

WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

By Bear (in collaboration with Gene)

Chapter One

Misting slightly, cool, but not too cold. Weather I had certainly been left out in before when Wendy and Gene left for the day.

Wendy, as usual, left before Gene. I gave her my usual goodbye, which is lying by the back door and letting her give me a pat on the head, and me giving her a wag of my tail.

Gene was his usual self, talking to me about all kinds of stuff, (like he thinks I really understand what he is saying). Anyway, he took my water and food dish outside along with my usual goodbye for the day cookie. (He always gives me another one by the gate after he closes the garage door when I give him my best forlorn and lonely look....he is easy!)

Alone again, I took my normal inspection around the backyard, nothing new, at least right away!

It must have been an hour or so (how do you expect a dog to be any judge of time?) when this big clap of thunder and lightning struck and the rain came down so hard it ruined my morning nap and scared the heck out of me!

Well! I tell you, I started running around and barking, I was really a nervous wreck. I decided that my dog house was probably the best place for me. I was hugging the fence behind the small trees in the yard to keep as much rain off me as I could and the trees helped. But all of a sudden I was at the corner where the bird feeder used to be and I continued along the fence to the corner. Well!!! When I got to the end of the fence I discovered that a part of it at the bottom had broken away from the fence post and I stuck my nose through the opening, then my head, and then all of a sudden I was completely out of my back yard, outside looking in!

I really didn't know what to do in this situation. I had never been all alone, outside. Anyway, it hadn't thundered or made any noise in a while and the rain had let up so I decided to go for a walk. I do this quite often, but always with my family and always on my leash.

Heading for the park by the church and school I made some stops by trees and shrubs at houses along the way, something I've always wanted to do but couldn't because of the *#\$%*@ leash! There were the usual scents of other dogs, and what do they call them...? Oh yeah, cats, yuck!

Arriving at the last house on the block, all this sniffing and stuff and gotten very boring. All at once I saw across the street a big building. It didn't look like a house, but had some big trees and bushes. It looked familiar and then I remembered this is where I go for walks on the leash with my family. In the wintertime they take me behind this building and let me run on this big field that I've heard them call a football field, whatever that means. I mean, I know what a football is because my brother, Perry, gave me a small yellow rubber one for Christmas and my family and I play with it in our backyard. (Once in a while, when I get really mad at them, I bury it by the garage and when they can't find it, it drives them nuts and I love it!!)

Well, I figured if Wendy, Gene and Perry bring me over here to walk and play it would be okay to just go over there for a walk on my own. What could it hurt? I mean, really!

By the time I got to this building and walked around behind it the rain, lightning and thunder started again. WOW!! (I mean BOW WOW!!) I was by this big door and there was this man who looked very much like the man who lives behind my house on the other side of the apple trees and back fence. Well, I guess he felt sorry for me and he let me in the door.

Let me tell you, it was great to get out of the rain and cold, but all of a sudden I was in a place where the floors were all hard. I think it was a school because there were a whole lot of young people walking around and opening and closing these small metal doors...almost as much noise as the thunder!

Now I was really scared! I mean, here I am in this building, I heard someone call it a school. I was running on this hard floor and slipping and sliding and these young people were laughing and whistling and saying “come here dog”. They were all nice and friendly, but I was scared. I had never been so close to so many people all at the same time.

The man who had let me in this place now made me get out. It was still raining, but not so hard. Now all of a sudden a bell rang and doors opened and all these young people came running out...WOW...BOW WOW, etc.!

Meanwhile, unknown to me, Gene, you remember the easy guy with the cookies...well, I guess when he was at his office and he heard the thunder he thought about me. He came right home to put me in the house. Of course, when he got to my house I was gone!

Chapter Two

When Gene got home he did not see me in the backyard. He thought, well Elizabeth, our neighbor, who has a key to our house, maybe had come over and let me in the house. He went into the house and called “Bear, Bear”...I was not in the house, (obviously).

Gene drove around the neighborhood, down to the football field, and did not see me around the field at the park. He told Carol, the mail lady, I was missing, called the Dearborn Dog Pound and went to the Dearborn Heights Police Department. They told him to call the Humane Society. They had no reports of any dog of my description reported to them.

Gene went back home, changed clothes and went to look for me. Something made him walk back to Divine Child to look at the football field again. He did not see me. Ready to leave, not knowing where else to look, he heard some young people whistling for a dog to come and play. He walked toward them when he saw our neighbor, (the one who lives behind us). He asked Gene if he was going for his daily walk and Gene said “No, I’m looking for my dog, Bear”. The neighbor said, “Oh no, that was your dog!!!” Gene said,

“WHAT???” And then he told Gene about letting me in the school and making me get out again, but that he had not recognized me.

Just then a young person came by and heard this conversation and asked Gene if that was his dog? Gene said “I don’t know for sure but I hope so!” The young person said, “Well, I saw him about ten minutes ago and he was running in the halls of the high school”, which is across the parking lot where all the cars were. He said he would take Gene to the office to see if anyone had reported this dog, (me).

When they got close to the school door there were about thirty young people waiting to get into the school. I didn’t see Gene, but I guess Gene saw my tail wagging between all those legs. I heard a familiar voice say “Don’t let him in the building”, and then I heard, “Bear, come here”. I was so nervous and scared it really took me some time to realize it was Gene. I walked very slowly toward him, not knowing if he was angry with me, or was happy to have found me.

We hugged. I licked him a lot and he gave me lots of kisses and carried me almost all the way to the street. He put me down and let me walk the rest of the way home. I did not get too far away from him and when we got to my backyard I had a good, long drink of water and lay down by my picnic table and didn’t move for a long time. I was very happy to be home!!

Epilogue

This has been a short, but long story, (but true) about a day in Bear's life. Some of the thoughts of Bear are the imagination of the author!