

RECEIVED
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Kwikw Beware

It was a late summer night and two Eagles were anticipating their arrival of their first Eaglet, just days before mama eagle told daddy eagle. "we will meet our little eaglet soon!". That evening the egg started to wobble, stop, wobble again and stop, then mama heard a little tapping from inside and she called out "Come on little one peck a little harder, we want to meet you!". With that sweet encouragement Eaglet pecked until she poked a hole in the egg, and with the help of her mama and daddy little Eaglet was out in the new world. Mama and daddy eagle were so proud and happy to have such a beautiful chick and when they saw her, they named her Kwikw.

Mama and daddy were always showing Kwikw the wonders of their world, flying and exploring new things. Kwikw was very curious about everything and always asked a lot of questions. One day they were out flying and Kwikw saw the strangest creature she ever seen, so she went to find her parents and bring them back to ask what this creature was. When she found mama and daddy, she brought them to ask if they knew what this animal was, but when mama and daddy saw this creature they gasped, "Oh no the people are moving!". Kwikw was confused and before she could ask what a people were, her parents told her to stay away from them and to never go near them as they are dangerous.

That evening back at their nest mama and daddy were talking about having to leave their nest and move away before the people could do any harm to them. Poor Kwikw was so upset and confused she got really upset and told them, "we are not leaving our home, my world, how bad can these people be..." Her daddy looked at her with tears in his eyes, "I do not want to leave, and you are right this is our home but if you have seen what I have seen, you would understand." He went on to tell them that he's seen the destruction the peoples have done, taking more than they need from our world and needing more, they don't care if something runs out, they migrate to another area and take and take until there is nothing left. He named a few like fish, animals, trees, and causing fires that swallow whole forests up and harming all the animals in the area. Some die trying to get all their families out, or they take small ones and train them to serve them.

Kwikw could not sleep after hearing such terrifying things the peoples did, but it sparked something inside of her and she just wanted to learn more about the people. The next day she would start pursuing the people and learn their way of life because Kwikw felt that everything was made for a purpose in the world. She came across a little person, he seemed to be playing down by the water, so Kwikw sat in the high trees and watched his every move. Then suddenly, the little person went into the water and the rough current started to drag him under. Kwikw without thinking swooped down and grabbed the little person and dragged him onto the shore. The little person struggled for air but finally caught his breath and with amazement he hugged Kwikw. He told her he was babagwam and he had never seen such beauty up close. Kwikw heard some voices calling out for babagwam, and before Kwikw could fly off and hide, babagwam gave kwikw a big hug and disappeared into the trees after the voices. This made something inside Kwikw all warm and happy and made her want to watch over babagwam and protect him. So everyday after that Kwikw would tell her parents she was going hunting but really, she was going to see babagwam. Eventually babagwam and Kwikw became good friends and learned a lot from one another helping each other open their eyes to a whole new way of doing things and appreciating one another. It also was helpful that babagwam always had treats for her when they would see each other.

Weeks went by and the food supply in the area was going scarce due to the peoples over fishing the waters, no berries, animals were disappearing, so animals were leaving their homes and moving, and trees were slowly vanishing from the woods and being burnt.

It was weeks before mama and daddy eagle figured out something was not right and Kwikw was not being honest to them as to where she was going. So, they followed her and had seen who she was going to see, babagwam. Dad was furious and seeing red and before he could think, he flew down and took Kwikw back to their nest and told mama they were to leave that evening to find a new home away from the peoples. Mama did not say a word and just nodded her head and looked at Kwikw with disappointed eyes. Kwikw had never seen her daddy like this but she wanted to tell him her experience was different and wanted him to meet with Babagwam.

Mama Eagle was about to go and see if she could find any food for their travels, but with very little food around for days she didn't realize she had not eaten for days and suddenly, she fainted in the nest. When she came to, daddy and kwikw with worried faces were over her, daddy went to get some water and Kwikw was left to look after mama eagle. Mama Eagle took this time to talk to Kwikw, she told her there is a good reason your dad was upset, you could have been hurt or captured and we would have not known. She reminded kwikw they loved her and were just worried. Kwikw tried to convince her mom that the little person she met is not like the rest and how much she has learnt from babagwam and how he always has food for her. Just then she remembered she can go get food from babagwam and bring it back for her mom and dad. She did not want to take a chance of her mom becoming sicker. So off she flew before her dad could come back and stop her from going. Mom tried to call her back, but it was too late, when dad came back, he frantically asked where Kwikw was? Mom gave him one look and he knew exactly where she went to and went to go and find her.

Kwikw found babagwams camp site but no one was there it seemed like everyone had left and only traces of dead animal carcasses were left. So, she took some of the carcasses back to her mother to try to help her feel better. Little did Kwikw know, the carcasses had been sick from the water that the peoples had left. She didn't notice there was other sick animals around that the peoples left.

Kwikw saw her dad come her way very upset but he saw that she had found some food to bring back to mama eagle. He just nodded and led the way back to their nest. Once mom ate the food, she felt much better and shared some with dad eagle, as he was looking very fragile. Kwikw was so relieved to be able to help. Dad was still furious but thankful that mama was ok. Dad and mom agreed it was time to leave their nest and find a new home, Kwikw was ok with this decision, but was wondering where Babagwam went with his tribe. And hoped he was safe, and their paths would cross again.

They started their new journey to find a new home while they were flying mama eagle had let out a loud cry and plummet to the ground. Dad and Kwikw in a terror went flying after her, but then dad too let out a screech Kwikw had never heard before. When Kwikw got to her mom and dad, they did not look good and their color was gone. She panicked and went to fetch some water for them but when she returned, they both were no longer in their bodies but in the spirit world. Kwikw was left beside herself alone holding her parents. She then thought of the carcasses she fed them, it was the peoples.

A Story by Mae Flanders

The story came to me from all the Eagles being poisoned on Vancouver Island.