

FOR ROBIN'S SAKE

Written by

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INT. HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

GIRL, 10-ish, sweatshirt with front pockets and jeans, draws a picture of the backyard. Outside is the backyard with a tall deciduous tree in the center.

Outside the window, a fledgling bird cries. The girl perks up and leans into the open window. She looks around. After a few seconds, she leaves the room.

EXT. HOME - BACK YARD - DAY

The girl approaches the tree and finds a fledgling robin at its base.

GIRL
Poor thing! Are you hurt?

The girl scoops the bird into her hands and pets it. She looks up and sees its nest in the branches.

GIRL (CONT'D)
Don't worry! I'll get you home!

EXT. HOME - FRONT PORCH - DAY

GIRL
Stay right here! I won't be long!

The girl places the bird on a chair and runs off.

INT. HOME - GARAGE - DAY

The girl grabs an A-frame ladder that leans against the wall.

EXT. HOME - BACK YARD - DAY

The girl drags the ladder to the tree and sets it up.

EXT. HOME - FRONT PORCH - DAY

The girl charges the family cat away from the chair where the bird waits.

INT. HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

MOM, early 40s, shirt, jeans, chops vegetables and looks out the window to see the ladder set up next to the tree.

MOM
What's that doing out there?

EXT. HOME - BACK YARD - DAY

The mom walks to the tree, folds the ladder, and takes the ladder away.

INT. HOME - GARAGE - DAY

The mom puts the ladder against the wall.

INT. HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

The mom returns to the kitchen.

EXT. HOME - BACK YARD - DAY

The girl returns with bird in hand and finds the ladder gone. Her jaw drops and she looks to the kitchen window. Her brows furl and she runs around the house.

EXT. HOME - FRONT PORCH - DAY

The girl puts the bird on the chair. She grabs the cat.

INT. HOME - ENTRYWAY - DAY

GIRL
Mom! Lock Fluffy up! He's being a
bad kitty!

The girl drops the cat inside the house and closes the front door.

INT. HOME - BACK YARD - DAY

The girl drags the ladder out and sets it up at the tree.

The mom looks out the window and sees the girl running from the ladder.

The girl walks to the ladder with the bird. Her mom approaches. The girl stops with a foot on the ladder.

MOM

What on earth do you think you're doing? I don't want you climbing that tree! We're about to have dinner, so get cleaned up.

GIRL

But mom! You don't understand!

MOM

No buts! I understand perfectly!
Now get your butt inside!

The mom breaks down the ladder and carries it away.

INT. HOME - GARAGE - DAY

The mom puts the ladder in the garage.

EXT. HOME - GARAGE EXTERIOR - DAY

The mom locks the garage door.

EXT. HOME - BACK YARD - DAY

The girl looks up at the tree, then to the kitchen where her mom watches her.

The girl puts the bird in her sweatshirt pocket and walks off her property.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S FRONT YARD - DAY

The girl sees an unattended straight-ladder leaning against the neighbor's house. The wall is partially covered in new paint, the project not yet complete.

GIRL

Mom can't lock this one away.

The girl grabs the neighbor's ladder and drags it away.

The NEIGHBOR, mid-40s, painting suit and boots, steps out with a bucket of paint and a roller. He finds the ladder missing and looks around.

NEIGHBOR

Joey? Did you move my ladder?

JOEY (O.S.)
No! It's right where you left it!

The neighbor looks down and sees drag marks.

EXT. HOME - BACK YARD - DAY

The girl walks the ladder, using its legs as pivot points. She leans the ladder against the tree to catch her breath. When ready, the girl sets up the ladder.

The mom looks out the window to see the girl with another ladder.

The girl climbs the ladder. The mom grabs her by the waist and pulls her off the ladder.

MOM
Didn't I tell you not to climb this tree? What's so important that you have to do it now?

The girl pulls the bird out of her pocket and holds it up.

GIRL
I found this bird on the ground. I'm trying to return him to his home.

The mom looks at the fledgling robin, then to the girl, and finally to the tree.

The mom sees the nest.

MOM
That's a long way up. I don't think you'll be able to reach that, even with the ladder.

The neighbor walks onto the property and sees his ladder.

NEIGHBOR
(yelling)
What are you doing with my ladder?

The mom quickly turns to him.

MOM
Is this yours? I'm so sorry! I locked our ladder away and only just found out my daughter's trying to get a bird back into its nest.

The neighbor looks to the girl and laughs.

NEIGHBOR

Oh, is that all?

He turns to the girl.

NEIGHBOR (CONT'D)

You're a good kid, but ask next
time you want to borrow something.

The neighbor takes the bird from the girl and climbs the
ladder.

The mom holds the ladder while the neighbor places the bird
back in its nest.

The bird starts tweeting and the girl grins.

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