Joey's Escape

Glittering bubbles of every shape and size were floating around the room. Five-year-old Danny loved to blow bubbles.

"Look! Look!" he said. His big brown eyes were dancing with excitement.

"My what a large bubble!" said Mother.

"May I blow bubbles too?" asked Deborah, his eight-year-old sister who had been helping mother.

"Yes, you may use this pipe. It is my old one," said Danny.

"That's all right," said Deborah.

Together Danny and Deborah blew many bubbles. A large group of bubbles floated near the cage of Joey, the parakeet. Joey hopped from his swing to the top side of the cage. He was chirping and turning his head from side to side.

"I think he likes bubbles too," said Danny. "I'm going to open his cage door, so he can see the bubbles better."

Danny opened the cage door, and Joey flew out. Danny and Deborah tried to catch Joey.

"What will we do?" asked Danny.

"I don't know," said Deborah.

Mother opened the kitchen door and Joey flew outside. She reached for the bird, but he quickly flew away.

"Mother," cried Danny, "Spot will hurt him." Spot was Danny's little black and white dog.

"We will put Spot in the garage," said Mother.

"Now Joey will be safe," said Danny.

They all tried searching for Joey in every flower pot, bush, and even the large trash can.

"Perhaps he flew in the small cherry tree," said Mother.

Danny ran to look in the cherry tree. Mother saw Miss Gray, the big, fluffy gray cat, sitting in the warm sunshine licking her paws.
"O, Miss Gray, I hope Joey has not been here," exclaimed Mother, as she grabbed the cat in her arms. Her hands shaking she looked for a place to put Miss Gray. Mother opened the storage door and pushed the cat inside and shut the door.

"Joey is not in the cherry tree," said Danny. Mother remained silent. Mother watched Danny and Deborah as they continued their search for Joey.

"I hear Joey chirping," said Danny.

"So do I," said Mother. Joey was perched on a small clothes line over the washer. Mother reached out and got Joey.

Everyone was happy. Joey was now safely back in his cage.

"We'll have lots to tell Daddy about tonight," said Danny.

"Indeed we will," said Mother.

by Mary E. West