

LOVE NEVER GOES AWAY

By Madeline Downey

Once upon a time there were two birds: One baby eagle and one blue jay. Rocket the Blue Jay was the tiniest but smartest of all. Jabber was their mother. And Baldy the Eagle was very unkind. He would never share his toys, he would never let anyone get food for him – sometimes he would even starve on purpose! And he wasn't very unkind if you get to know him well. But if you don't, he may get a little fussy sometimes. So since Rocket the Blue Jay was the tiniest, or youngest, of all, he was super smart! He learned how to fly when he was only 1! He was super good, very kind, and almost was like a superhero. But their greatest enemy was the great giant. The Great Giant was very big! Well, to them it might look very big. But really if you were a human, it wasn't very big at all, because their second greatest enemy was the Tiny Giant. And if you know Maddie (from The Girl in the Sewer book), then you would probably be okay. But if you don't, you might get in super big trouble. Or get really scared of this story!

So one day, it was Rocket's turn to go find food for the family. With a flap of his wings, he was gone from the nest and saw some food! So he picked it up with his beak and flew back home. When he landed he put two worms down for each of the family. And Baldy, who was starving but didn't even really care about the food, he just wandered off on his own. Probably wanting to get lost! He probably didn't even care about his family. (It's like the worst bird ever!) So he waited and waited and waited and waited... snapped up his two worms, and waited still. He waited for another eagle to pick him up and eat him! But don't worry. Rocket had a plan.

Since Baldy didn't care about much, the only thing he would cry about was his family, if it died or anything (which isn't in this story at all). When Jabber, the mother, and Rocket just kept on eating because they were starving, Baldy got caught! And another eagle dropped him in her nest. But Rocket flew off and dived down, grabbed Baldy with his wings, and Baldy tried to hang on like a piggy-back ride. Rocket brought him back home.

But guess who that eagle was, who dropped Baldy in her nest? The Great Giant!!! As you can see, she's very much a trickster. But if you are on her good side you might as well help her build her contraptions. So since Baldy got swooped up again, he got caught in the toes of two humongous feet while he was flying. He didn't care at all. As you can see, this story gets a little more and more... well, to be honest, Baldy gets a little more careful about stuff.

Rocket didn't notice the trapped brother of his when we went off to find more worms for dinner. He swooped up the worms with his beak, and off he went. He was very good at flying with his back tail, so he just used that, because it never got tired! But Baldy now was a little more careful than he was before. When the family was scooping up the worms, he flapped up when the toes weren't looking, and joined the worm feast.

Meanwhile, a Giant Worm (which I don't know how a worm can be giant!), slicked up and caught that eagle in his sleep. While the others were sleeping, the worm pulled and flung Baldy away, almost damaging him. Rocket noticed. When he looked off in the faraway distance, he hopped toward the edge of their cliff. Their cliff had been made by them, and also all the hunters agreed not to touch it. If they even touched one half of it, the alarms in their hill would go off. So when Rocket looked, he clamped his claws onto the side of the cliff, he looked over... Baldy was trying to fly, even though he couldn't at all. So Rocket decided to take him on another piggy-back ride. Flap he went, flap flap flap. And he landed, grabbed Baldy with his one wing, curled it around, and used his back wing to fly back home. Luckily their mom wasn't noticing this at all. When he brought him back home, he jolted over to look like he was asleep, but he actually wasn't. He was just closing his eyes. Baldy did the same.

When the mother was totally asleep, Rocket scooped Baldy up again and they went off to find some more worms. Baldy had promised to use his beak so when they found worms he would snap them up. When they found a worm, he snapped them up and they went on their way again. When he found another worm – snapped them up! Now he knew how to fly, and Rocket was holding on. Rocket didn't forget how to fly. He was just so tired that he couldn't fly anymore. But luckily, Baldy could fly – with his back wing, that is! So when he flapped real real real fast, he

landed them, and hopped back to their spots. And looked at each other for one moment, and touched beaks. Almost like kissing. And then they just fell asleep. Usually they faced back-to-back, but today is different. They actually faced belly-to-belly, head-to-head.

