

HAPPY CLOUDS

Treatment 2019 by Leo Sandberg

CALVIN the seagull is an awkward kid (7), clumsy and slow flying, to the embarrassment of his parents.

So slow at flying that Calvin has a hard time catching up to the garbage barge boat where the seagulls dine. But his parents naturally love him anyway of course, even though they hope he'll grow into flying and get his wings.

Teased and with a bruised ego Calvin flies off to mope when he spots a school of fish under the waves. Excited about eating fresh fish, he dives to catch them but they are even faster than the barge.

The other seagulls laugh at him for thinking that he could catch fish when he can't even catch his own tail (an old seagull expression). "What do you think you are, a sea hawk?" In the face of ridicule Calvin gets angry, swearing that he'll show them. He'll show them all!

He wants to get fast, really fast. Faster than the fish, fast like the sea hawk! And they did give him an idea. Calvin knows where the sea eagle lives. Maybe it can teach him to fly fast. But everyone knows sea hawks are vicious and are even know to eat little seagulls. Maybe he can get fast on his own...

He starts by jumping from the highest roof in the old marina, but it's too low, Calvin crashing through the nesting area to the entertainment of the flock. So he jumps from the old boat crane, but that's too low as well.

His mom warns him not to pursue his fixed idea because the

other seagulls don't like eccentrics. She reminds him of Scruffy who was banned from the flock for trying to talk to the cat, nearly getting everyone killed.

But Calvin is a tenacious kid with a new found obsession of flying fast, even if he crashes more than catches anything. He practices day and night until one day he spots the hawk hunting down the coast. He studies the hawk closely, from hiding when the hawk suddenly spots him!

The hawk chases him down, even though Calvin tries to loose the hawk by flying low over the tall beach sand dunes and grass. Pouncing down on Calvin the hawk challenges him: why are you spying on me, you annoying little nibble!?! Do you have a death wish? Calvin - No, no, no, please don't hurt me! I admire you! The hawk is taken back. Admired? I've never been admired before. Calvin stressfully explains his admiration and the hawk is so flattered by it that she shows him some moves to gain speed.

The moves help him catches a nice big fat fish! More be luck than skill, but he catches a fish!

He is so pleased and full with himself that he proudly flies back to the flock, thanking the sea hawk so much. She jokes back at him: next time I'll eat you, kid!

Calvin swoops through the flock scaring everyone half to death because they thought it was the sea hawk. Calvin lands and prances around with his trophy - his ego too big for his head.

The flock has never been so insulted, especially the elders! As if Cal was something special and that garbage food isn't good enough for him when it has been fine for everyone else

and has been for centuries!

Calvin is shocked. He thought they would be please and happy to eat fresh fish. "That isn't the point. The point is that you have a hearing problem." challenges an elder.

Someone in the flock calls out to have him banned. The elders agree that Calvin has no respect for how things are done and hasn't listened to his parents warnings! "*We do not chase fish. We have a boat. Hawks chase fish. Calvin, you are banned for mocking the traditions of the flock, despite your family's encouragement to fit in! Anyone talking to or helping you will be banned too!*"

Calvin is shocked, looking for support from his folks but they can't help him now or they'll be banned too. His friends turn their backs on him as well. Even his best friend Sheila turns her back on him. "I told you so..."

His ego hurt more than anything, Calvin flies off into the nearby woods, landing in a tree. There he sits in his lonesome, feeling sorry for himself and wondering if things could get any worse when thunder rolls across the sky and the rain starts pouring down.

Off in the distance the flock takes cover under the buildings of the old marina, cuddling close for the warmth and comfort whilst Calvin is left all alone out in the rain and gloom.

Disheartened Calvin turns and huddles closer to the stem of the tree when he spots THE CAT down below staring up at him with glowing eyes and licking it's lips. Calvin flies off leaving the cat far below.

Not knowing where to go he sees the dim lights of a Tivoli down the coast. He shines up. The rain stops as the sun sets. Calvin heads to the Tivoli in hope of finding food and shelter, even if he knows it is pigeon turf... To himself: "How bad can it be, there are just pigeons and humans..."

The Tivoli is bright lights, roller coaster rides and free fall towers. Deserted of people due to the rain the Tivoli glitters with promises of excitement and fun.

