

Migrant

Lightning slashed through the sky, illuminating a canopy of trees. From the depths of the branches, a bird snapped awake. Her pitch-black feathers rustled as she leaped from her home. She fled from the forest, her sweeping tail enveloped in the night. The storm soon became a receding echo.

Warmth hit her eyes, waking her. Overhead, the bird saw the sun shimmer, bathing a field of grass in gold. Iridescent dewdrops lined the thin plants. Everything seemed so calm, yet eeriness snaked through the air.

The bird shuddered as her memories came back to her. During the night she had collapsed, lost in the torrential rain. She started to drift away from the field.

She had to get home.

The bird glided through the land, flying until a breathtaking meadow sprawled before her. Flowers bloomed as she zoomed past, bursting with life. Her golden talons skimmed across a pristine brook, the droplets leaping into the air.

From the meadow, a mountain rose, its sharp peaks penetrating the sky. The bird shot up. Freedom coursed through her wings as she dove and spiraled through the peaks.

Soon, the sky became a canvas of reds and golds. The bird glided towards a nearby shrub as the stars began to twinkle faintly. Relaxed, she looked at the beauty around her...

She flinched, alarmed. Behind, the wisps of a storm were twirling towards her. Once again, she fled, gliding through the magnificent mountain. Lightning struck the sky as the clouds danced around her. She flew into the night until the clouds suddenly dispersed. *The bird's wings drooped with unbearable fatigue. As soon as she tried to* calm herself, more clouds emerged. They started to grow, while thunder boomed in the distance. The bird desperately glanced at the storm, and through the woven clouds, light pierced the sky. Concentrating, she flapped her wings and burst through the darkness.

Her eyes widened, she was soaring over a forest of clouds, the hidden sun casting its rays over the storm. Her heart leaping, she reached the edge of the clouds and plummeted towards the earth.

She landed with a thump. Her heart sank as she saw her forest, her home, in ruins. Leaves scattered the floor, while burnt branches slumped on the charred dirt. Swerving around, she stared at the receding storm.

Finding hope in herself, she floated into the night sky.