

## The Search

By Grace

Clare and Sasha were sitting in Clare's backyard eating lunch. It was such a hot day and they had nothing in particular to do. Sasha had just finished her lunch and took out a notepad. She began to sketch a small bird that was in the garden. She loved all animals but wasn't allowed any pets. Clare had a cat and three birds. Sasha envied everyone at her school who were lucky enough to have pets. Clare had just finished her lunch and was watching Sasha closely. They were both startled when they heard the bird fly away. Sasha sighed, but then realized there was a different bird there.

"It's gorgeous!" exclaimed Clare. "It looks like someone's pet!" Thoughts rushed through Sasha's mind in a blur. She might get to keep the bird and she would finally have a pet for herself! She would have her own bird to look after. The girls approached the bird slowly so they would not scare it and Clare held out her hand. The bird moved slowly away at first but then saw that Clare was holding a piece of fruit. The bird hopped on to Clare's hand. "It is someone's pet," Sasha said quietly.

That night the two girls put the bird in to a small cage with some birdseed and water in a cup. They arranged to meet each other the next day. Clare waved her friend goodbye. She then rushed inside, snatched her laptop off the table and took a seat on the couch. After lots of research she found the bird was an Alexandrine Parrot. She gasped out loud. They were very rare! Whoever owns this bird must be missing it terribly, she thought. It was getting late now and Clare was tired so she headed off to bed.

The next day Sasha turned up to see a very excited Clare. "This bird we found is an Alexandrine Parrot!" she said excitedly. "We need to put up ads to see if anyone claims the bird as theirs." So straight after lunch they headed out to put up posters pretty much anywhere they could find. They headed back home and Sasha had to leave early. Before she left she gave the bird a grape, some more water and birdseed. She then said goodbye to Clare and left.

Quite some time had passed since the posters had been put up and still they got no reply. They even tried putting up ads on the internet, but it seemed as if nothing was working. That day they tried putting fliers in all the mailboxes around their area. There was still no response at all from the bird's owner. Secretly Sasha would give the bird some corn or an apple and began to get very attached to the

bird. She didn't want the bird's owner to come. She wanted to keep the bird for herself. She knew she was being selfish, but once the bird was gone, she would no longer have a pet to look after.

One day they got a call from someone called Sally. Clare answered the phone. "Hello," she said in a surprised tone. "Hi" said the voice, "I'm Sally. I have recently lost a bird and I was wondering if this bird you have found is mine. I miss Charlie so much. Do you think I could visit to see if the bird is mine?" "Of course you can," answered Clare. "Whenever you are ready come over." Clare was so glad they might have found the bird's owner but when she told Sasha she didn't seem to be pleased at all. Sasha, of course, wanted to keep the bird. She didn't want to imagine not hearing it out the back. The whole day she tried not to think about it. The day dragged on and on. The afternoon eventually came and Sally came over. Unfortunately though, Sally knew straight away it was not the bird she was looking for. After the girls had comforted her Sally left. All too soon, Sasha had to leave too. She whispered a goodbye to the bird then left. On her way home Sasha had a thought. If the bird's real owner turned up, they would have a right to keep it and the owner could turn up at any time to claim the bird which now seemed like theirs.

Only a couple of days had passed when Clare and Sasha were going on a holiday to Dunsborough. They felt it was only right to take the bird with them as they hadn't had it for that long. He didn't seem to mind the car and was quite happy. When they arrived they unpacked their things then made a home for the bird. They were feeling so tired from the car trip that they fell asleep while they were chatting. It was the afternoon when they woke and they realized they had completely missed out on lunch. They decided to eat a snack out the front. They brought the bird in his cage with them. They were staying in a very busy area and people walked by all the time. Two people though, walked over to them after seeing the bird. "That's a great bird" said one in a cheery voice. "We have lost one similar to it!" exclaimed the other. The bird that was once quiet before called out, "Hello Spencer!" "Spencer!" the two cried at the same time. "That's our bird!" They explained that their names were Geordie and Laird and that they had lost a bird a little while ago. Sasha felt as though she wanted to cry, but knew it was right to give the bird back to its owner. Everything from there happened in a blur. Spencer was put in to his real cage and was loaded in to their car. Geordie and Laird thanked them and waved goodbye. Sasha was glad that the bird was now with its real owner, but was going to miss Spencer so much. As the car drove off a tear rolled down Sasha's cheek. "Goodbye Spencer," she whispered.