

The Flutterbys



The Little Lost Duck

By Nita Lesley

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MEET THE FLUTTERBYS

The Flutterbys are four friendly Butterflies who live in Flutterby Meadow. They love to explore, play and help their meadow friends. Bringing kindness, curiosity and a sprinkle of fluttery fun to every day.

Bold Red Ruby is full of energy and always ready to take the lead.

Sweet Pink Rosie is full of big ideas and endless excitement.

Thoughtful Bue Benny loves to figure things out.

Playful Orange Ollie, a mischief-maker, keeps everyone laughing with his playful ways.

Together the Flutterbys make the meadow a brighter, happier place, one flutter at a time.





It was a warm and wonderful day in Flutterby Meadow, and the Flutterbys were playing near the big, shimmering pond. The water sparkled under the sun, and little ripples danced across its surface as dragonflies zipped by.

Rosie did a loop-the-loop over a lily pad. "What a perfect day for a flutter!"

But just as Ollie was about to twirl past a cattail, they heard a tiny, sad quack.

The Flutterbies stopped mid-air.

"Did you hear that?" Benny asked.



They listened carefully. Another soft quack came from behind the tall reeds.

They followed the sound and found a tiny baby duck sitting all alone at the water's edge. His little feathers were ruffled, and his eyes were wide with worry.

"Oh no!" Ruby fluttered down beside him. "What's wrong, little duckling?"

The duck sniffled. "I was swimming with my brothers and sisters, but I got stuck in the reeds. By the time I wriggled free... they were gone!"



The Flutterbys gasped. "Gone?" Rosie asked.

The duckling nodded, his voice wobbly. "I tried to quack, but they were too busy playing to hear me!

Now I don't know where they went!"

Ollie flapped her wings dramatically.

"Don't worry, little duck! The Flutterby Rescue Team is on the case!"



The duck sniffled again but gave a tiny smile. "You'll help me?"

"Of course!" Benny said. "But first... we need to figure out where they went."

The Flutterbys scattered across the pond, calling for the lost ducklings.



They checked:

The lily pads—but only found a sleepy frog, who blinked up at them and yawned.



They checked:

The tall reeds—but instead of ducklings, they startled a dragonfly, who zoomed off in a huff!



They checked:

A floating log—but it was just a turtle sunbathing, who
grumbled,
“No ducklings here... now let me nap.”



The little duck fidgeted with his feathers.

"Maybe they forgot about me," he whispered sadly.

Ruby shook her head.

"No way! We just have to keep looking!"



Just when they were about to give up, they heard...

SPLASH! SPLASH! QUACK! QUACK! GIGGLE!

Rosie's wings fluttered. "That must be them!"

The Flutterbys zipped toward the sound, and sure enough—there were five little ducklings, splashing and playing in the water.

They were chasing bubbles, diving under the surface, and wiggling their tails in the air.



"They don't even realize their brother is missing!"

Benny said in surprise.

