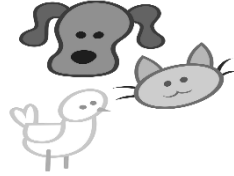


THE DAY MY PETS GOT LOST

Song Yuna & Hal Ames



My name is Michael. I live in the city with my parents, a dog named Bark, a cat named Meow, and a bird named Chirp.

Bark is a big white and black Dalmatian dog. He loves to play fetch with me in the park. He sleeps a small tent in my room on the floor next to my bed. Every morning Bark jumps onto the bed and licks my face until I wake up. He is like an alarm clock. Bark always goes to the door and waits for me to take him outside to play fetch.

Meow, the cat, is a bit fat cat. She is yellow and brown with long soft hair. She is lazy and doesn't do much more than just lay on the couch. Her favorite thing is when I rub her ears. Then she will purr so loudly. Sometimes Bark chases her around the house, then she jumps up on the table and hits Bark on the nose. Once she cut Bark's nose with her claws. Bark did not like that, and neither did mom and dad.

In the corner of the dining room is a large cage and inside of it is Chirp. Chirp is a big gray parrot. He will call Bark's name and Bark comes thinking it is me. Chirp has a lot of fun teasing Bark. He doesn't not like Meow because Meow always threatens to eat Chirp, but she is too lazy to chase Chirp. So, that will never happen.

I have to feed Chirp every morning and once a week I clean the cage. It is usually Saturday when I clean the cage.

I take care of all the animals. My parents told me if I didn't, the animals would

have to go away.

On Saturday, I left the door to the cage open while I got his supplies. Chirp, realizing he could escape, flew out of the door, and landed on the dining table.

Meow looked up and saw him. Meow moved slowly off the couch onto the floor, and then crawled slowly and carefully toward where the bird was sitting.

Chirp noticed the cat and waited to see what she would do. The cat jumped up onto the table and stared at Chirp. They looked at each other for a long time. Then Meow leapt at Chirp, but she was not fast enough, and Chirp got away easily.

Unfortunately for Meow she slipped across the table and knocked the dishes onto the floor. The sound of breaking plates brought us to the dining room. Meow looked up and had an innocent look on her face.

It was if she was saying, “I didn’t do it.”

Dad got angry and yelled at Meow, “What have you done you silly cat. Those were our best dishes!”

I noticed that the cage was open, and Chirp was gone.

“Where’s Chirp!” I exclaimed.

In the corner of the room I heard, “Where’s Chirp! Where’s Chirp?”

It was the bird, and it was copying what I had just said.

“I think it’s my fault. I left the door to the cage open, and the bird got out,” I said to my parents.

I put the bird away, and then went back to my room.

A few hours later, my mother came to my room and asked, “Have you seen Meow?”

“No, why do you ask?” I responded.

“Meow is missing. I think she got scared when dad yelled at her for breaking the dishes. I’ve looked all over the house, but I cannot find her,” my mother was not happy.

After searching the house again, we went outside. Bark was looking in the bushes, I was looking under the shed, mom was looking in the trees, and dad was looking over the fence at the park.

All day we looked for Meow and could not find her. We went home and we were very sad. Dad was sad too because he had yelled at Meow and made her go away.

The next day, we did the same thing, looking everywhere for Meow.

When I opened the cage to feed Chirp, he flew out quickly and out the window.

“Mom! Dad! Chirp just got out and he flew out the window. Now we have lost both Meow and Chirp!” I screamed.

Bark was making a lot of noise at the door. He was jumping up and down and making very strange noises.

I opened the door and Bark ran out so fast he almost knocked me to the ground.

“Mom! Dad! Bark just ran out of the door and he took off down the street. Now I have no pets in the house. This is the worst day ever!” I was crying

“Which direction did they go?” asked mom.

“They went toward the park. I think we need to go to the park to find them,” I thought it would be a good idea.

We all got onto our bicycles and rode over to the park. There were a lot of people there playing games and running around.

“MEOW! BARK! CHIRP! Where are you?” I said over and over.

Soon other people in the park began to help search for the lost animals.

Up in a big tree, I heard a voice, “MEOW! BARK! CHIRP! Where are you?”

It was Chirp.

“Chirp, come here!” I yelled.