Soaked and hungry Calvin searches for food when he spots a hot dog in the huge empty parking. Just as Cal is about to dig in a fat pigeon appears on a nearby trash can. It's LATIFA, the south side Parisian style mafia pigeon boss who doesn't like competition and claims that the place isn't big enough for the two of them. Calvin checks out the totally deserted enormous parking lot (beat) and heads for the hot dog. Latifa clears her throat and twenty other PIGEONS appear from out of the shadows.

Latifa explains to Calvin that perhaps they can have a little friendly race around the Tivoli with the hot dog as a prize. Calvin plays along "but I can never beat you, everyone knows pigeons are faster than seagulls!" "You don't have to beat us kid, just keep up!" The race takes them all around the Tivoli and Calvin does his best to beat them but the pigeons cheat in a friendly, funny way, tipping buckets of pop corn in his way, slamming up doors, triggering traps etc. All in good humor and bad sportsmanship.

But Calvin is actually really good at flying now and manages to win the race landing to the pigeons' surprise. Landing in front of the hot dog, at the foot of the trash can where Latifa has been watching from, Calvin claims his prize.

20 pigeons, loosing the race, land around Calvin all beat up from crashing and their traps misfiring on them. Calvin is about to dig into the hot dog when Latifa reveals that she doesn't like loosing. Silent beat, stand off.

Calvin snatches the hot dog and flees head over wings with the hot dog in his mouth! A scary, kill or be killed chase through the Tivoli erupts, Calvin flying for his life, and loosing the hot dog in his crazy maneuvers to escape the pigeon home girl gang.

Badly beat up and bruised Calvin escapes, passing out cold in the tall grass of long beach, Tivoli and the pigeons left in far behind.

When Cal wakes up he's in an old lighthouse where SCRUFFY the exiled seagull has taken him in to nurse him back to health.

At first Calvin is surprised that Scruffy is real. He thought Scruffy was just a story to keep kids in check. Scruffy laughs at this, as if he was an old ghost tale. "No, no. I assure you. I am very real. And I did try to talk to the cat, if that's what the told you."

After all this settles Calvin becomes so upset over how the pigeons ganged up on him that he wants to go out and get back at them, especially the pigeon boss. Scruffy explains "you gotta look out for number one kid..." pecking Calvin on his chest with his wing "...against the dangers of the world, like cats and pigeons or sea hawks." They walk through the lighthouse as Scruffy proudly shows off his weird cat traps. "You can only trust one bird in this world kid, and that's yourself! Especially not the flock!" They go on talking about standing up for oneself, especially against the bullies of the

world. Cal wants pay back and he'll start with the pigeon boss! All other birds are idiots and now Calvin needs to put things right! Scruffy encourages him to go for it! Calvin flies off into the night, to the Tivoli.

Nervous but determined Calvin stalks Latifa through the Tivoli, planning to ambush her. He follows Latifa until she is alone and her gooneys aren't around. Calvin pounces her and a big fight erupts on the tracks of the roller coaster ride. But Latifa gets the upper hand and glees at her triumph as Calvin threads Latifa's tail feathers into the roller coaster track, trapping Latifa.

Calvin escapes from Latifa's grip and watches the roller coaster thundering closer and closer, bend after loop. The tracks begin shaking violently as Calvin watches the roller coaster approach. But when Cal sees the fear in Latifa's face he doubts his actions. Latifa can't reach with her beak to cut off her own tail feathers.

Just then Sheila and a few other seagull kids happen along, up to no good. They see Latifa stuck to the roller coaster tracks but don't see Cal from their view. Calvin jumps in, tackling Latifa in the last second as the roller coaster thunders past, everything shaking.

Latifa catches her breath, gives Cal a confused glance and flies off, her tail feathers missing. As the roller coaster thunders away the tail feathers remain stuck in the track, sizzling.

Calvin flies back to Scruffy in the lighthouse, Sheila secretly following him. The other seagulls don't dare go close because the lighthouse is known to be haunted!

Sheila lands outside, peeking in, as Calvin excitedly tells Scruffy how he saved Latifa and could have gotten revenge but he didn't! Calvin is exhilarated over his triumph and Scruffy is happy for him. "You got a good heart kid. I'm not sure I would have saved her myself!"

Down below the cat spots Sheila and stalks her, sneaking into the lighthouse. It prowls through Scruffy's traps but loses its balance, triggering an alarm that sets off the rest of the traps, one by one. The cat ducks and dodges the traps by the skin of its nose, climbing up the lighthouse.

