



*Journey through the puppy Max's life who gets adopted from an animal shelter. Along the way, he helps many different families. Does he find his furever home as he ages to a senior?*

## **Max's Journey: Who rescued who???**

By Jackie Adams

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JACKIE ADAMS



A photograph of a man and a woman smiling and holding a dog. The man is on the left, wearing a blue denim shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a white off-the-shoulder top. They are holding a brown and black dog in the center. The background is a sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds, and there are pink flowers in the foreground.

# Max's Journey

Who saved who???

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# Chapter 1

Danny, off and on, throughout his twelve years of life has been trying to talk his mom and dad into giving him a sibling. He wouldn't even care if it were a girl! Though, he'd much prefer a little brother. All of his friends have younger siblings. He's tired of being the only child. Little does he know that his mother was told she wouldn't ever be able to have children. Just having Danny was a blessing, but she doesn't want to explain it to her young son.

His mother puts her hand on her hip.  
“Please, Danny, I told you no more children.”

His father comes over and ruffles the top of Danny's hair, “It's not in the cards, kid. Stop bugging your mother about it. She said no. No means no.”

“But daaaad. Mark said he wouldn't know what to do without his little brother.”

His father's voice becomes a little sterner,  
“Danny, what did I tell you?”

Danny stomps off to his room as he mutters not knowing what the big deal about it is. That it's not fair that Mark has a sibling, and that his other friend Darian has three siblings! He's just asking for one!

Danny's father, Gable, takes a seat at the table, looks at his wife, and tells her, "I think it's time we adopt a dog."

Marie takes a seat as she stares at him with disbelief, "Really, Gable??? You mean it???" She smiles happily, "That would make Danny's year!"

Gable leans back in the kitchen chair as he rubs under his eyes with his fingers, "Yes, I think it's time. I've been doing well. We can afford a dog now. How about, after I get off work tomorrow, we take Danny to pick one out?"

Marie claps her hands together, "I'm calling Danny in now so you can tell him."

Gable stands up from the table and says, "It's all good. I'll go in and tell him." He bends

down kissing his wife's forehead, "I love you both so much."

He stands at Danny's closed bedroom door. He thinks to himself, at least Danny didn't slam it. He knocks on it. "Danny, it's your dad. I have something I want to share with you."

Danny calls out, "Come on in, dad."

Gable sees Danny sitting at the top of his bed reading a book about the history of karate. "There's something I want to tell you, but it comes with a lot of responsibility."

Danny shuts his book and puts it beside him. "Dad if it has to do with a little brother, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to make you and mom feel bad. I won't talk about it anymore. I hope you're not mad at me. I hope moms not mad at me."

Gabe looks his son in the eyes, "Neither of us is mad at you. You know, when I was a young boy, my big brother always picked on me and made life hard for me. You should be glad you're an only child. It's not as easy or fun

all the time as you might think.” He rubs Danny’s foot. “That’s not what I want to talk to you about, though. I have some news! I think it will make you very happy, but before I tell you I want to tell you again that this news comes with some big responsibilities.”

Danny’s face becomes very serious, “What is it, dad? Is everything okay?”

His dad explains to him, “You’ll have to make sure you walk it every day, several times a day. You’ll have to feed and water it. You’ll have to...”

Danny looks up at his father real fast, “DAD!!! Are you saying I can have a dog????”

“Yes, you’re mother and I agreed to get you a dog, but it’s no minor responsibility, Danny, and I expect your grades to stay the way they are and you to take on full responsibilities. You know your mom’s busy with the house and cooking and I’m at work every day. This is all on you.”

Danny stands on his bed jumping up and down. He knows he’s too old to really be doing

it, but he can't help himself. "When dad, when????"

Once Gable sees Danny settle down, he tells him, "I'll take you to the animal shelter tomorrow when I get home from work, but first you have to agree you'll take all responsibility of him."

"I will, I will, I will!!!!" Danny follows his dad out into the hall and down to the kitchen where his mom is washing dishes. His dad stands next to her and starts drying them. "Mom, is dad being real about this????"

She smiles leaning into her husband, "Yes, he is Danny. Are you sure you can handle the responsibilities that go with having a dog?"

Danny turns in a circle, hardly believing this! "I promise, I'll be the best dog owner ever!"

He goes to bed happy that night thinking of all the different dogs and all the different names. Will it be a girl or a boy???? How old will his dog be? How will he know which one to pick? Finally, after tossing and turning for

hours with all these questions going through his mind, he falls into a deep slumber.

Later that night before Marie goes to bed, she cracks open Danny's door to see he's sleeping with a smile on his face. She sighs as she quietly shuts his door leaving it ajar just enough to let some hall light in.

When she walks back to her bedroom, she sees tears in her husband's eyes. "Gable, what is it? What's the matter? Why are you upset?" She sits on the bed next to him while he hangs up the phone.

He takes in a breath, wipes tears from his eyes, and says, "I just got some awful news."

"What is it, Gable? What is it? It's not your father, is it?" She continues rubbing his back.

He shakes his head, looks toward the floor, and says, "I lost my job."

At first, Marie wasn't sure what to say. She had dropped out of high school when she was only sixteen years old to take care of her sick grandmother. She had nobody else. Marie

never went back to finish her schooling. When she met Gable, there was no need to go back for her GED. He made plenty of money for them both, even enough to start a family. She loved being home with her husband and son and maintaining the house. Finally, she says, “Don’t worry about it, Gable. There will be more work.”

“There’s something I didn’t tell you. They fired me, Marie. They said I was embezzling money from the accounts. And somebody from the office told the boss I was seen in the accounts. It’s a lie, Marie. I was never in the accounts. Do you believe me?”

Marie looks Gable in the eyes, “Of course, I believe you. You would never do such a thing. You’re the most honest, sweetest man in the world. How could someone say such a thing!”

Gable puts his hands on his head, “I don’t know what to do.”

Marie sighs again and says, “Gable, first we have to break our little boy’s heart and tell him it’s not the right time for a dog. We better

handle that first thing in the morning, so he's not excited about it all day."

Gable stands up pacing the bedroom floor. "No way am I doing it, Marie. Danny's getting a dog. I have enough in savings to pull us through. I'll start looking for jobs right away. We're going to get through this."

Marie felt relieved because they didn't have to tell Danny he couldn't have a dog after building him up. It would feel terrible. If only she had gotten her diploma or a GED, she could've found jobs easier for herself. Then she remembers, "Ellie Mae told me the Rogers are looking for someone to clean their house. I think I'll talk to Ellie Mae first thing in the morning and tell her I'm interested."

Gable sits back down on the bed, tucks his head into his hands, embarrassed that his wife has to take a job after all these years of his being the provider. He says, "Tomorrow morning, I'll go and put in applications while Danny is at school. I'll be home after dinner,

to take him to the animal shelter to pick the dog out.”

Marie puts her arms around her husband, “I love you, Gable. We’ll get through this. And tomorrow first thing, I’m calling Ellie Mae. The pay’s not much, but any pay will help pull us through.”

Gable tells her, “I don’t want you to have to get a job because of my misfortune, Marie. You love staying home looking after us.”

She says in a positive tone, “It will feel good to be working again. It’ll give me a break from being home all day. Please, let me help, it’ll make me feel better, Gable.”

He takes her two hands into his own and says, “If you’re sure, Marie.”



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