

## *The Green Bird.*

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Once, a small green bird, as green as a leaf, lived in a forest. He had a long tail that bobbed up and down when he sang, a crest on his head that stood up like a fan when he was alarmed, and a short brown beak. He wasn't much bigger than a sparrow, but far more slender and delicate. In the morning, when the sun came up, his song sounded like: 'Tee-weet-a-bit! Tee-weet-a-bit! Hello—hello!' And in the evening, when the sun went down, he sang: 'Tee-weet-a-bit! Tee-weet-a-bit! So-long, so-long!' He sang his songs over and over again, and never grew tired of saying the same thing.

In springtime, when all the forest trees burst into bloom, the little green bird sang to his loved one: 'Tee-weet-a-bit! Tee-weet-a-bit! Come-here, come here!' And his lady came and they built a nest at the end of the slimmest branch they could find. She laid two speckled eggs, not very big, and sat and sat all day long until, tap-tap, tap-tap, the chicks cracked their eggs and popped out. The first thing they said was, 'Tee-weet-a-bit! Tee-weet-a-bit! In-here, in here!' and they opened their mouths wide to be fed. And the green bird and his lady fed their chicks till they were old enough to fly. Then off into the forest they flew, calling: 'Tee-weet-a-bit! Tee-weet-a-bit! So-long, so-long!'

One spring, the little green bird called his lady: 'Tee-weet-a-bit! Tee-weet-a-bit! Come-here, come-here!' but his lady did not come. He called again: 'Tee-weet-a-bit! Tee-weet-a-bit! Come-here, come-here!' And still she did not come. So he flew to the tallest tree in the forest and sang a third time: 'Tee-weet-a-bit! Tee-weet-a-bit! Come-here, come-here!' ... and still she did not reply. Then he knew that she was dead, and would never come again. So the little green bird flew into the air. Higher and higher he flew into the blue sky, singing and singing to his loved one: 'Tee-weet-a-bit! Tee-weet-a-bit! So-long, so-long!'