

# Chapter 1

## The Wishing Well

“Make a wish!” said Dad.

Shelly stood at the edge of the wishing well at the park, playing with a penny in her hand.

It was a beautiful spring day, and Shelly had brought her friend, Karen, along on a family trip to the park.

Wow, a wish. Shelly had almost forgotten she had to make a wish. She thought about all of the other wishes she had ever made. Once she had wished for a puppy, but she didn't get one. Another time she had wished for a new bike, but didn't get that either.

“Hmmmm...” Shelly said as she looked down at all the coins at the bottom of the clear water in the well. “What should I wish for?”

As she was thinking, a pretty blue bird flew down

and landed next to the wishing well. It looked up at

Shelly and then quickly flew away.

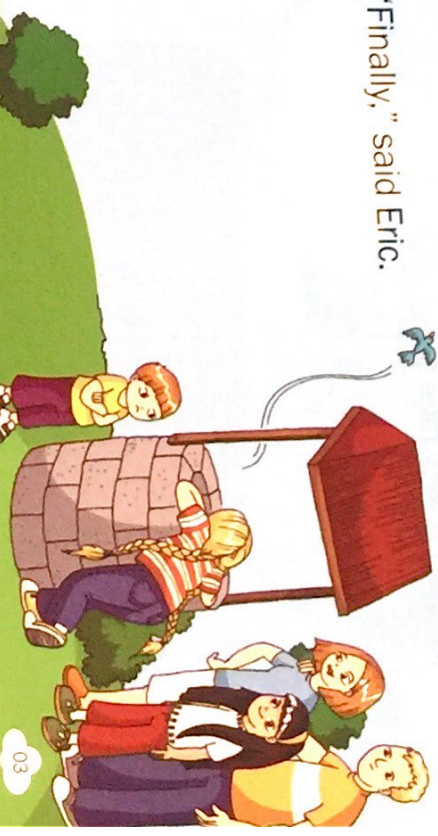
“Hurry up!” said Eric, Shelly's little brother. “I want to go get a hot dog.”

“I wish...” Shelly said slowly. ‘I wish I could fly,’ she thought to herself and smiled.

Shelly threw her penny into the middle of the wishing well. It made a little splash and then sank down to the bottom.

“Good throw,” said Mom.

“Finally,” said Eric.



Everyone walked over to the hot dog stand and sat down on a bench eating the hot dogs.

**“What did you wish for?”**

asked Karen.

“Don't tell anyone,” said Dad winking at Shelly.

**“It needs to be a secret or it won't come true.”**

After they all finished eating their hot dogs, they played Frisbee for a while until Karen's mom came to take her home. Shelly's family drove home in their car. It had been a very nice day.

**That night,** Shelly lay in bed thinking about how much she had enjoyed the day at the park with her family and Karen. She thought about the beautiful gardens with different colored flowers. She thought about the delicious hot dog and the fun game of Frisbee. Shelly thought about everything she had done that day, but she completely forgot about her wish.



# Chapter 2

A Surprise



“Get up Shelly! You’re late for school!” Mom yelled. Mom had woken

Shelly up an hour ago, but Shelly had fallen back to sleep. She was so tired from all the running and playing in the park yesterday.

