

ATTAINMENT'S

ACCESS

English I

Student Reader



Pamela J. Mims • Diane M. Browder
Melissa Hudson • Angel Lee • Linda R. Schreiber

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Angel Lee, Linda R. Schreiber**

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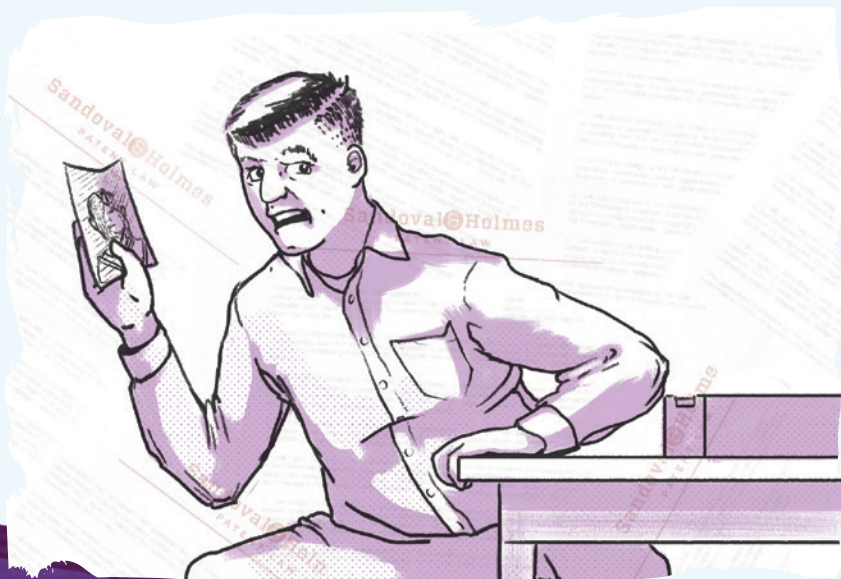


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A Dog's Way Home

BY W. BRUCE CAMERON

om. Mom and Lucas were
 wk a show in my face and
 and was learning no
 chewed my toys and
 ry again but I did not
 seemed to me to be

"Apprentice is so sleeping in," Lucas said cheerily.
 Some grown people began to breathe through their noses
 when they saw me. But Mom and Lucas did not do either.

"I am not going to let them hurt the cute, little," I once told
 me. I heard my name and wondered if it was time for dinner.

Sometimes Lucas and Mom left me alone. The first time this
 happened I was very upset and chewed things I knew
 shouldn't. "papers and shoes" means that I was not given to
 Lucas's hand, and that were always snatched out of my mouth
 when I was caught with them. Mom and Lucas were angry when
 they got home. They shook a bow to my face and said "No!"

I knew the word "no" and was learning not to like it. The
 next time they left me I chewed my toys and put four shoes
 underneath their feet in anger, again but I did not look up at
 them. They left me alone. That seemed to me to be the important
 issue.

When I was with Lucas the world was a wonderful place
 and when he was gone it was like hiding with my mother in the
 crack in the back wall of the den, where everything was dark
 and frightening. I did not understand what I had done, and I
 needed Lucas to come home and reassure me he still loved me.
 Whenever he said "No!" I covered and waited for him to stop
 being angry over whatever the problem was.

A
 Dog's Way
 Home

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Chapter 5



Lucas worked at the Veteran's Affairs Hospital, or the VA for short. Sometimes Mom went there too. Mom was a veteran. That means she had served in the military. Veterans could get different kinds of help at the VA Hospital.

While Lucas was doing *Go to Work* and I was home with Mom, a man came to the apartment. Mom and the man argued




and then they fought. Mom was stronger than him. She grabbed his arm and threw him to the floor. The man left but I could tell that Mom was sad. When Mom sat on the couch, I jumped up to be with her. I put my head in her lap, and I could feel the sadness leaving Mom. I gave her comfort. This was more important than going on walks, more important than feeding the cats. This was the most important job I had.

Mom rubbed my head. “You’re a good dog, Bella. A good, good, dog.”

A few days later, Mom and I were home. Mom smelled different. It was a bad smell. She sat on the couch and put her hands on my head, but they were shaky. I sensed something was wrong. I jumped up with Mom, then back down to her feet, then up again.

Mom got up to get me a treat. I heard a loud crash. There was Mom, lying curled up on the floor. I tried to put my head on her chest to give her comfort, but it did not help. I did not



know what to do. I barked and I barked until I could sense Lucas coming home.


Soon, men and women came to our home to help Mom. Lucas had locked me in the bedroom, but I could smell them. There was a lot of noise at first but then the door closed and it was silent. Everyone was gone.

I was worried and alone. I needed Lucas. I cried and scratched the bedroom door. I barked and barked. After a long time, Lucas came home. He was very sorry for leaving me locked up for so long.

Lucas patted my head as he said, “It was another grand mal seizure, Bella. Mom has not had one of those for a long time. I’m really worried, Bella.”

After several days, Mom came home too. I was so happy to see her. She laughed and I licked her cheeks.

Lucas was reading a piece of paper he found stuck on the door. Mom looked worried. “What does the notice say?” she asked Lucas.



Lucas read it and said, “It’s a warning notice that dogs aren’t allowed in these apartments. I guess someone heard Bella barking. The notice says we have three days to get rid of Bella. If we don’t, we can’t live here anymore.”

“We can’t move,” said Mom. “We can’t afford any place else. And, you can walk to work from here.”

Lucas and Mom were quiet. I went over to Lucas. I could sense he was sad. I curled up at his feet.

“What are we going to do, Lucas?” Mom asked.

“I’ll think of something,” Lucas said.

.....

Bella gave Mom comfort, but dogs are not allowed in the apartment.

When I was with Lucas the world was a wonderful place. I was happy again but I did not understand why they left me alone. That seemed to me to be the saddest part.

When I was with Lucas the world was a wonderful place.

Glossary

om. Mom and Lucas walked a shoe in my face" and was learning not to chew my toys and cry again but I did not seem to me to be

Apprentice was surprised by "Lucas said death. Some people play together, but they don't know they know. But Lucas and Lucas did not do either."

Lucas was going to take them out the city. He was not. I heard his name, and wondered if it was time for dinner.

Sometimes Lucas and Mom left me alone. The first time this happened, I was very upset and chewed things I knew should not "papers and shoes" mean that I was not given to Lucas's hand, and that were always suggested out of my mouth when I was caught with them. Mom and Lucas were angry when they got home. They shook a shoe in my face and said "No!"

I knew the word "no" and was learning not to like it. The next time they left me, I chewed my toys and put new shoes, understood that they were angry again but I did not understand why they left me alone. That seemed to me to be the important reason.

When I was with Lucas the world was a wonderful place and when he was gone it was like hiding with my mother in the crack in the back wall of the den, where everything was dark and frightening. I did not understand what I had done and just needed Lucas to come home and reassure me he loved me. Whenever he said "No!" I covered and waited for him to stop being angry over whatever the problem was.

A Dog's Way Home

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A



abandoned (adj)
Left by the owner



action (n)
Something you do



amendment (n)
A change in the words or meaning of a law

happy



sad

antonym (n)
A word that means the opposite of a word



argue (v)
To disagree or fight by using angry words



atmosphere (n)
The way a place makes you feel



attempt (n)
What is done to try to solve a problem



autobiography (n)
The story of a real person's life written by the person it is about



avoid (v)
To stay away from someone or something