

THE TALE OF ROCKY



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15 CHAPTERS

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CHAPTER 1

I never thought that getting a pet would be so difficult. I always thought that I just wanted a Siberian Husky dog. I always thought that's what I would be happy with. Boy was I wrong... It all started on a Friday morning. I came downstairs and sat at the dining table waiting for breakfast. My parents were making blueberry pancakes. Like they always do on Fridays. I checked my phone for any new messages. My friend Ella had texted me about a pet shelter saying that they just got a lot of new animals. She said "Molly! You have to come down to the pet shelter. The animals are so cute!!" "Ella you know how my parents don't want to get a pet. They feel really strongly about it" I texted back. "But MOLLY your birthday is tomorrow. Maybe they'll let you get one" I thought about it. "Maybe.....We'll talk about it at school." I put my phone away as I smelled blueberry pancakes coming closer. "Here you are" Said my mom. My dad saw my phone buzz. "Who's that?" He asked. I sighed. "It's Ella. She is talking to me about a pet shelter." My parents got this weird look on their faces. My dad gave my mom a look like he wanted her to talk to me. My mom rolled her eyes. Before she could speak my little brother Marcus came crashing through. He screamed "PANCAKES PANCAKES I WANT PANCAKES!!!!!" My dad went into the kitchen with Marcus. Soon my mom said "What kind of pet would you want if you could ever have a pet?" "But you don't like pets." I responded. "I know I'm just wondering especially since Marcus won't leave us alone about getting one for your bir- Never mind." She quickly saved her sentence. It wasn't very hard to think about at first. "A Siberian Husky" was the first thing that popped into my mind. My mom nodded. "What is the pet shelter called that Ella is talking about?" Suspiciously I answered "The Place for Paws" "Okay...." She said. I watched closely as she opened up her maps on her phone. I checked my watch. It was 7:45. I quickly ate my pancakes, brushed my teeth, put on my shoes, and ran outside to catch the bus. I waved at Ella as I sat down next to her. Ella said "Are you sure you want a Husky?" "Siberian Husky" I corrected her. "But there are so many other dogs like toy poodles, Border Collies, Golden Retrievers. Basically Anything! And forget dogs, there is bunnies, cats, guinea pigs, hamster-" I cut her off "Hamsters? Why would I get something small like a hamster?" "Because it's something that your parents would be more okay with. They are small, don't make much noise, and they are pretty cute. "Whatever. My parents don't want pets anyway." "Molly, did your parents act weird when I texted?" Huh. They did. Maybe they were going to get me a pet. But I didn't answer Ella because that would cause enough drama. As the bus drove away I could see my brother Marcus with syrup all over his face getting ready for Kindergarten. During the bus ride I could see my brother's bus heading to our house. I thought inside

my head “Marcus is totally going to be late” But I also thought. “Tomorrow is going to be quite a day” I had no idea.

CHAPTER 2

It was an interesting day at school. I learned about algebra in Math and the pioneers in History. Then at lunch I got sugar cookies for my birthday tomorrow. I got 12 cookies! (I was turning 12) It was weird because they knew how old I was turning. PE was very fun. I got to climb ropes. My day was awesome. Except for when I got home. Marcus had played basketball in my room. My mom and dad were at work so there was nobody to stop him. Marcus takes his bus home at 2:30. He gets home at 2:40. 20 minutes before I get home to babysit. Anyway all of my clothes smelled gross and my lamp’s head fell off. I wanted to get mad but it was pretty easy to fix and he is only 4. I went downstairs to get my favorite snack. Peanut Butter and Apples. 5 minutes into my snack Marcus came in shouting “I WANT A SNACK I WANT A SNACK GIVE ME A SNACK!!!!” He is very energetic. I got him a snack which took him an hour to finish. After he was so messy I had to clean him up. When my parents got home I was upstairs. I could hear them sounding relieved because I wasn’t there. Probably because it was a present for tomorrow. Or my surprise dinner for tonight. Because every year before someone’s birthday we have a special surprise dinner. (Which isn’t much a surprise because every year it is pizza and breadsticks) Before I came downstairs Ella sent me a picture of a baby bunny. I texted back “How do you know so much about this shelter? You don’t live there....Do you?” “No. My sister and brother keep begging us to come there so yeah we kind of live there😊” She texted again “You should TOTALLY get a pet Molly” I told her “I have to eat dinner. Maybe I’ll find out more then. Talk soon! ❤️ ” I went downstairs and saw my brother shoving breadsticks into his mouth. When he saw me he said “No! You aren’t supposed to see!” I laughed and sat down. Soon into dinner my mom said “Molly, we need to go somewhere tomorrow.” “Where?” I said. My mom was about to say where we were going but my dad quickly jumped in “It’s a surprise.” “Okay.....” I said suspiciously. Soon after dinner I went to bed. From my bedroom I could hear my little brother downstairs yelling “I DON’T WANT TO I DON’T WANT TO I CAN STAY UP BEDTIME ISN’T REAL!!!!!!!!!!” I drifted off to sleep after Marcus stopped screaming. That night I had a weird dream. I went to The Place for Paws and I couldn’t find a Siberian Husky. After that I just couldn’t decide on which pet to bring home so I took all the animals without my parents knowing. The thing that woke me up was Marcus. He screamed in my face “HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU MARCUS IS HAPPY TOO BECAUSE HE GETS CAKE!!!!!” “Great” I said. Something weird was going to happen today and I didn’t want to find out what it was going to be. But of course I did. Of all of the crazy things to happen to me why did it have to be this?

