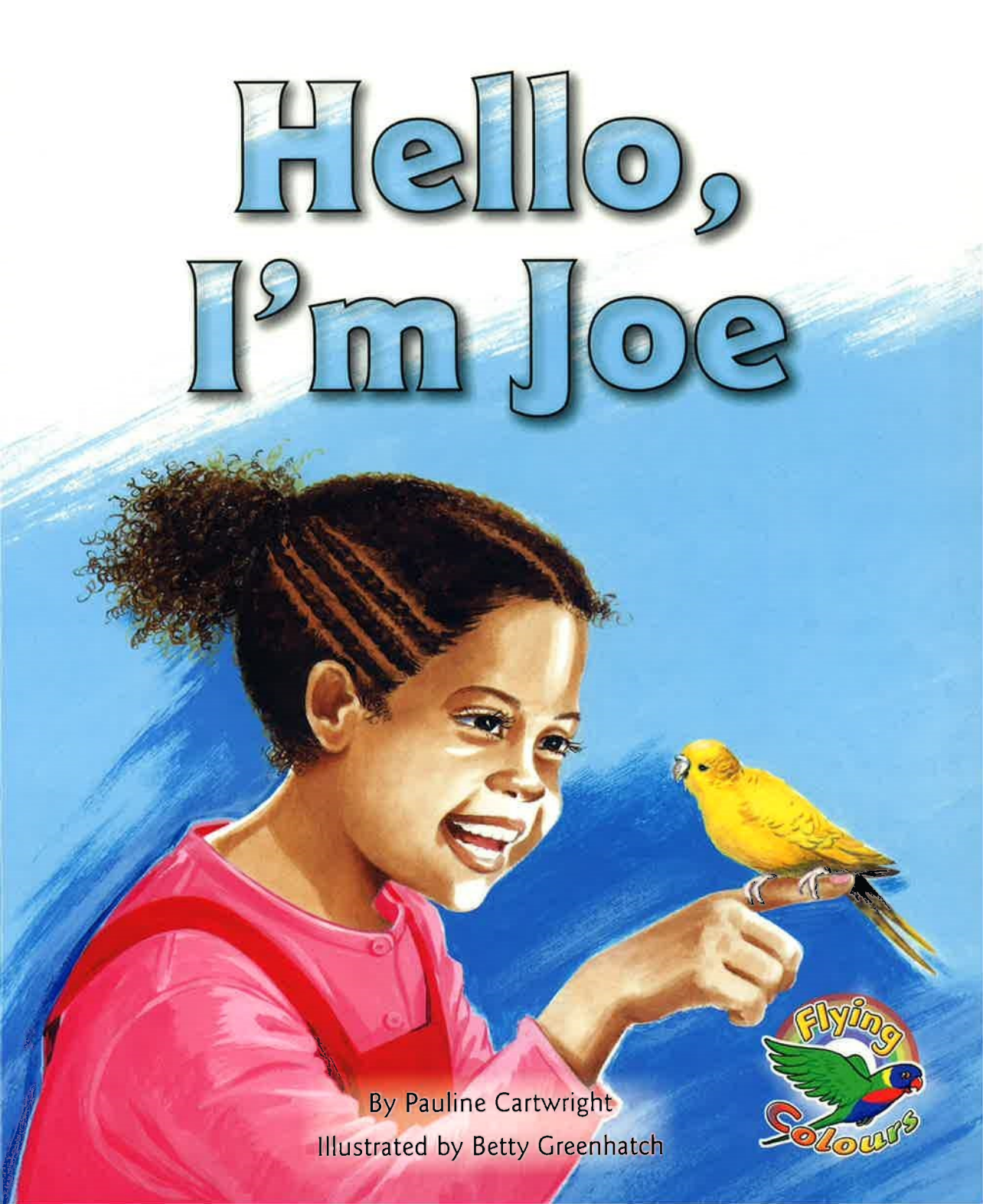
# Hello, I'm Joe



By Pauline Cartwright

Illustrated by Betty Greenhatch

Flying Colours



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| Title | *Hello, I'm Joe* |
| Levels | 19–20/21 |
| Running words | 653 |

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# Hello, I'm Joe



By Pauline Cartwright
Illustrated by Betty Greenhatch


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Chapter 1

# Like a Golden Arrow

For a pet, Hannah had a yellow budgie she called Joe. She tried to teach him to talk.

"Hello, I'm Joe," she said, over and over again. Joe never said it back.

"I do wish you'd try," Hannah would say.