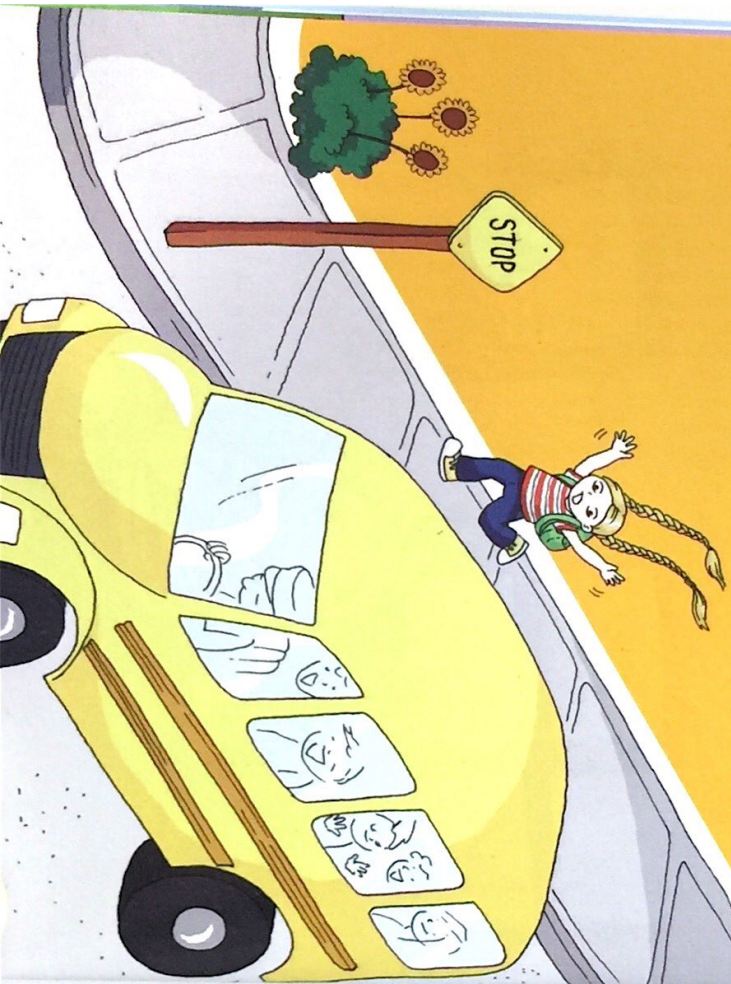
Shelly climbed out of bed and got ready for school. She ran downstairs, ate her breakfast as fast as she could, and then grabbed her school bag.

“Hurry!” Mom said. “You’re going to miss the school bus.”



**“Bye, Mom!”** yelled Shelly as she ran out.

Shelly started running. She knew it took five minutes to walk to the bus stop, but if she ran, she could get there in two minutes. All of a sudden, she heard the roaring engine of the school bus.



**“Oh no!”** said Shelly. She could see the school bus pulling up to the bus stop. It stopped for a while, but the driver didn't see Shelly running. The bus started to leave without her.



“Wait for me!” yelled Shelly. She ran as fast as she could. Shelly put her arms out and started waving and flapping them, so the bus driver would see her. Then something strange happened.

Shelly could no longer feel the ground under her feet. She was still moving her feet back and forth, but they weren't touching the ground.

Shelly looked down and was surprised to see that she was about a meter off the ground!

“AAAAAH!” yelled Shelly. “What’s happening?”





Shelly started to panic and flapped her arms around even more, but that only made her go higher. Now she was two meters off the ground, now three, now four! Soon, Shelly was flying higher than the trees. She looked down to see the school bus which now looked like a little orange toy.

“**MOOOOWWWW,**” said Shelly as she looked out over the town. She could see little houses and little farms. She saw little cars driving on little roads.



Shelly could see mountains and forests, and she could even see all the way to the sea.

Shelly noticed that when she stopped flapping her arms around, she would start to glide down towards the ground slowly and gently. She also noticed that if she leaned to the right, she could turn to the right, and if she leaned to the left, she could turn to the left.

“**COOL!**” Shelly yelled. She was no longer afraid.





# Chapter 3

## The Secret

Shelly got to school just before the school bus.

When the school bus arrived and all the children jumped out, she waved to Karen. Karen walked over to Shelly with a confused look on her face.

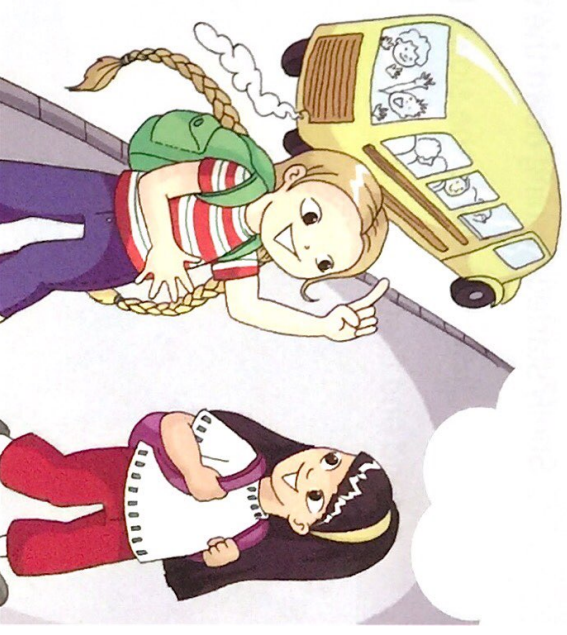
“How did you get here so fast?” asked Karen.