When everyone was asleep, the mother bird Jabber was much heavier than them, because they had planned to set off this hill. When she scooped them up, they determined they were going somewhere just to get worms. But they weren't! They were actually going to a new home! Well not a new home exactly. She flapped off, bapping up and down, down and up. And found a baby sheep across the way. So she picked the sheep up with her tail, and flew off again. And sailed and sailed and sailed and sailed, down and down, and flumped down on the ground. Including the Minecraft sheep. Then Jabber dropped Rocket down, then Baldy, then she fell asleep herself.

The next day, Rocket woke up early to find worms. When he went over, he saw a worm that was rainbow colored. As he was flying over that way, he landed and flumped on the ground, as all birds do. So he jumped or hopped, and picked up a rod that was attached to the worm, and flew and flew. But then he stopped. He knew this could be a trick. He flew back to where it was and dropped it off. He saw some more worms that were real this time, and snap snap snap! Luckily the Minecraft sheep also ate worms, so they had no problem. He plopped them down for everyone. One for his mother. Then one down for Baldy. And Then one down for Sheepy the Minecraft. They were all real excited, so they ate and ate and ate and ate. Everyone stuffed their heads in to get a quick look at those worms. Then Jabber poked up. He lifted his wings. When Rocket and Baldy looked up, they knew at once what he was trying to say. Baldy turned over and got scooped up by his mother. And then Rocket did the same. They left the Minecraft sheep though, to protect their homeland while they were away. They were just going on a vacation- yay!

Jabber or Baldy or Rocket could hardly wait. When they got there, it was all just people. Nobody there had seen birds before. Why did they plan this trip? Well Jabber didn't know the people either. To the people, he was a giant. He plopped Rocket & Baldy down. Jabber and Rocket looked at each other for a minute. Then Jabber and Baldy looked at each other. And then Baldy and Rocket looked at each other. And then they

plopped down. Mother took one... Mother took two. Why did they plant this trip? Now they had to go somewhere where worms were. And they didn't know a place that had worms! So they flapped off. But then a rope got tied around her wings! Even her babies fell down! When Jabber got lasso'ed, her wings got lasso'ed with her. She couldn't escape. When she was tied around, the person was planning to eat her for dinner. So when she got all tied up, Baldy was still fast asleep. But Rocket noticed!

He flew up to his mother and snapped that thing off – it untied! But the person just re-tied it. So, since Rocket could fly, he just sadly picked Baldy on up and flew off without their mother. Their mother fell to the ground as they nearly reached home. They dropped each other off, but then Rocket went back. But it was too late! The person had already started a fire! Luckily the mother wasn't in the fire yet. He swooped up his mother, flew back home, dropped his mother off, and went to wack that person! Then went back home.

Why did they ever plan his trip? They lived by the ocean, so they were used to boats coming in. They also lived near the city, so they also sometimes heard a bell, which they were used to. This is what it sounded like “DING DING!!” (If you ask my opinion – I published this story and I live by the city, so I hear it all the time).

Then they nuzzled their heads in so nobody thought that they were separate birds.

Rocket, however, was planning their next trip. TAP TAP TAP. He tapped on the computer screen. So he got it all planned out, then he nuzzled his head in. Then the next day, they were all ready for an adventure. Jabber raised his arms. They knew at once what he was trying to say. One Rocket, and one Baldy... but too bad, this city also had people! And they were planning to roast them for dinner! So when they flew there, they flew back immediately without even having to think! But she was just about to fly back, when a lasso lasso'ed her, her kids fell. When she got lasso'ed it even lasso'ed her wings! So now she knows that people aren't very nice. She got all tied, and she caw'ed to her kids, saying “go back go back! I'll be fine!” Well that's what she tried to say, but this time Baldy scooped Rocket up. So Jabber just stayed there, dangling, dangling. Then the person un-lasso'ed her. Jabber fell to the ground! And then she did what she was told, and almost got lasso'ed again. This time she got lasso'ed on her wing. She couldn't fly away.

