I look for insects, and ssh, ssh is my real voice."

The lark happened to meet her good friend the tit, and she asked the same question. The tit said, with a smile, "Cheep, cheep is my sound."



The lark then saw woodcock, who said, "I am busy catching insects. Tak, tak is my voice."



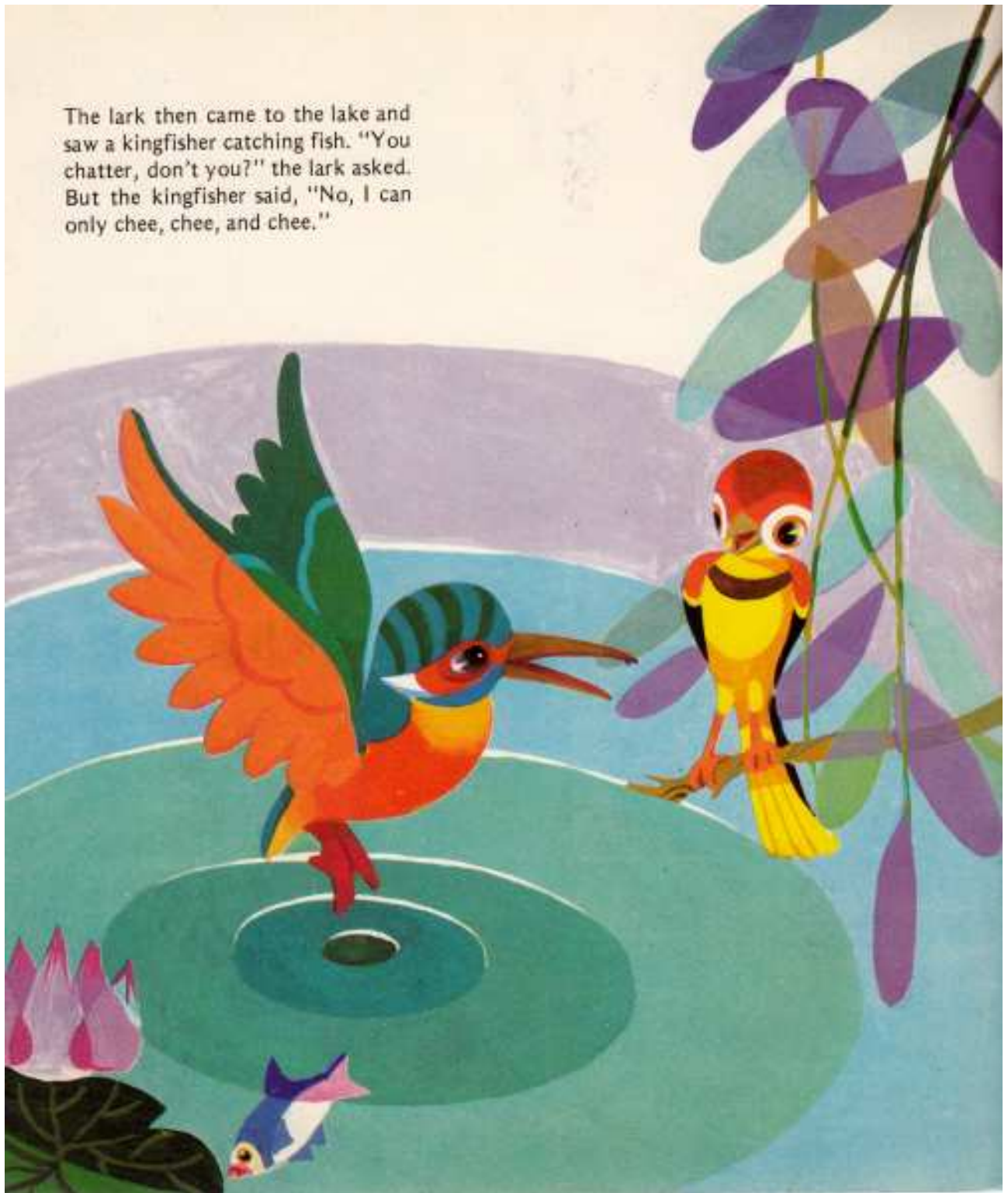


A swan nearby asked the lark,
"What are you talking about?" The
lark responded, "Did you chatter
just now?" "No," the swan said.
"Gaa, gaa is my voice."

