

Ducky Vacation

"I am bored!" announced Louis.

"You are always bored" said Welly, who was standing at the gate of the pen, waiting patiently for someone to let them out to swim.

"Why won't someone come already?" asked Dot.

"Would you stop? I am quacking as loud as I can" said Vaida. "Why don't you all pitch in and help?"

"Ugh. My quacker can't take anymore quacking!" quacked Louis. They all quacked and quacked and quacked and QUACKED! Finally, Lily, the youngest of the family that lived in the Big Duck House, came over and undid the chain.

"Come on!" said Duck-Duck. All of the ducks raced out to have a relaxing afternoon swimming.

Late that night, Welly couldn't sleep. Thoughts about her life were keeping her from sleeping. Welly had lived on this farm, in Vermont, for her whole life. She had never gone anywhere. She really wanted to get out and see the world. Of course, for a duck that would be hard. Welly thought for a long time. Suddenly, an idea popped into her head. It was perfect.

The next morning, at breakfast, Welly made her announcement.

"We are going on a vacation." She declared, "We will leave today when we are let out."

Duck-duck opened her bill allowing food to fall out. Vaida silently handed her a leafkin. (Ducks use leaves for napkins)

"Well, what do you say?" asked Welly. She had thought her idea had been a good one, but maybe not.

"Welly I have one word for you: W-O-N-D-E-R-F- what is that letter? Oh yes, U-L" said Louis.

Dot, who had been quiet for this whole conversation, spoke up.

"It is a great idea, but how are we going to get to where we go?"

"Exactly what I was thinking," said Welly. "And I have a plan."

That afternoon, when Lily let them out, they all ran to the driveway. As soon as Lily went inside, they took their places. Welly knew that today was Dad's day to shop. She hid

behind the car with the rest of the flock, while Dot hid under the car. Dad came out a little while later, and as he took his keys out of his pocket, he dropped them. That was all that Dot needed. He reached his wing out, grabbed the keys and tossed them to Welly. She caught them, and pressed the unlock button. Dad, who had been looking around for his keys, looked up at the sound of the car unlocking. Welly opened the door, and all of the ducks filed in. Welly steered, Duck-Duck pushed the pedals and Vaida controlled the music. They rolled down the window and waved goodbye to Dad who looked very bewildered.

“What the...” said Dad.

“See ya later!” quacked Welly.

They backed down the driveway and drove off. The ducky vacation had started!

When they got onto the highway, Dot said, “Aren’t we stealing?”

“We aren’t stealing,” replied Louis. “We’re just *borrowing* it.”

“Why are all the other cars driving the wrong way?” asked Welly.

“I have no idea,” answered Vaida.

“And why are they all quacking at us?” said Welly. “We aren’t doing anything wrong! Why don’t we quack at them so that they see how we feel!”

“Quack, quack, quack!” quacked all of them out of the open window.

Everybody rolled down their windows and stared as they passed by.

“Why is everyone staring at us?” asked Dot.

“No idea, but should we pull over for the night? It is getting quite dark.” Said Vaida.

“Good idea Vaida.” Said Welly.

She swerved off the highway, and Duck-Duck slammed on the brakes. They got out and looked around. They had stopped at a little pond near a quiet farm.

After everyone was situated, Welly laid down and tucked her bill in her wing. She was exhausted, and soon fell asleep.

“Welly. Welly. Are you awake?” asked Dot.

Welly opened her eyes, and blinked in the bright sunlight. “I am now!” she snapped.

“Duck-Duck found some breakfast.” said Dot, looking hurt. “I thought you might want to get going.”

“Oh, yes. Thank you.” replied Welly.

“Good morning!” said Louis.

“Good morning!” Welly smiled at Louis. “Eat quickly so that we can hit the road!”

“Why don’t we bring it to go?” suggested Vaida.

“Good idea” said Dot, “Come on!”

Later in the afternoon, the ducks found themselves tired, hungry and bored. Even the music was boring. Vaida couldn’t find their favorite music, so she turned on classical music. Dot was steering today, and Louis was pushing the pedals.

“I need a break.” said Dot.

“Me too,” said Welly, “But let’s wait until we get to New York. Look! That sign says “leaving Vermont””

“And that one says “entering New York”!” said Vaida excitedly. “We are finally going someplace!”

“And all of the other cars have figured out which way to drive.” Welly remarked.

As soon as they found a spot to pull over, Duck-Duck dove head first out of the car into a pond, yelling “Freedom!”

All of his siblings laughed and joined him. They ended up spending the night at the pond and started driving early the next morning.

They drove for days. And DAYS! The ducks drove through New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and finally, after one and a half weeks of driving, Florida. When they arrived in Florida, late one afternoon, they were having an argument over where to stay. Welly was the one to start it off.

“We should stay at a pond or a lake.” she said.

“And be eaten by an alligator? No chance!” said Vaida. “We should stay at a hotel!”

“I agree with Welly.” Said Duck-Duck.

“Well I agree with Vaida!” Louis said.

“We don’t have to fight about it!” said Dot. “Why don’t we vote on it? Whoever wants to stay at a pond, raise one wing!”

Welly and Duck-Duck raised their wings.

“Okay, now all who want to stay at a hotel!”

Vaida, Louis and Dot raised their wings.

“Well hotel it is.” Said Dot.

“I guess a hotel wouldn’t be too bad.” Said Welly.

After they figured out where they would stay, they made a plan of how to get in. At around dinnertime, they walked into the lobby, wearing a coat, boots, a hat and gloves they had borrowed from a store. And a fake mustache.

“Hello, how can I help you?” said the woman at the front desk.

“I would like a room for one week.” Said Dot in his most grownup voice.

“That can be arranged.” she said.

After Dot had paid with a credit card they had found in the center console of the car, they headed up to their room.

“Ugh, I am so glad I can take this off!” said Dot.

That night they ordered a dinner of salad from the hotel’s menu and had it brought up to them. After dinner, they got into bed and fell asleep.

The next morning, after breakfast, they all went out onto the hotel patio, where there was a pool. The ducks all got in and splashed and played. Luckily there were no other people there because they made the pool quite messy.

“That was so fun! I have never swam in blue water before!” said Duck-Duck.

“I am pretty sure the blue stuff keeps the pool clean and is called “chlorine” or something.” said Louis.

“People sure do like their pools clean!” said Duck-Duck.

After that, they all went to a restaurant to get lunch. At the restaurant, they were kicked out immediately.

“How come nobody likes ducks?” said Dot. “We never did anything to them!”

“I don’t know.” Said Welly, and sighed. She hated when her siblings were upset. Welly looked around, and saw a couple of wild ducks waddling along the sidewalk.

“Why don’t we ask them?” asked Welly.

All of the ducks agreed. So, they waddled across the street when the coast was clear.

“Hello!” said one of the ducks.

“Hello!” shouted Vaida.

The ducks were very helpful. They introduced themselves as Ellie and Millie. They listened very carefully as Welly told their story. *And* said that there was a secret duck vacation center that they could go stay at for the rest of their vacation. They all followed Ellie and Millie to the most beautiful thing they had ever seen.

“This is amazing!” gasped Duck-Duck.

“It sure is.” said Welly.

They had **A LOT** of fun that day. When they finally booked a room in a hotel, (specially made for ducks!) they all collapsed into their beds and fell asleep right away.

The next week was full of fun for the ducks. When it was time to go, they really didn’t want to leave. As they pulled away in their “borrowed car” they promised each other that they would come back again. And that was exactly what they did.

The End