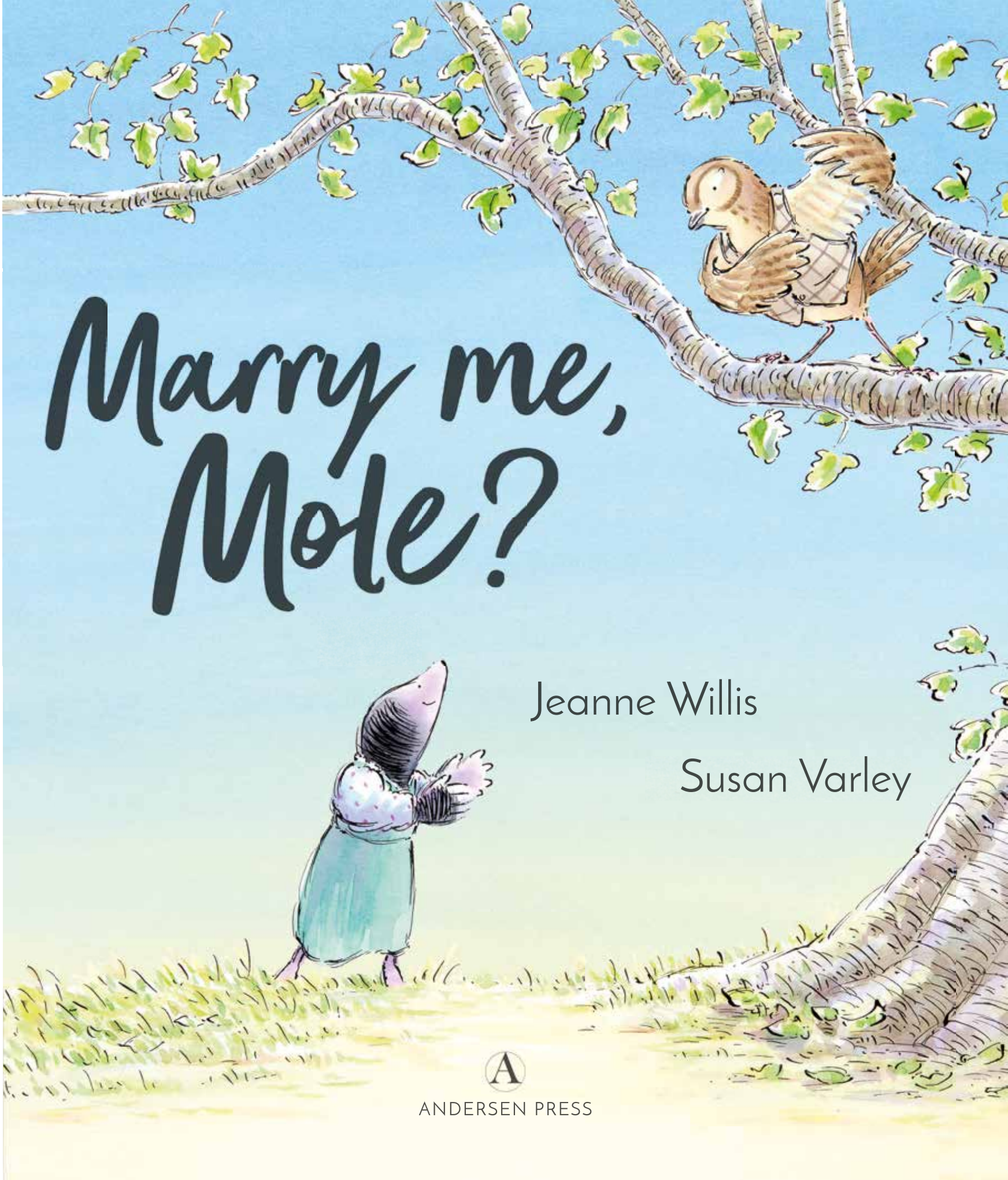


For Judi Hudson – J.W.

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"Mole, why won't you marry me?"
Sang a lonely bird in the maple tree.
"I'll make you the best nest in the sky."
But Mole said...