CHAPTER 3

As I went downstairs I could hear my parents talking about a dog. I decided not to ask questions. I sat at the dining table again waiting for my breakfast. I could smell sausage, bacon, and eggs. (My favorite breakfast meal) I decided to check my phone. There were a lot of emails, texts, and posts about my birthday. I decided that I would read them later. Because I knew what they all said: “Happy Birthday! Don’t let Marcus blow out your candles!” Today I put my blonde hair in a side fish tail braid. I wore my tank top with palm trees on it and grey jeans. I also wore my lucky locket. I thought about my dream last night. Did that have something to do with today? “Molly?” Said my mom. Oops I guess I was spacing out. “Sorry” I said. I looked at my fried egg with my awesome bacon and sausage links. My dad suggested “Finish up. We are going somewhere soon.” Out of curiosity I quickly devoured my breakfast. I ran to the door and put on my brown boots. Before I could get out the door my mom said “Forgetting something?” I looked around me. “Ummmm No?” Then my mom started waving my phone at me. “Oh then yes” I said. I went over to get my phone from her. She said “You should probably check your messages before your phone explodes.” She smiled. “Yeah, good idea” I replied. I checked my message from Ella first. She said “Happy Birthday! I am going to The Place for Paws again. Hopefully I’ll see you soon!” The rest of my messages said exactly like I thought they would “Happy Birthday! Keep Marcus away from your cake!” Okay so not exactly but pretty close. I went outside while I waited for the rest of my family to get in the car. I decided to water the flowers because my mom forgot to do it. But I don’t blame her. Being a manager of a pet hotel must be pretty distracting. My dad has a similar job. He is a vet. And he works for my mom when she needs him. As I was watering the Lilies I thought “Where could we possibly be going? The aquarium? Out to eat? My mom and dad’s work to check on things?” I moved over to the Lilacs. I could hear my brother inside shouting “I WANT A PET I WANT A PET LETS GET A PET!!!!” Soon a thought came over me and I dropped the watering can. Could I be going to The Place for Paws to get a pet? It makes sense. I looked over all the clues. My parents acted weird when I told them that Ella was talking about a pet shelter. My mom asked what pet I would want. My brother Marcus won’t stop talking about getting a pet for my birthday. He was screaming inside about getting a pet. And when I came downstairs my parents were talking about a dog. Could I finally be getting the pet of my dreams? “Molly get in the car” My dad said as he, my mom, and Marcus came outside. I guess I was about to find out.

CHAPTER 4

It was a 30 minute drive. I saw a sign that we passed that said: The Place for Paws turn left. We turned left! And then it happened. We pulled up at The Place for Paws!!! As we got out of the car my parents shouted “SURPRISE!” “Oh my goodness!!!!” I reacted. “This can’t be happening!” My little brother was already inside so we had to run inside. When I stepped inside I saw dogs, bunnies, cats, guinea pigs, birds, hamsters, and everything! I saw Ella and I ran over to her. She was standing in front of something so I couldn’t see it. I asked her what it was and she said “Umm a dog” “What kind of dog” I asked. She wasn’t responding so I looked behind her. It was the cutest Siberian Husky Puppies! I was so happy. I called my parents “Mom, dad! Come here!” My parents came over. “I want them!” I said. “Are you sure? You have so many other options.” Said my mom. “Fine I’ll look.” I said. But I totally wanted the Siberian Husky puppies. I saw a lot of cute things! Great. Now I couldn’t decide. I didn’t really know much about the animals. But I did know about the husky puppies. Also I wasn’t going to get something small and cute that Marcus might hurt. I told my mom and dad “I REALLY want the husky puppies” My dad said “Well she has looked at all of the options.” My mom shrugged. “Okay we’re getting one of the puppies! Go ahead and pick one while we go talk about the paperwork.” Ella said “You really didn’t like the other ones?” I told her “I’ve wanted these since I was 5.” Ella responded “Well then I think that you should pick that one.” She pointed to the one that had big ears and a short tail. I nodded. Soon my parents came over. “Did you decide yet?” Asked my dad. I pointed to the one that Ella had suggested. “Great” Said my mom. She had a collar and a leash in her hand. “Now let’s go get him licensed.” We went over to the counter. The lady said “What’s this little fella’s name?” “I think Sabrina” I said. “It’s a boy.” She said. “Oh then...” My brother jumped in “Boulder!” “Rocky!” I said. Awesome! Now I had my own Siberian Husky named Rocky! Rocky got a bright blue collar with a purple name tag. I said bye to Ella and we all got into the car. Rocky sat next to me. I was so happy! I finally had my own dog! The exact one that I had wanted for 7 years! This was the happiest day of my life. I had my own little buddy. Rocky and Molly. I liked the sound of that. Everything was now going to be perfect. This puppy is going to be absolutely no problem. I’ll love him forever! I mean why wouldn’t I? He’s my dream dog! He’s perfect. Or so I thought.

