

Learning to Fly

Nidrea Futrell & Dakota Henninger

Once upon a time, there was a princess named Miyah. She lived far away in a big, stone castle. Princess Miyah was very kind and beautiful, and everyone in the kingdom loved her. Princess Miyah loved everyone, too. But one day, Miyah became sad. She sat in the grass under her favorite tree, and she cried.

“What is wrong?” a voice called from the tree. It came from a little, blue bird sitting in a nest. Princess Miyah sighed and told her story to him.

“My mother and father found a prince for me to marry,” she said. “I have always loved learning. I love to read books and learn about people, and places. Books are the only way I learn about the world outside the castle. If I marry, I will never be able to leave,” she said sadly.

The bird nodded his head. “I know how you feel.”

“How?” questioned Princess Miyah. “You can leave any time! You have wings! You can fly!”

The little bird sighed. “But I cannot. I never learned to fly.”

Princess Miyah gasped in surprise. “How sad! We are both stuck here. Where would you go if you could leave your nest?”

The little, blue bird stared at the big sky above them, and smiled. “Everywhere!” he said. “I would fly over every river, over every forest, over every mountain, over every castle!”

“If I could leave this castle, I would go everywhere, too,” she said. “I would go to all the places I read about in my books! I would learn new things every day, and one day, if lucky, I would be a teacher! I would teach about all the places I visited and all the people I met.” Suddenly, a bell rang from the castle.

“I must go now. It was nice to meet you,” Princess Miyah said. She stood, said goodbye, and went into the castle.

Many days passed, and soon it was the day of the wedding. Princess Miyah looked beautiful in her wedding dress, but she wished she did not have to wear it. Her heart was very sad, because she did not want this life. Her parents would be happy. The prince would be happy. The kingdom would be happy. But Princess Miyah knew she would never be happy if she could not follow her dreams. A tear fell down her face, when suddenly she heard a noise at her window. She went to open the window, and to her surprise, she saw her little friend!

“Blue bird!” she exclaimed. “You are flying! You learned to fly!”

The little, blue bird flew around happily, spreading his little, blue wings as the wind lightly touched his pretty feathers. He was not sad anymore. His eyes were very happy.

“After I spoke to you,” he said, “and after I told you of my dream to travel all over the world, I could not stay in the nest any longer. Life is too short to waste it doing something you do not want to do. You only get one life. I do not want to waste mine.”

Princess Miyah knew that the little, blue bird was not only talking of himself. She knew that he wanted her to live her dreams, too. She knew that she wanted that for herself. She looked at the bird, and she saw how happy and free he was. She thought of the great courage he had to leave the nest.

“*Everyone* deserves to be happy and free, Princess Miyah,” the little bird said to her.

At that moment, Princess Miyah knew what she must do. She ran down the castle stairs and told her father and mother that she could not marry the prince. She found the prince, and apologized to him. She told him that she knew he was a good man, but that she could not love him fully.

Princess Miyah walked from the castle. She was excited for this new, great adventure. She did not know exactly what the future held for her, but she was not afraid. She was following her dreams, and she was finally happy.

Nidrea Futrell is an 8th grade student at Team Academy, and enjoys reading.

Dakota Henninger is a sophomore at Indiana University and hopes to become a teacher someday. They hope you enjoy this story.