

THE CAN'T-BE-SEEN

WHO COULDN'T SQUAWK

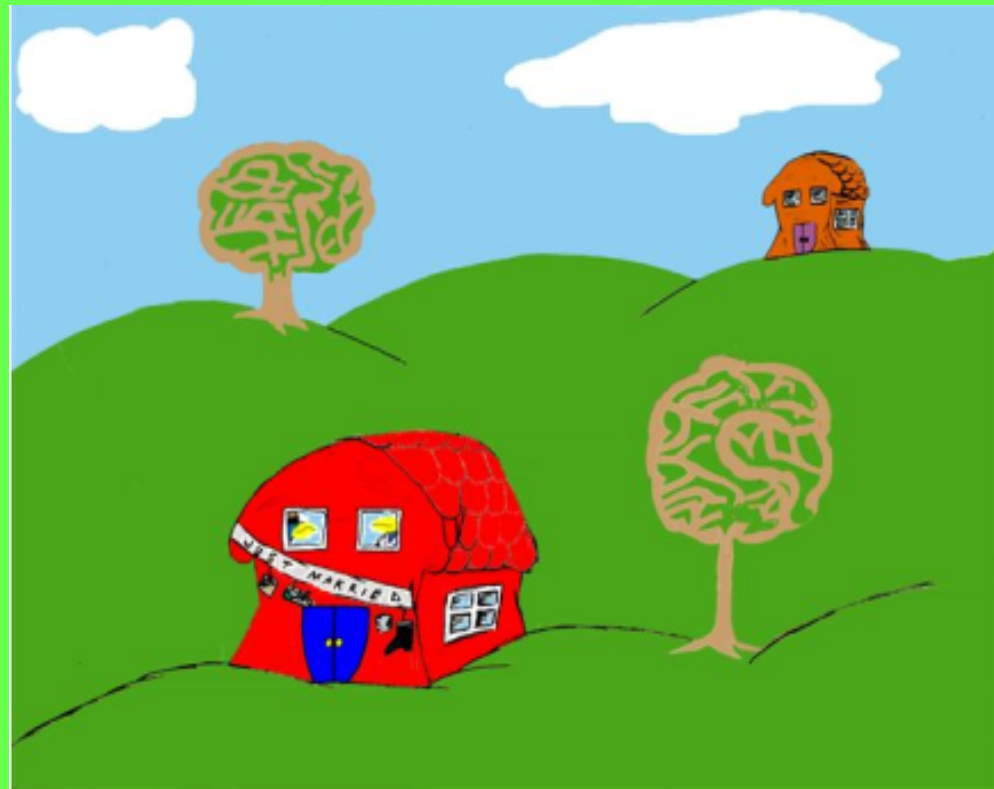


By

Dale Williams

**Blaze and Mendaloo, they say,  
Were married at nineteen  
(For that's the proper age to wed  
When you're a Can't-Be-Seen).**

**They settled in a cozy  
home  
Not far from Blaze's  
brothers.  
At first, it was the two  
of them,  
But soon there would  
be others.**



**First a daughter joined the clan.  
They named her Gwendelene.  
She hid and squawked and grew to be  
A model Can't-Be-Seen.**