CHAPTER 5

Before we could go home we had to stop at the pet store to get Rocky some things. When we went inside we decided to split up. My parents would get the food and medicine. Marcus and I would get things like leashes, collars, treats, toys, beds, blankets, bowls, harnesses, and bones. We went into the isle with beds, leashes, collars, bowls, harnesses, and blankets first. Yes he already had a collar and leash but we needed a backup. We got him a big bed that was really soft inside and on the outside it had bright blue with dark blue paw prints. We also got him a matching blanket. We got him a purple collar with black paw prints and bones on it. We got him a matching leash that can pull him back if Rocky decides to chase a squirrel or something. It's really cool all you had to do is press a button. Marcus will enjoy that. His first harness was purple. His second one was dark green. And finally Marcus picked out his bowls and placemat. The placemat was dark blue and said Bone-appetite. His bowls were rubber and said woof and had bones on it. The bowl was dark blue with white for the decals. This went pretty well because Rocky didn't really care about these things. But in the toy and treats isle he was completely different. We went into the toy and treat isle with one simple goal: Get him 3 treat bags and 5 toys. But Rocky's goal was a little different: Get all treats and get 50 toys. When we stepped into the isle Rocky's eyes got huge like he's never seen something so magnificent. We went to the toys so that he could pick out what he wanted. He loved the raccoon.....and the zebra, elephant, fox, and the giraffe. He especially liked the cat and the wolf. So we decided to get the cat, wolf, raccoon, zebra, and hedgehog. After that we got him some treats. He loved the sound of all of them. But we got him steak-ems, pup-eroni, (these were his favorite.) dog biscuits, and bones. Okay so we got 4 treats instead of 3. But who could resist his cute face!? After that we went to the cashier to meet our mom and dad.....or we tried to. Rocky kept making really loud noises every time we tried to leave. "Come on Rocky we got you 4 treat bags you should be fine" I told him. "Baroooooooo" He howled. "Fine. You can stay to look at stuff but only for 5 minutes" I agreed. "And we're not getting you anything else." Added Marcus. I looked at my phone. "Ummm Molly?" Said Marcus. "What do you want Mar-'" I gasped as I turned around. Rocky had completely destroyed the elephant....and the fox....and the giraffe. "No Rocky!" I yelled. I examined the toys. Well he destroyed the cheap ones. Only a dollar each. But the expensive one (the giraffe) only had a small amount of stuffing missing and you didn't even notice so I put it back. We were pretty much stuck with the other ones. Now we could go to checkout. Except Rocky still wanted to look at the treats. He quickly raced away and knocked over the sample treats. Great. Well not that much harm. Then he knocked over the water and it got all over the knocked over treats. I went and got some gloves and paper towels from the bathroom and

picked it up. So after all of that we were late to meet mom and dad. When my mom saw us and the treats and the ripped up toys she said “What??” Before she said anything else I said “Long story.”

CHAPTER 6

When we got home my parents told me to take Rocky to the park. It was a little weird but I did it. When I got there I decided to take Rocky to the new dog run. There were two people there. I recognized them from school. Stephanie and Hayden. Stephanie had her golden retriever named Honey. Hayden had a border collie named Dash. They were twins. Boy and girl twins. They got along very well and their parents decided to get them each their own dog so that they wouldn’t fight. They were known as the Harper twins. Stephanie had blonde hair and she always had it in a bun. Hayden also had blonde hair. They both had Freckles. They ran over to me when they saw me with Rocky. “You got a dog Molly?” Asked Hayden. “Yes! I just got him today as a birthday present.” “Happy Birthday! What’s his name?” Said Stephanie. “Rocky” I said. “So why are you here alone on your birthday?” Said Hayden. “My parents are at my house getting something ready.” I told them. “Was that today?” Stephanie whispered to Hayden. Even though it wasn’t whispering because I could totally hear them. “We uh got to go” Said Hayden. “Um okay. See you later I guess.” Well I guess it wasn’t that bad that they left. Now I could spend time with Rocky. One of my favorite things to do was running and dancing. So now I could run with my dog! I ran around the dog park with Rocky 4 times. It was 4:00 when my mom called. Well it was Marcus on my mom’s phone. “Hello?” I said. “MOLLY YOU NEED TO COME HOME I WANT CAKE AND TO GET THIS START-” My mom interrupted him. “Sorry about that. Anyway Molly it’s time to come home we have a surprise for you.” “Okay.” I said. “Be there in 5 minutes.” I put my phone away and started home. Rocky didn’t want to leave but he was only a puppy so it was easy to get him moving. When I got home Marcus was yelling “I WANT TO HIDE THERE I WANT TO HIDE THERE LET ME HIDE THERE!!!!!!” Before I walked in I decided that I would let Marcus calm down. I sat down on the front porch and Rocky climbed into my lap, curled up, and tried to sleep. I guess he had quite a day. I did too. I kind of drifted off. I heard my brother saying “Where is Rocky and Molly?” I checked my phone. 4:30. Oops. I tried to get up but Rocky didn’t want me too. He kept barking every time I moved. So finally I picked him up in one arm and opened the door with the other. Rocky was heavier than I thought so I fell on my knees. I then tried to carry him with two arms. That made him weigh like nothing. Then I couldn’t open the door. I knew they were waiting for me so I just put him down on the floor and made him follow me. I opened the door and it was pitch black. I turned on the lights and you wouldn’t believe what happened next. Rocky got super excited. But also this happened. Hayden and Stephanie jumped out from the kitchen along with Ella. My Aunt Jessica and my Aunt Kaitlyn ran down the stairs. Marcus and my parents danced