Upstairs Scruffy hops over to the old ruined lighthouse staircase to investigate, but the cat is just under the ledge! A vicious fight erupts and Calvin flees outside, startling Sheila who flies off scared, Calvin calling after her.

Calvin wants to go after Sheila but it sounds like Scruffy could use some help inside! But the way back is blocked by rubble and Calvin is too big to get in. Everything goes quiet, dead quiet. Calvin peeks in and the place is a mess.

He spots Scruffy in the rubble inside, badly wounded, the cat nowhere to be seen. Calvin tries to squeeze in again but he needs a smaller bird to help him.

He flies as fast as he can to the flock to get help but they turn their backs on him, refusing to help him. He pleads to his parents to help him save Scruffy and they want to help but the elders are looking at them so they can't. Even Sheila, his oldest friend, wants to help, but remains silent, ashamed.

Frustrated Cal gives up and flies to the pigeons instead, Sheila looking sympathetically after him.

At the Tivoli the pigeons give Cal a hard time. "Come back for another beating, have you?" But Calvin braves the situation and Latifa steps in "Leave the kid alone. He's got some guts coinge back here like this." Calvin explains Scruffy's fight with the cat and that they need a smaller bird than himself to get into the lighthouse to save Scruffy. The pigeons are impressed with Scruffy's bravery. Nobody takes on the cat and lives to talk about it. Latifa agrees to help him to settle their score. They all fly off to the lighthouse.

Back at the old marina the cat prowls on the eggs and chicks. Scared the flock flees up into the sky, circling high and screeching that the cat is there!

Sheila realizes that only Scruffy and Calvin are brave enough to face the cat. Sheila secretly rushes off to get Cal.

Cal and the pigeons help Scruffy as Sheila comes to the lighthouse begging Cal to rescue the chicks. Calvin hesitates but Scruffy is cared for by the pigeons. Scruffy says "I'll be fine, go be the hero!" Sheila and Calvin fly back to the old marina as fast as they can.

The cat is still there! The chicks and eggs are left exposed, all the adults taking to the sky and none brave enough to challenge the cat!

Calvin dives in, grabbing the cat by the tail, throwing it in the water, saving the chicks and eggs in one heroic move!

But now the cat is after Cal! A daring case fight erupts ending in triumph thanks to Sheila who saves Calvin and they together save the chicks and the eggs.

The whole flock admires Calvin's daring, fast rescue and welcomes him back to the flock.

But the elders will not hear of it. Disappointed but resigned Calvin heads back to the lighthouse, inviting anyone who wants to come. He promises that it is a place of welcome and friendship instead of judgement.

Sheila is confused and hesitates, not wanting to choose between the flock and Calvin. But she chooses Calvin and hurries to catch up to him.

His parents are left behind, sadly looking after them. They look to the elders who stand resolute and protective over the flock. The parents change their minds, and smiling take off after Calvin. One by one the other seagulls leave for the lighthouse until only the elders are left behind.

When Sheila and Calvin return to the lighthouse the pigeons have saved Scruffy and are about to leave.

Sheila excitedly brags about Cal's daring rescue and Cal about her brave save of him and the chicks. Scruffy proudly invites the pigeons and Sheila to stay at the lighthouse. "Everyone is welcome!"

Sheila has second doubts, if she'll miss the flock. Calvin looks out over the bay and sees whole the flock flying their way "Maybe not..."

Calvin's parents land on the railing and proclaim that they have left the flock. Soon others join them on the railing as well.

Everyone is happy to see Scruffy again and hope that he can forgive them for not standing up for him when he tried to talk to the cat to leave them alone. He doesn't hesitate but pulls them along, letting them hang for his answer. "But of course!"

Finally they all see the elders flying towards the lighthouse, the last of the flock. Everyone falls quiet. The pigeons buff up, ready for a fight, pulling back. Latifa "We should be leaving now..." Calvin stands up for them "You are with me now."

The elders land. Tension... The lead elder eyes the flock seriously. Then shines up in a big smile: Everyone is welcome back to the flock and they're so happy that Calvin came to the rescue! Perhaps Calvin can teach them all how to fly like that?

Calvin is more than happy to but says he'd rather stay with Scruffy in the lighthouse and they can join them there as they will all be safer there from the cat. The whole flock joins them in their new home, even the elders, living happily ever after together with the pigeons.

THE HAPPY END