

# Sunny's Adventure



Me and my dog Sunny are going on vacation, baby! He's the best travel buddy ever!

We packed our stuff and got in the car. Vroom! We were off to the airport. We're going to Mexico! Sunny wagged his tail the whole time. At the airport he sat on his tiny travel bed, looking

so fancy with his dog passport.

It's a 5 to 6 hour flight I told him. "Let's nap!" Sunny curled up like a donut and snoozed. When we landed it was hot and sunny. Sunny barked and jumped in circles.

At the hotel Sunny opened his suitcase with his nose. Guess what?

Snow clothes! "Sunny, it's too hot for that!" I laughed. So, we went to the store to get some cool tropical clothes.

Later, we went to a sanota, a deep jungle pool. The water was freezing



but Sunny didn't mind. Then, Sunny went zippling. Zoom! He zoomed through the trees, ears flapping in the wind.

The next day, we went to the water park.

Sunny wore his new shorts and looked awesome! We went on every

slide. Wheee! We were so hungry, we took an uber to a nacho place. We ordered dog nachos just for sunny.

They were cheesy with meat and guac.

Yum! Back at the hotel we put on pajamas and watched a movie

with pop corn. Then, we snuggled into

bed. In the morning, we ate room service,

put on our swimsuits and ran to the pool.  
Sunny splashed in every one! As he was  
going a little crazy, he met a  
new friend. A little black dog named  
Midnight. Sunny and Midnight had a puppy  
playdate and shared a squeaky toy.  
At sunset, Sunny cuddle next to me.  
"Best trip ever," I said. He wagged  
his tail. We ate Ice Cream and  
then it was time to go home but  
Sunny knew that more adventures would  
come soon. The end.

Violet

# **A GOLDEN PRESENTATION**

*“Employees, can I have your attention please! This is your manager talking. I’m retiring soon, so I need to pick a good manager to take my place. I scheduled a meeting tomorrow where everyone that wants to take my role has to give a presentation to convince me who can best lead the store. The meeting will be in the employee’s lounge.”*

Robert heard the announcement as he put another carton of eggs away, checking to see whether they’d cracked. He wished he could become the store manager and decide how to run it. He knew he deserved to be the leader of the supermarket, for he was kind and smart.

Just as he decided to try out for the job, he lifted his sixth carton. It seemed too heavy! When he checked inside, he saw a golden egg in the carton. The egg was as big as a man's palm and shiny like the sun. Robert felt a chill down his spine. It was the most beautiful thing Robert had ever seen, with a design like an Easter egg with polka dots and squiggly lines on it.

Robert knew he had to hatch the egg, so he slipped it into his pocket. After finishing work, he raced home to hatch the egg and work on the presentation.

Once he got home, he rushed to his incubator. He used this incubator to hatch the chicks that grew into chickens that he kept in his backyard. Robert slipped the golden egg inside, too, and went upstairs to get the materials for the presentation.

Just as he found cardboard and markers, he heard a giant *crack*! He rushed downstairs to see what happened— only to see the remains of the incubator scattered across the kitchen floor! And, on the corner of the kitchen counter, lay a strange creature.

It looked like a goblin with four legs and a horn. It was the size of a dog and a light shade of greenish gray. It reminded Robert of a unicorn and a goblin combined. The texture of the creature's skin was hard and slimy with little studs on it. The goblin also had a tail just like a horse’s.

It started galloping around the house, dropping stuff as it trotted like a rodeo horse in its stable. But the magical animal was smart, so it was careful not to get hurt. The creature was also clever not to go close to the chickens because then the chickens would get scared and he would get kicked out of the house. It kept exploring, until it reached the space where Robert was doing the presentation.

Strangely, the animal started jumping and pointing at the presentation like he wanted to help. Robert thought that getting feedback wouldn't hurt, so Robert let the unicorn-goblin see the presentation and he made it hold materials. Robert tried a lot to perfect his awesome presentation and it started turning out really well. The smart creature was giving really good feedback with gestures and followed what he had to do very precisely.

Robert worked for hours, each time getting better and better. After this hard day of work, the two ate dinner and went to bed. Robert arranged a laundry basket in his room for the creature to sleep in, and soon they snored happily.

The next morning, they both woke up early and nervous. Robert packed the papers, but just before leaving, he realized that if he left the creature in the house, the creature would be sad to not see how the presentation went. So Robert had no choice but to put the creature in his backpack.

In the meeting, there were six people trying to get the position and Robert was really getting shivers down his spine. The first two people went and did a good job. But the next one was better than the first two, and for a minute, Robert thought he had no chance.

Until the creature softly neighed encouragement from inside the backpack.

Then it was Robert's turn. It all depended on this one presentation. He stepped up, and began his speech, just like when he practiced with the creature. When he finished, everyone gave him a round of applause!

Robert sat down again, feeling good about the presentation and how he performed.

Soon, he was named the new manager of the store! The creature and Robert enjoyed the rest of their days working on the store together.

# Portals into New Realities

There lay the Grand Palace Hotel in Las Vegas. It was filled with sparkly floors and people rushing everywhere, and a massive elevator dressed in gold.

Fiona entered the building. She was a rich, fifty-six year old lady with a shiny pearl necklace and an expensive scarf wrapped around her neck. She elegantly walked towards the elevator, resting her purse on her wrist and wrinkling her nose as she waited for the elevator to arrive.

“Ew! This place smells like cleaning spray!” she exclaimed. She waited impatiently at the elevator, holding in her breath. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw a young man also enter the lobby.

Nick strolled in, a fourteen year old teenager wearing a hoodie and chewing gum. He plugged his earbuds into his phone and slouched against the wall next to the elevator, also waiting.