out from behind the couch. My grandma Jackie put the blanket that was on top of her down. And all of my cousins ran out from the rooms. And they all yelled.....

CHAPTER 7

SURPRISE!!!!!! My very own surprise party! And everyone was there! Everyone ran over to me with presents. Well except for Marcus. He didn't want to give me his. He just wanted to keep it. Either that or he just wanted cake. They all wanted me to open theirs first. So I opened Ella's, Stephanie's, and Hayden's. I got a dance CD from Ella. And an Ice cream maker from Stephanie and Hayden. "Awesome! I'll have a blast with these! Thank you so much!" I told them. Next I opened my grandma's. I got a metallic cuffs bracelet maker. "Wow! These are going to look so awesome! Thanks!" I said. I had 5 cousins. The boys and girls gave me them in groups. The girls gave me coloring books and gel pens. The boys gave me Pink and Purple Nerf bow and arrows. "Amazing! I am going to have a lot of fun!" Both of my aunts pitched in to get me a new bike. It even had a basket for Rocky to ride in. Rocky immediately jumped in there. "Wow! Rocky and I absolutely adore this! Thank you so much!" My parents got me a phone case, a glitter pillow, and a new bedspread. I hugged them and said "Thank you they are so pretty!" Marcus finally gave me his. It was a play-dough cake maker. Well now I know why he didn't want to give it to me. He loves cake. "Thank you Marcus." I said to him. "Cake time!" Shouted my dad. I went to the dining table and saw my cake. It was blue and it had purple flowers on it. It had those cool decals on it and they were Eiffel Towers. And on the top it said: Happy Birthday Ella! Along with 12 birthday candles. It looked amazing. Everyone sang to me. When Marcus sang it sounded like "HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOLLY OKAY CAKE TIME!!!!" I blew out my candles and I got the biggest piece of cake. And I also got Ice Cream!!!! Caramel Ice Cream!!!! It was incredible. I gave Rocky some of his treats that he got from the store today. Rocky sat under the table like he knew that I was going to drop food. (I dropped some on purpose for him) It was late May so we went outside. Today was a day full of surprises. And my family had one more for me! I stepped outside on the patio and I saw a huge pool in the middle of our backyard! It was amazing! I ran upstairs to my room with Rocky and I got dressed in my swimming suit. I couldn't wait to swim in the pool with Rocky. Of course I would have to keep an eye on him but it would still be fun! When I went outside again everyone was in the pool playing with a beach ball. Rocky was so excited that he ran ahead of me climbed the ladder and jumped in the pool. It was awesome to watch. It was amazing that Rocky could do that! He could be a show dog! Before something happened to him I dove into the pool and caught up with Rocky. He was so cute trying to doggy paddle in the pool. . I swam over to Stephanie and Ella. They were diving off a board. "Where did that board come from?" I asked. "Your parents just put it out." Said Stephanie. "It's super fun!"

Ella said while jumping off of it. “Okay!” I said. I spent the rest of the day diving off of boards and swimming with my friends, family and Rocky.

CHAPTER 8

My day was absolutely perfect. So much better than I thought it would be. The following day....Not so much. I woke up and Rocky was not in his bed. I went downstairs and I saw the fruit basket knocked over. And the fruits were in Rocky’s stomach. Everything except the apples and the oranges. I guess he doesn’t like those. I was so mad at him! Then he looked at me with his deep bright blue eyes. It was almost like he was trying to say: “Don’t be mad at me. I’ll learn. I promise.” At first I wasn’t mad.....Until I went outside and saw Marcus playing in the dirt. “Marcus! What are you doing? And where’s mom and dad?” Marcus replied “Mom and dad had to work today remember?” Right. I completely forgot. “And I was just waiting for breakfast. You’re supposed to make me French toast.” Said Marcus. How could I forget? “Go inside and cleanup” I demanded. I left Rocky outside while I made breakfast. I got out the bread and the eggs and started frying. I finished just in time to see Rocky waiting outside the door. It was then when I discovered Rocky’s secret power. He licked his paws jumped up and opened the door! Rocky’s secret power was climbing and opening doors! This was impressive as much as it was alarming. I ran over to him and that when I realized that he smelled like bacon. I checked in the fridge and he had eaten all of the bacon! “Rocky!” I yelled. My parents were not going to be pleased. I checked the rest of the fridge. Well he hadn’t gotten into anything else. I got him a little bit of food because of his feast. Then I fed Marcus. We didn’t know what to do after that so we decided to take Rocky out for a walk. We went to the park and got something from the Ice Cream truck. Rocky kept jumping up at me trying to get my Popsicle. But I quickly pulled it away because he had had enough food for one day. We had brought an old tennis ball and some rackets to play with Rocky. It was fun watching him jumping up grabbing the ball from us. While we were playing with Rocky I couldn’t help but wonder what kind of trouble he would get into next. Yes he was a god dog when we were watching him and playing with him. But when we’re not looking he gets into all kinds of trouble. Will we have to patrol him all of the time? What about school? What about our parents work? What about us needing to sleep? While I wasn’t looking Rocky ran off with the ball and wouldn’t come back to us! “Rocky no!!!!” I yelled. While I was chasing him I couldn’t help but wonder. Would this dog change our lives completely?

