



The Lost Dog

(A fictional story)

Once there lived a grand man who was well known for his kindness and gentleness. One day he decided that he wanted a puppy to love. He went down to the local shelter and found a cute little puppy. The puppy was so playful and full of energy.

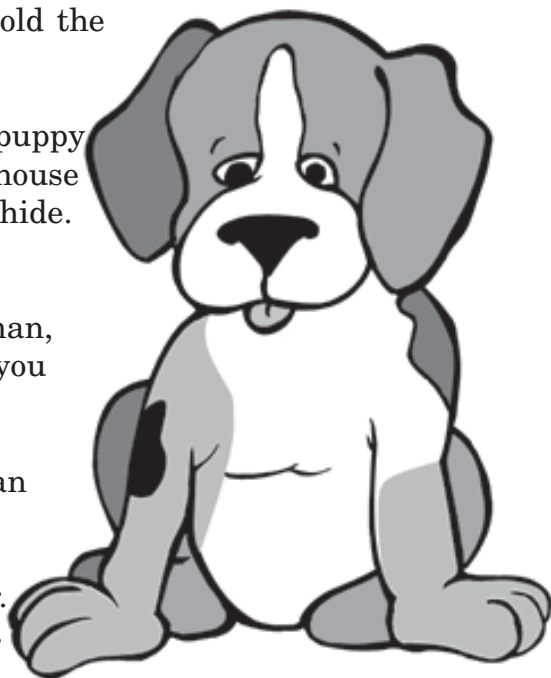
“I think I’ll take you home,” the man told the puppy.

When they reached the house, the little puppy was very curious and he ran all over the house exploring all the new places to play and hide. He was such a happy little puppy.

“I’m going to call you Angler,” said the man, “because you angle your head whenever you are looking at something.”

After spending the day together, the man had to go out.

“Well little one,” said the puppy’s master. “I have to leave now. I’m afraid if I don’t keep you in the house, you just might run off and get into trouble.”



So the man made a very nice cubby for the puppy to stay in. He gave him lots of food and drink and he made sure that the puppy had everything he wanted, like lots of toys.



Everyday, when Angler's master would leave, he would fill his bowls with food and water. Then he would carefully close the cubby so that the puppy wouldn't wander out. It happened that one day Angler's master left without closing the cubby. The curious little puppy couldn't resist and he left.

Angler loved his freedom and went into every room of the house. The man had made a doggie door at the back door of the house. Angler found his way to the back of the house and he went out into the street.

That happy, curious puppy ran through the streets taking in the sights and smells. He kept running and running. Soon he was far from his house. Angler began to be frightened. He tried to find his way home, but he was lost.

For a long time, Angler wandered through the streets. He became tired and hungry. Then he smelled food coming from a house a little distance away. He followed the scent until he came to a dark looking house. The house scared the puppy, but he was so hungry he went over and scratched at the door hoping the owners would give him some scraps.

After a little while, a big dark looking man came to the door to see what was happening.

"What is this!" the man's voice roared. "What do you want? Did you think I was going to give you anything to eat? HA! Go away and don't come back," yelled the man then he slammed the door on poor Angler.

Angler walked away with his head low. He went from street to street hoping someone would give him a little food to eat. No one cared. A little while later, Angler found himself in a very dark alley.

"Look what we have here," said a voice.

"It sounds like a dog, but looks like a little mouse," was the response.



“Let’s catch it and see,” said the first voice.

Poor Angler was so frightened. He tried to run away from the two mean looking strangers, but soon they caught him.

“Hey Dean,” said one man. “Do you think it’s a dog, a mouse, or a bird?”

“It doesn’t sound like a mouse and it’s too puny to be a dog. I think it may be a bird,” said Dean. “What do you think Damson?”

“Let’s see if it’s a bird and can fly,” said Damson. Then he took poor Angler and threw him down a flight of stairs.

Poor Angler yelped in pain as he sprained his paw in the fall.

