

THE LOST DOG

HAL AMES



Not so long ago there was a boy who lived in Indianapolis named Michael. He lived close to the river in a very tall building. Since his apartment was on the top floor, he could look out his window and on a clear day he could see almost all the city, but when it was cloudy he wasn't able to see much at all.

When it was raining, Michael would stay inside and play with his little dog named Bailey. Bailey would run from room to room chasing Michael, which made his parents angry, but he didn't care. He was having too much fun playing.

One day, when the weather was nice, he took Bailey to the park to play. Michael threw a ball and then Bailey would bring it back. This was their favorite game.

However, on this day, something very bad happened. When Bailey chased the ball, it went over the fence into the trees. Bailey got excited and jumped over the fence to get the ball, but he never came back. Michael went to the fence, but he could not see where Bailey had gone. He yelled and yelled out his name, but he did not return.

The police came to see if they could help, but Bailey was gone, and no one could find him. They searched the woods on the other side of the fence, but after several hours, they did not find anything, not even the ball.

Michael went home. He was very sad. His best friend was missing and he didn't know what to do about it.

His parents printed posters with Bailey's picture on it and offered a reward for his return. They posted them on poles around the park hoping Bailey would be found.

Every day, Michael went to the park hoping to find Bailey. He made pictures of his dog and showed to the people who came to the park. He would sit for a long time watching every dog that came into the park, but he never found him.

When school started again, Michael did not do well in his classes. He was still so sad that Bailey was gone. He missed his friend so much.

His teacher asked him why he was so sad, but Michael did not want to talk about it. He showed the picture of his dog to everyone at the school, but no one had seen him. It made him even more sad to tell anyone about his lost dog. So, the rest of the day Michael would look out the window of his classroom wondering where Bailey may have gone, and why he had not come home yet.

Day after day it was the same. Michael was sadder than ever.

One day, after school, he went to the park. He picked up a stick and threw it into the air, as he screamed, "Bailey, where are you?"

The stick flew over the fence. He went to the fence to look for the stick, but he could not find it.

He thought to himself, "Where did the stick go? It's just like when Bailey went missing. What's going on?"

Just then, he heard a bark from a dog.

Michael climbed the fence to look for the stick, and as he did, his coat got caught on the top of it, so he fell over to the other side with a thud.

He looked around, and everything was different. He was so surprised.

There were tall palm trees, white sand, and the ocean waves crashing on the shore in the distance.

He said to himself, "How did I get here?"

To his even bigger surprise, he saw Bailey running up and down the beach

chasing a ball thrown by another boy about his age.

He called out to Bailey, “Bailey, come here boy!”

Bailey stopped, looked over at Michael and then ran to him.

When he got to Michael, Bailey jumped into his arms and started to lick his face. They were happy to see each other again.

The sun was hot, so he took off his coat and set it onto the ground.

Then the boy who had been playing with Bailey walked up to Michael. He asked a question, but Michael did not understand him. He spoke a different language that he did not know.

To Michael’s surprise, suddenly, Bailey began to speak.

“Don’t you know what he’s saying?” he asked.

“No, I don’t know that language,” Michael responded. Then asked, very surprised, “When did *you* learn to *speak*?”

“After I chased the ball in the park, I ended up here. This boy found me and he has taught me many things, including how to speak. I’m sure he can teach you to speak his language quickly,” Bailey explained.

Michael was shocked. He didn’t know what to think.

Then he turned to Juan Sali, and said, “Teach me your language. I need to speak with you.”

Juan Sali responded and Michael understood him this time, “You already know it. Just talk and I will know what you are saying.”

“Is this magic?” Michael asked.

“Kind of like that,” Juan Sali smiled.

They became friends and played with Bailey on the beach.

After three weeks, Michael became bored and homesick. He wanted to go home, but he did not know how to get there.

While they were sitting in the shade of a large palm tree, he asked Juan Sali a

question, “How do I get home?”

“Home? Why do you want to go home? It’s so much fun here. We don’t have to go to school, we don’t have to do homework, we don’t have to listen to our parents, and we can play all day. Why do you want to leave this place?” Juan Sali asked, curious as to why he would want to leave.

“I’m bored and I miss my family. Can I please go home?” Michael begged.

Juan Sali thought for a while, and then replied, “There is only one way to get back. You have to learn to fly, and then you will be able to go home.”

“What? Learn to fly? How do I do that?” he asked.

“Talk to Bailey. He knows how to fly,” was his response.

Just then Bailey began to float, then higher and higher until he became a small dot in the sky.

“How’d he do that?” Michael asked while staring up in the sky to make sure Bailey did not disappear again.

“You’ll have to ask him,” he answered.

Screaming at the top of his lungs, Michael yelled, “Bailey, come back. I want to learn how to do that.”

Bailey came down and told Michael to get onto his back.

“But you are so small. I will hurt you if I do that,” Michael stated.

Suddenly he got as big as a horse. Michael climbed onto him, and they flew up into the sky.

Michael screamed for his life, “What are you doing you silly dog? I want to go back. STOP!”

Michael continued to yell, but Bailey only went higher.

Up and up they went, and when Michael finally stopped screaming, Bailey shook, which made Michael fall off, and he began to drop like a rock back to the beach.

“WAHHH!!!” is all Michael could say.

Unexpectedly, Michael began to float. He was no longer falling. He was flying!

He flew to top of the sky, spinning and twirling with Bailey. It was so much fun. Then Juan Sali joined them and they played all day in the clouds.

A few days later, while they were flying, Michael saw an eagle that was flying straight at him. He was unable to get out of the way. The eagle tried to catch him, but instead it hit him, sending him spinning in circles.

Michael screamed, “AHHHHH! Bailey, help me!!!!”

From out of nowhere, Bailey swooped down and grabbed Michael’s shirt in his mouth. Then he set him onto the beach. Except for a cut on his arm, he was alright.

Michael began to cry, and wanted to go home. Now that he knew how to fly, he wanted to know how to get back to see his parents.

Juan Sali told him he didn’t know exactly how to do it, but he could show Michael where he and Bailey had appeared from in the woods.

They walked along the beach until Juan Sali pointed to the place where he first saw Bailey and then Michael come through a black hole. Michael peered into the forest, but he could not see anything that looked like a black hole. All he could see were many trees and bushes. Then he saw his coat he had left on the ground.

Bailey began to bark, and then said, “There it is. That is where you came from the other day.”

Michael still could not see anything.

Bailey jumped into the air and then flew into the forest. Michael watched as Bailey vanished. Michael looked over at Juan Sali and said, “I guess that’s where I need to go. It was nice meeting you. I hope we can see you again.”

Juan Sali looked sad. He would be alone again, but he didn’t want to go home.

He liked it on the beach.

Michael jumped into the air and did the same thing Bailey had done and flew into the forest.

Michael fell to the ground, looked around, and realized he was back in the park. Bailey walked up to him and licked his face.

“Hi, Bailey! We made it home. Are you happy?” Michael asked.

Bailey just wagged his tail.

“Come on boy, speak!” Michael commanded.

Bailey just barked, “Woof, woof!”

Nothing happened and then he tried to fly, but he could not fly.

When he looked around he saw he was in the park on the same day as when Bailey went missing. The ball was on the ground.

Michael tried to tell people his story, but no one believed him. The only proof was the scar on his arm from when he was hit by the airplane.

Many times, Michael and Bailey tried to find the black hole again, but they never found it.

1. chase
2. angry
3. favorite
4. poster
5. crashing
6. waves
7. language
8. homesick
9. silly
10. scar