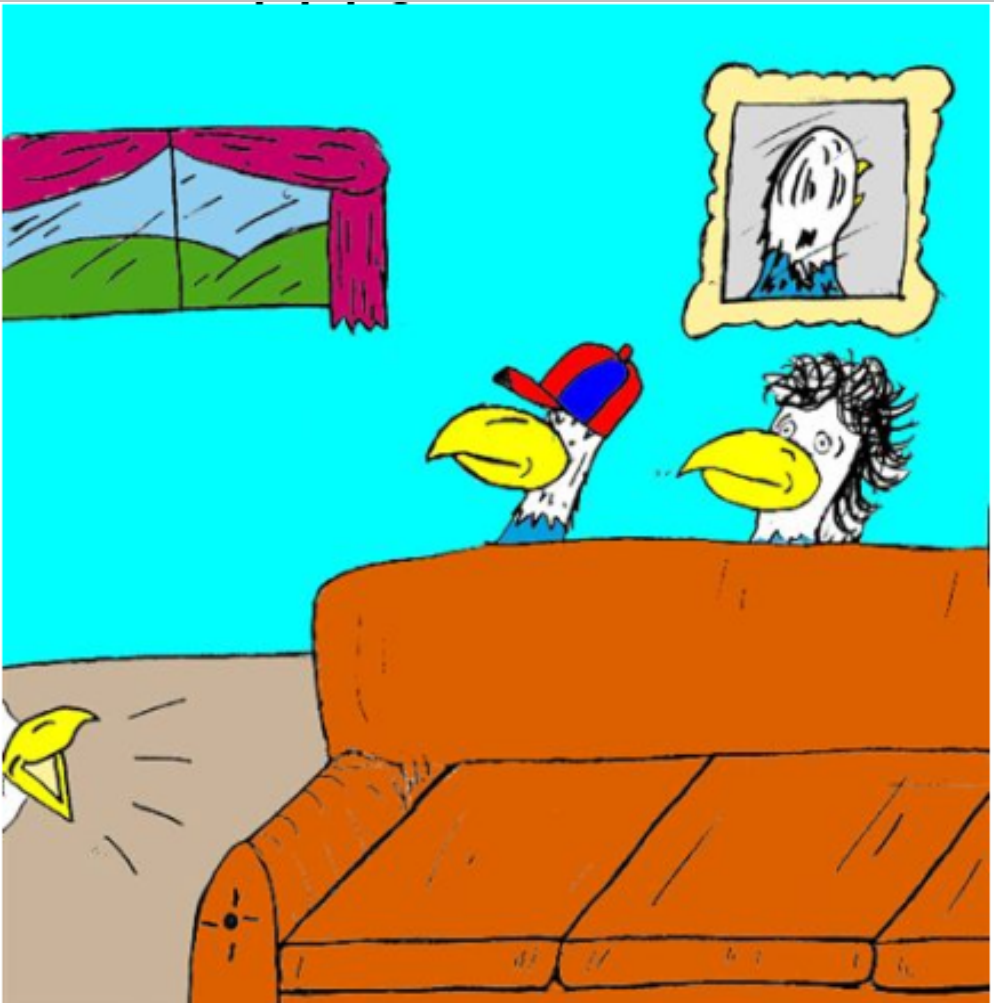
**A son came next, a handsome  
lad,  
And this one they called  
Skeet.  
The family now had grown to  
four,  
Yet still was not complete.**

**Another boy was sent their way.  
They named this baby Nate.  
He also was a splendid one,  
Save one peculiar trait.**



**Like Skeet and sister Gwendel, he  
Was pretty as a hawk.  
But when he opened up his beak,  
Young Nate, he couldn't squawk!**

**When someone is a Can't-Be-Seen,  
He must know how to squawk,  
For that is how they get along.  
See, that is how they talk.**



**Nate tried to squawk at  
Gwendelene  
And no one heard a  
thing.  
When he would try with  
brother Skeet,  
It'd sound like "Sq-sq-  
squing!"**

**They took Nate to a doctor,  
Did Blaze and Mendaloo.  
The doctor said, “So he can’t squawk.  
“There’s nothing I can do!**



**“He’ll squawk when he is ready.  
“He’s not yet half-way grown!  
“He’s prob’ly under pressure.  
“Just leave young Nate alone!”**

**So...**

**Alone is how they left him when  
Nate tried so hard to squawk.  
His family looked away from him  
And never did they gawk.**



**"We'll talk to him about it,"  
Blaze said to Mendaloo.  
"No!" she cried. "The doctor said  
That's what we mustn't do."**

**Soon Nate began to think about**

**His family's snubbing way:**

**"They so dislike my squawk-less voice**

**"They don't have much to say.**

**"I've disappointed Mom and Dad,**

**"And Skeet and Gwendelene.**

**"Embarrassing is what I am,**

**"The can't-squawk Can't-Be-Seen."**





**He'd have to hide this awful thing  
That made his squawk sound strange.  
He'd have to work out something soon  
To make a squawking change.**