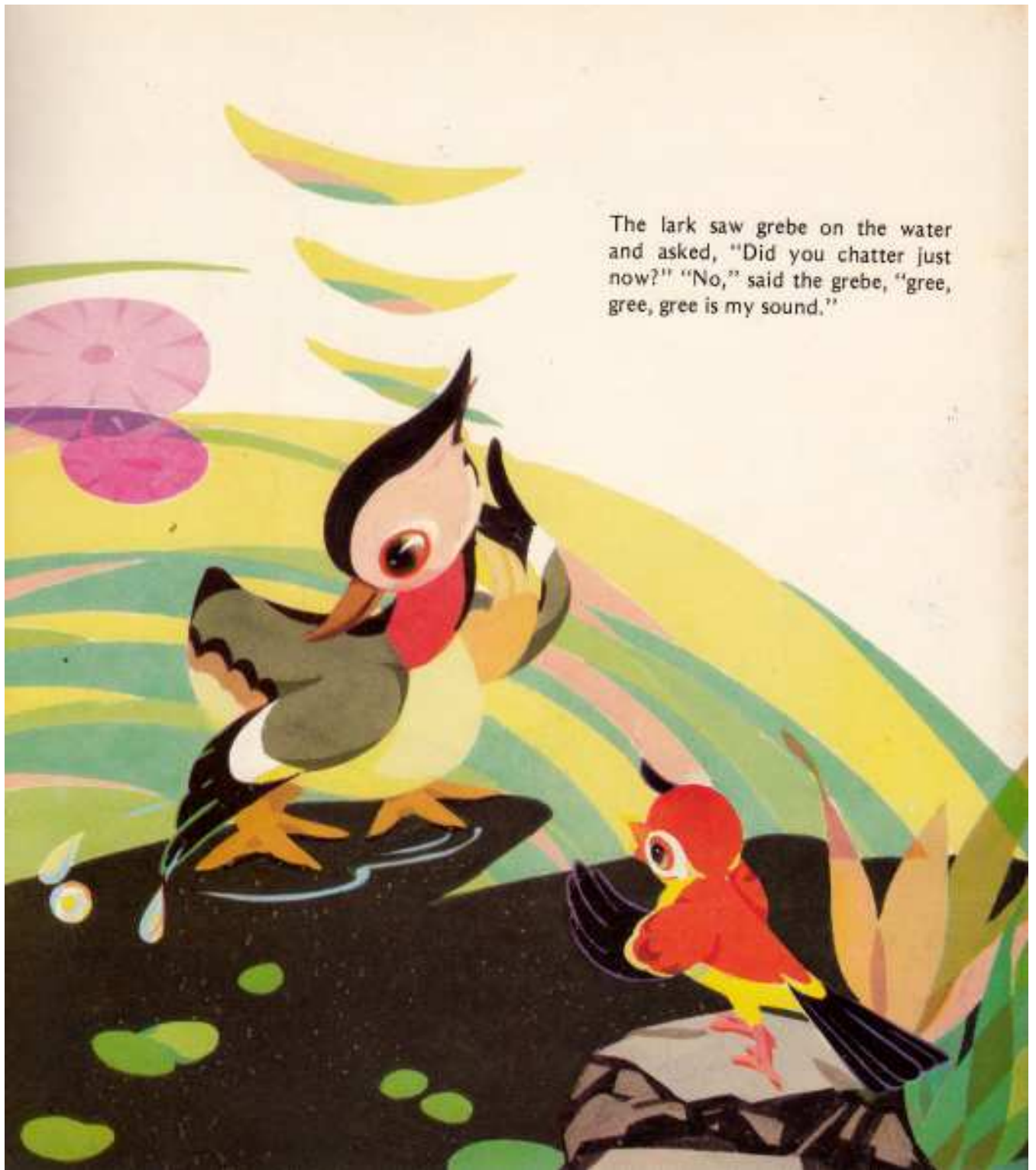


Then a hoopoe came by, and the lark asked him the same question. The hoopoe replied, "My voice is not pretty. Listen — hoopoe, hoopoe."

The lark then came to the lake and saw a kingfisher catching fish. "You chatter, don't you?" the lark asked. But the kingfisher said, "No, I can only chee, chee, and chee."

