



ARLO TAKES OFF

by **BETSY CHILDS HOWARD**
Illustrated by **SAMARA HARDY**







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I'm deeply grateful to my sister, Lucy Olson.

This story took flight in her imagination and would not exist without her.

Arlo Takes Off

© 2026 by Betsy Childs Howard

Illustrations © 2026 Samara Hardy

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“For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.”

PSALM 139:13



It started with *Monty the Mole*, Arlo's favorite show.



Monty's sister Macy decided she didn't like spending so much time underground, and she wanted to be a rabbit. She made herself a bushy tail out of cotton and fastened two leaves to her head to look like floppy ears.

At first, Monty didn't think a mole could become a rabbit. He laughed at Macy's floppy ears. But when he saw how happy she was eating carrots and lettuce instead of grubs, he decided she should have been a rabbit all along.



Together, Monty and Macy sang:

Whatever you feel, you can be.
Let the real you inside you burst free!
Go wherever your heart wants to go.
Don't listen when others say, "No!"



That night, when Arlo's mom tucked him into bed, he could still hear the words of the song. Then he had a wonderful dream . . .



Arlo could fly! He floated high above the ground, looking down at swimming pools and baseball fields. He felt lighter than air. When he wanted to go higher, he flapped his arms a bit. When he wanted to go lower, he stopped flapping and drifted down.



Then he woke up, still tucked in his bed. The dream felt so real. He remembered just how it felt to fly.

