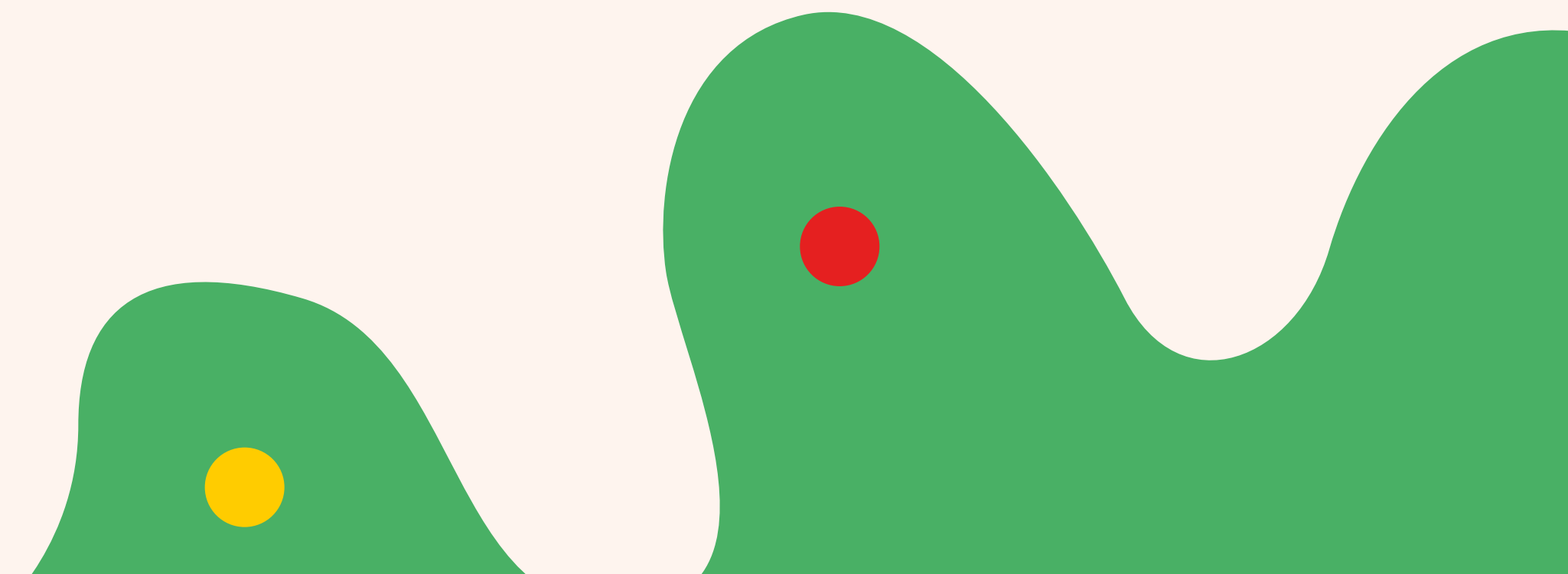




MAJOR & MELODY



...AND HOW THEY MET



Major

Major is a little, brownish-yellow sparrow. He wears wellies, so he can't fly all that well. Major loves to sing. He likes all songs that are pleasant, funny or cheerful. The only thing is, his deep voice frightens all the others.

They cry out: "You sound like a grump!", "That's supposed to be a song?", "It's not quite right!" And besides, the rest of the flock thinks, it's about time he finally gets some sense and starts helping out at work.

Major is disappointed and hops along alone in the woods...



Melody

Melody, a strongly-built, female bear cub with a voice as bright as a bell, was, once again, too afraid to be of any help foraging for food. The others shout: "One peep of your squeaky voice and everyone knows: you'll never be a mighty bear." Melody is offended.

Hurt, she tramps through the woods...



Rustle in the Leaves

The branches crackle. Melody frightfully looks about. There! There it is again — a rustle in the leaves, so close. Melody feels queasy. The others are right; she'll never be a great big bear. Suddenly, a deep voice grumbles from behind her in an attempt to sing: "Here, here! Here I am!"

Terrified there must be a giant (animal) behind her, she turns around to find... a sparrow with wellies. He's perched on a branch bobbing just above the ground, and he's smiling. A little thing like that can't be dangerous at all!

An Encounter

“Who are you? And why are you wearing wellies?”, Melody asks. “I’m Major, and these wellies were a gift from my grandfather. He was a great singer”, Major says and then tells of his misfortune. Melody asks him to sing a song — but she stops him just as soon as he starts: “It has no melody, and — you sound like a grumpy bear.”

Major is perplexed; Melody really IS a bear, but he sounds nothing like her at all. Just the opposite: the bear has a gentle voice, as faint as a drop of morning dew on a petal.

Melody tells Major why she’s alone. The sparrow responds, “sorry to say, but, you really can’t be all that brave, what with a voice like that... but singing, yeah, that might suit you well...”. Melody heftily throws the idea aside with one of her thick paws. “No, no I wouldn’t dare try to sing.”



Hiking & Bonding

They hike for a time in the woods. Well, Melody hikes; the sparrow sits on her head (and enjoys the ride). All of a sudden, Major asks, “don’t you think we should stick together?” “Yes! If you’re together, you’re never alone”, Melody answers. Both eagerly nod and Major nearly falls from atop Melody’s head.



Major & Melody

Dry twigs snap under Melody's paws. In the distance, you can hear an owl, fox and cricket. The sounds of the woods weave together to the rhythm of imaginative music. The cub begins to hum to herself. Her humming grows stronger and, see there, she opens her mouth and sings. The sparrow listens to her gentle voice. The notes of her melody glide through the air light as a feather... The animals of the woods fall silent. Major clears his throat and-quietly, very quietly-joins in with Melody's song...

The song is finished. The sparrow and the bear look at each other as though bound by a spell. "Together we sound wonderful!" they shout. "Music happens together!", they rejoice. Delighted, they dance through the woods... and the owl, fox and cricket don't flee. They come and join the dance with Major and Melody.