“Did your mom drive you?”

“It’s a secret,” said Shelly. “I’ll show you after school.”

**After school,** Shelly and Karen took

the bus home together. Shelly got off at Karen’s stop and when the bus left, she explained to Karen what had happened that morning. She told her about how she ran to the bus and how she was lifted off the ground. She told her about what she had seen when she was high in the sky and how she had flown all the way to school.





"Ok, now I must see this!" insisted Karen.

"Just watch," said Shelly.

Shelly started running down the street flapping her arms. Just like before, she slowly lifted off the ground and floated around.



"Wow!" said Karen in amazement.

**"How do you do that?"**

Shelly leaned to the right and flew around Karen in a circle. Then she leaned to the left and did another circle. She was starting to become pretty good at flying.

"I don't know," answered Shelly. "It just happened."





Shelly turned around and ran back down the street the other way, but again, nothing happened.

Karen was just too heavy.  
"It's not working Shelly," Karen said, disappointed.



"Can I fly with you?" asked Karen.

"Let's try," said Shelly.

She stopped flapping her arms and slowly floated down to the ground just as she had before.

"How should we do this?" asked Karen.

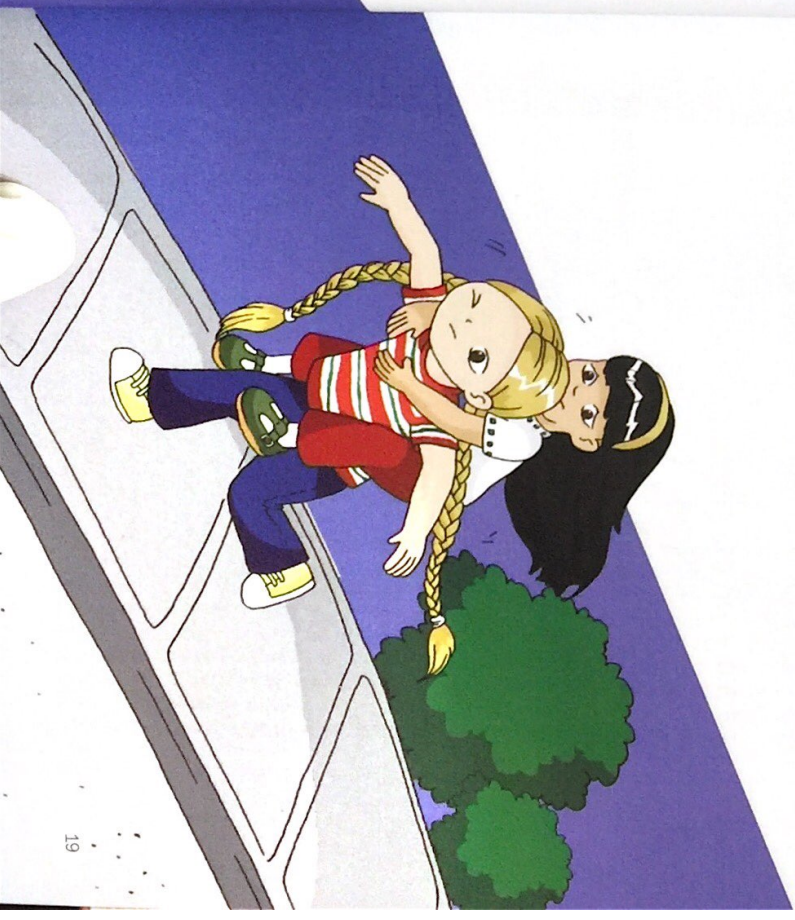
"Climb on my back," answered Shelly.

Karen climbed on Shelly's back and then Shelly started running as fast as she could. She put one of her arms out and started flapping it. Nothing happened.

Shelly turned around and ran back down the street the other way, but again, nothing happened.

Karen was just too heavy.

"It's not working Shelly," Karen said, disappointed.



“Oh well,” said Shelly as she put Karen back down. “At least we tried. I’m going to go fly now. I’ll see you tomorrow at school, OK?”

“OK,” answered Karen weakly.