**He'd figure out a way, he thought,  
When he was further grown.  
But since his family wouldn't help,  
He'd figure all alone.**

**Nate coughed sometimes when he  
should squawk,  
Pretending he was sick.  
It worked at times but not for long  
(Like ev'ry other trick).**

**He whispered "squawk" whene'er  
he could**

**And other times he'd squeek it.**

**For anything was better than**

**Admitting his dark secret.**



**His best friends Thor and Blaine  
and Case**

**And Bren and Bryce and Blair**

**Were not concerned about Nate's  
squawk.**

**In fact, they didn't care.**

**To them, he was just Nate, and he  
Could squawk, squeal, squonk, or  
squelch.**

**They wouldn't even worry if  
His squawk came out a belch.**



**But...**

**In school, there were some  
Can't-Be-Seens**

**Who laughed at Nate's  
poor squawking.**

**They weren't fooled by his  
tricks and just**

**Continued their cruel  
mocking.**



**The worst was Rhetter  
Manding,**

**A fearsome Can't-Be-Seener,**

**Who mimicked Nate's worst  
struggles, and**

**Then Rhett got even meaner:**

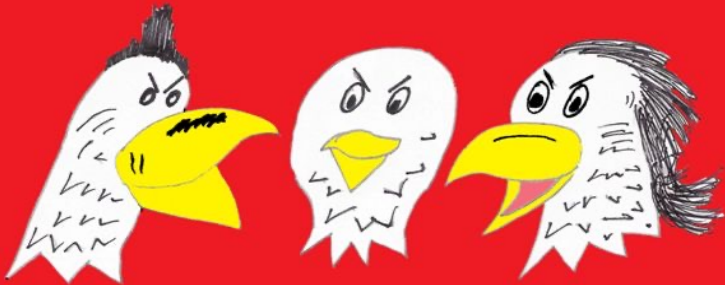
**"Squaw-squaw-squaw-  
squawk," he said in jest.**

**"You'll never get it right!**

**"Try again," he sneered, "and I**

**"Will laugh with all my might!"**

**Young Rhetter had some  
buddies,  
At Nate's troubles they  
were pleased.  
So Nate did not squawk  
much at school  
For fear of being teased.**



**But squawking is a funny thing,  
Nate found in school year two.  
The more you try to hide it, see,  
The harder it's to do.**

**So Nate, his problem worsened  
when**

**His squawk he would conceal.  
With each new trick (and there  
were lots),**

**His squawk became less real.**

**In school when he was called to squawk,  
He'd fake misunderstanding.  
Then laughter he would hear some more,  
The most by Rhetter Manding.**

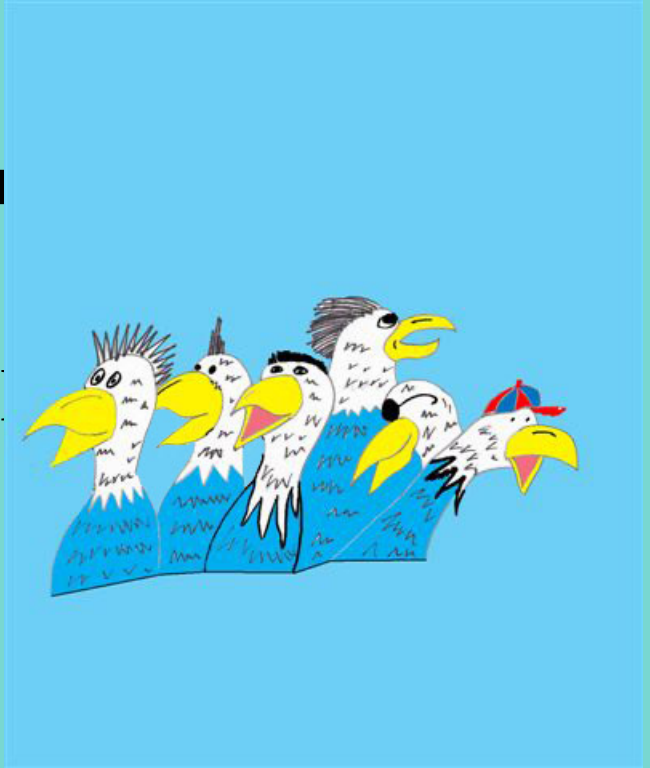
**Nate's teachers were confused and mused:  
"Is Nate scared or just dumb?"  
Either way they didn't like  
His answers to be mum.**



