

## A DOG'S BEST FRIEND by ANTONY WIELAND

*Jeremy reluctantly walks his new dog in the park.*

### JEREMY.

Oh thank God, a bench. *(Sits down, looks at dog)*

Don't look at me like that. If it was up to me you wouldn't be going for a walk at all. I wanted a cat but you were a present for my sister. And after Fur-Ball accident she couldn't face another moggie. I hate dogs, I always have. They smell, they can't look after themselves like a cat can and they want to go out just as you're getting ready for bed. *(Looks at dog with deep contempt)*

You're not like Fur-Ball anyway. I miss him very much. So be grateful you've got a home 'cos no one else would want you. Be quiet and sit while I read my mag. *(Gets out magazine and flicks through pages. Looks at his dog)* What are you staring at? .... I can stare too you know. *(Staring back)* *(Notices the dog is signalling money which is falling out of Jeremy's pocket)* *(He realises)*

Oh I see. My money, thank you. *(Looks down at dog)*

There's no need to start sulking. I said thank you didn't I. I've just got a hole in the pocket, that's all.

*(Puts money in other pocket and returns to magazine. Notices stranger approaching bench. Replies to stranger)* No, nobody's sitting there. *(The dog starts barking again)* Stop barking. Can't you see I'm trying to read?... *(Continues reading. Turns to dog ... Where's he gone? (Checks pocket to find wallet is missing. Standing)*

Hey! That man's stolen my wallet ... and where's my dog? *(Runs after man but realises he's too far away to catch. Sits down feeling despondent. Suddenly dog appears)*

Oh! you give me a fright. *(Notices something sticking out of dog's jaws)*

Is that my wallet you've got in your mouth?... I don't believe it ...

Well done boy! *(Hugs dog)*

I saw him run but I never thought you'd catch up with him. They don't call you a retriever for nothing. Come on. Let's get back. I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship. *(Exits)*