Karen watched as Shelly ran down the street, flapping her arms. Shelly slowly lifted off the ground and climbed higher and higher into the sky, leaving Karen all alone on the ground.

**“I wish I could fly, too.”** Karen said in a sad voice, as she walked home slowly.





# Chapter 4

## Adventures

“Where should I fly to now?” Shelly asked herself as she looked out over her neighborhood from above. She saw some big sea birds not too far away, so she flapped harder to catch up with them. Shelly came up beside the flock of sea birds and waved at them. The birds looked surprised to see a little girl flying around in the sky, but they weren’t scared.

**Shelly flew with the birds  
all the way out to the sea.**



She watched her flying friends fly around in circles. Every two or three minutes, one of them would fly down and scoop up a fish. Shelly could see the fish swimming below, but she didn’t catch any herself because she didn’t like the fish.

After watching the sea birds for a while, Shelly decided to fly towards the mountains. She flapped her arms to go higher and higher. She noticed that the wind was behind her now, so she could go much faster. As she approached the top of a big mountain, she stopped flapping and slowly floated down through the air. She put her feet out and landed perfectly on the top.



Shelly sat down on top of the mountain and looked out over the city and the sea. She had a clear view as far as the eyes could see. The scenery was beautiful. She tried to find her house, but it was difficult to spot it from so far away.

After a while, Shelly stood up, ran forward, and jumped off the side of the mountain. She let herself fall for a moment and then started flapping her arms hard. She sailed up quickly into the sky. 'I wonder how high I can go.' Shelly thought to herself.

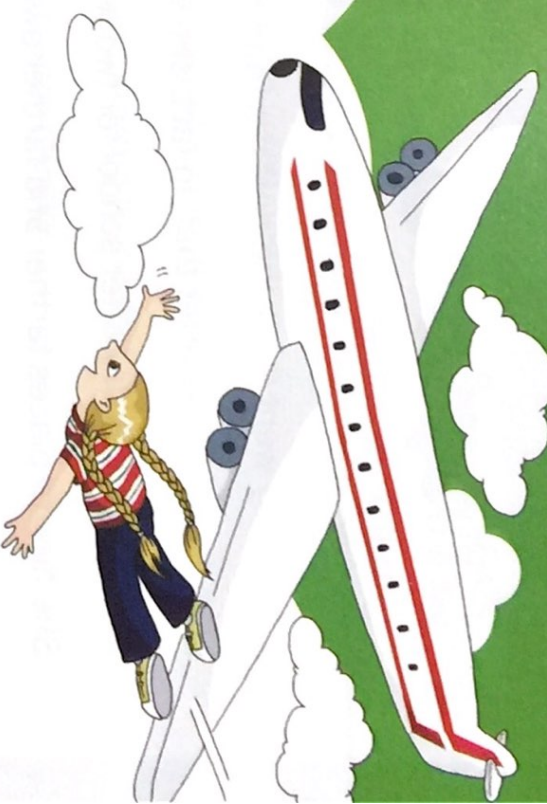


She flapped harder and harder and went higher and higher. Shelly kept climbing upward until her arms got tired. She reached high up above the clouds, and all she could see was blue and white. Then she heard a loud noise coming towards her.

**RRRRRRRRRI!**

*'What's that sound?'* thought Shelly.

Just then, a big airplane passed Shelly. The airplane was going very fast. RRRRRRRRRRI!



Shelly quickly waved, but nobody saw her. The airplane disappeared into the clouds, and the noise slowly went away.

Shelly was getting cold and her arms were getting sore, so she decided to go home. Flying sure was fun, but she was starting to get a little lonely. She pointed her head down and started the long trip back to the ground.

When Shelly got home, she was exhausted. She ate dinner quickly and went right to bed.

*'I wish Karen could come with me when I go flying tomorrow,'* she thought.



# Chapter 5

## Trouble at School

Shelly went flying the next day, and the day after, and the day after that. In fact, she went out flying every day after school for two weeks. She flew to places farther and farther away. She had flown along the sea to the big old lighthouse. She had flown across the forest and had stopped on top of a tree to have lunch. She had even flown to another city.

After each flight, Shelly rushed to Karen and told her everything. She told Karen stories about all the amazing places she had been to. She told her about the sea birds, the mountains, the airplanes, the forests, and the beautiful scenery.

