



Dink stepped on a branch. It broke with a loud snap.

"Geez, Dink, you sound like an elephant!" Josh said. "We have to be quiet!"

"Josh Pinto, where are you taking us?" Ruth Rose demanded. "I'm all scratches! Why didn't you tell us we'd be walking through pricker bushes?" "That's a good idea, Josh," said Mrs. Wong. She went over to her desk and pulled open a drawer.

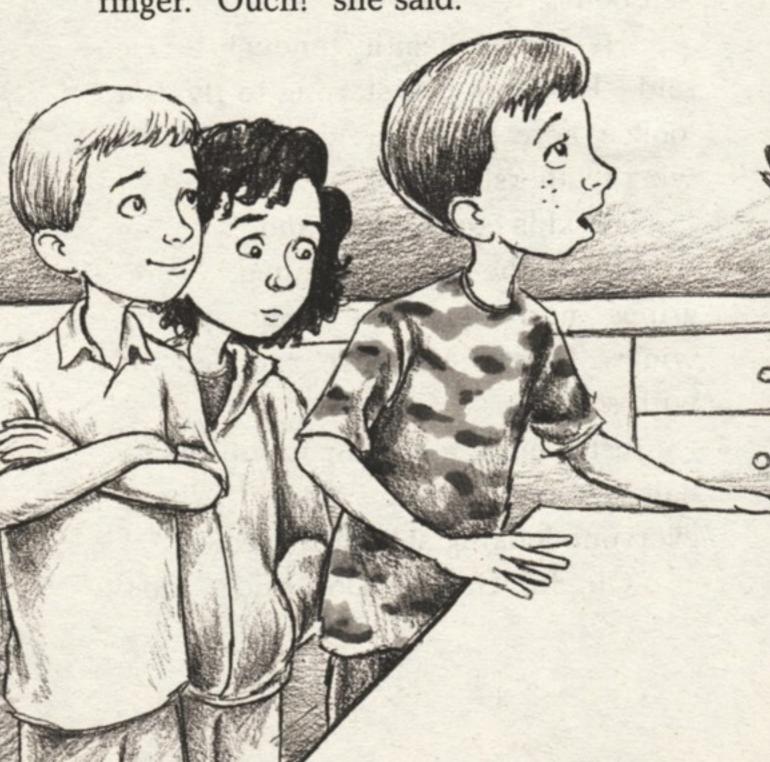
"Here you go," she said, handing



this is my new assistant, Grace Lockwood. Grace, these kids brought in a young peregrine."

The woman gave the kids a long look. Her eyes were piercing. They reminded Dink of an eagle's eyes.

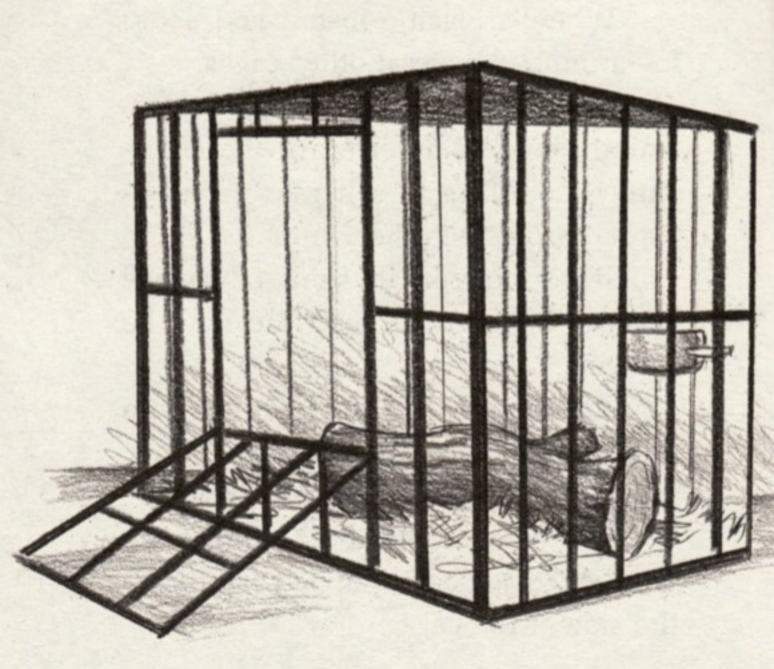
She turned and ran her hands over the bird's back. Suddenly, Flash bit her finger. "Ouch!" she said.



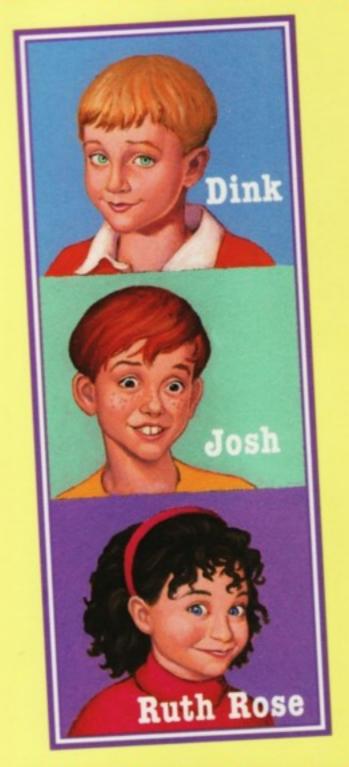
"That's strange," she said, opening the cage door. She jiggled the log, then peered inside.

"What's the matter?" Ruth Rose asked.

"He's gone," Grace said.







One afternoon, Josh discovers a nest of young falcons. He, Dink, and Ruth Rose start checking up on the birds every day-until the morning they find the nest empty! Then the kids see one of the falcons with its wing feathers trimmed, and they know someone's up to no good. Can they figure out what's going on before it's too late for the falcons?

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