

A Parakeet Named Peregrine

Peregrine. A *peregrine falcon*. That is the fastest animal in the world. I wonder why Ava even named me that. Well, considering she named me and my friends, Harpy, Kestrel, and Kite after birds of prey, I don't really stand out that much. Me and Kestrel are better friends, same with Harpy and Kite. I am a dark blue and white parakeet (did I mention we are also called budgies). Kestrel is yellow and green, same as Kite, except Kestrel is more yellow. Harpy is light blue, the color of the sky, with white patches that look like clouds. Nice!! I try to stoop like the peregrine falcon when Ava lets us out of the cage. I like our cage. It's big, it's roomy, and best of all, there is always something new to discover. Ava can't help but to buy us new toys every time she goes to the store with her dad. I had a race with Harpy during playtime, and it was a tie.

The next day, Ava was going to give us a bath. When she left to get the water for it, the door didn't close all the way. Curious, I walked through the gap and saw an open window. I will never know why, but I decided to go out. I flew out and landed on a nearby tree with yellow flowers. The view was magnificent. There was so much to see, and so much to do! I flew from one tree to the next, avoiding crows, blue jays, cardinals, and even sparrows. Hopping from one branch to another, feeling the wind on my feathers as I glided down, it felt wonderful!

When I got tired of flying around, I realized I was far away from home. Outdoors is no place for a budgie. I asked several birds, and even a squirrel, but none of them knew the way to Ava's house. Now I was worried. Ava was probably worried too. I didn't know what to do. After about 10 minutes of flying around, I saw something small moving through a window. "I'm home!" I thought, and flew closer, only to find out that they were love birds in someone else's house. I flew away, upset.



Back at Ava's house, my friends were having fun being sprayed with water. I love that too. I miss home. "Stop it" Kite said, giggling, even though he didn't want Ava to stop. "Aw, this sure is fun!" Harpy exclaimed. "Guys, where is Peregrine?" Kestrel asked, worried. "I think she flew out somewhere" said Kite. "WHAT!" Kestrel exclaimed.

Meanwhile, I was still searching for Ava's house, but it was nowhere to be found. I tried to ask a dog, but it started barking, so I flew away and landed on a tree. I turned around, only to see 4 or 5 crows staring at me. "Oh, didn't see you there" I said, nervously. "I'm very sorry" "That's OK" said one of the crows. "I'm Britney, and these are my friends, Corvus, Rook, and Raven". "Ok, so, I have a question, do you know the way to that big store called Walmart?" I asked, not really paying attention. If I could get there, I could

probably find the way to Ava's house. "Yeah!" said Corvus. He flew off. I figured I should follow him. Soon enough, we landed on a sign in the parking lot. "Well, here you go" he said "Will you be okay?" Corvus asked. "Yeah, I'll be fine, thanks" I told him, but I was not really sure I would be. He flew off, leaving me sitting on the sign alone, tired and scared.

Gathering my strength and courage, I decided to fly up onto the roof of the huge store to get a better view. The moment I landed, I spotted a dog, a pine tree, a tree with yellow flowers, A TREE WITH YELLOW FLOWERS! That was one of the trees I landed on after I got outside the house! Well, I have to admit, for a 4 year old budgie, I have a pretty good memory for things. Despite my tired wings, I flew towards it, and after quite a while of flapping, gliding, and flapping again, I reached the tree and landed on it. I started looking around again. I felt like all the energy in the world had somehow gotten into me. I looked around for Ava's yellow apartment. Yellow apartment... YES! Found it! I glided down and flew in through the window, then into the room. My friends were in their cage, and they were enjoying a tasty strawberry snack. I flew inside my cage and joined them. The strawberry was so good! It was great to be home! After all, I'm just a little budgie.

