

## **The Faithful Companion**

*By: Cadence Kasten*

It was a rainy afternoon, water sprinkling on Stormi as she was outside playing with her dog. Stormi had raindrops dripping down and a huge smile on her face. Lake was soaked with water. They were playing with a tennis ball, Lake ran to retrieve it for his owner. Stormi had given him treats and called him a good boy every time he brought the ball back to her. She was training him for the upcoming dog show. This will be their first year entering, they just wanted to try it for fun. Stormi knew that Lake wouldn't be able to be a show dog, so just a fun little try.

"Lake's a 4-year-old Golden Retriever," Stormi said to herself.

"He'll be great! Come on Lake, we have a show to put on!" Stormi called to Lake, with a smile on her face.

All of a sudden, just as fast as lightning itself, a bullet was shot into Lake's golden fur. Stormi had watched her companion whelp for help, but she couldn't do anything but grab his body. She saw him dying in her arms. Stormi has tears and raindrops streaming down her face. Lake's crimson red blood flowed out onto the grass. He took one last look at Stormi's face and closed his eyes to enter eternal sleep. His shallow breaths stopped. Lake was no longer in pain. Stormi grasped his lifeless body and held it close to her, the crimson red still draining from his body. The clouds were clearing away from the spot, letting the sun leak down onto Lake's golden body. Stormi looked up, with the tears still falling down her cheeks, as she saw the warm glow of the sun. She then knew her faithful companion went to Heaven, and that he's waiting for her to live her long life to then be reunited for eternity.

Stormi's parents went out to see her, they even offered her another dog. Stormi rejected. She couldn't just replace Lake! Stormi demanded to know who had shot her young companion. She had gone out with her parents to find out who it was. She wanted the person who had killed him to be put behind bars. Lake didn't deserve to die like that, he deserved a long life and die peacefully with his owner.

Stormi's whole family searched for who had killed Stormi's companion. They found out later that all the dogs in town were killed. They were all killed in various ways. Shot, drowned, poisoned. There was nothing. No tracks, no traces on who did it.

Years passed and they didn't find the man who killed all the dogs, everyone searched for an answer on why he did it and who he was. No one could figure it out. Everyone wondered why, and what would drag a person to kill everyone's pet? Why did all the dogs die? No one ever found out, nor will anyone know. It never happened again, but they feared it would.