CHAPTER 9

When my parents got home they brought home dinner. It was Sunday so normally we would have Steak and Mashed Potatoes. But today they brought a cooked chicken for dinner and a fruit pizza for dessert! When we were eating the chicken my mom asked "How was your first day with Rocky?" I was really worried about what would happen when she found out but she was going to find out anyway. I might as well tell her. "Well.... When I woke up Rocky had kind of..... opened the fridge and ate the bacon and he spilled and ate some of the fruits that were on the table but now we know that he doesn't like apples and oranges." My dad was shocked. "Oh no! Did anything else bad happen today?" Not really. Well actually yes. "Marcus was playing in the dirt and he dug up some of your Tulips." "Marcus!" Shouted my mom. "They're just for decoration they smelled gross anyway. Also you still have your lilacs.....Oh wait" Marcus said. "What do you mean oh wait?" I said. "Well Rocky kind of ate those." My mom and dad looked very and I mean VERY mad at Rocky. Before they could say anything I jumped in "I'll pay for the garden and replant the flowers. He's my dog so I'll pay for him." My mom looked like she felt a little better. "Fine. Just please give Rocky a bath tonight. Anything else?" We took Rocky to the park today...But that didn't go TOO well. I decided not to tell her about that. "Nope. All good." I told her. After that we gave Rocky his dinner. I went upstairs to get Rocky's bath ready. I went downstairs and went to get the bags from the pet store. I got out his shampoo that he got. I opened it. It smelled like honey and flowers. I also got his towels that we got him. After that I called Rocky upstairs into the bathroom. He saw the water and looked at it weird. I put him in the water and he wouldn't stop jumping around. Just then Ella texted "How's it going with Rocky?" I texted back "Not so well. I'm trying to give him a bath but he won't stay still." Just then he splashed me as hard as he could. "Rocky!" I yelled. Ella was typing. "Try putting Peanut Butter on the walls. He'll stay still and lick it and he won't even mind you washing him." I never even thought of that! "That's genius! Thanks Ella!" I said. I ran downstairs to get the peanut butter and a knife. I could hear him splashing around in the bathroom. I was going to have to clean up his huge mess but I didn't really care. I went into the bathroom and smoothed peanut butter on the walls. Rocky watched closely. When I was done he sat still and licked it. I decided to wash him before he ate it all. I didn't want to use too much peanut butter. I shampooed him (which wasn't that hard because he is very small) after that I rinsed him off with the shower head and got him out of the tub. He kept on shaking (which was very cute) I put him in his towel and started drying him. He looked so cute rolled up in that towel that I just had to take a picture. I made that my new background. After that I put his collar on and got him ready for bed. I took him into my room and put him in his bed. Marcus was already in bed so it was very quiet. I thought to myself "What will Rocky do when I am at school? What will he do in the morning? I was about to find out right after I went to sleep.