**His friends knew of Nate's struggles and  
They offered their advice.**

**"Just think before you squawk," said**

**"Relax," said buddy Bryce.**



**"Slow down," said Case, "and that will  
help."**

**"Just take your time," said Thor.**

**Their guidance was not helpful 'cause  
He'd tried all that before.**

**There was a brand new teacher when  
Nate started school year three.  
The teacher said, "A problem squawk?  
"There's someone you must see.**

**"I have a friend who'd listen.  
"'Bout squawking he knows all.  
"I think that he can help you.  
"His name is Mister Paul."**





**When Nate saw Mister Paul, his squawk**

**Came out as "sq-sq-squink."**

**And Mister Paul said,  
"Int'resting."**

**"I'll tell you what I think**

**"I'll tell you straight, so  
listen Nate**

**"And son, please don't be  
frightened.**

**"For one day you might  
squawk just right,**

**"But then again you  
mightn't."**



**For Nate that wasn't good  
enough.**

**He wanted it to cease.**

**His bad squawk had to go  
away**

**For him to feel at peace.**

**So Nate cried out: "I need  
help now!"**

**"Please tell me what to  
do!"**

**Paul told him, "Well, the  
good news is**

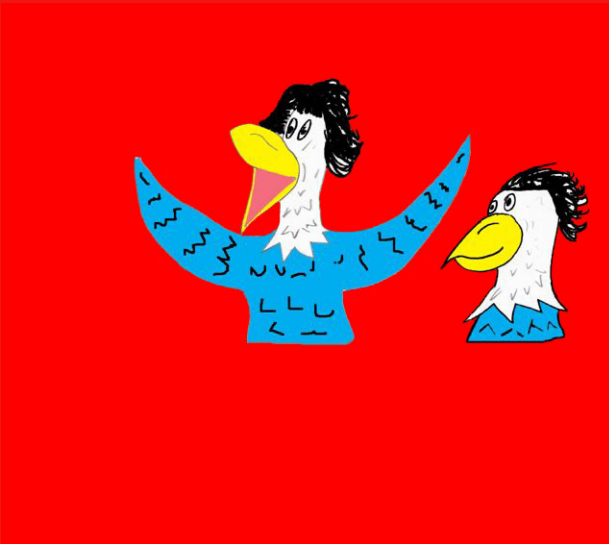
**"There are some just like  
you."**

**"Meet Cayley who's a Can't-Be-Seen**

**"Who squawks like wild boars.**

**"And Joan whose squawk is rarely heard.**

**"It's far, far worse than yours.**



**"And these are only two  
can't-squawks.**

**"There are so many others.**

**"They're doctors, students,  
teachers, dads.**

**"Why, some are even  
mothers."**

**And Nate was shocked when looking up  
At Cayley, Paul, and Joan.  
He realized very suddenly  
That he was not alone.**

**Nate asked them, "What's your  
secret then?"**

**"How do you get along?"**

**"How are you brave enough to  
squawk**

**"When it will sound so wrong?"**



**It's hard," said Cayley. "But I know**

**"Boar squawking is just me.**

**"You think it's tough, but listen up-**

**"Just try it, Nate, and see.**

**"Does everyone do all things  
well?**

**"In some things aren't you  
better?**

**"Can friend Blaine hide as  
well as you?**

**"In school, don't you top  
Rhetter?"**



**We all have troubles, Nate now knew.  
Of that there's no denying.  
But when their problems knock them down,  
Some folks, they just keep trying.**



**So Nate worked up his nerve until  
He squawked wrong without  
hiding.  
And it was tough as he had feared;  
He was himself still fighting.**

**But as he tried, and tried some more,  
The squawk became less scary.  
No tricks to think about at all  
Caused Nate to be less wary.**

**His squawks were odd, he knew that, but  
No odder than before.  
And squawking now was far more fun  
As Nate squawked more and more.**

