

JACK AND *Bella*

SPRING COMES



BY SUSAN BRANDT

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It was a lazy morning, thought Jack. "Wait. All my days are lazy. That's why I perch on this bench by the window."

There was a picture of his father on the wall. He had been a top champion

show dog. Jack would look at the picture and then think, "Do I look like him? I think I do."



It is said, Jack's father, Duke of Stone, would spend most of his days on the same bench Jack did. "Duke" would stand up and watch the birds fly about the tree until Lucy's mother could come home from work. She was a high school teacher. Being a teacher she had time to take Duke of Stone to all the dog shows.

Maybe that is where Jack got his habit of bird watching. No one knows. The bench has his perch now and he would not share, except with Lucy, and only Lucy. Then again she always brought treats with her.

The weather has been really nice lately. Jack and Bella have been spending a lot of time in the back yard when Lucy, their owner, was home.



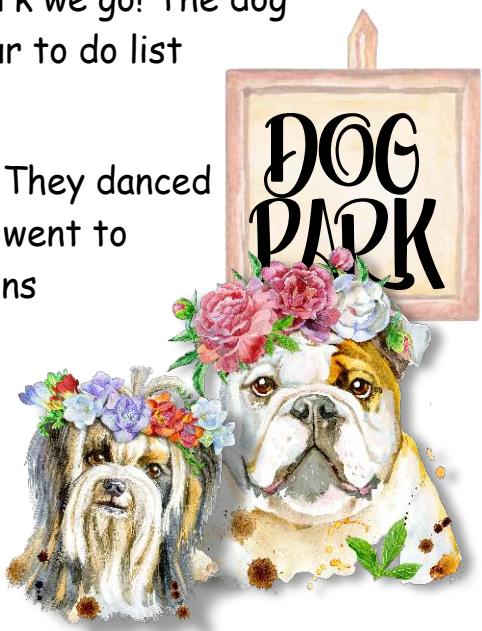
Sadly, Lucy was working a lot at the high school and wasn't home. She was the principal, at the same school where her mom taught science.

Jack was thinking Little Bella had been here almost a year that morning. "I really like her. Don't tell her. Might ruin my tough dog image," thought Jack as he watched her play with her squeaky toys.

Lucy came down the hall. Rat, a tat, tat, tat tat. That sound meant Bella was right behind her. Lucy stops, pulls her shoulders back. Looks at Bella. Then Jack. "Bella! Jack! To the dog park we go! The dog park is the only thing on our to do list for today."

The dogs were so excited. They danced around each other as Lucy went to her room and got two crowns of flowers. One for Jack. One for Bella. Each dog was so ready for a spring day adventure.

Lucy had their leashes, put them, and off to the car they went.

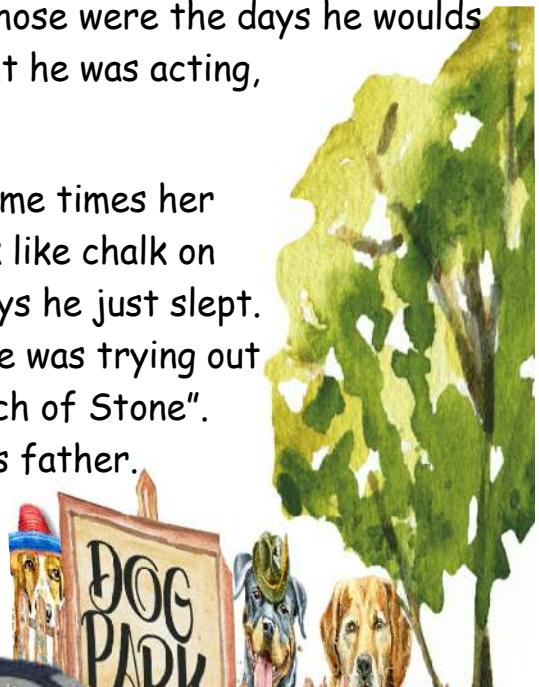


After in the car, each dog found their way up onto an arm rest to look out the window as they went to the park. A ride in the car was always so much fun.

When at the dog park, all their friends were there. They had lined up and climbed on the fence. It was almost like they were lined up for a parade.

Bella thought this was great. "Someone to talk to besides Jack." She was learning there was a lot to discover in this new world of her's. Sometimes she would share it with Jack and some days he would just be a "bird watcher". Those were the days he woulds just sleep. Bella thought he was acting, "He's a good actor."

Jack liked Bella, but some times her voice seemed to squeak like chalk on a chalkboard. Those days he just slept. He would tell himself he was trying out for a movie about "Dutch of Stone". He was going to play his father. He just knew it.





Mickey was there. The golden retriever was always full of stories about the twins toddlers in his house. The adults had a hard time telling the toddlers apart. Not him, he would brag.

Journey was always excited to see Jack. Journey had more than enough stories to tell about his travels outside of the dog park. Jack liked to hear them. Journey was a show dog - like Duke. When a pup, Journey's owners took him to shows and he got to see Duke in the big show rings. He learned a lot from you.



Maxims quickly jumps into the conversation. He was a small beagle and he found it difficult to get in a word. However, he always managed to add something to the conversation of the bigger dogs.

While the dogs chattered about all their adventures, none paid any mind to Bella. She set off on her own little spring adventure.

After about 45 minutes, Lucy came from the park bench were she had been reading. She looked around the park. She saw Jack with the guys. She could not

find Bella in the main area of the park or her favorite spots.



