





Room to Read[®]

Level 3

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Koria the Crow wished to be beautiful. She envied the parrot and the peacock. Koria loved the peacock's colourful tail. Each time she spotted it, she couldn't pull her eyes away.



One day, Korina was searching for food. A sweet aroma floated in the air. She tracked down the delicious smell. People of all ages were in the middle of a celebration. Some were eating curry goat and ugali*. Others were dancing. * Ugali : Kind of porridge in Africa



Koria stayed there and watched with fascination. She was especially interested in two girls. One had a

kitenge wrapped on, and another wore a pair of shining earrings. ‘Ooh! Look at that pair of earrings,” Koria thought to herself. “They make this girl look even more beautiful.”



Each time the girl danced, her earrings jangled, giving out a sweet tinkle. Koria wanted those earrings! She wished for them to fall off the girl's ears, so she could pick them up.



Koria waited on a tree branch. All she wanted was to be more beautiful than the parrot and the peacock. All she needed were those earrings! Some people spotted Koria and tried to chase her away.



They thought she was after their food.
Koria flew away in fear. She felt so
sad. But she would not give up!



In the morning, Koria went to the market. She went to the jewelry seller and asked, "How much are your shiny

earrings?" "How will you pay me?
You're a crow!" said the seller,
swatting Koria away.



Koria thought of another solution. 'I'll visit the jewelry maker. He will help me become beautiful.' Koria said,

“Mr. Jeweler, I have an offer to make. I’ll go out and collect silver and copper items, then bring them to you. You’ll get a lot of material to make jewelry. In exchange, you’ll give me just one pair of earrings. What do you say, is it a deal?” The jeweler agreed.



Koria worked hard and collected many silver and copper scraps from every place she could think of . She

was now tired and hungry.

‘Mmmmm... A sweet aroma! Let me search for that canned meat.”



Koria found the meat and had her fill. Energized, she flew back to the jeweler's, carrying her items. But his office was locked! "Aagh! Has the jeweler left?" She panicked.



She stared at the padlock for a long time. Her joy at the prospect of being beautiful evaporated. She was close to

tears. The parrot sitting on a nearby tree branch saw Koria and came down to meet her.



“What’s wrong, Korina?” “I had the chance to be beautiful. But I stopped to eat instead of coming back here quickly. Now it’s too late!”



The next day, Koria reached the jeweler's early in the morning.



When he finally arrived, he took the bag of copper and silver from Koria. He said nothing as he started working with them. Soon, he had made beautiful earrings from the scraps. He handed the earrings to Koria. Koria

was overjoyed thinking of how
beautiful she would soon be!



She asked the jeweler to help her put them on. “You must first get your ears pierced,” he answered. Koria could not imagine who to ask. Finally, she decided to go to the parrot and the peacock for help. "Beautiful birds might know where to find a beauty shop," she thought to herself.



“No, we do not know where you can pierce your ears. They’re too small,” said the peacock and the parrot. Korina didn’t believe them. She flew away angrily to seek someone else’s help. “I must get my ears pierced. If only I could do it on my own!” Korina flapped her wings and flew to the village.