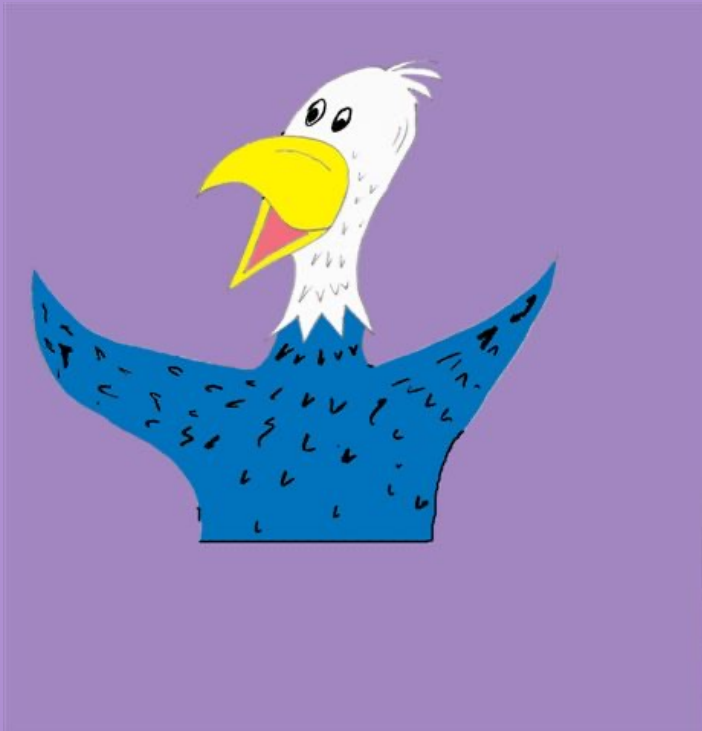


**"The squawks don't run my life!" he yelled.**

**"Of them I'm now the boss.**

**"My squawking doesn't have to mean**

**"That I feel at a loss!"**



**And when Nate didn't  
hide his squawk,  
A funny thing occurred,  
As far more often than  
before**

**A proper squawk was  
heard.**

**No more was Nate ashamed  
at school**

**When "squawk" came out  
like "squink."**

**The laughing eased as teasers  
saw**

**Nate cared not what they  
think.**



**And even Rhetter Manding did**

**Not mock him like before.**

**The fun was gone from vexing Nate.**

**Now it was just a bore.**



**Embarrassing? Sure, sometimes, still,  
Nate feels a little shame.  
But he goes on, won't dwell on that.  
He knows he's not to blame.**

**If Nate now claimed a perfect squawk,  
You'd have to say he lied.  
But squawking poorly's better than  
A squawk you try to hide.**



**And if it should still happen that  
His feelings get too sore,  
He'll turn to Cayley, Joan, or Paul.  
And now there are yet more.**



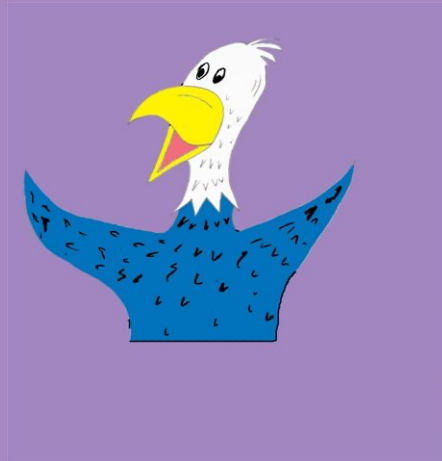
**For Blaze and mother Mendaloo  
Now speak of Nate's strange  
squawk.  
And siblings Skeet and Gwendelene  
Are also keen to talk.**

**Here ends our story  
of the squawk**

**Nate's not afraid to  
show.**

**For those who hear it  
now say nil.**

**That's just the Nate  
they know.**



**It is a happy ending,  
see,**

**When all is said and  
done,**

**‘Cause Nate took on  
his different  
squawk,**

**And in the end, he  
won.**

**Now when the time to squawk is  
here,  
It is a chance he seizes.  
The prize for winning in the end...**

**Is Nate does as he pleases.**

