

# Eddy

Meets The  
Educated Pheasant



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Eddy had been lucky enough to travel on a plane from Florida to the UK with his parents Flossy and Frank Flamingo, to spend time with his grandparents over Christmas.

It was a little odd that his grandparents lived in the UK as flamingos normally like warmer temperatures, but Eddy's Nanny Flo could not stand the heat, so they had emigrated. They lived in a cosy cottage in the forest and had many friends. Eddy would often talk to them over BeakTime as he loved their stories about all the different types of animals and birds they knew.

As Eddy would be away from home, he had been worried that Santa may not know where to deliver his presents. Before he set off, he had written a note and sent it to the North Pole.



Eddy's grandparents were thrilled they had all come to stay and wanted to make Christmas extra special. They had bought the biggest tree and let Flossy, Frank and Eddy decorate it together, while they cooked a delicious shrimp dinner. Eddy was a picture of happiness as Frank lifted him up high, to place the star on top of the tree.



After dinner, they all sat round the fire, roasting marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate. Eddy was learning to play the card game Snap with his Grandad Fred while Frank was snoring loudly. Flossy and her mum were chatting while watching the latest episode of All Flamingos Great and Tall. Suddenly Eddy jumped up, "Is that snow I can see outside?" Eddy had only read about snow in books and had secretly hoped he would get to see some when he visited.

"Can we go outside? Pleeaaasse!" Eddy asked, bouncing up and down.

"It's far too late to be going outside," Frank said.

"That's not fair," said Eddy with a huff.

"It's past your bedtime," Frank said.

"We promise to take you out to play in the snow in the morning," Flossy said softly.

Flossy took Eddy by the hand and led him upstairs to bed. She tucked him in and kissed his head. Eddy was so excited about the snow, but it had been a busy day, so fell asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow. "Sweet dreams my gorgeous boy," Flossy whispered.



It was Christmas Eve and Eddy woke early as he was bursting to go outside in the snow. He looked out of the window and could see a perfect blanket of white, covering the ground for miles and all the trees and bushes looked like they were sparkling silver. Eddy sat and stared as he couldn't believe how beautiful the forest looked. It was not like anything he had ever seen before.

It would be hours before anyone would get up, but he knew his Grandad Fred was always keen to have adventures, so he got dressed and tiptoed into his grandparents' room.

"Grandad, wake up!! The snow looks amazing outside," Eddy said quietly.

"What time is it?" Grandad Fred asked.

"I don't know, as I haven't learnt to tell the time yet," Eddy replied.

"Well, it sounds like it's adventure time," Grandad Fred said as he hopped out of bed.

They crept downstairs and put on coats, scarves, gloves, hats and boots. They opened the front door and saw the snow piled high. Grandad Fred gave Eddy a spade that was resting in the hallway and between them they managed to move some of the snow. Eddy walked a few steps and disappeared into the deep snow. He giggled as Grandad Fred pulled him out.



As they walked deeper into the forest, Eddy started to feel nervous and was pleased his Grandad Fred was with him. They came to a clearing in the trees and could see a brightly coloured bird talking to himself. They knelt behind a bush and stopped to listen.

"I can't be doing with all this snow; it is no good for my books," the bird said.

Eddy could not understand why anyone would not like snow.

The bird continued, "I wish my friends Mouse and Rabbit could be here to help me. It is so cold and I'm not having much luck."

Eddy had never, ever seen a bird quite as beautiful with his colourful green head and red and brown speckled feathers.

"Watch this!" Grandad Fred laughed, as he made a snowball and launched it at the bird.

This startled the poor bird and he fell backwards, with his legs in the air, flicking snow all over himself.



Grandad Fred popped his head up. "Sorry dear friend, I was only having some fun."

"Do you two know each other?" Eddy asked as he ran over to help the bird.

"We are neighbours and often have a nice chat over a good book," Grandad Fred replied.

"Thank you for helping me up, I had such a fright," the colourful bird said.

"My grandad can be full of mischief sometimes," Eddy smiled.

"You must be Eddy, I have heard lots about you," the bird replied.

"What kind of bird are you?" Eddy asked with interest.

"Gosh, where are my manners – let me introduce myself. I am the Educated Pheasant."

"Wow, that is a grand name. You sound very clever," Eddy said.

"Well, my friends call me that as I really love books and enjoy learning new things."

"I heard you talking about the snow. Do you not like it?" Eddy asked.

"It makes the pages in my books soggy," the Educated Pheasant explained. "Although I have read that snow can also be used to build things and play games which sounds rather fun."

Eddy's eyes lit up as he loved to play games.

"Well, if we can help you with your soggy books, will you help us build a snowman, as I've always wanted to do that?"



"I like the sound of that," the Educated Pheasant replied.

"Sounds like a great idea to me," Grandad Fred chuckled.



The Educated Pheasant seemed to prefer giving instructions rather than join in, but they were all having fun in their own way. Eddy was asked to roll up a snowball bigger and bigger and bigger to make a body. Grandad Fred rolled up a smaller ball to make a head. Eddy found twigs that would be the snowman's arms, but was unsure what to use to make a face. They all searched trying to find round objects and came across some small stones and conkers that were the perfect sizes for his eyes and mouth. Grandad Fred gave the snowman his hat and scarf as he wanted to make sure he was finished nicely. They stood back to admire their wonderful snowman.





"Wow! What a great team we make," Eddy said.

"Would you be able to help me with my books now?" the Educated Pheasant asked.

"Of course, let's take them back to our house and dry them off," Grandad Fred offered.

"Thanks so much dear friends, that is so kind of you," the Educated Pheasant replied.

They all helped carry the soggy books through the forest and back to the house.



Everyone was still sound asleep. Eddy ran upstairs and jumped on Flossy and Frank's bed.

"Wake up, wake up!" I have made a new friend and he is downstairs.



"What?" said Frank. "You have let a stranger into the house?"

"No, No! I went on an adventure with Grandad Fred. We promised to help our friend. He loves books and taught me how to build a snowman," Eddy explained.

Frank stretched his wings, put on his dressing gown and went downstairs with Eddy.

"This is my daddy, Frank. Daddy, this is the Educated Pheasant," Eddy introduced them.

"Wow, you're not an emu!" the Educated Pheasant sounded surprised.

"No, definitely not. We adopted Eddy about a year ago," Frank replied.

"How wonderful," said the Educated Pheasant. "I have read about adoption in books. Families can be made up in many different ways and it is special that you have found one another."

Flossy and Nanny Flo had heard voices, so came downstairs.



"Please can you light the fire, as we need to dry off the books," Eddy asked.

"Of course, Flossy replied. It is always nice to be able to help a friend."

They all sat round the fire and laughed and joked with one another. It was a wonderful sight to witness four flamingos, an emu and a pheasant getting on so well together.

Eddy was so happy. Christmas was just a day away and he had made a new friend.