Karen listened to all the stories. She always

sat by Shelly and talked with her about the amazing adventures. Sometimes, some of their other friends would sit and listen, too.

One day at lunch time, Shelly sat down with her friends and started to tell them about some deer she had seen from the sky.

“Can we talk about something else today?” Karen asked. “I don’t want to hear any more flying stories.”



"Why not?" asked Shelly. She was surprised to hear Karen say that.

**"We can't fly, Shelly,"** said another girl. "We don't want to hear any more about how special you are."

"What do you mean?" asked Shelly. She was confused and felt like she was going to cry.

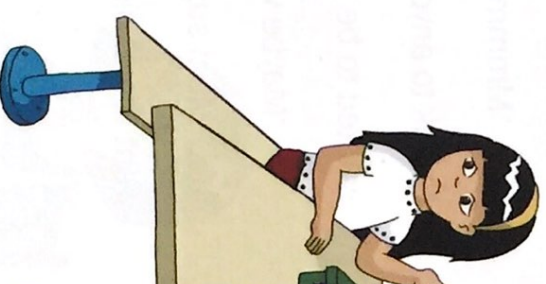
"Why don't you just go fly by yourself?" said Karen. Shelly got up and walked away.



**She was really upset.** She wondered why her friends were being so mean to her.

*'Maybe they are jealous,'* she thought.

After school, Shelly flew straight home. She didn't feel like going on another flying adventure. Shelly suddenly felt sick of being different.





# Chapter 6

Fixing Things

The next morning, Shelly ate her breakfast very slowly. She had a sad look on her face. Mom sat down beside her and looked at her.

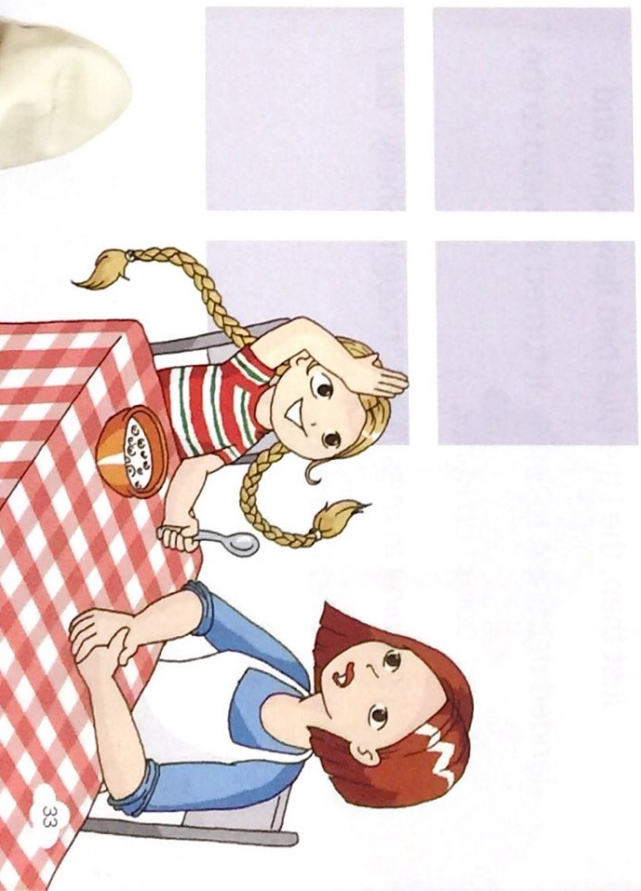
"Are you OK, Shelly?" asked Mom.

"Mmmm..." Shelly mumbled. She didn't want to talk to anyone about her problem. Shelly just wanted to be an ordinary girl again.

"Maybe we could all go to the park again and have fun," Mom suggested. "You really enjoyed the day we went there, didn't you? It was such a wonderful day."

'The park!' thought Shelly. 'That's it! The wishing well! How could I have forgotten? I can make a wish to be normal again!'

"Thanks, Mom!" said Shelly as she jumped out of her chair. She ran upstairs to her room to look for a penny. Mom stood in the kitchen looking confused.