The men grabbed the puppy again and threatened to let the larger dogs eat him. They laughed at poor Angler when they felt him shaking in fear. When they started walking towards the larger dogs, they would put Angler in with them. The puppy was so scared that all he could do was bite Damson, who was holding him.

The bite surprised Damson that he let Angler go.

Once Angler hit the floor, he took off running as fast as his sprained paw could take him. He was able to hide inside a small hole in one of the buildings. Those two mean men could not find him, but they cursed him saying all kinds of bad words.

Finally, after a long time of hiding, Angler came out. He was hungry, thirsty, and in a lot of pain. Limping, he was able to find some dirty water in a hole near the building he was in. Then he went back into his hole in the wall feeling scared, lonely, and hurt.



The next morning, a change came over Angler. He was no longer the happy puppy he once was. He became angry. The day before had changed him. He was going to fight whoever tried to get to him or hurt him. He was going to go and get food, no matter what, even if he had to bite someone's hand to get it.

As the days passed, Angler became more and more angry and untrusting. He was able to find food in garbage cans; otherwise he would just steal it. He would get into fights with other dogs and would bark and hiss at the people.

Through all this, no one in that dark city even cared about what happened to poor Angler. He had to take care of himself. He hated everyone that was in that city.

Months passed by as Angler became hard and unkind. Until one day, he came to the edge of the city of darkness. He saw a bright light and followed it. He saw buildings and trees and gardens and people. All of them were bright and shining, or it seemed so to him because he had lived in the city of darkness for so long.



As he was staring at the light, he heard a voice saying, "O look! It's a little puppy. He seems to be hurt."

"Come here little puppy," said the kind voice.

But Angler was not going to be fooled. He didn't trust anyone and so he turned back towards the city of darkness and ran.

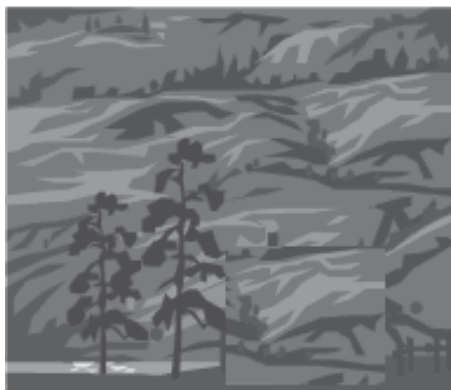
The next day, Angler again went towards the city of light. It seemed to be calling out to him.



Again he heard a voice, different from the one he heard the day before.

“Little dog, you’re hurt. Please let me help you.”

This time Angler looked at the person. But as soon as the person took a step towards him, Angler turned and again ran back into the city of darkness.



The following day Angler again went towards the city of light. He liked to see the light, but he knew he could never be part of that world because of what he had become in the city of darkness.

Again, the people in the city of light wanted to help him, but he would not let them.

This happened for about a week until one day a little boy saw him. This little boy had the kindest face Angler had ever seen. He looked at Angler with big blue eyes that showed how concerned he was for the puppy.

The little boy called out to Angler. “Come here little one,” he said and stretched out his hand.

Angler wanted so much to go to the boy but he was so scared. He didn’t know what to do. He stood where he was.

The boy came closer and closer to Angler but as he stretched out his hand to pet him, Angler turned and ran away. Angler was not ready to trust anyone, even the boy with the beautiful eyes.

The next day Angler again went to the city of light and to his surprise, the boy was waiting there for him.



“I promise I won’t hurt you,” said the boy. He walked close to Angler and got down and laid before him some food.

Angler took the food in his mouth and turned around and left.

This happened for many days. Angler would come to find the boy waiting for him. The boy would have food or water and once he had a toy for Angler. But each day Angler would take the gift and run back into the city of darkness.

Angler was still dirty and hurt because he was still living in the city of darkness. He wanted so much to leave it and go to the city of light but he was not able to.

