

# HOW THE FINCH GOT HER COLORS

A Belgian tale

Adapted by Carole L. Cooney

**Setting:** The Sky World of Birds

**Characters:**

**Narrator**

**Great Bird**

**Jillian Jay**

**Ollie Oriole**

**Pat Parrot**

**Kate Cardinal**

**Frankie Finch**

**Narrator:** Once upon a time in the Sky World of Birds, all of the birds were colored gray. One day, Great Bird, their ruler, saw a huge rainbow in the sky.

**Great Bird:** Ah, look at those beautiful colors arcing in the sky. Wouldn't it be lovely to give each of my birds some of these splendid colors? I shall call a meeting and announce this news.

**Narrator:** And so the day of the meeting arrived and all of the birds were so excited to hear the Great Bird's news.

**Great Bird:** Come, gather around, dear birds. I have a wonderful idea that I think you will like. I shall give each of you some of the colors of the rainbow.

**All birds:** (chirping, whistling, squawking loudly ) Hooray! Hooray!

**Great Bird:** Now come forward, my birds, and tell me the color you would like.

**Jillian Jay:** (Shouting) Give me blue! I want blue! Blue! Blue! BLUE!

**Ollie Oriole:** (Hollering) I want yellow! No one else can have yellow. It's for me, me, ME!

**Pat Parrot:** (Squawking) Orange and green (squawk!) Orange and green!

**Kate**

**Cardinal:** (Whistling) Red is for me! (Tweet) Red is for me!

**Narrator:** All of the birds rushed about, bumping into each other. Wings and feathers were flying everywhere until all of the colors were used up. Suddenly Great Bird saw a little gray bird sitting quietly upon a tree branch.

**Great Bird:** Frankie Finch, why haven't you chosen a color?

**Frankie:** (Sadly) I did. But I was waiting for my turn. The other birds just rushed ahead of me. (crying) Now all of the colors are gone.

**Great Bird:** (Angrily) Come here, Birds of my Kingdom, at once! Do you see what you have done? You have selfishly taken all of the colors and left Frankie Finch without any. Perhaps I should take your colors away so that you will be gray again.

**All birds:** (Gasping) Oh, no! No, no! Oh, We're sorry, Frankie.

**Great Bird:** Come forward, Birds of my Kingdom. In a *straight line* this time! And quietly! Instead of taking away all of your colors, I have decided to take a little bit of each of your colors and give it to Frankie.

**Narrator:** And so, all of the birds lined up in silence and slowly walked to Great Bird. ] He took a bit of blue, yellow, orange, green and red and smoothed the colors on Frankie's wings.

**All Birds:** (chirping, whistling, squawking loudly) Hooray! Hooray! You look beautiful, Frankie finch!

**Frankie:** Thank you, Great Bird! And thank all of you for sharing your colors with me.

**Great Bird:** I am proud of all of you, my birds. Now go fly around the Sky World and show off your beautiful colors!

**Narrator:** And that is how the finch got her colors.