The bird flew down and landed on my shoulder.

He kept saying, “Here Meow. Here Bark.”

We kept searching and searching, and Chirp said over and over again, “Here Meow. Here Bark.”

Suddenly, Chirp flew away toward the corner of the park still saying, “Here Meow. Here Bark.”

I chased after him.

In the corner of the park was a large tree and someone had built a tree house in it. The children loved to play in the treehouse. When I looked up, I saw Chirp on a branch and in the tree was Meow. Chirp had found her.

“Come on Meow. Let’s go home,” I said as I raised my hands to coax her down.

She jumped down. I picked her up and rubbed her ears until she started to purr. Now we were both happy.

Just then, Bark ran up and started to jump up and down in excitement. He was happy to see Meow as well.

Chirp began to say, “Let’s go home, Let’s go home!”

Bark ran around, meow purred, and Chirp sat on my shoulder as we walked through the park toward our house. We were all happy to be together again. I got onto my bike and we left the park.

When we got home, Bark began to bark at the door.

I said, “Stop Bark, let’s play fetch.”

Bark picked up the ball that was on the ground near the door and gave it to me. He started barking again.

Chirp said, “Stop! Stop!”, but Bark didn’t stop.

Meow began to meow loudly.

Chirp said “Stop! Stop!”, but meow didn’t stop.

I decided to take all of them for a walk. I tied Bark on a leash, tied a string to

Chirp's leg, and picked up Meow. Chirp did not like it.

Chirp said, "Stop! Stop!", but I did it anyway.

Bark pulled on the leash toward the park. Chirp began to fly, but the string stopped him. He almost fell to the ground. Meow was purring in my arms.

I ran after Bark and soon we were at the park again. Chirp was on my shoulder. He did not like being bounced up and down.

He kept saying, "Stop! Stop!", but I didn't listen to him.

I picked up a stick and threw it. Bark wanted to get it, but he was still on the leash. Meow jumped down to the ground and looked up at me. Chirp was still upset.

Chirp said, "Let's go home! Let's go home!"

I looked at my watch. It was almost time for dinner. I picked up Meow and headed for home. Bark still wanted to play fetch. Meow just purred.

Chirp said, "Home! Home!"

When we got home, I opened the door. I took the leash off of Bark, dropped Meow to the floor and untied Chirp from his string.

Bark ran into the kitchen to drink some water, Meow walked slowly to the couch, and chirp flew back into his clean cage.

I yelled, "I'm home!"

"You're just in time," said mother. "I fixed pizza."

That is my favorite meal.

"Yay! I love pizza!" I shouted out.

After washing my hands, I went to the kitchen.

Bark was under the table. Meow was on the chair, and Chirp was sitting on the back of the chair. He had flown out of his cage again.

In the middle of the table was big pepperoni pizza.

"Is this all for me?" I asked.

"No, your father is coming home soon. You need to leave some for him," she

replied.

I took the biggest piece of pizza and started to eat. Bark looked up at me between my legs. Meow put her paws on the table.

Chirp said, “Pizza! Pizza!”

“Mom can I give some pizza to my pets?” I asked my mother.

“No, that’s people food. It will make them sick,” mother responded.

I ate my pizza, but I gave a little to Bark when my mother wasn’t looking. Meow begged for some, so I gave her a little too.

Chirp flew to my shoulder and said, “Pizza! Pizza!” I gave him a bite as well.

After dinner, I went to the living room to watch T.V. Bark wanted to sit on the couch, but I made him go to the floor. Meow lay on her favorite pillow and Chirp hopped around on the back of the sofa.

He kept saying, “Pizza! Pizza!” He was very happy.

Soon it was time to get ready for bed.

I put Chirp into his cage. When I closed the door, Chirp said, “Good night. Good night.”

Bark went to his bed in the tent in my room and Meow stayed on the couch. It had been a long day for all of us.

I brushed my teeth, put on my pajamas, said my prayers, and then climbed into bed.

I closed my eyes, but I wasn’t tired. I reached over and began to read the book that was on my side table. I read for a long time, but I was still not sleepy. I counted sheep, but that didn’t work either. I stared up at the ceiling for a long time thinking about what had happened during the day. I got up and went to my desk and began to write. That is how this story was written.

THE END