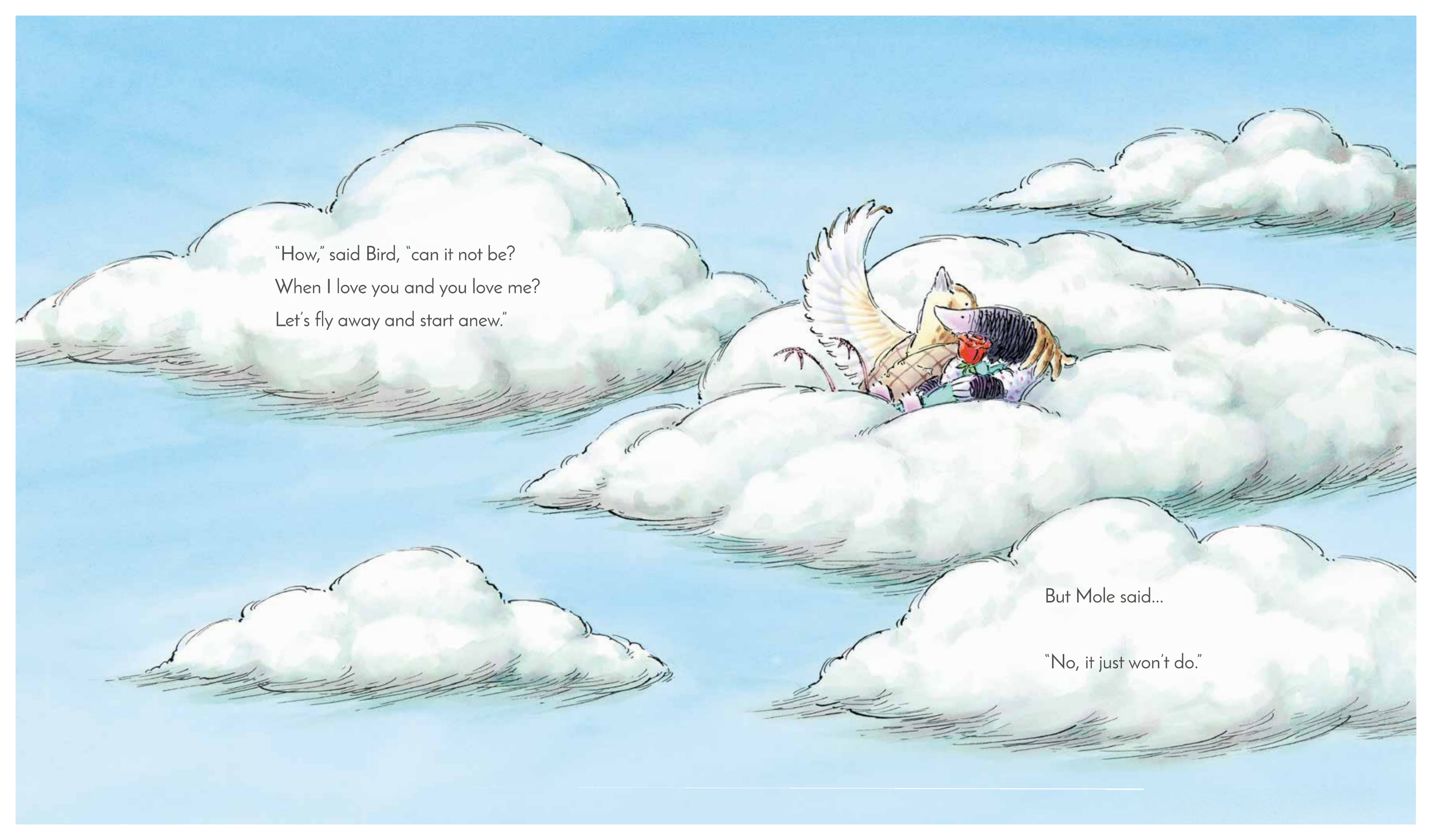


“NO!”



And Bird said, “Why?
Don’t you like my singing?
Don’t you like my tree?”
And Mole said...

“Yes! But our love cannot be.”

A whimsical illustration of a bird and a mole on a cloud. The bird, with yellow and white feathers, is perched on a large, fluffy white cloud. It is holding a small red rose in its beak. The mole, with a brown body and a long snout, is also on the cloud, looking up at the bird. The background is a clear blue sky with several other smaller white clouds. The text is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font.

“How,” said Bird, “can it not be?
When I love you and you love me?
Let’s fly away and start anew.”

But Mole said...

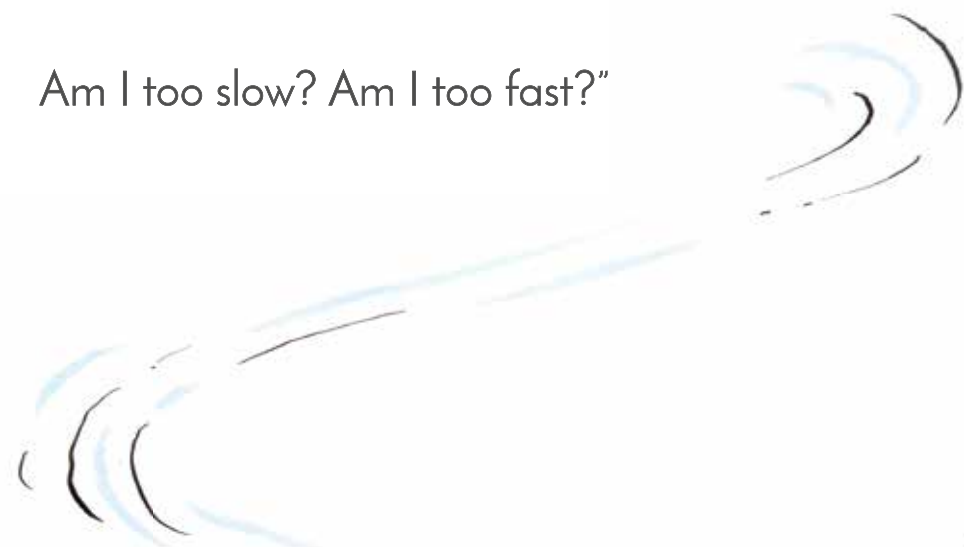
“No, it just won’t do.”



"Or perhaps you just don't care!"
Called Bird from high up in the air.



"Am I too big? Too small? Too old?
Am I too shy? Too young? Too bold?"



Am I too slow? Am I too fast?"



But Mole just said...