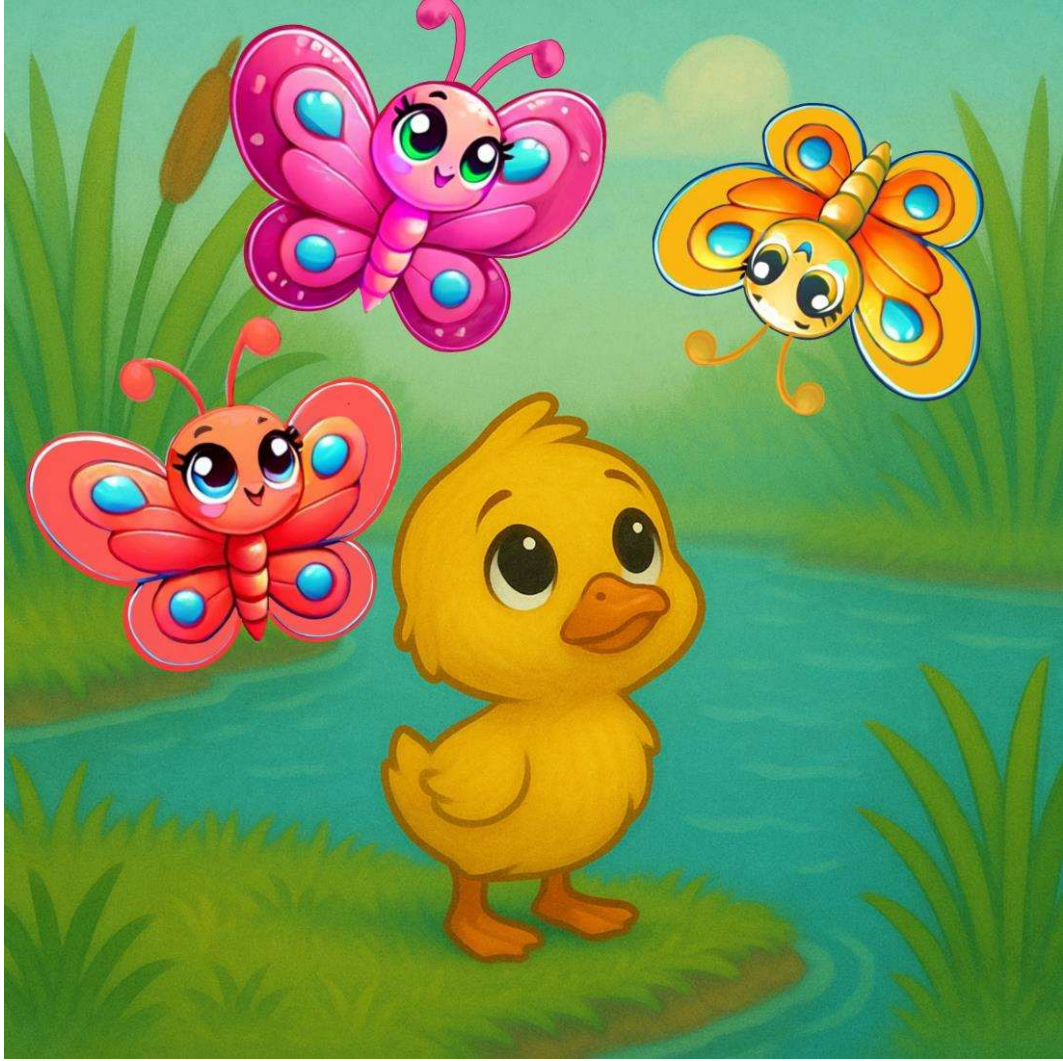
The baby duck's beak trembled.

"They forgot me?"

Ollie shook his head.

"Nah, they're just duck-brained!"

He wiggled his wings, making a funny face, and the duckling
giggled.



The Flutterbys came up with a plan to get the ducklings' attention.

Rosie twirled high in the air, catching the sunlight on her pink wings like a fluttering flag.

Ollie zoomed past the ducklings, making silly faces and flapping upside-down.

Benny and Ruby guided the baby duck toward the water, whispering,
"Almost there... just a little more!"



Finally, one of the ducklings noticed him.

"Hey! It's our brother!" one quacked.

The others paddled over quickly, nudging him happily.

"Where did you go?"

The baby duck beamed with joy. "I was stuck in the reeds,
but the Flutterbys helped me find you!"

"Wow! That's so cool!" said one of the ducklings. "Let's all
quack 'thank you' together!"

And before the Flutterbys could say anything, the ducklings
all went—

"QUUUUAAAAACK!!"

The Flutterbys flapped backward in surprise!

Ollie giggled. "Okay, okay! We hear you!"



Just then, a larger duck glided toward them. Her feathers shimmered in the sunlight, and she had kind, watchful eyes.

"Children, there you are!" she quacked. "I've been looking all over for you!"

The baby duck rushed to her side. "I got stuck, Mama! But the Flutterbys helped me!"

Mama Duck smiled warmly at the little Flutterbys. "Thank you for bringing my little one back to us."

"All in a day's fluttering!" Ollie said proudly.



The ducklings all waddled into a line behind their mother.
But before they left, the baby duck turned back to the
Flutterbys.

"Thank you again!" he quacked. "You're the best flutter-
friends ever!"

Rosie waved. "Bye-bye, ducklings!"



As the Flutterbys flitted home.

Ollie sighed dramatically. "That was a quack-tastic adventure!"

Benny chuckled. "Quack-tastic?"

Ruby smiled. "I like it!"

And as the sun set over the pond, the Flutterbys fluttered into the golden sky, knowing they had made a new friend for life.

THE END

Fun Facts about Ducks

Ducks can sleep with one eye open! - This helps them stay safe from predators.

They have waterproof feathers - Ducks produce special oil that keeps their feathers dry, even while swimming!

Baby ducks are called ducklings - And they love to follow their mother in a straight line.

Ducks talk a lot - They make quacks, whistles, grunts, and squeaks, each meaning something different.

Ducks wag their tails when happy - Just like dogs!

They have built-in "flippers" - Ducks' webbed feet act like paddles to help them swim.

They can fly really fast - Some ducks can zoom through the sky at nearly 100 km/h.

Ducks don't get cold feet - Their feet don't have nerves like ours, so they can waddle on ice without feeling chilly.

Ducklings can swim soon after hatching - Just a few hours old and already paddling!

Each duck has its own quack - Just like people's voices are all different.

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Happy Fluttering

Nita Lesley

