For information about contacting any of these member clubs, please call that club's closest state coordinator. There is a state coordinator listing with phone numbers elsewhere in this publication.
bird called differently in Latin, Greek, Arabic, Chinese, Czech, Gaelic, Mayan, English. Woody, a baby with a destiny, a parrot with potential, conure unsuspecting, hungry for life, mother’s pet, waiting to be fed. Since he won’t fly, he probably was taken from the nest, though not before he’d learned the necessary pride allotted to his species and, I’ll wager, not before he began to think of flying.

These are the facts, these are the guesses, the fantasies, conclusions, projections and visions, but they are not secrets. Facts are as undeniable as time: once Woody was one week old, once three months old, once Woody was captured. Secrets are captured possibilities: what Woody actually looked like at that age, where he actually lived — country, terrain, tree, height — what his mother actually looked like, what he heard at night, whether he ever found his own food, how he actually was caught, how like a holocaust is separation. These actualities are his secrets, though he doesn’t know he possesses them. And I’ve been talking only of his origins, only about Woody ages before we would recognize each other.

All wild captive birds have such secrets. You could say being captured gives them the power to have secrets, secrets they nourish and flaunt like selves. Yet parrots, whether captured or hand-raised from the egg, seem to have other secrets too, those of maturity and ambition, not merely the secrets every species shares only with its members, but secrets they have chosen to communicate, used to gain favor and attention from a more powerful species. We say parrots seem wise, can reason, can talk, can joke. Parrots make good company, we feel, as if their secrets were a kind of knowledge we like having before us, colorful and compact, a verification of the benign nature of the way things are.

We seek that knowledge, always have, we think we need it, think we can grasp it, and every chance we get we tell ourselves we’re onto it, scraping and bowing to the source. Such knowledge has always been a treasured, guarded secret, unspeakable by all but the elect, the proud owners of the proper icon. Am I one? Hail Woody! Living icon, bearer of secrets, hoarder of knowledge, eternal infant crushing your shell, trembling with greed. Hail Woody, immortal, feather-bearded savior! Selfish, humoring green god, perching on a pedestal, your blessed indifference to my fate I profane with every gesture I perform before thee and in thy sacred name, my pet. •

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