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Joe was a good pet to have in an apartment because he didn't need a field or a yard to live in. His home was a cage that hung on a hook in the corner of the living room. Hannah's dad had put a hook on the balcony too, so that Joe's cage could sometimes be hung outside.

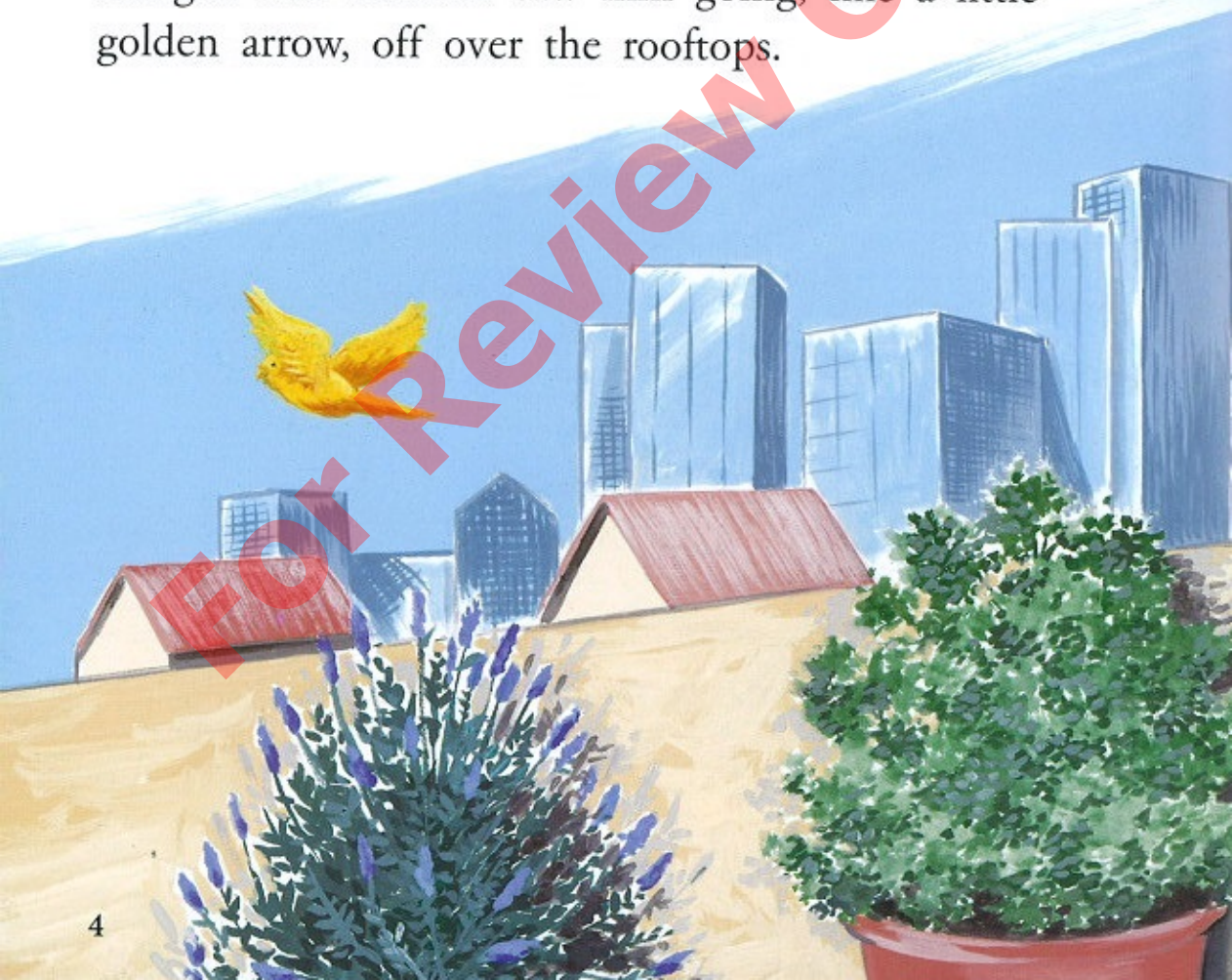
Hannah had to clean the cage and make sure there was always food and water inside. Now and again, she gave Joe some exercise by letting him fly about the living room. After a while, Hannah would let him land on her finger and would put him back in his cage.

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One day, Hannah's dad was working on the balcony.

Hannah called to him, "Dad, don't open the door because Joe is exercising inside."