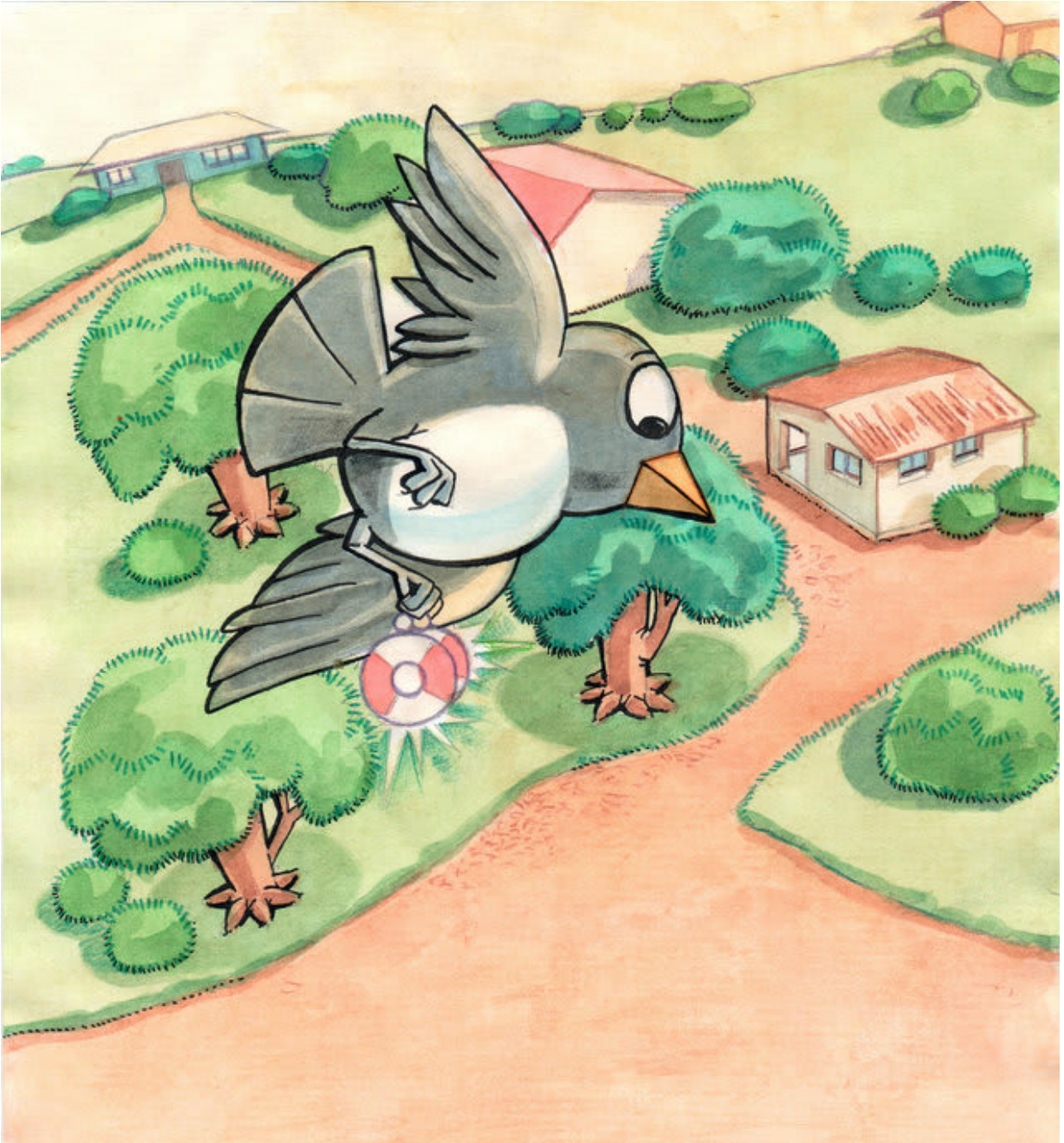


There, she went looking for one of the girls she saw at the celebration. She spotted one and called out to her.

“Kroo! Kroo! Kroo!” The girl did not understand her and chased her away.



Koria was chased away wherever she went. Soon, she was exhausted and starving. “It’s afternoon. I must search for food. I need to be strong if I have to find someone to help me. I WILL be beautiful. No one can stop me.” She flew and flew until it was dusk.



As the sun was setting, Koria noticed how the rays caught the earrings. They shone!



Then she noticed something else. “My feathers are shining on my right side,” she said. Then she flew in another direction. “My feathers are shining on my left side!”



"I can shine without my earrings!"
Koria realized. "My feathers are
BEAUTIFUL!"



Koria smiled and decided to go find a delicious dinner. “Koria!” a voice called out. It was the peacock. “Your earrings are beautiful.” “Thank you, peacock,” Koria answered. “But look at my shiny feathers. Aren't they even lovelier?”



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Koria the Crow (English) Koria the crow is unhappy with her plain black feathers and wishes to be colorful like the peacock and the parrot. Since she cannot change her feathers, Koria asks the goldsmith to make her a pair of earrings. Do you think the earrings will make her feel beautiful? This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



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