THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM

by Kevin Geiger
For Claire
There once was a worm named WILLIE.
Willie lived happily in his home DEEP UNDERGROUND.
Willie loved DIRT, and thought about it all the time.
But sometimes Willie thought about OTHER THINGS.
Was DIGGING all there was to do?
Was there anything OUTSIDE the dirt?
Willie decided to find out for himself.

He DUG and DUG and DUG...
...until he came OUT into the fresh air and sunshine!

Willie was AMAZED!
And so was EARL LEE BIRD.
Earl Lee Bird could not believe his luck.

He'd been waiting ALL MORNING for a worm.
Willie didn't know WHAT TO DO next.
He thought if he stayed VERY STILL, maybe the big thing would ignore him.
But Earl Lee Bird GRABBED Willie...
...and FLEW AWAY with him!
Willie SHUT HIS EYES,

afraid of what would happen next.
"It's great to have a NEW FRIEND," chirped Earl Lee Bird.

Willie opened his eyes in surprise.
Willie saw the world for the first time.

Everything was so BIG and BEAUTIFUL!
Earl Lee Bird flew them AROUND and AROUND, up and down and loop the loop.
But instead of feeling HAPPY with his new friend, Willie was SAD.
Earl Lee Bird's world was SO MUCH BETTER than Willie's dirt.
And FLYING was so much better than DIGGING.
Earl Lee Bird saw that Willie was SAD...
...and flew HIGHER into the sky.
"Don't be down," Earl Lee Bird chirped. Look at what YOU do!"

Willie couldn't believe his EYES.
COLORFUL BLANKETS of crops and flowers covered the land below.
"I've never met an ARTIST before," chirped Earl Lee Bird.
"I'm very impressed with your WORK."
"THANK YOU,"
laughed Willie.
Happy again, Willie went BACK HOME deep underground.
Where he made MORE ART for his friend to enjoy.
The END.
Kevin Geiger is an artist and former Disney animator who has been creating stories since childhood. He lives in Beijing with his wife and daughters.
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