Mark and Theo Make Their Case

Sharon Kaye

Illustrations by Jordan Novak

Royal Fireworks Press
Unionville, New York
THEO! What are you doing here?

I was coming to see you. Something astonishing happened on my way to your house!
Did a great big crazy bird come after you? The same thing happened to me!

I hope we’re safe here.
BOMBS AWAY!
Hmmm. Those birds just don’t look right to me.... I have an idea.

What should we do?
They’re getting closer!
DUDE!
AHA!

Who are you?
Hello, Theo, Mark.
My name is Will. I drew you.
Chapter Two

You mean, this pencil made me...and her... and those birds...?

Well, if you’re going to draw us, leave out the crazy stuff.
What do you mean? Everything around here makes perfect sense—except those birds.

Those birds are no worse than anything else around here.
Your idea of perfect isn’t very perfect. See this blade of grass?

What about it?

It’s a little broken along this edge.

So?

So it isn’t perfect. Why don’t you try to find a perfect one?
We can’t find any perfect ones.
I’ve given up on this world. It is too imperfect for me.
If nothing around here is perfect, then where did we even get the idea of perfection?
There must be a perfect world out there somewhere.
Wait! What are you doing?

I want to find perfection.

Don't go! You have to stay and erase those birds!
If you think this world is so great, then convince me.

Here. Make your case!
But it’s not our fault that the evidence didn’t survive.

No. But change is another problem with this imperfect world. How can you find true goodness when everything is constantly getting old and rotting to pieces? In a perfect world, things would stay beautiful.

No, I refuse to accept Will’s position that something has to be perfect in order to be good. The bench and the berries were bad examples because Will or anybody else could say that they weren’t good.
We need something that has value for its own sake.

You mean something that is good at being itself.

Yes.
What about this snake? Snakes are good at being themselves. Take this to Will.
Ewwww! I think I’m going to—

Just go! This time, don’t come back without Will!
At hot temperatures, water evaporates.

It turned into steam!