CHAPTER 10

When I woke up Rocky was still sleeping. Maybe yesterday was a onetime thing? Or he just did it because I sleep in on weekends. I got dressed and went downstairs for breakfast. I could smell waffles. Maybe Rocky also didn't do it because my parents were there. Smart dog. Anyway I sat down and waited for my waffles. I could hear Marcus behind me he creped up on me and shouted "BOO I SCARE YOU I SCARE YOU HAHAHAHA!!!!!!!" "Come on Marcus." I said. "Go get dressed." Today I wore my hair in a side bun with a little bit of hair down on the side of my face. I also wore my blue tank top with arrows on it and a patterned tank top cover. I had dark blue jeans and my brown boots on as well. Today was the last week of school! I was so excited. I got to spend the summer with my new dog! I ate my waffles and took my plate to the sink. "You have to wake up Rocky and feed him" Said my dad. "Okay" I replied. I went upstairs to get Rocky. I woke him up and said "You have to be a good boy while we're gone." I took Rocky downstairs and gave him food. After, Marcus came in screaming "WAFFLE DAY WAFFLE DAY TODAY IS WAFFLE DAY!!!!!" Before anything else happened I grabbed my cool patterned backpack and went out the door. I caught the bus and sat down next to Ella. She asked "So what is Rocky going to do while everyone is gone?" I sighed. "Honestly, I have no idea." In school we just did a review of everything that we learned from the year. We had some quizzes today and we were going to have some tomorrow. On Wednesday we would pack up the classroom. Thursday was field day and Friday was the last day of school so we were going to have assemblies and awards and stuff. When I got home Marcus was watching his cartoons. And Rocky was in the kitchen opening the fridge. "Rocky!" I said. I caught him just in time. "Marcus you need to keep an eye on Rocky when I'm not home." I told him. "Whatever." Said Marcus. I needed to find a way for Rocky to not open things when people weren't with him. I thought about it. "Baby gate!" I said. I went into the garage and got the baby gate and put it up in the kitchen. "There. Now you can't ruin our meals." I said proudly. I knew my parents wouldn't mind a baby gate blocking the kitchen because they could step over it pretty easy. When my parents got home they asked why there was a baby gate blocking the kitchen. "So that Rocky can't get into the fridge when people aren't watching him. Marcus." I explained. "Okay" They said. That night before dinner I went to the park with Rocky. Ella tagged along as well. We sat at the Dog Park and watch Rocky run through a sprinkler. He was really cute. I took another picture. It was almost dinner time so I invited Ella over for dinner. Tonight we were having spaghetti and rolls. Me, Ella, and Rocky went home for dinner. When we had dinner Rocky kept pacing under the table between me and Ella. It was pretty funny. I finally gave him a piece of a roll and he left. I guess that was all he needed. Then I saw my dad filling up his food bowl. I guess that was why. Soon Ella went home and said "Bye Molly see you tomorrow. Good luck on studying for the test." "You too" I told her. After I studied I went to bed. Waking up was a disaster.

CHAPTER 11

I woke up. Rocky was not there. My parents weren't home either. Today I was supposed to help get Marcus ready for kindergarten. I went downstairs and thankfully saw that the baby gate was still up. But Rocky was too. He had jumped over the baby gate and opened the fridge! He ate the cheese and the sausages! "Rocky no!!!" I told him. I scooped him up and went into Marcus's room to wake him up. Marcus was already up and he was playing with his trains. "Marcus can you take Rocky outside please" I told him. "YAY WE CAN PLAY IN DIRT!!" He shouted. "No!! You just got in trouble for that and I need to plant flowers." I explained. "Fine." He said. After that I went into the kitchen and took down the gate. I had to think of something else. "Door handle....Door handle! That's it! I can put the baby proof thing on the door handle so that Rocky can't get into the fridge!" Great! Just one problem....we didn't have a refrigerator door handle. But we could get a lock for the fridge....I grabbed a chair and looked on top of the fridge. I saw a code! You can put it on the fridge and the only way to open it is with a code! I put it on the fridge and set the code. I just have to write it down and magnet it on the fridge. Rocky can't read. Okay. Now what's for breakfast? I'll just give him cereal. I poured the cereal and went to get Marcus and Rocky. When I stepped outside Marcus was spraying the hose!!! "MARCUS!!!" I shouted. I ran to him and tried to take the hose but he ended up spraying me! I finally snatched the hose and fell back into the dirt....which was now mud. "Marcus! Go inside now and clean up. Rocky you need ANOTHER bath. I need to clean up too." I checked my phone. It was 7:15. We only had 30 minutes to give Rocky a bath, clean ourselves up, eat, and catch the bus. I ran upstairs to give Rocky a bath I let the water run while I got dressed. I had to wash out my hair in the sink now. I went into the bathroom and stopped the water and put my hair in the sink. While I was washing my hair Rocky decided to jump up and pull my hair. "Rocky! Get in the bath!" I finished washing my hair and put Rocky in the bath. I shampooed him, rinsed him, and dried him. This was very difficult because I forgot to get the peanut butter but I didn't have time. I ran downstairs and gave Rocky his food, then I ate. After I checked on Marcus. It was 7:40. "Marcus you need to eat!" I told him. "Just give me some toast I'll eat on the bus." I quickly made him some toast and got him on the bus. After that I made sure the fridge was locked, gave Rocky his raw-hide bone and some of his toys, and ran outside to catch the bus. When I sat down next to Ella on the bus she said "Molly you look exhausted! What happened?" "It's a long story. I hope that Rocky is okay." Ella seemed a little upset after I said that. "What's wrong?" I asked. "Ever since you got Rocky you haven't spent time with me. That's why I didn't want you to get a puppy." I didn't even realize that. "I'm sorry Ella. Tell you what, after school you can come over to my house. We can play with the stuff that I got for my birthday." Ella seemed a little better. "Okay. I'll be there at 3:00." After school was going to be a blast! At least I thought so.