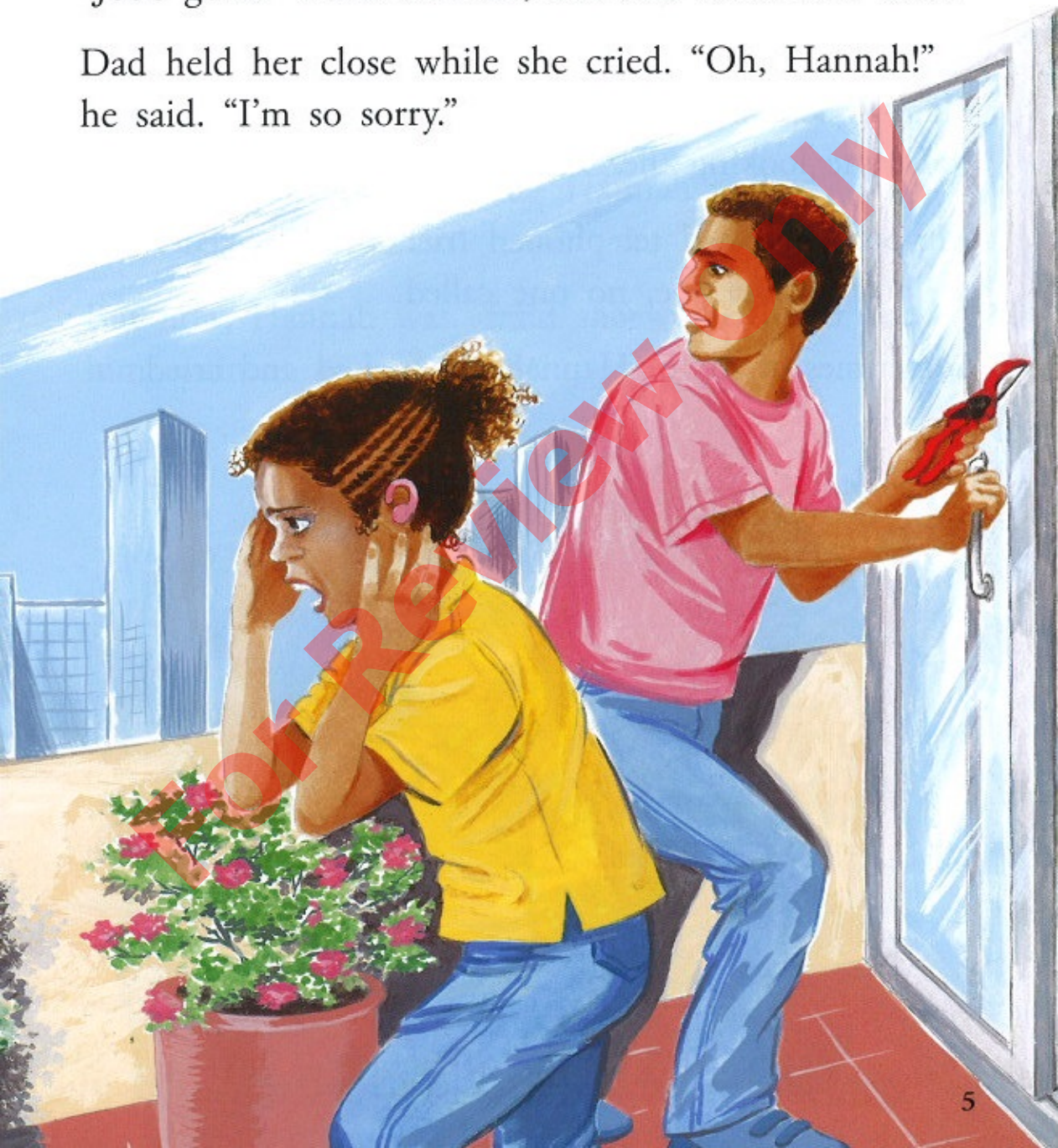
When Dad had finished his work, he forgot what Hannah had said. He opened the door and Joe flew straight out! Hannah saw him going, like a little golden arrow, off over the rooftops.



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"Joe's gone!" cried Hannah, and she burst into tears.

Dad held her close while she cried. "Oh, Hannah!" he said. "I'm so sorry."



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"Joe won't be frightened of cats," Hannah told her dad, "or know how to get food."

Hannah left food and water on the balcony in case Joe came looking there.

Although she had telephoned friends and asked them to look out for Joe, no one called.

Sometimes at night, Hannah lay in bed and cried.



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After five days had gone by, Hannah didn't cry any more, but she was still sad.

"I'll buy you another bird," her dad told her.

"I don't want another bird," Hannah replied. "I want Joe."

But now, Hannah was afraid she would never see him again.



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