



Kaka and Munni

A folktale from Punjab

Retold and illustrated by Natasha Sharma

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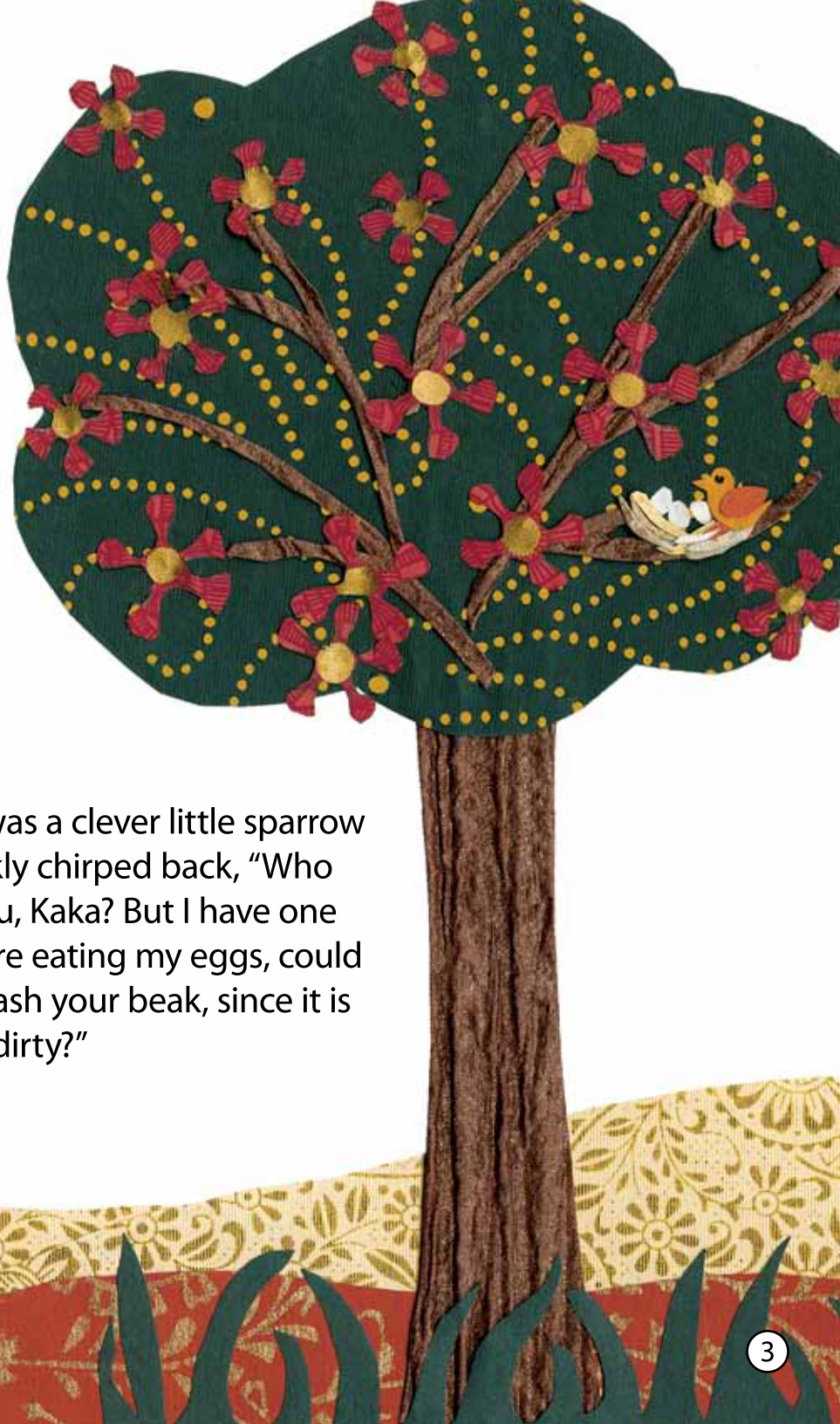


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In a gulmohar tree along the wheat fields in Punjab, Munni the sparrow sat by her nest. She watched over her three little eggs, waiting for them to hatch.

Munni looked around happily at the bright red flowers, before giving a startled chirp as she saw a flash of black. It was the village bully, Kaka the crow. "Move over Munni, for I have come to eat your eggs," he crowed.



Now Munni was a clever little sparrow and she quickly chirped back, "Who can refuse you, Kaka? But I have one request. Before eating my eggs, could you please wash your beak, since it is looking very dirty?"



Kaka did not like the idea of not looking his very best.



He quickly flew over to the stream and was about to wash his beak in the water, when the stream cried out, "Kaka! Wait! If you dip your beak into me, all my water will become dirty. Go get a cup, fill it with water, and wash your beak in that."





Hearing this, Kaka went to the potter in the village, and cawed to him,

“Oh potter dear,
This is Kaka here.
A cup you make
For me to fill
With water to wash
My dirty bill
So I can eat the eggs
And loudly caw
To let everyone
Hear me and know
That I am the most handsome crow.”



“I will gladly give you a cup, but I need mud to make one for you,” said the potter.



What is a Collage?

Each of the pictures that you have seen in this book is a collage (ko – laaj). Collage is a way of making a whole new picture by putting bits of material together. The material could be handmade and printed paper, like in this book. It could be clippings from newspapers and magazines, old greeting cards, photographs, fabric, ribbons, dried flowers and leaves, or anything else that you find lying around!

The word “collage” comes from the French word “colle” meaning “glue”. To make a collage you need bits of different material, a scissor or a pair of nimble fingers to tear up stuff and lots of glue to stick things together.

This page shows the four elements, Wind, Water, Earth and a fiery Sun, and uses bits from paper you can spot in the book. Now go ahead and make your own collage!

