

**Title:**

Richard The Stork (A Stork's Journey, Überflieger – Kleine Vögel, Großes Geklapper)

**Genre:**

Roadmovie, Coming of Age

**Logline:**

An orphaned sparrow who believes he's a stork goes all the way to Africa to prove to his stork family that he belongs with them.

**Main Characters:**

**RICHARD:** A dashing young fellow, sporting a long red beak, elegant black and white wings, and standing jauntily on his graceful, yet powerful, high-rising legs – that's how Richard likes to see himself. The truth, of course, is entirely different. Richard is a sparrow. But because he was raised by storks ever since he was a fledgling, Richard's stubbornness and deep wish to belong to his adopted flock make it impossible for him to change this "storkish" state of mind. It's only when he goes too far, that he realizes he needs to stop seeing himself as the tiniest stork, but rather start acting like the greatest sparrow instead.

**OLGA:** A tomboyish owl girl, supposed to be roaming the forests with the other pygmy owls. But instead, she was excluded! They called her ugly, a monster and played tricks on her – and only because she had grown too tall. Ashamed of herself and bitter, Olga ran away and found „Oleg“ – her imaginary friend for overcoming her loneliness. Reluctantly, Olga follows Oleg's advice to help Richard along his way. A journey that causes her to lose Oleg, Richard and even almost her life until she learns to embrace her own self-worth and to trust others again.

**KIKI:** A green and yellow parakeet, convinced that the entire world is waiting to swoon over his incredible beauty, not to mention his glorious disco singing voice. Kiki's only problem is that he's locked in a cage in a shoddy karaoke bar, forced to sing country music. To reach fame and glory, he cleverly bamboozles Richard and Olga. But when it finally dawns on him that he's not the unique rising star he had always thought he was, Kiki also realizes that it is time to become, if not the very best disco star, at least a *better bird*. By helping his companions, he grows from being an egomaniac to becoming a true friend.

**Synopsis:**

Orphaned at birth and raised by a stork family, the teenage sparrow Richard believes he is one of them. But when the time comes to migrate to Africa, the stork father reveals Richard's true identity and leaves without him. Determined to prove that he is a stork after all, Richard boldly chases after his flock. Together with his newfound pals, Olga, an oversized pygmy owl with an imaginary friend, and Kiki, a narcissistic, disco-singing parakeet with a fear of heights, the oddball trio journeys south on planes, trains and automobiles, past vicious bats, online pigeons and mafia crows – and Richard learns to accept who he really is. Richard finally reaches Africa, but learns that his stork brother has been kidnapped by a monstrous honey badger deep inside its underground burrows. Thanks to his sparrow size, quick movements and the help of his friends, Richard rescues his stork brother. Moved and grateful, the stork father finally accepts Richard as his son.

**Description of the scene excerpt and the context:**

The following scene is from very early in the movie. It's the moment when Richard's real parents are killed and he is taken in by the storks.

EXT. KING'S STATUE - DAY

Robert heads toward the head of a medieval king's statue by a forest lake.

ROBERT  
Made it! Come on, cookie, let's do this.

EXT. SPARROW'S NEST

ROBIN, his beautiful spouse crouches inside their nest, built on top of the king's crown.

ROBERT  
Did I miss it? Did I miss it?

ROBIN  
You're just in time, hon. Aww. And you brought a treat.

ROBERT  
To celebrate our new arrival.

He puts down the cookie. He and Robin bill and coo.

ROBIN  
Richard, your dad's here!

She gets up, reveals a TINY EGG.

ROBERT  
He looks just like I did at that age.

The egg jiggles eagerly.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Yeah. That's my boy.

ROBIN  
(proudly)  
He definitely has your impatience.

A crack appears.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
Looks like he's got your pecking skills too.

Robert gently strokes the shell. The crack gets bigger...

ROBERT  
Come on. You can do it. Push, Richard. Push.

ROBIN (O.S.)  
(fearful)  
Uhh...Ro-Robert!

Robert looks up at Robin. She stares at something, paralyzed.

HEAVY BREATHING. Robert turns around to a hideous, SNARLING MARTEN.

Robert shields the nest with his wings.

ROBERT  
(to the marten)  
You chose the wrong day, buddy!

GROWL! The marten leaps.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. FOREST LAKE - DAY

AURORA, an elegant stork lady pecks a fish out of the shallow water. She throws it up in the air and swallows it.

She pecks at a second fish, throws it in the air.

ROBIN AND ROBERT (O.S.)  
(screaming)  
Nooooo!

Aurora turns her head, worriedly.

POV: a SHADOW climbs down the king's statue.

She flaps in the air swiftly.

EXT. KING'S STATUE

Aurora cautiously lands on the statue's crown.

DEAD SILENCE. The nest is completely ravaged.

Something waggles underneath a leaf. Aurora lifts it up carefully.

The egg! A TINY BEAK picks through the shell. It breaks in two.

RICHARD, an adorable sparrow chick rubs his eyes with stubby wings.

POV Richard: RED STORK FEET. He follows the tall legs up to Aurora's face.

AURORA  
Who have we here?

RICHARD  
(intimidated)  
Richard.

AURORA  
Well, hello Richard. I am Aurora.

Richard falls over backwards and CHEEPS helplessly.

AURORA (CONT'D)  
Shhhh, it's alright. Here.

She gives him what's left of the cookie. Richard gobbles it down happily.

AURORA (CONT'D)  
That's good, isn't it? Where are your parents?

POV Aurora: Plucked sparrow feathers are blown away by the wind.

Aurora closes her eyes in grief.

RICHARD (O.C.)  
Mommy.

She looks down, surprised. Richard hugs her leg wholeheartedly.

AURORA  
I'm not your--

RICHARD  
(smiling)  
Hmmm...

AURORA  
(smiling)  
Come here.

She takes him in her wings.

AURORA (CONT'D)  
What am I gonna do with you?

He snuggles up to her with a trusting YAWN.

She lays Richard in a leaf and folds it into a sack.

AURORA (CONT'D)  
Hold on tight, Richard.

Richard nods excitedly.

Aurora picks up the leaf sack with her beak. She spreads her broad wings and leaps into the air.

EXT. ABOVE THE FOREST - DAY

Aurora sails over the trees. Richard is mesmerized by it all.

RICHARD

Wow...

EXT. STORK'S NEST - DAY

Overgrown ruins of a medieval fortress.

Aurora lands on her HUGE NEST on top of a collapsed tower.

MAX, an excited STORK BOY CLATTERS a welcome with his BILL.

Aurora puts down the sack.

MAX

No fish? What's in here? Frogs?

He lifts the sack over his beak.

AURORA

No, Max, this is--

A DEEP CLATTER sounds from the air. Max looks up.

Aurora snatches the leaf sack and hides it behind her legs.

AURORA (CONT'D)

(inconspicuous)  
Claudius, my dear--

Claudius lands on the nest full of pride.

CLAUDIUS

One of those pesky sparrows nearly  
ruined my speech at the gathering.  
Pests! What's for dinner?

He grabs the sack and brings it forward.

AURORA

Dear, there's something I wanted to  
talk to you about--

Richard emerges, smiling.

RICHARD

Daddy!

Surprised, Claudius tumbles backwards. Richard hugs his toe.

CLAUDIUS

Get off! Aurora!

She suppresses her smile.

AURORA

Claudius, Max, this is--

RICHARD

Richard!