

## The Mysterious Noise

"Ashleigh, are you all packed?" Asked Rachel, her twin sister.

"Nearly finished!" Ashleigh yelled from her bedroom.

The whole family was going on a camping trip next to Limba Lake and near the woods. They had to cross the woods before they could reach their camping spot. It was 6.30 a.m.

They all hopped into the four-wheel drive and made their tracks. It was a long two hour drive to the camping place. The twins fell asleep after forty-five minutes. Dad was driving but after a while he started to yawn, non stop! Mum got sick and tired of it every five minutes, so she decided to drive so he could have a little sleep.

Finally, when they got there everyone woke up. There, they saw the misty, foggy, dark but beautiful forest, with bright green fern trees. You could see little squirrels rustling around in the fern trees. It was early, 9.00 a.m. so everyone got out and had a stretch, after that they had something to eat, they were hungry from the long drive. They got their bags and luggage and started to go through the woods. Ashleigh was scared as they got closer to the misty forest. Then suddenly,

"Ahhhh!" Ashleigh screamed at the top of her lungs.

"What is it?" Rachel said in a really, scared voice.

"It was just a rat scurrying off into the woods." Dad crossly replied.

"Don't scream so loudly." Mum added.

"Yes. Finally we're here!" exclaimed Rachel excitedly.

"Come on Ashleigh, let's go." Ashleigh and Rachel sprinted fast off into the forest.

"Just follow us," yelled Rachel. But Mum and Dad just couldn't keep up.

"They'll be fine." said Dad trying to make sure Mum wouldn't worry too much.

"OUCH," yelled Rachel and then she started to cry.

"Yuck." Ashleigh said.

"Look at all the slimy, sticky, red blood!"

She got up and angrily said,

"Stupid stick."

They were at a dead end.

"Which way?" Ashleigh asked.

"This way, I am the smart one and you know that." Rachel followed Ashleigh because she didn't want to get into a fight like they always do.

After a while Ashleigh yawned and then Rachel said extremely quickly,

"Did you hear that?"

"Yes I did." Replied Ashleigh.

"It sounded like a bird noise." stated Rachel.

"Have you read about that bird noise?"

"No, I haven't.....but that is what I would call, one mysterious noise!" Whispered Ashleigh, very curious and very scared at the same time.

"Um, I think we're lost. Don't you Ashleigh?" Rachel ruminated.

"Definitely." replied Ashleigh. "And it's getting cold."

"Here is a jacket, I am already wearing one." She reached into her back pack and pulled out a red and green dotted jumper.

"Hey! Isn't that the one Amy gave you for your birthday?" Rachel asked.

"Yes, it is."

"Thanks. I was quite cold." Rachel shivered.

"That's fine, what are sisters for?"

"ASHLEIGH, RACHEL!" Screamed Dad.

"DADDY!" Ashleigh screamed back.

They saw their parents! Mum ran to both of them in tears. Then they both started to cry, Dad came and hugged them too. While Rachel was over her Dad's shoulder, she saw a shiny thing coming out of a brown, tree trunk.

Dad stopped hugging Rachel and went over to the thing. It was a feather! But it was a strange feather, one that Ashleigh had never seen.

It had green dots, yellow stripes and red bubbles. It was purple with a silver lining like the clouds, right at that moment.

"Wow!" exclaimed Ashleigh. "I want it."

"No way! Finder's keepers." Said Rachel.

"Are you turning into a 'Max'? You know, the really, unfair kid at our school. He is as ugly as a rotten, old pumpkin." Ashleigh jealously said.

"Now, you two that's enough fighting." Mediated Mum.

"Your mother's right. Let Ashleigh hold it for a while." Agreed Dad. So Rachel gave it to Ashleigh for a little while.

A little while on, Mum excitedly said,

"Oh, the first wildlife we've seen today. It's a bird. It's a strange little bird."

"Oh, my gosh! The feathers match." exclaimed Rachel.

"I have never read about this species before." Ashleigh suspiciously said. Birds were Ashleigh's favourite animal.

"SQUAWK, SQUAWK!" The bird squawked.

"That was definitely the sound that we heard earlier." Rachel said in a detective sort of way.

"Ok, come on all of you we really need to set up camp right now." Dad declared. So they all went back to set up camp.

"I've got my pink and red striped sleeping bag here. Where should I put it?" asked Ashleigh.

"Just over there dear.' Dad said pointing to a blown up blue, bed. So, she went into the big, yellow tent and dumped her thick, sleeping bag on the bed.

"Here, I have a book called, 'All the Birds in the World.' I got it from Sarah, the girl with the blonde hair, who likes that Lachlan guy. I'll look for the bird we saw on the way back to our camp." Said Ashleigh.

"Look over there!" Rachel said excitedly, it's one of the birds we saw earlier."

"No it's the same one. I remember seeing the scar on its right foot."

It was about twenty metres away from them.

Ashleigh spent the rest of the afternoon looking for the multicoloured, unusual bird, but she just couldn't find it.

"I've looked at every single page, three hundred pages! It's just not in this book." Ashleigh pondered.

"We will call bird expert, Uncle Freddy on the way back. Alright?" Asked Mum.

"Alright." The girls replied.

"Yum." Rachel said

They were sitting in front of a warm camp fire eating delicious, trout, after they ate went to sleep.

"Time to go!" Dad called out in the morning. On their way home they decided to call Uncle Freddy, he said ...

"It is an undiscovered bird!"

*By Eloise*