

When Pippa Flew Away

Pippa was no ordinary parrot. She had feathers as red as a blazing sunset, wings tipped with sapphire blue, and a beak the colour of golden honey. More than her appearance, though, Pippa possessed a curious mind and a **restless** spirit.

She lived with Ellie, a girl who adored her more than anything else in the world. Ellie taught Pippa little tricks, read stories aloud to her, and sometimes even confided her secrets into Pippa's feathery ear. But despite all the love in Ellie's small cottage, Pippa always stared longingly out of the window at the vast sky.

One breezy afternoon, when Ellie forgot to fasten the cage properly, Pippa seized her chance. With a swift flutter of her wings, she darted through the open window. She felt the rush of air lifting her higher, the world beneath her shrinking into toy-like houses and fields. For the first time, Pippa was free.

At first, the adventure was exhilarating. She soared over a **meandering** river that sparkled in the sunlight and darted through an **orchard** filled with apple blossom. But freedom, she soon learned, came with challenges.

By evening, Pippa was tired and hungry. She perched on a tall oak tree, listening to the distant sound of cars and dogs barking below. Suddenly, a shadow swooped past her. It was a hawk, its eyes sharp and unblinking. Pippa's heart thudded. She had never faced such a **predator** before. With all her strength, she zigzagged through the branches until she found a hollow to hide in.

The night felt endless. Strange noises echoed in the dark—rustling leaves, screeching owls, and the eerie silence of the forest. Pippa tucked her head under her

wing, but she could not sleep. She missed Ellie. She missed the warmth of the cottage.

The next day, Pippa tried to find her way home. She followed the smell of bread drifting from a village bakery. She hopped onto a windowsill, hoping someone might give her crumbs, but the baker shooed her away with a cloth. The world outside was not as welcoming as she had imagined.

Days passed. Pippa grew thinner, her feathers less **glossy**. She began to **lament** leaving her safe cage. One morning, as she rested on a lamppost, she heard a voice—clear and familiar.

“Pippa! Pippa!”

It was Ellie. She was in the marketplace, her hands cupped around her mouth as she called. Pippa’s heart leapt. She spread her wings and swooped down, landing right on Ellie’s shoulder. Tears spilled down Ellie’s cheeks as she whispered, “I thought I’d lost you for ever.”

Back in the cottage, Pippa’s cage no longer seemed like a prison. It was a **refuge**. She still gazed at the sky sometimes, but now she understood that true adventure didn’t mean abandoning the people who loved you.

Sometimes, Ellie opened the window wide, and Pippa would perch on the sill. The world was still there, vast and tempting. But Pippa had learned something important—freedom was sweetest when you had someone to come home to.

Glossary

1. **Restless** – unable to relax or stay still; always wanting to move or do something.
2. **Meandering** – winding and curving, not going in a straight line.
3. **Orchard** – an area of land where fruit trees are grown.
4. **Predator** – an animal that hunts and eats other animals.
5. **Exhilarating** – thrilling, exciting, and full of energy.
6. **Hollow** – an empty space inside something, like a hole in a tree.
7. **Eerie** – strange in a way that makes you feel nervous or afraid.
8. **Lament** – to feel or express sadness or regret.
9. **Refuge** – a safe place that protects you from danger or trouble.
10. **Glossy** – shiny and smooth, often used to describe healthy feathers or hair.