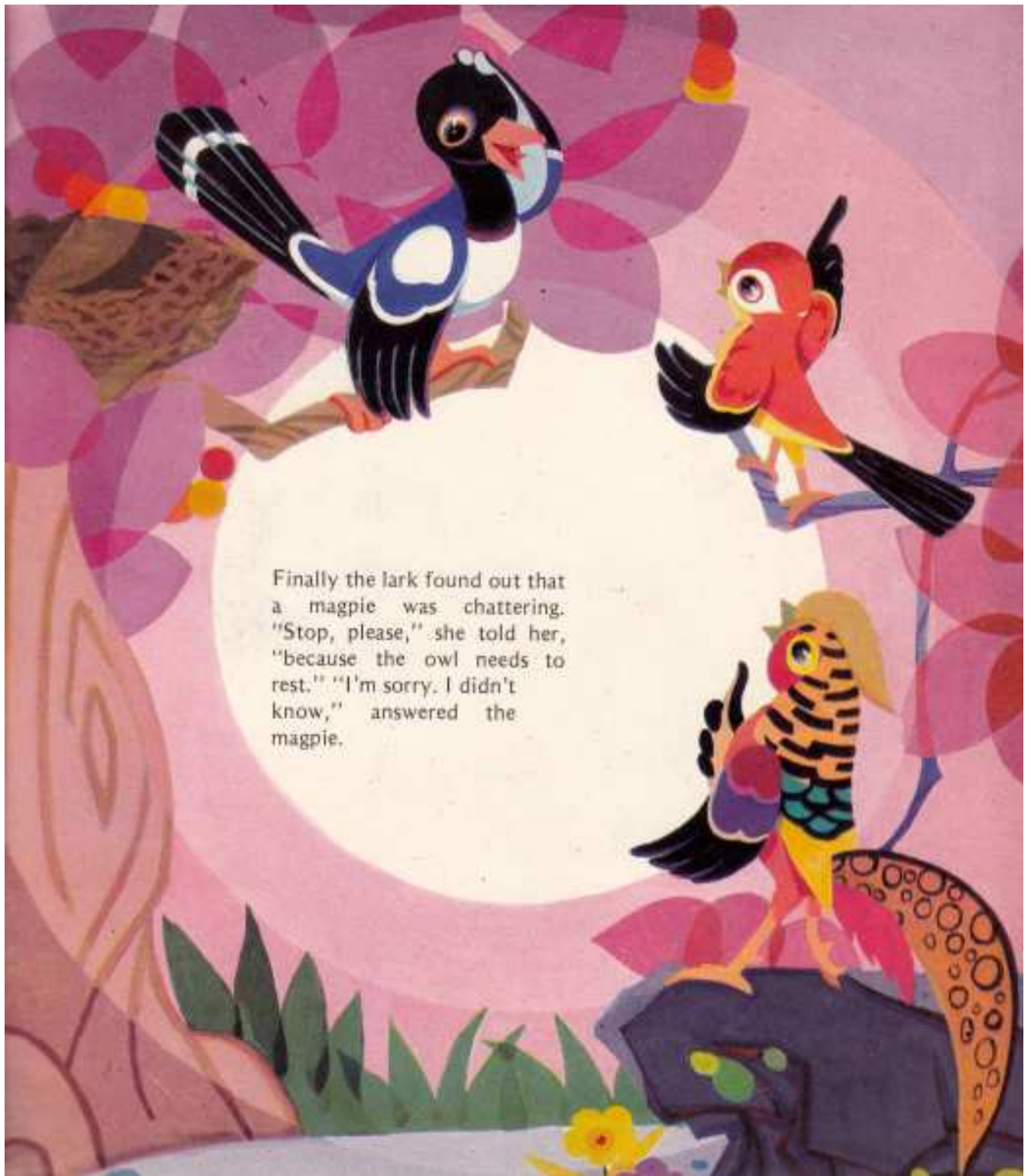


The lark saw grebe on the water and asked, "Did you chatter just now?" "No," said the grebe, "gree, gree is my sound."

