

Pelican Rescue

Story by Rose Inserra

Illustrations by Francesca Rosa



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Chapter 1

A Special Find at Salty Point Beach

“Blake! Holly!” Dad called out. “Be careful. There is so much seaweed on the beach. There might be something sharp.”

It was Holly and Blake’s first time at Salty Point Beach. Dad had just moved to a new house a little way up the road. Blake slowed down and began to walk. “Okay, Dad!” he said, but Holly ran ahead.

“Stop, Holly!” said Blake. “I can see a fishing hook on a piece of tangled line.”





Holly stopped just in time. She could see a sharp hook on some fishing line, tied around a plastic water bottle.

“Dad, why is this beach so full of rubbish and seaweed?” she asked.

“There was a storm last night, and the rubbish has all washed up on the shore,” Dad said.

“How does it get in the water?” Blake wanted to know.

“People throw their rubbish away near waterways and on the beach. It collects in the storm water drains, then washes out to sea. Later, the tide brings it back to the shore,” Dad explained.



“Look at that big brown lump of plastic near the jetty,” said Holly, pointing to a large lumpy shape.

As Holly, Blake and Dad approached it, the lumpy shape moved.

“What is it?” asked Holly, feeling a little worried.

“It’s a big bird,” said Blake. “I can see it’s got a really big bill.”

“Dad, it’s a pelican!” cried Holly.



The pelican was dirty and covered in wet sand. There was tangled fishing line wrapped around its feet and over its wings.

“The poor pelican! It’s all tangled in the fishing line,” said Holly.

“And it won’t be able to catch fish or fly,” added Blake.

“We need to get some help, Dad,” said Blake and Holly together.



Chapter 2

Help from the Seabird Rescue Team

A man who had been fishing from the jetty came over.

“Hello. I’m Pete,” he said. “I’ve already called the seabird rescue team. They should be here soon.”

“Do many animals get caught in rubbish?” asked Blake.

“Sadly, yes,” said Pete. “When you go fishing, it’s important not to throw away your old line, especially if it’s got hooks on it. The birds get tangled in it and they can get injured.”

