



BARNEY

A short story by
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*Barney was a very large dog.
People call him a Great Dane.
Barney had a very large head and very long legs.
He could run very, very, fast with those long legs.
He was a very good and faithful dog and he lived on a small farm with two grumpy old people. Mr. & Mrs. Jones was their name.
Barney was not very happy at that farm for he was always hungry.
He never got enough to eat. Do you know why?
Because Mr. & Mrs. Jones did not really like Barney.
They were never kind to him and never gave him enough to eat. They were cruel to him.
Then one day something very sad happened.
Mrs. Jones said to her husband: "Why don't we get rid of Barney?"
"Why?", her husband asked.
"Because he eats too much and it's costing us far too much money", she said. "Can't you dump him somewhere?"
"Where?", said Mr. Jones. "Somewhere on the side of the road", she replied. And so it happened.*



The next day Mr. Jones got his Jeep out of the garage and told Barney to hop in. Barney used to love coming for a ride in the Jeep and he happily hopped into the seat and sat right next to his boss.

His wagging tail showed how much he enjoyed the ride.

He did not know about Mr. & Mrs. Jones' cruel and selfish plan.

He had no idea what was going to happen to him.

They went for a long drive and after about an hour they came to a very quiet gravel road in the midst of the bush.

Then Mr. Jones suddenly stopped the Jeep a really long way from home.

And do you know what this cruel man did?

He opened the car door and pushed Barney out of the Jeep onto the dusty road. How cruel!

Then he drove off as fast as he could. But.....Barney was very fast, too.

He quickly jumped onto the back of the Jeep and Mr. Jones didn't even notice it.

When after a while Mr. Jones arrived in the town he stopped the car in front of a hardware shop where he had to buy some tools. He looked back and what did he see in the back of the Jeep?

There was Barney looking quite pleased with himself.

But Mr. Jones was not pleased at all.

He was very angry and he grabbed the dog by the collar and dragged him off the Jeep and threw him onto the ground.

Then he kicked the dog very hard and viciously. He kicked him so hard that Barney broke his leg. That was not the way to treat animals. That was very cruel and wicked. Barney had always faithfully served his boss and this is how he treated him. Mr. Jones did not even feel guilty about what he had just done to one of God's creatures.

Barney could hardly walk now but he did not go back to Mr. Jones.

He had had enough now. He ran away as fast as he could, away from this cruel and



selfish man.

After a while Barney stopped for he was getting quite tired from walking and also because of his sore leg. He was also hungry for he had had no breakfast yet. And no lunch either, he remembered.



Where could he find something to eat?

He could not walk too long with his broken leg.

Fortunately he saw a rubbish bin near a school.

He knocked the bin over so that the lid fell onto the road.

And there in the bin was some lunch that one of the school boys had thrown away.

Maybe the boy did not like his lunch but Barney loved it.

He gobbled it up in a few seconds.

It was getting dark now and time to look for a place to sleep.

After a while he found a nice place under the bridge over the railway line.

He was so tired that did not even notice that there was already a man sleeping there under the bridge.

He was so exhausted and his leg was so sore.

He fell asleep almost straight away.

The next morning the strange man woke up and saw the dog curled up and still fast asleep.

"Get away you", he said to Barney. "This is my place, go away".

Barney got up and ran away as fast as he could manage with his sore leg.

But he could not run so fast because his leg was broken and was very sore.

The man chased him away and tried to kick Barney just like Mr. Jones had done.



Barney could not walk very far so he lay down somewhere.

He found a nice place on the side of the road in the tall grass.

A little while later a small dog, a Kelpie, came along.

He saw Barney lying there in the grass and wanted to make friends with him.

But Barney was frightened and wanted to run away.

Nobody had been friendly to him today and could he trust this little dog? Did this dog really mean well? Was this a friendly dog?

Yes, it was.

The little dog really wanted to be friends with Barney.

He meant well and very carefully he came closer to Barney.



*And after a while Barney was not so frightened any more.
He tried to get up and together they went on their way.*

*Barney followed the little Kelpie home.
Maybe he could even get something to eat there.
After a while they came to a small farm. That's where the Kelpie lived.
The little dog showed Barney his little house, his kennel.
"Come in", he said, "it's big enough for both of us."
"We can share our little house together."
That night they both slept in the little dog's kennel.
Barney did not sleep so well because his leg was very sore.
The next morning they both walked around the farm together.
They could not go very far because of Barney's broken leg.
When they came back to the kennel the farmer was waiting for the little dog.
The farmer saw Barney and he also noticed the broken leg.
He wanted to fix this broken leg but Barney was scared of the man.*



*All the other men had been cruel to him.
How would he know if this man was friendly?
Slowly and very carefully the farmer came closer to Barney.
The farmer looked at Barney's broken leg and put a bandage on it.
That felt much better.
Then the man gave a bowl of food to the Kelpie.*

*The little dog was kind, too, just like his master.
He shared the food with Barney.
Now they were both happy.
The little Kelpie was happy because he shared his kennel and the food with his new friend, Barney.
And Barney was happy because he had found a new friend. He had found someone he could trust.*



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