



THE BIRD IN THE CAGE

by

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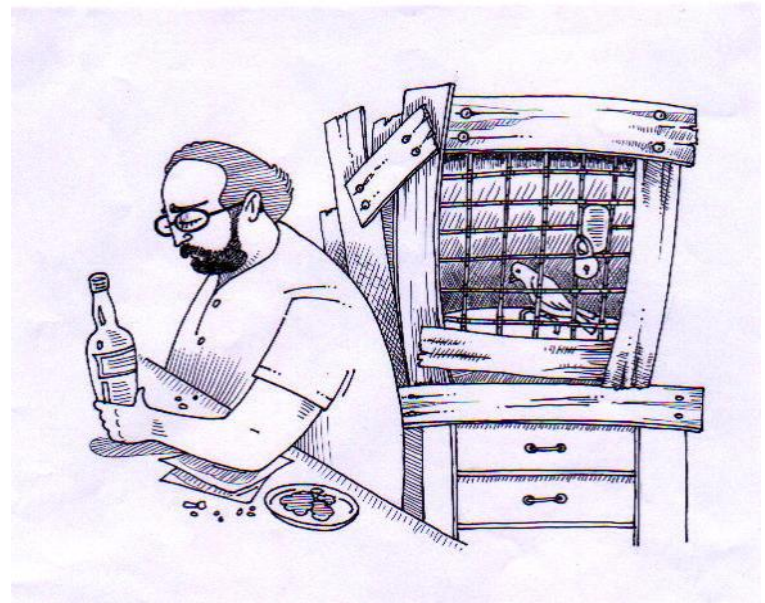
THE BIRD IN THE CAGE

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Once upon a time, not so long ago, not long ago at all, in fact just last month, there was a man. This man had an uncle who had died and left him a big house. In this house was a bird in a cage. But this man did not like birds. He felt that birds 'should be seen and not heard'. He believed in the motto of 'spare the rod and spoil the bird'.

So each time the bird sang he would beat the bird till it shut up. So the bird stopped singing. He put the cage in a place where he would not have to see the bird all the time. So the bird became very lonely and sad. He barely fed the bird and the bird became very weak. He soon forgot that the bird existed. And one day he found that the bird had died.



But then there was another man. He actually liked birds. He wanted to have a singing bird in his house. So he went out and bought a bird. He made up his mind to give this bird the best of everything. He felt that what was good for him was good for the bird. So he bought the bird a golden cage and got the bird an Armani suit. He gave the bird his best cigars and wine. He got his cook to make the juiciest steaks for the bird and excellent fish tartar. He even engaged the best music teacher for the bird.

But the bird stopped singing. The bird could not breathe in the suit and could not drink the wine or eat the food. The bird hated cigars and could not understand the music teacher.

The man grew angry. He said, “you are an ungrateful bird. I give you the very best and you do not appreciate it. I do so much for you and you do not even do the smallest thing for me, you don’t even sing any more”.

The bird did not answer. The bird knew that the man would never understand that its needs were different. The bird was also too tired and weak to argue. It slowly wilted away and one day this bird also died.



Now there was another man. This man really loved birds. But he realised that he had to learn about birds if he was to care for them properly. So bought books on the Convention on the Rights of the Bird, the Developmental Milestones of Birds, bird psychology and bird nutrition. Bird education and bird recreation.

He read all the books carefully and followed them to the letter. He bought a nice big cage for the bird. He hung a swing in this cage and made sure that there was always fresh water. He gave the bird a healthy balanced bird diet of fruits and nuts and vegetables. He placed the cage in a nice sunny and well-ventilated place. He encouraged the bird to sing and praised the bird for its lovely voice.

This bird sun bathed all day and ate well. All its needs were satisfied. It was a healthy and satisfied bird.

This man and bird lived happily ever after.



***If you were a bird which man would
you choose to live with, the first,
second or third?***

Ah! But then there was a woman. This woman also loved birds but she truly respected them. One day when she was out for a walk in the park she saw a baby sparrow being chased by some crows. She climbed a tree and saved the sparrow. She decided to care for this baby sparrow. On her way home she bought some birdseed, fruit and nuts. She also bought all the bird books she needed to understand the little sparrow. She did not buy a cage. In stead she made her home safe for the bird and taught the bird how to protect itself.

She read all the books she had bought, but she then put them aside and began to talk to the sparrow. They would talk for hours and discuss all kinds of subjects. They told each other everything. They knew what they each liked and disliked. They planned their life together.

The sparrow decided that she should help all other birds to be as happy as she was, specially the ones who were not as lucky to have a care giver like herself. So she began to get birds together and talked to them. They decided to form a group and find ways of improving their situation and helping each other. The woman also helped the sparrow by getting caregivers together to talk about what was in

the best interests of birds. This partnership worked very well.

The sparrow and the woman helped each other and advised each other. They taught each other things that they each knew. They shared their dreams and fears, their joys and sorrows.

This woman and the sparrow lived happily ever after as friends and partners.