Finally the boy made a decision. He was going to leave the city of light and go into the city of darkness after the poor puppy.

“You can’t go into that city,” said the boy’s friend Michael. “Everyone who has tried to go in always got hurt. Remember how they beat up on Thomas and how they gave Peter a black eye?”

“I know,” said the boy. “But I have to. I know that the little dog hates it in that city, but he can’t come out. He doesn’t know how to leave it and come to us. I must go after him.”

So the next day, when Angler came, he found the boy waiting for him. The boy came close to Angler and held out his hand, which had food in it. Angler was now comfortable enough with the boy that he ate out of his hand. The boy petted Angler as he was eating, but when Angler finished his food he again turned to go back into the city of darkness.

“Wait!” said the boy. “Please don’t go back in. Come with me.”





Angler angled his head and with sorrowful eyes turned and went back into the darkness.

The boy took a deep breath and walked into the city of darkness after the dog.

It didn't take long before some of the people in the city of darkness noticed the light that was coming from the boy. They immediately knew he was from the city of light and they gathered together to go against him.

"What are you doing here?" said a voice.

The boy turned around and saw that a couple of men had come up behind him.

"I'm looking for my dog," said the boy.

"He's not here," said another voice. "But maybe we can help you look for him," he said with an evil look in his eyes.

"Yeah," said a third voice. "I think I saw him go down this alley."

The boy knew that they were going to try to hurt him, but he went with them anyway in hopes of finding Angler.

When they got to the alley, the three men from the city of darkness began to beat up on the boy. They hit him with bats and pipes; they slapped him and spit on him. They even found a rope (don't need for them) to whip him with. The boy was so hurt he was almost dead.

The men stopped beating up on the boy when they heard a dog barking. They turned and saw Angler. They laughed when they saw how small and insignificant he was.



“That silly boy came in after you!” one of the men said. “You’re nothing but a little rut. Only an idiot would get hurt trying to rescue you.”

And off they went.

Angler ran to the boy and began to lick his face hoping that would wake him up.

The boy didn’t move. Angler tried to lift the boy’s hand with his head, but that didn’t help. The puppy didn’t know what to do. He ran and ran and found himself running towards the city of light. He ran to the people who had tried to help him before and began to bark.

The boy’s friend noticed and yelled, “Oh no! They hurt him.”

This got the attention of a small crowd and they all ran into the city of darkness. Angler showed them where the alley was where the boy was beaten up. But when they got there, the boy was not there.

The small crowd went and got more people and they began to search for the boy in the city of darkness.

When this happened, the people from the city of darkness came together and were going to start fighting with the people from the city of light. They confronted each other in the middle of Main Street.

Just as war was about to start, a booming voice came across.

“EVERYONE STOP!”

Everyone stopped and turned and then there was silence. Angler looked and began to bark with exceeding joy. He ran towards the voice. It was his master whom he had left so long ago.



The grand man picked up Angler, saw how he had been treated, and knew what had happened.

“I am the governor of the cities of light and darkness. I rule over you,” he said. “The people of the city of darkness have done great evil. For this, you will not be allowed outside of its borders.”

The governor looked down at those who had come from the city of light to find their friend and said, “You are looking for the little boy. He is safe. I have treated his wounds and he is alive.”

A shout of joy came from the crowd from the city of light. They went to find the boy and take him back into the city of light.

“Wait,” said the governor. “For his great love, his compassion, his courage and bravery, I have appointed the boy as judge over both the city of light and the city of darkness. He will sit in judgement of your actions and he will decide your fate and destiny.”

“No greater love have I seen than this, that someone would sacrifice himself for another.”

The people in the city of darkness lived out their lives in darkness, never again seeing the light that came in when the boy had come after Angler.

The people in the city of light enjoyed the peace and joy that came from the justice the boy had given to them. They shared in the light of love that the boy had given to all of them.

Angler went back to his rightful place with the grand man, his master. He lived with him forever, living happily ever after.



The End