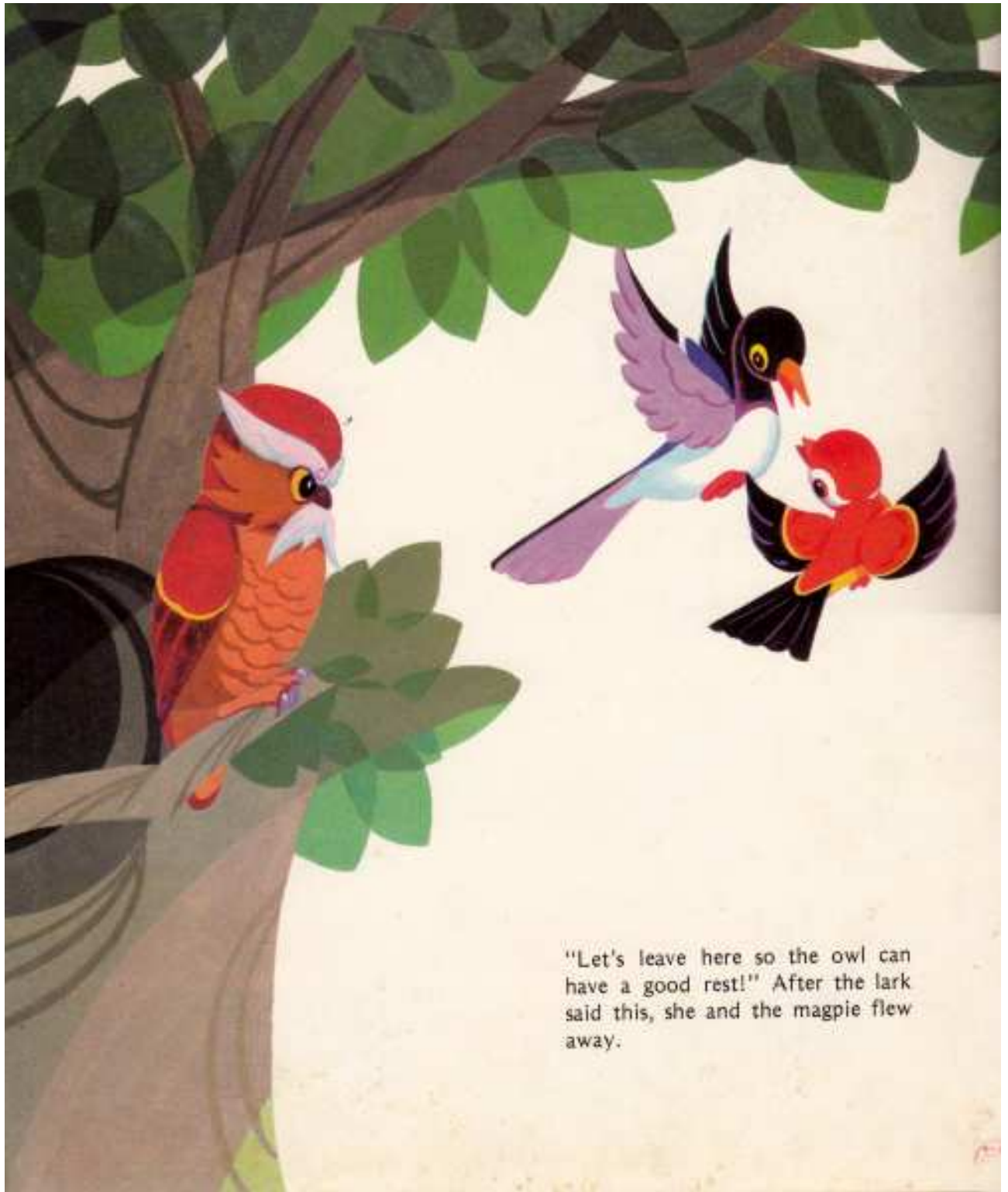


The lark asked a pheasant
catching worms what
sound he made. The
pheasant clucked for a
while. But that was not
it, so the lark left.

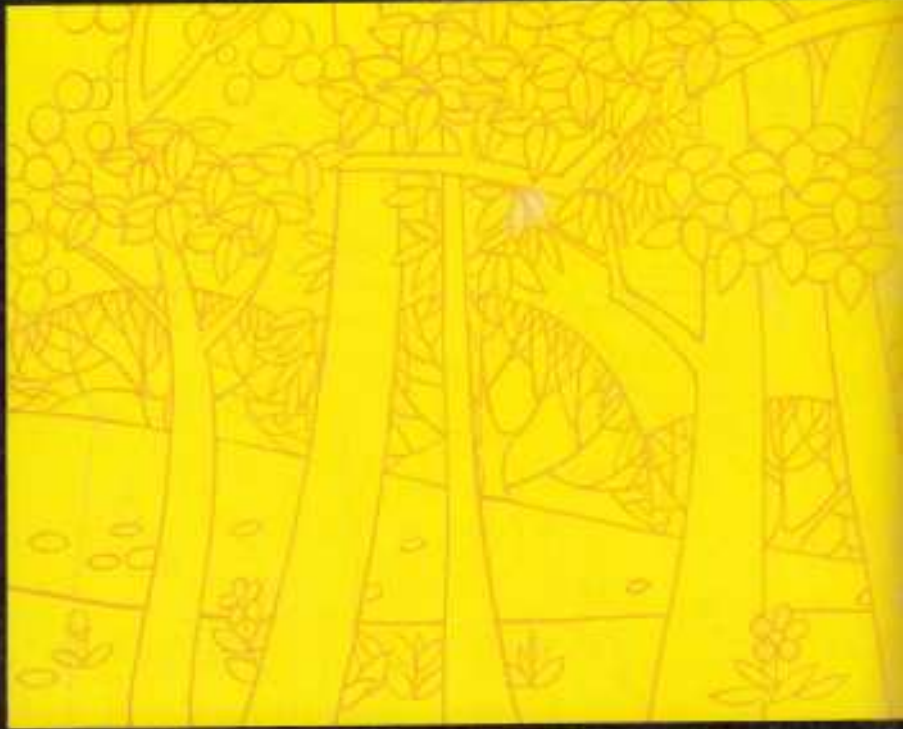




Finally the lark found out that a magpie was chattering. "Stop, please," she told her, "because the owl needs to rest." "I'm sorry. I didn't know," answered the magpie.



"Let's leave here so the owl can have a good rest!" After the lark said this, she and the magpie flew away.



ISBN 0-8351-1346-9