

BIG READ - Dog Story Writing Contest, February 2016

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Vrooooooom! Seven cars zoomed past the old, soaking cardboard box on the side of the road. Nobody noticed a furry black ball in the box. It was a musty, foggy day and the grass had speckles of ‘snake spit’ all over the fields. The fuzzy black ball was drenched from the rain, and whimpered a cry.

Just then a red jeep skidded to a stop, the motor puffed air of smoke. A little red-headed girl with freckles and a dimply smile stepped out of the jeep and tip toed toward the worn out cardboard box. “Hey, mom what’s that? There’s something in it” the little girl pointed at the box. She tip toed closer and picked up a stick, she lightly poked the black furry ball and screamed. She closed her eyes and waited for something terrible to happen but instead she saw a pair of cute puppy eyes staring at her. She instantly fell in love, but noticed a piece of paper in the box and quietly read it:

*Hello. This dog is nobody’s so please take her in and love her....like I was supposed to. She is a mix of black lab and something else. We didn’t know the father. She has no name so name her something special. I did try to keep her but I didn’t have enough money. Please except her as your own.*

*-Friend*

“Poor puppy” she whispered. “Karren! Are you alright? What happened? Are you hurt? I heard a scream!” Karren’s mother rushed over, grabbing Karren by the arms. “Mom, I’m alright, don’t worry so much. Look!” Karren pointed to the box and the black puppy. “Karren, I’m your mom, of course I worry. Plus, you’re special to me... Wait, is that a puppy?” Karren’s mom’s gaze fell on the puppy. “First, I like to be called Kari and second I’m almost 12 years old, I can take care of myself!” Her mom sighed, “Fine, if you like the puppy we’ll take it home tonight so she has a warm place to sleep for the night, but just for tonight. “Yes!” Kari yelled. They grabbed the puppy from the box and hopped in the car.

Once they arrived at home Kari sat the puppy on the couch. The dog went crazy, accidently knocking over a vase. It shattered to the ground just as Kari’s mom walked in.

“What... she... vase... how... glass... everywhere!” Her mom stuttered. She dropped her purse and scrambled to the closet to get the broom. The puppy ran around and sat at Kari’s feet wagging her tail like crazy. She whimpered and scratched at Kari’s leg. “Oh, bad puppy, ouch, stop scratching my leg, that hurts!” Kari ordered. Her mom rushed to the broken glass. “Maybe a dog is just too much work. Look at this mess!” Kari’s mother pointed at the mess while the pup still went crazy, circling around Kari whimpering.

Kari fell to the ground and everything turned black. “Kari, no, not now, please, no!” Her mother screamed. She rushed to the phone and called 911. An ambulance arrived a few minutes later, then taking Kari to the hospital. The pup didn’t stay at home, it snuck aboard.

“Is she going to be okay?” The doctor nodded, “This was just a little one, the next one might not be so small, but we’re doing everything we can,” the doctor said in his southern drawl. Kari’s mom walked into her daughter’s room and sat on the bed. Kari woke up at the smell of her mom’s fragrant perfume. “Mom, don’t take my puppy away, please. I know she went crazy but she could be mine, all mine” Kari begged. Kari’s mom started weeping into the palms of her hands. “She’s just too much work, I’m sorry, especially with your condition.” Kari sat up, “Mom, please”, Kari begged again. Just then there was a noise, woof, yip, Kari saw a shadow coming into the room....straight, toward, them.

The shadow soon turned into the puppy. “Mom, it’s her!” Kari yelled with joy. The pup jumped on the bed, licking Kari’s face. “Good girl, how did you know I was here? Wait, I know what I am going to name you, Gypsy, that’s your name, a little wanderer.” Kari laughed with joy and looked at her mom. Kari’s mom looked back, “If this dog makes you happy...she can stay,” Kari’s mom reluctantly said.

After being released, Kari and her mom headed home. Kari headed up the carpeted steps to her bedroom to get some rest. In two days her birthday would come and she couldn’t wait.

“Ahhhhh!” Kari screamed popping her eyes open like a confetti popper that had just burst. She fixed her eyes on the pink, slobbery thing that was licking her repeatedly. “Oh, Gypsy....Gosh, warn me next time you choose to contaminate me with your slobber!” My special day is tomorrow, Kari thought while she squeezed Gypsy tight, she could not stop smiling about her birthday.

She finally finished her homeschooling, ate dinner, and headed to bed early, she felt extra tired, but was still secretly smiling from ear to ear. She plopped into bed face first, burying her head in her pillow. She rolled over on her back and stared at the glow in the dark stars stuck on her ceiling. She still remembered putting them up with her mom and dad when she was young.

“Mommy, I can’t reach!” Kari complained jumping up and down holding the green and yellow stars in her hands. Kari’s mom picked her up and spun her around. Kari’s mom handed Kari to her dad and he put her on his shoulders. Reaching up to the ceiling, Kari stuck the big green star to the right; she put the small yellow star in the middle and put another big green star on the left. “See, that’s daddy’s star, that’s my star, and that’s mommy’s star”, Kari exclaimed pointing to the stars, she had put the star’s tips together, “and they’re all together, holding hands”.

Kari remembered when her dad went away for the army. “That’s daddy’s star, that’s my star, and that’s mommy’s star”, Kari repeated as she fell asleep, Gypsy by her side.

“Good morning, birthday girl! You’re turning twelve today!” Kari’s mom sang while opening up the curtains. Rays of sunlight pouring into her bedroom like a glass of lemonade being poured onto her but instead of freezing cold sour lemon water, nice warmth filled her room.

Kari had slept in. She got up and got dressed in her new party dress. It had purple and gold lace lining the neck, arms, and bottom. She found a plate full of chocolate covered pancakes for breakfast waiting for her. Guests were already arriving and the pool they practically never use was uncovered and the decorations were strung from the top of the ceiling to the polished wood floor.

“Welcome!” Kari exclaimed as guests poured into the house and out into the pool area, “Henry! What are you doing here?” Kari questioned one of her pesky little cousins in a magician outfit. “I’m performing!” he yelled, “Welcome one and all, come inside and see the great Henry-Houdini astound you!” All the guests then came into the house to watch Henry do a magic show.

Now alone, Kari was outside by the pool, Gypsy came over and sat by her side. Suddenly Gypsy started going crazy. “Oh, no! Are you going to misbehave again?”

Just then there was a huge splash and the sun faded away, everything went black. The guests attention turned over to the pool area where a small body, face down was in the pool. Another splash followed and a tiny, furry, black, ball was in the pool as well. “Kari!” Kari’s mom screamed.

The puppy splashed over to Kari, nudging her, trying to push her but she was too heavy. The dog gave up and splashed as hard as her little paws could, yipping, yapping and barking. Kari’s mom rushed to the side of the pool and dove in. Kari’s mom quickly pulled Kari out of the pool. Kari started coughing as water shot out of her mouth.

“Thank God that puppy was barking and splashing or you would’ve never seen Kari in the pool!” one of the guests said. Kari sat straight up, “I think Gypsy knew this was going to happen, she went crazy right before I blacked out inside the house and she went crazy again before I blacked out minutes ago!” Just then Kari’s Aunt walked over, she was a vet, “she could be a seizure alert dog they’re dogs who know that a seizure is going to happen before it really does”.

“Well, then, she’s our little miracle dog, she saved my Kari!” Kari’s mom said. “And we saved Gypsy from the side of the road, we were meant for each other!” Kari said. Kari’s mom hugged both Kari and Gypsy, “I love you both and I’m never letting either of you go.”