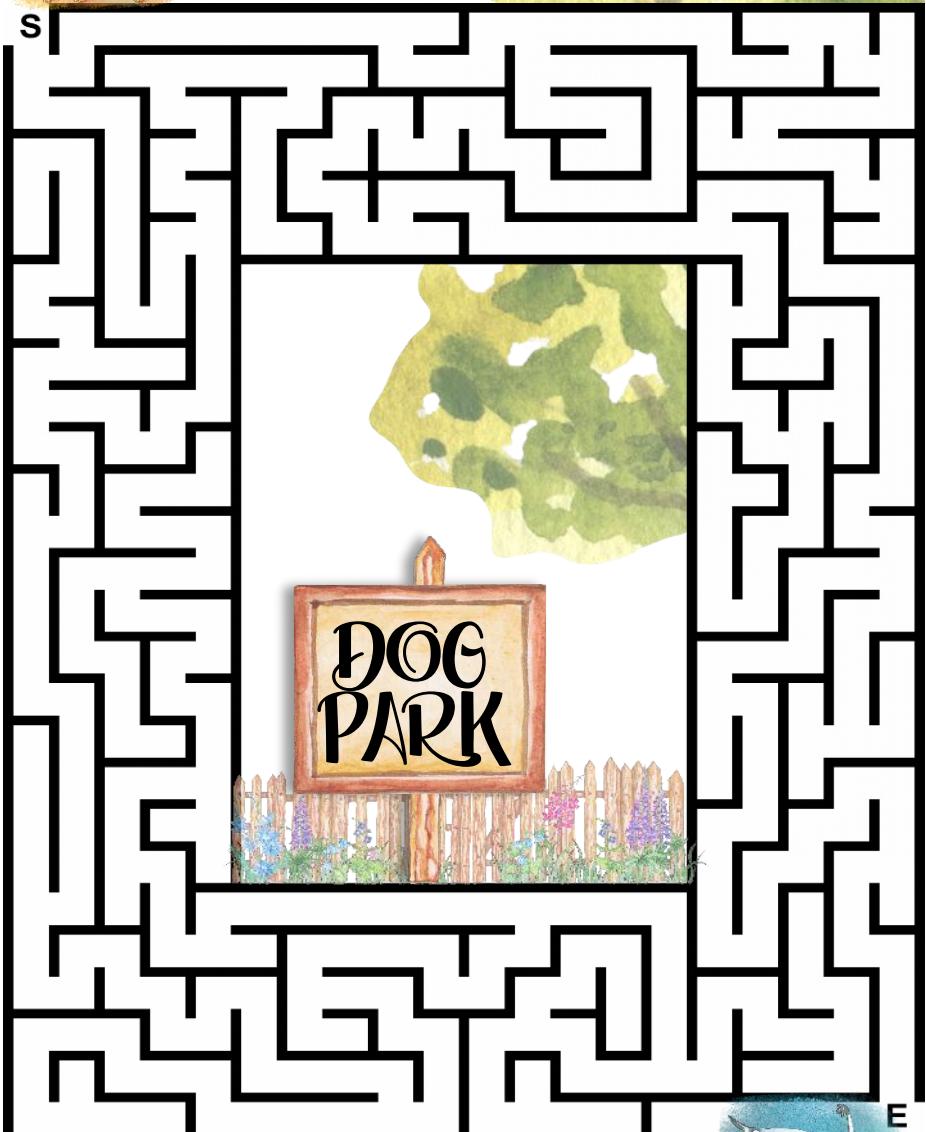
She hollered at Jack, "help me find Bella! I don't see her anywhere." All the dogs went running about the park, here and there in search of Bella with her little red bow and crown of flowers.

It was Maxims who barked. Everyone came running. When they got there, little Bella was found sitting in the middle of the only mud puddle in the entire park. She was covered in mud from the top of your red bow to the tip of her tail. She was so happy when she saw everyone and wagged her tail..swish, swish, swish. Yes, sending mud everywhere.

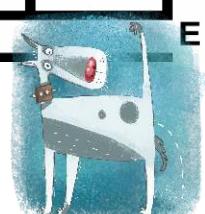
Lucy did not want to laugh. It was very hard not to laugh as she wrapped Bella up in the blanket and carry her to the car.

She looked at Jack as they made the walk and said, "Part of this is your fault. You are suppose to keep an eye on her. So don't be upset when I say there is no going to get ice cream today. Just straight home and give her a bath."

Jack just shook his head and jumped in the back seat. He just sat there. Lucy put Bella down beside him and it was a very quiet long drive home as they ended the adventure.



LADY DOG
IS LOOKING FOR MISTER DOG
CAN YOU HELP HER?



J	R	D	E	Y	O	X	H	T	U	B	F
A	V	U	E	U	B	R	I	D	E	E	R
C	P	K	O	S	P	R	I	N	G	L	I
K	A	E	D	M	U	P	O	N	D	L	E
T	R	E	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	A	N
E	K	Z	O	T	B	E	N	C	H	M	D
Q	L	H	O	M	E	P	L	U	C	Y	S
Z	R	H	L	F	I	B	U	L	O	X	P

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → and ↓ .

BELLA
BENCH
DUKE
FLOWERS
FRIENDS

HOME
JACK
LUCY
PARK
POND

RIDE
SPRING



Dot To Dot



Connect The Dot To Dot By Number & Color it

