

The Boy and the Rescue Pigeon



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Adam loved spending Saturdays with Grandpa. Today, Grandpa had a big surprise. "We're getting some special pigeons, Adam!" he said, his crinkly blue eyes twinkling. "But first, we need to make their new home cozy." Adam's round cheeks flushed with excitement. He tugged his blue overalls and followed Grandpa to the old wooden aviary at the bottom of the garden.



The aviary was a tall, roomy cage with wire mesh and a little wooden door. Inside, it smelled of dust and old straw. Adam sneezed. "We'll clean it from top to bottom," Grandpa said, pushing his straw hat back. He handed Adam a small broom. "A clean home keeps pigeons healthy and happy." Adam swept the floor while Grandpa wiped the perches with a soft cloth, humming a tune.



Next, they filled the feeders with seeds and set out a big bowl of fresh water. "Pigeons need a safe place to rest and eat," Grandpa explained. He showed Adam how to scatter grit on the floor to help the birds digest their food. Adam's warm brown eyes grew wide. "I didn't know pigeons needed so much care!" he said, brushing dust off his mustard yellow t-shirt.



After lunch, a friend of Grandpa's arrived with a cardboard box. Inside were two pigeons. One was plump and grey with a shiny neck and a blue band on its leg. "This is Pip," Grandpa said. "A rescue pigeon. It got lost, but someone found it and brought it here." The other pigeon was creamy white with brown speckles and a tiny red band. "And this is Coco," Grandpa smiled. "They'll be safe with us."



Adam opened the box gently. Pip strutted out first, its bright orange eyes looking around. Coco stayed back, shy and quiet. Adam sat very still. "Let them come to you," Grandpa whispered. After a moment, Coco waddled over and pecked at a seed near Adam's sneaker. Adam giggled, showing the little gap between his front teeth. "I think Coco likes me!"



Every morning, Adam raced to the aviary to feed the pigeons. He filled the feeders with seeds and checked the water bowl. "Pigeons need clean water every day," Grandpa reminded him. Adam also scooped up droppings and spread fresh straw on the floor. It was hard work, but Adam didn't mind. He liked watching Pip and Coco coo softly as they ate.



One afternoon, Grandpa pointed to a small wooden box attached to the aviary. "That's the pigeon hole," he said. "Pigeons are clever. They can find their way home from far away. They remember familiar places, like this aviary." Adam looked at Pip, who was preening its white wing patches. "Even if they fly far?" Adam asked. "Even then," Grandpa nodded, "pigeons have a special map in their heads."



Adam often opened the aviary door so Pip and Coco could stretch their wings. They would fly around the garden and land on the roof. But one windy day, Pip flew higher than usual. A gust of wind carried it over the trees. Adam watched until Pip was just a speck in the sky. "Will it come back?" he asked, worried. "Let's wait and see," Grandpa said gently.



The afternoon passed slowly. Adam kept looking at the sky. He fed Coco and cleaned the aviary, but his heart felt heavy. "What if Pip is lost?" he said. Grandpa put a large, gentle hand on Adam's shoulder. "Pip is a smart pigeon. Rescue pigeons are brave and loyal. They remember home." Adam nodded, but he still felt a little knot in his tummy.



Just before sunset, Adam heard a soft flutter. He looked up. There, on the aviary roof, sat Pip! The grey pigeon looked a bit tired, but its orange eyes were bright. Adam ran to the aviary and opened the door. Pip flew inside and landed on a perch. Adam clapped his hands. "You came back! You remembered your home!" he cheered.



Grandpa came out with a smile. "I told you pigeons have a good memory," he said. "Pip remembered this aviary because it's a safe, happy place. That's why we take such good care of it." Adam felt proud. He gave Pip some extra seeds and fresh water. Coco waddled over and snuggled close to Pip, as if welcoming its friend back.



That evening, Adam and Grandpa sat on a bench and watched the pigeons settle down for the night. "Every animal deserves care and respect," Grandpa said. "When we give them a safe home, they trust us. And sometimes, they surprise us." Adam nodded. He thought about how hard he had worked and how good it felt to see Pip safe. "I'm glad we made this home for them," he said.



The next morning, Adam ran to the aviary as soon as he woke up. He filled the feeders and cleaned the water bowl. Pip and Coco cooed happily. Adam greeted them with a big smile. "Good morning, Pip! Good morning, Coco!" he said. He checked the aviary door to make sure it was safe. Then he sat and watched his pigeon friends enjoy their cozy home.



From that day on, Adam greeted the pigeons every morning. He learned to be gentle and patient. He understood that animals have feelings, too. They need food, water, and a safe place to live. And they remember the people who care for them. Adam felt happy knowing that he helped make a difference for Pip and Coco.



Sometimes, Pip and Coco flew around the garden, but they always came back to the aviary. Adam knew they would. Pigeons remember familiar places, and this aviary was their home. Adam had learned to care for them and respect them. He felt proud of the cozy home he and Grandpa had built together, and he knew the pigeons were happy.



Now, Adam has a happy new home for his pigeon friends. He greets them every morning with a smile, and they coo back at him. He knows that every animal deserves care and respect. And he will never forget the day Pip the rescue pigeon found its way back home, all by itself.