CHAPTER 12

School's out! Said my teacher. I ran outside onto the bus and waited for Ella. We have different classes so I didn't know when she would be there. I waited 10 minutes. Soon I saw Ella get on the bus and sit next to me. "So what do you want to do today?" I asked. "Well...Oh! Maybe we could have a war!" I was shocked. "Wow. I know you were a little upset but that's really extreme!" Ella laughed "No, with your Nerf bow and arrows that your cousins gave you!" I was relieved "Oh. Thank goodness. That actually sounds fun!" It took 20 minutes to get to my house. When Ella and I stepped inside the place was clean and quiet.....too quiet. I walked around for a minute. Then I could hear Marcus playing with his trains in his room. I decided to check on him. When I stepped inside his room I saw Marcus play with Rocky. Rocky had a conductor hat on. It was pretty cute. I took another picture. Then Rocky got onto the train. He looked like he was happy. I took another picture and went into the basement with Ella. I grabbed my Nerf bow and arrows. I gave Ella one and I got one myself. We climbed onto the couches and readied our weapons. Before I could count to 5 Ella shot at me! It went right past my hair. I shot at her feet and it stuck to her sock! "Cool!" I said. Before I could get my bow ready Ella shot her arrow and it landed on my forehead. Ella sat down and laughed. While she was distracted I shot onto the couch. That startled her. We did this repeatedly for half an hour and then we went upstairs. We got some leftover ice cream from the party and sat down. As soon as we sat down Rocky ran in. Like he knew that this is the time that we would drop food. "Sorry Rocky but this is ice cream." I told him. "Yeah we're not letting a lick of this get away from us" Ella agreed. Rock made a quiet growl. After that we didn't know what to do so we decided to take Marcus and Rocky to the park. When we were walking to the park Rocky just HAD to sniff every single strand of grass. So by the time that we got to the park it was 4:30. We had an hour until our parents got home. Marcus went to the monkey bars and Rocky went to a small little slide. As Rocky was going down the slide I took a picture. It was a little blurry but it didn't matter. We headed back around 5:00. I said bye to Ella and started dinner for my parents. Today I decided to make lasagna. I started the noodles and the meat and sauce. Today actually went pretty well. I guess it turns out that Rocky really was an amazing dog. And I was right! When my parents got home they seemed really happy. I was glad. Maybe they thought that Rocky was a good dog too. Because he was! At least he was until the visitor.

CHAPTER 13

My parents walked in the door...with an announcement. "My boss is coming over for dinner to discuss some business." Said my mom. "When is he coming?" I asked. "In 5 4 3 2 1." Said my dad. A tall man with brown hair and a beard stepped through the door. You wouldn't believe what Rocky did next. Rocky sprung onto his feet and he ran over to the visitor....while knocking down a chair. He ran to the man and started to chew on his shoe! "Rocky stop it!" I ordered. I ran over to him and picked him up and took him upstairs. I put him in my room with his toys. I shut the door and ran downstairs to finish dinner. One problem....I forgot about Rocky's superpower. I dished up the plates and sat down at the table. My mother's boss said "This is delicious! What's your name?" I was confused for a bit then I realized that he was talking to me. "Oh thanks. I'm Molly. And this is Marcus my little brother." The man smiled. Then he turned to my mom. "I am very impressed with the work you have done lately. And I'm happy to announce that you have a new job offer.....in California. I spit out my food. "California?!?! No way!" My father told me "You seem excited." I guess he didn't understand. "No, I'm not excited. I like it here!" My mother told her boss "That's amazing! I'll need a little bit of time to think about it but thank you for letting me know!" Soon after dinner I had to make dessert. My parents and the man were at the table waiting. I heard a creaking sound from upstairs. Then I heard little feet coming down the stairs. Then I saw Rocky on the table! I quickly put the pie in the oven and ran over to Rocky. The man smiled "You know Marissa, you could always take Rocky to work with you." Before my mother could say anything I said "But me and Marcus can't play with him when we get home from school! We wouldn't get any time with him." My mom looked at me and said "I agree. We just got Rocky. I don't want to introduce him to any new pets anyway." I heard the oven timer go off and I went to get the pie. I had a weird feeling inside my stomach. Could we really be moving? I didn't want to find out. I loved all my friends and all of my family lived here! Rocky seemed to like it too. And what about my dad? He would still need a job if we ended up moving to California. I dished out the pie completely forgetting about Rocky. Rocky was under the table....for now. I sat down at the table next to Marcus. Marcus was looking at something under the table. Probably Rocky. But anyway Rocky kept dropping pie. "Hey my baking isn't that bad!" I told him. Marcus giggled. Soon Rocky jumped on the table AGAIN and started eating Marcus's pie plate! "Rocky! That's it!" I yelled. I took him outside and realized I forgot to plant the flowers. I went outside with him and started to plant the new Lilacs, Tulips, and Daffodils. Rocky stared at the dirt and I told him "Don't even think about it" I finished planting the flowers and went inside to find that my mom's boss had left. I got Rocky ready for bed and I got in my pajamas. Today was an odd day. What would tomorrow be like?

