

MISS AMELIAS SCHOOL FOR TALKING PETS



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I never had an exciting life. No. Not in my wildest dreams. Not until one frosty morning, when I went to check the postbox.

As I stepped into the bitter cold, I noticed an envelope. I ran over. As I opened the letter, a ticket fell out. The ticket was yellow with a blue dragon curled up in the corner, baring its teeth. The letter said:

*Dear Kai,*

*You are invited to take your blue-tongue lizard Sandy and red macaw Cherry to Miss Amelia's School for Talking Pets.*

I was thrilled. My best friends are going to learn to talk!

"Mum!!" I yelled. I ran inside holding on tight to the ticket and letter. "Mum read this!" I panted, handing her the letter. "Can I go?"

Mum read it and smiled. "Yes!" She turned over the letter. "It says it's at the museum."

"I'll pack my bag!" Excitedly, I ran upstairs. In my blue backpack I placed a selection of clothes, an inflatable mattress, a pillow, blanket and pet food, and my lunch box. I got dressed and grabbed Sandy's and Cherry's cages. I said goodbye to Mum and raced out the door.



Outside the museum, a lady with wavy ginger hair down to her shoulders and wearing a long green dress embroidered with red flowers approached. She said "I'm your teacher, Miss Amelia. You sure stood out with your animals." Something squeaked on her shoulder. Out of her hair scurried a lovely white mouse. "This is Jolene. She'll tell you how to get to the classroom."

To my surprise, the tiny mouse squeaked "Follow me!" and scurried off behind the museum. I raced after, struggling under the weight of Sandy's terrarium.



Jolene stopped behind the museum and jumped onto a brick protruding from the wall. "Slide the ticket between this brick and the one above". I did as she told me. Something clicked and the bricks swung open to reveal an echoing corridor. At the end there was a lovely red door.

Beyond the red door, ladders towered overhead. Jolene climbed up onto my shoulder and squeaked "Take this ladder up to the library. There we can wait for Miss Amelia and meet your classmates. You can let your pets out. They are safe here."

I pulled Sandy out of her terrarium and placed her in my pocket. I unlatched Cherry's cage. She flew up and landed gracefully on a wooden table in the middle of the library.

I frantically scrambled up the ladder. My classmates sat around another table, happily chatting. Then something black flashed past the corner of my eye. Maybe someone has a microbat...?

No. I soon learned it was something much more dangerous.

I sat down and Miss Amelia appeared at the top of the ladder. "Alright, let's get to know each other. This fellow can go first."

A boy aged about 7 appeared from the abyss of ladders. Purring happily on his shoulder was a long slender cat licking his nose. He said in a shy voice "My name's Billy. My cat is called Bilby."

Next was a girl. "Hi, I'm Willa. This is Quicksilver." Off her shoulder bounded a black monkey with a white moustache. Next another girl with silvery brown hair. "My name's Lynx. My budgerigar is Abalone." On the light fixing a white budgie twittered happily. Then came Clancy, a boy with blonde hair and a happy springer spaniel called Arkie with freckles on its nose. Lastly came a girl with black hair down to her knees, green eyes and freckles. On her hand was a sleek bird I instantly recognized. A golden eagle. She said, "Hi, I'm Tavi. This is Howler". Then it was my turn.

I pulled Sandy out of my pocket and put him on the table. "This is Sandy. Over there is Cherry".

The next few weeks flashed by. Soon Sandy could say the alphabet backwards. I kept asking Cherry about the life of a bird. She always answered me.

But every now and then I would hear the swish of batwings. Then came the day that changed my life forever.

It was Lynx who woke me. She said 'We can't find Bilby! We've been searching. Help us!'

Miss Amelia then told us. "Mister Wicker is back with his vampire bat. He wants to steal the animals."

But it was the animals who saved us.

Howler screeched. We looked up. A sneering man looked down. A bat sat on his shoulder looking sinister. In a cage below, a frantic cat. Bilby.

'Move and I'll cut the rope.' The man took out a dagger and held it to a fraying rope above the cage.

Howler swooped in, cut the rope with his beak then grabbed it. He placed the cage on the floor.

"You'll pay!" Mister Wicker jumped down, holding out his dagger.

Then a whirlwind of feathers hit him in the face. He screamed as Abalone savagely scraped his nose. Arkie ran up behind and knocked the hilt of his dagger with her nose. It clattered to the ground. Quicksilver dashed forward and grabbed it. He bowed politely to Willa as he dropped it at her feet.

Mister Wicker was stunned.

Then Abalone dived into his pocket, grabbed a key and flew away. The vampire bat chased after but Sandy, silent in the shadows, reared up hissing, scaring it back to the man's shoulder. Abalone flapped over to Bilby's cage. Cherry took the key and unlocked it. Bilby scampered out and onto Billy's shoulder.

Then Jolene scurried over and bit Mister Wicker on the nose. The birds started dive bombing him. Quicksilver and Sandy savagely scratched him. Arkie and Bilby joined in. Then all of us... People ran at him.

Overwhelmed, Mister Wicker ran and ran and ran. He was never seen again.

Soon after our animals had learnt everything they needed to know. Miss Amelia announced, "let's celebrate!"

It was a celebration full of food, games and most importantly the bond between animals and humans.

THE END

*Don't miss the thrilling conclusion "Miss Amelia's School for Talking Pets 2!!"*