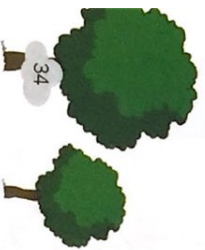
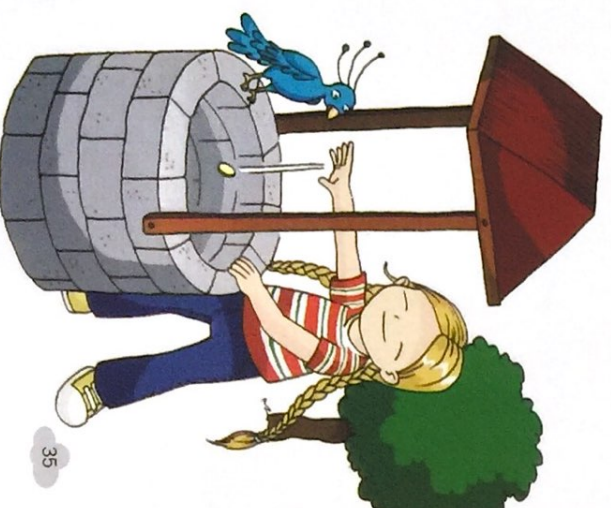


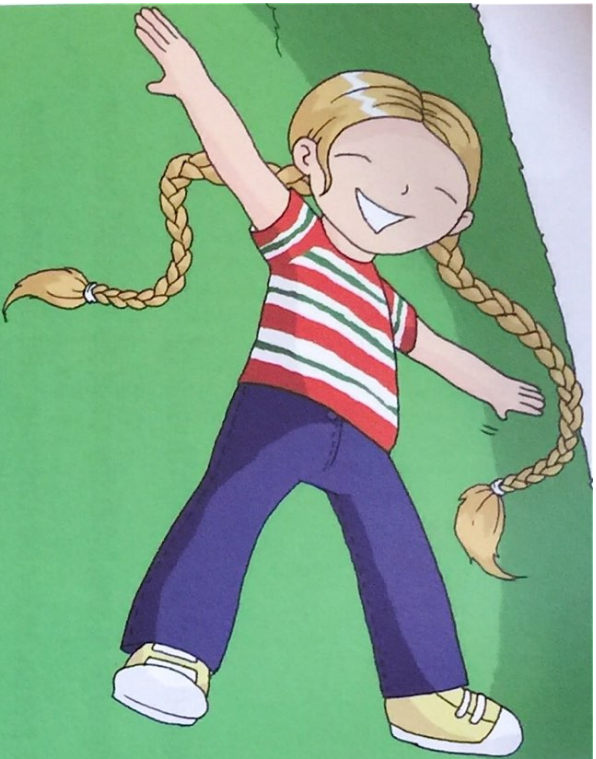
Shelly ran outside and down the street flapping her arms. She sailed up into the sky over houses and trees looking for the park below. When she saw it, she floated down and landed right beside the wishing well. Shelly reached into her pocket excitedly and pulled out the penny.

Just then, the little blue bird flew down and landed right next to Shelly. It turned its head to the side and looked up at her.

*'I'm going to miss flying,'* thought Shelly, *'but I miss my friends more.'*

*"I wish I can be an ordinary girl again. I don't want to fly any more,"* Shelly said to herself as she threw the penny into the wishing well. It made a little splash and then sank to the bottom. She looked down to where the little blue bird was sitting, but it was gone.





Shelly jumped up and ran out across the park.  
She flapped her arms as hard as she could.

**Nothing happened.** She fell down on  
the grass laughing and smiling.

The next morning, Shelly got up and took the school bus with all the other kids. Shelly felt happy to be ordinary again. At the next bus stop, Karen got on and sat next to Shelly. Karen asked Shelly why she was taking the school bus and not flying.

“I missed sitting next to you on the school bus,”  
replied Shelly.

Karen smiled back.

At lunch time, Karen walked up to Shelly.

“I’m sorry I was so mean to you,” said Karen.

“That wasn’t very nice of me.”

“That’s OK,” said Shelly. “I shouldn’t have talked  
about myself so much.”

Shelly was happy to be friends with Karen again.  
She thought about how being special was good but  
also very lonely.

Just then, another girl ran up to Shelly.

“Can you fly up that tree and get the kite for me?  
It got stuck,” said the girl.

“How about we all climb up the tree together to  
get the kite?” suggested Shelly.

“OK,” said the girl.

The three girls ran off together and climbed up  
the tree laughing and playing.

*‘It’s nice to be just like everyone else,’ thought  
Shelly.*

