

What's a Kakapo to do?

By

Dylan De Jongh

EXT. OPEN SKIES - DAY

A FALCON, sleek with shimmering feathers, soars through the air, cawing triumphantly.

On a cliff's edge, below the Falcon, a harem of FEMALE BIRDS cluck in awe of the Falcon's speed and dexterity.

The Female Birds break their gaze for but a moment when they hear rocks being dragged across the cliff's surface behind them.

The Female Birds turn to see a KAKAPO clumsily assembling the rocks into a sculpture. The oafish Kakapo realises he's being watched.

He looks up and sees that all eyes are on him now. The Kakapo makes a final adjustment to his sculpture then hops back, presenting it to the Female Birds.

KAKAPO

Ta-da.

The Female Birds roll their eyes and scoff at the Kakapo's attempt to impress them.

The Kakapo, saddened, dismantles the sculpture but it collapses and lands on top of him.

The Female Birds see this and squawk with laughter then turn their attention to the Falcon still flying high in the sky.

The Kakapo shoves a rock off of himself, stands and dusts his feathers off. He looks up in the sky and sees the Falcon. He looks over at the Female Birds admiring the Falcon.

The Kakapo frowns, peers down at his short wings and flutters them slightly. He sees the cliff's edge and gulps, unnerved.

The Kakapo gathers his resolve and raises his wings. He charges toward the cliff's edge and leaps into the air.

The Female Birds take notice, their eyes wide with shock. Even the Falcon swerves a little from surprise.

The Kakapo slowly floats in mid-air, he's smiling, everything's going well. He flaps his wings but nothing happens. His face turns from ecstasy to horror in a second as he's sent hurtling down into the forest below.

EXT. FOREST FLOOR - DAY

It's pitch-black. A bird is heard churping far away as leaves rustle overhead.

The Kakapo slowly opens his eyes, his vision blurred at first. He blinks a few times and the world around him comes into focus.

Before him, a FEMALE KAKAPO with feathers of dark green and long eyelashes checks on him. She's magnificent and very worried.

The Female Kakapo notices that he's okay and hugs him excitedly.

The Kakapo cries out in pain. The Female Kakapo lets go and blushes slightly. The Kakapo cracks his back and looks at the Female Kakapo.

Their eyes meet. The Kakapo is gobsmacked. He summons every ounce of courage he has to offer his wing to her in friendship.

The Female Kakapo looks at the Kakapo's wing, unsure at first but then slowly extends her wing and touches his.

Their eyes meet again. The Kakapo lights up, a smile across his face. The Female Kakapo blushes and giggles softly.

THE END