

When Mum Flew Away (*Mamá, los pájaros te saluden*)

Author: Natalia Jiménez Cardozo

Illustrator: Julián Ariza

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About: Sebastian (15) lives in two worlds: in one of them his mum is still alive. They were very close, together they could turn words into song. His wonderful friend Cristina teaches him to pay attention to the details as he asks some of life's biggest questions. Then on a school trip to the Amazon, he discovers it's impossible to enter the same room twice. Few stories about grief manage to balance the realism of death with the magic of living, and of continuing to live, as successfully as this.

Clare Gaunt has been a translator for over 14 years. She is making her first steps in literary translation for children and young adults, largely thanks to her daughter. She believes all good stories deserve a good voice, and that all readers deserve to be able to access all good stories. Contact her by email at: info@studiogaunt.com for a longer sample translation.

SAMPLE TRANSLATION

When Mum Flew Away (*Mamá, los pájaros te saluden*)

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Translated from the Spanish by Clare Gaunt.

Everything that travels leaves a unique, unrepeatable trace. Words travel too, but they need something to heighten our awareness of their passing. So we sang to expand our words with the melody, which allowed us to feel, at least for a few moments, their indelible trace.

We sang because we wanted our love to last longer. I can say that now, because I'm writing to remember, and to think about my memories, which isn't the same thing. Thinking back involves opening your eyes to contemplate the impact of our singing, and how its trace ripples outwards and reaches my shore.