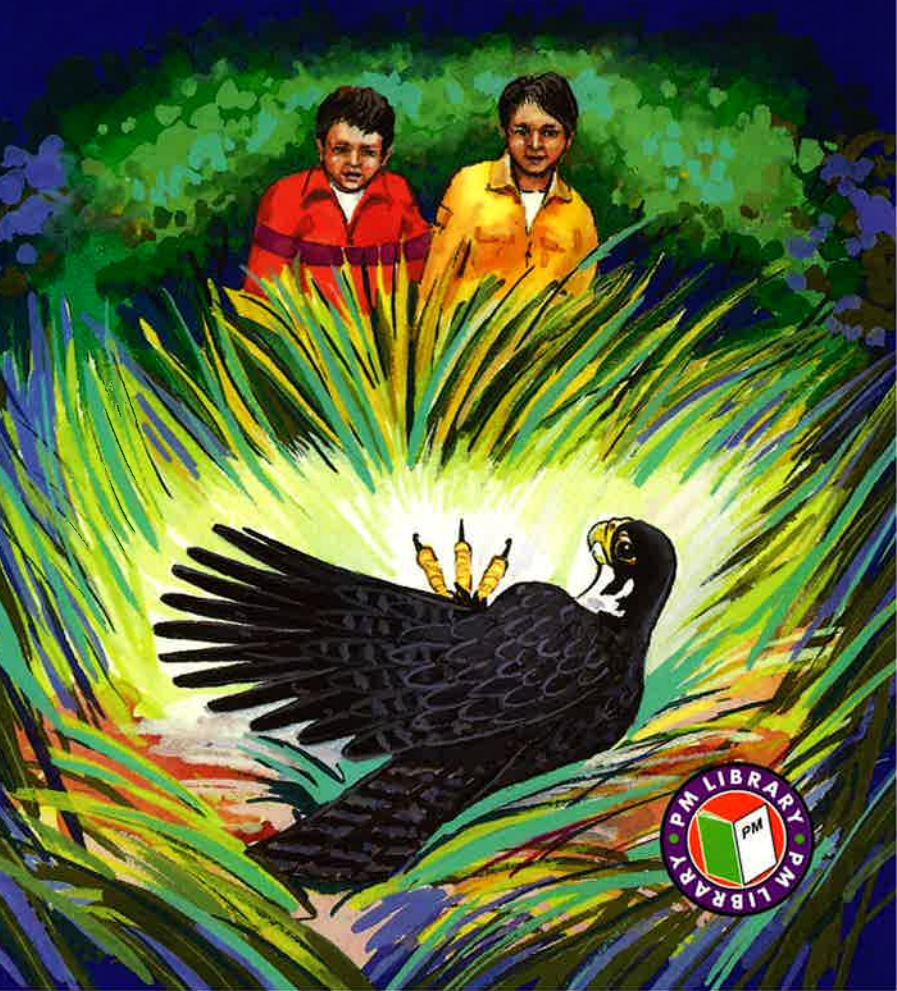
The Falcon

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CHAPTER 1

In the Bushes



Carlos and Ricky jumped out of the car when they reached their campsite.

"Can we go for a quick walk before we put the tent up, Dad?" asked Ricky.

"Off you go," their father said, smiling. "Just make sure you stay in sight of the camp. I'll start getting lunch ready."

The boys ran along the track that led up the hill towards the trees.



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"Listen!" said Ricky, suddenly stopping. "I can hear someone coming through the trees."

Carlos stopped and looked around.

"I don't think there's anyone in the trees," he said. "That noise is coming from those bushes over there. Let's go and have a look."

Carlos went over to the bushes, and Ricky followed him.



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"I can see a bird over there!" said Carlos. "It's a big one — I think it's a hawk."



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CHAPTER 2

The Injured Bird



As the boys moved closer, the bird started to panic. It flapped about and tried to jump up at them, but it was too weak. It jerked its head from side to side and glared at them with wild, frightened eyes. Then it lay still, with one of its wings bent over at a strange angle.

It was a beautiful bird, with dark grey feathers on its wings and paler feathers on its chest. But its hooked beak and long talons looked sharp and menacing.