This almost seems like a sad ending right? Well this isn't the end of her! You might like Jabber in this story and not want her to be cooked. Well this time she got lasso'ed by her beak. Well this time she thought about her kids, and she almost felt sorry for them now, and she wanted them to come back. So she tried to CAW as loud as she could, while being lasso'ed on the beak, over the sound of the mountains. Rocket was awake and heard her cry for help. When he saw her tied beak, he knew he was brave, so he tugged really hard and tried to fly away with her. But he didn't know if he could un-lasso his mother. He just kept pulling and pulling and then fell to the ground! But he was happy he flung her back, because that un-lasso'ed her beak! He tried to fly with his wing under her head but he couldn't, so he used his feet which were really strong. He flew, flew, flew, flopped down, and nuzzled their heads in for a closer look.

Then, when they were all planned for another trip, only Jabber went this time. Then if Jabber called for help, they would have their ears open and come right away. But she was in the city and didn't know her way around at all. She peeked over to her mountain and felt sad, because she left her kids there. So she went CAW CAW to pretend she was calling for help. Then she put her head down, sad. But across the valley, across the river, that one Blue Jay flew up and knew his mother was in trouble! Or at least didn't know her way back. So he flew up. "Tweet!" he called. But then he saw his mother – who almost looked dead – but luckily she wasn't! He picked her up with his feet and off he went. Dropped her back, as they had all planned out, and they went on another trip.

This time only Rocket went, and tried to be a little more safe. Unluckily, he got lasso'ed. He was tiny. He was super strong only if he was with his mother – which he wasn't! So he just held on. So when he went "caw caw.." – Across the valley, across the mountains, across the river, his mother heard that! He tried to pull and tried... he almost untangled but now it was just worse! He was free! Then the lasso wound up again and wooshed up, because when he fell, he fell alright! (I know some of the Rocket fans might be sad that he was injured, but don't worry, it turns out ok! He pretends to be injured!) The lasso squiggled and swooped down and tried to reach the bird. When he got tangled around, he got tied around, and then he got narrowed in. Tug... tug... and tuggy! Boomp, boomp!!! Then he got wound up again, chomped on some yummy

worms, and before they could catch him, their lasso was wound up. He couldn't fly but he could hop!

So he tried and tried to get the closest he could get without falling off, and he went "ca-caw! Ca-caw! Ca-ca!" He almost fell but his wing saved him. Then the lasso got reeled in. He stayed for a moment and then, WOMP! He fell. He could barely walk now, so he tried and tried and fell over. At least he could still CAW for help! "caw caw!" he called, "caw, caw!" Across, Jabber heard that cry for help. She flew off without even thinking about it. She swooped him up and flew back, putting the injured bird down. Luckily birds have saliva, so he got some saliva on his beak and she saw Rocket's injured feet. She rubbed that on his one foot and then the other foot. Rocket tried to walk, but took one step and WOMP WOMP. And this time he fell on his wing. He tried to fly but shouldn't have. He tried to fly but just glided. Luckily the glide took her down safely! But unluckily it was in the path of the humans! She fell, thump thump thump! And when I saw thump, I mean thump!!! The lasso tried to reach her, but couldn't, so when Rocket rolled closer and closer, he almost got lasso'ed! But when Rocket got closer, he flung it, and WUMP to the other side of his family.

There was a giant mountain that separated his family from the other kind of mountains. But luckily it had a cave through it. He tried and tried. He used his beak as something to guide him along. He lasso'ed onto the mountain and scraped up. Lasso'ed on and scrape. He just fell asleep with all the others.

The next day, he got up and they were all planned. So this time Baldy went. He was a bit more capable, but he wasn't as smart as Rocket or Jabber. So when he glided and almost fell, his wings saved him. Then he pulled and pulled up and up and up! He hoppity hopped, and then flew up, grabbed a post, and climbed, climbed it. Some people know that birds poop and pee wherever they want, right? Well he tried to stop himself from pooping because that would upset humans and he was in a human world. But he couldn't hold it anymore. He dropped the poop and flew flew flew back, like he didn't even do it!

And Rocket was all better.

The End.