May

The morning light is soft and pale discovering the secrets in the shadows with every new ray of sunshine. Near the top of the castle the boy and girl are sleeping soundly, dreaming the dreams of springtime and magic. The girl wakes and looks out her window to the valley below at the same time as the boy wakes and looks out his window to the sea. She sees farmland, rivers, and mountains afar. She sees people working and animals grazing, as the day in the village begins. He sees the nine islands ever so far out to sea, several small boats bobbing upon the water and something in the sky. "What is that?" the boy wonders. "Sister!" he calls. She runs to his room and he points out the window, "Look there, in the sky." Silently they look on as something flies through the air, coming closer and closer to them every second. Soon, they can tell that it is the largest bird they have ever seen. It becomes clear that the bird is flying straight toward the castle! Suddenly, he swoops down and lands directly above the children on the roof of the tower. The children rush up the spiral staircase and open the small wooden door in the ceiling.

It is clear that the bird is hurt. They quickly tend to him, bringing water and a blanket. They sit near the bird for some time talking softly about where such an enormous bird could have come from. "My home is very far away", says the bird. "What?" say the children in unison. "You can talk?" "I can." says the bird weakly, but kindly. "I was blown away from my land by a powerful storm and found myself deep at sea. I flew all day and night and only just made it here."
The children spend several days caring for their new friend as he slowly regains his health. Once he is feeling better he begins to plan how he will find his way home and the children wish to help him...