CHAPTER 14

I woke up and got ready for school...the last day of school! I was going to spend the summer with Rocky! Possibly in California. I got my backpack on and skipped breakfast. I would eat at school. I got on the bus and waited for Ella. But she always rides with her mom on the last day of school. I guess I forgot. But anyway the bus pulled up at my school and I got off the bus. I went to the cafeteria to eat. There weren't many people there because it was kind of late in the morning. But I got apple juice and pancakes. I heard the bell ring and I went to my classroom. My teacher was giving out rewards. I got a medal for best participant. Very soon we went to the assembly. Yesterday was field day. It was just like PE so there was nothing really interesting. Before I knew it the assembly was over! And so was school! I went outside and saw a surprise! My parents were here! And so was Marcus! And they were going to take us out for ice cream! I got into the car and I could hear some puppy breathing. I looked next to me and I saw Rocky! What an amazing way to kick off the summer! I got caramel vanilla swirl, Marcus got chocolate strawberry, my mom got rocky road, and my dad got peanut butter cups. Rocky got a biscuit that we brought him from home. Soon after that we went home and watched TV and relaxed. Before bed that night I tried to plan out the things that I wanted to do that summer. I made a list: Play with Rocky regularly, experiment in the kitchen, have relaxing days, go shopping, hang out with my friends, take care of Marcus, play in the water, and Don't let us move to California. I thought that was the most important thing. Because how could I do all these things if I was away from my friends, we were packing all the time, and everyone was very stressed out? I had no idea what would happen next. Downstairs Marcus was screaming "SUMMER SUMMER SUMMER! TODAY IS SUMMER! TOMMOROW MOLLY IS TAKING ME TO THE POOL!!!!!" Right. I had to set up the pool for me Marcus, and Rocky for tomorrow. I went into the basement and got all the things that we use in the water, like googles, water wings, beach balls, water guns, and those blow up things that you just lay on when you're in a pool. I took them outside and put up the pool this took about an hour. After that I put the hose in the pull and turned it on. As I was filling up the pool I thought inside my head "I hope that this summer is as special as I want it to be." The pool was filled up in 30 minutes. I stopped the hose and put it back. I put the tarp over the pool so that bugs couldn't get in the water. After that I went inside and made sure that Rocky didn't need a bath. Thankfully he didn't. Okay I admit it's a little fun giving him a bath but I was all tired out from today. Soon I went to bed knowing that tomorrow is the first day of summer. The first day of summer with Rocky. I loved everything that has been happening. I just hoped that possibly moving to California wouldn't change that.

CHAPTER 15

SUMMER TIME POOL TIME GIVE ME BREAKFAST NOW!!!!!!” Marcus screamed to wake me up. I went downstairs thankfully to see that the lock on the fridge was working. Since today was the first day of summer I gave Marcus a donut we bought at the store. I got a maple one. My favorite. After we ate Marcus ran to the basement to get his swim outfit on. I went upstairs with Rocky. I got Rocky a floaty thing that you lay on in the water. It was super cute. I put my swimsuit on and went outside before Marcus beat me. My parents were out at a real-estate office looking at houses. I really hoped that we wouldn’t be moving. Anyway, I grabbed the air pump and started blowing up the floaties and stuff. After 5 minutes Marcus came running outside. He almost jumped into the pool until I stopped him. “Marcus, you need to wait for me. You can help me blow up the things.” I told him. “Yeah no thanks. I’ll get my goggles on.” He said. Of course he didn’t help. I finished blowing up the things and put them all in the pool. I put Rocky in and then I dived in. Turns out there was a lot more stuff in the pool than I thought. I kept bumping into stuff. I decided to take the water wings out. I put Rocky on his blow up chair and he looked so cute! We spent about 2 hours in the pool. Soon we went inside. I started to watch TV because my parents were going to bring home dinner. I turned on my favorite movie. Then I heard barking. It came from outside. I didn’t remember putting Rocky outside. I looked out the window and saw Marcus squirting water guns at him! And he was covered with dirt! “Oh no no no no!!!!” I shouted. I ran outside and picked up Rocky (while completely destroying my outfit) and put him on the patio. When I looked back I saw Marcus still playing with the water gun. “Marcus!!!” Just then he threw dirt on me and kept filling up the water gun. I went over to where Marcus was to get the water gun from him.....and then he pushed me into the pool. As I swam to the top I took Marcus by the arm...then he fell into the pool. THAT was an accident. When he came up he started screaming “MOLLY!!!!!! WHY'D YOU DO THAT??!!!” He started laughing and splashing around. I got out of the pool when Rocky started to run towards the flowers when he thought I was distracted. I picked him up and said “Rocky, you need to stop following Marcus.” I got Marcus out of the pool and told him to go inside and clean up. I gave Rocky yet another bath. In the middle of Rocky’s bath my parents came home. They went upstairs and saw me giving Rocky a bath. “What’s with the peanut butter?” Asked my dad. “It’s the only way he’ll stay still.” I told him. I turned around to finish giving Rocky a bath. Soon I realized that tonight was our first day of summer surprise dinner! (this was an actual surprise dinner this time) Turns out that we had fast food tonight. That was Marcus’s favorite. I ran upstairs after I was finished and started to write in my journal. I started to write. “This week was pretty awesome. I got a new dog. I’ve had many adventures with him. My family has certainly loved him as well. Especially Marcus getting in trouble. I guess you could call this week, The Tale of Rocky.”