“Could you ever chew that gum of yours more quietly?” Fiona said as she glared at Nick. He looked back, and didn’t care about anything she said over the music in his earbuds.

The elevator door finally opened. Fiona hurried into the elevator and elegantly pressed Floor 8 to spend her rich weekend with her friends. Nick pressed the button with his fist, heading to Floor 5. That was where the arcade was. He was supposed to be with his parents, but he had run away and ditched the house rules. The elevator doors were closing, just as Vivian rushed in as the two doors almost touched.

Vivian looked serious. She didn’t even act like potentially getting smashed by two elevator doors was a big deal. Vivian was a businesswoman, wearing a black suit and holding a briefcase. She pressed Floor 6, getting ready for a big job interview.

“This is it,” she whispered, checking her notes on her phone again for what seemed like the hundredth time.

“Great,” muttered Fiona. “Another person in this elevator. Can this day get any worse?”

But as the elevator started to ascend, images flashed vividly in their heads. Fiona saw a sparkling ballroom, Nick saw colorful lights from the arcade, and Vivian saw herself standing in front of a huge conference room.

**BOOM!**

The elevator made a sudden stop between Floors 3 and 4, and created a piercing screeching sound.

“AHH!” Fiona screamed, grabbing onto the railing.

Nick yanked out his earbuds. “What was that?”

Vivian stayed calm, and hit the emergency button. *Maybe it’s just stuck*, she thought.

The lights flickered, and then everything started shaking. Suddenly, the elevator tilted, the doors burst open, and all three of them fell out! However, it wasn’t the hotel anymore but New York City, except it looked old. They all saw vintage taxis, people in trench coats and hats, and building the skyscrapers in Time Square.

“Are we... dreaming?” Nick asked, checking his phone. “No signal. How am I supposed to use my phone now?”

Fiona gasped. “Oh no, my outfit is ruined!” She patted down her long dress and tried to dust off her shoes. “What is this place?! I’m supposed to be at the spa! Let’s turn around and go back.”

But there wasn’t a way back. The elevator doors shut hard, and everyone froze.

“Great,” Nick complained. “What are we going to do now? At this point, I’ll find my own way to get out.”

Vivian stood quietly, looking around. Her eyes followed the footsteps on the dirt-covered sidewalk. She heard a train rushing by, and the clacking of the wheels fading away in the distance.

Vivian spotted an important clue. “Look, a sign!”

**WELCOME TO 1944, NEW YORK CITY.**

**TAKE A LOOK AT ALL THESE NEW SIGHTS.**

**TIP: IF YOU WISH TO RETURN, TAKE A RIDE ON THE SUBWAY TO 44TH STREET AND STOP AT THE VERY END. WILL YOU FIND YOUR OWN SILVER KEY?**

“Well,” Vivian said, “we have no choice. If we want to get back, then we need to take the subway. All the way to the very last stop.”

“What? No way! That sounds dirty and dangerous!” Fiona remarked.

Nick rolled his eyes. “It’s either that or we stay here forever.”

They all started cautiously walking down the street and came upon a giant subway station. A train rushed towards them and each compartment was labeled: Nick, Fiona, and Vivian. The three people stepped into the subway train and found a seat, but quickly realized that they were the only ones on the train. Nick chose the corner seat next to the window, leaning against



the walls and his hoodie was up. Fiona, however, kept frantically wiping dust off her dress and placed paper towels on the chair. Vivian sat patiently, and pulled out her application form to review it again.

“The last stop has arrived,” the subway speaker stated. All of them got up from their seats and the doors slowly opened to three different doors, each labeled with their names. Fiona, Nick, and Vivian stepped forward at the same time and entered their own land.

Nick read on a sign outside his land: **The Hall of Freedom**. There were bright arcade lights, blasting music, and entertaining games to play. Nick was so amused by this portal, since this was all he ever dreamed of living in. The smile slowly brushed away when a desk appeared in the middle of the room, with a piece of paper and pen floating above it. A note said, “Write a letter to your parents. Tell them why you ran away.”

At first, Nick was hesitant. He started writing to get over it, but his hands started to shake. He had to admit he was wrong.

“Dear Mom and Dad,” he began, “I just wanted to feel free, but I should’ve talked to you instead of running away.” As soon as he signed his name, the arcade disappeared, and a silver key dropped in front of him.

Fiona saw her own sign: **The Land of Beauty**. It was a huge sparkling ballroom. She was so enchanted by the dresses and the lights until a whisper told her, “You’re not a guest. You’re a server today.”

“No way I am doing that dirty job!” Fiona gasped.

But it was already too late. The lights dimmed and she was carrying a tray of drinks. As she served people, she heard many stories. An old woman mentioned losing someone, and not being able to afford a home so she had to sell her necklace gifted from her loved one. Fiona’s heart suddenly changed. She took off her white pearled necklace and handed it to the woman.

“Here... You deserve it more than I do,” Fiona said.

A light wrapped around her and the tray of drinks vanished. A silver key fell gently to the ground.

Vivian confidently entered her portal: **Work of Fame**. She was surrounded by piles of paper, and mirrors showing all the times she’d revised her resume, perfecting every sentence and format she could. A typewriter appeared with a note, “Be yourself.” Vivian was confused at first. She sat down and started to write, not about her achievements or experiences, but who she was as a person.

“I’m hardworking. No, delete that. I care about people. I want to make a difference in the community. Maybe start a campaign. That has always been my dream.”

Her original resume floated out of her briefcase and shredded itself into tiny sparkles. The typewriter printed a new one and slid it into her folder. A silver key fell on the desk.

Suddenly, all three were pulled through a glowing tunnel and dropped back into the subway station. A blinking elevator door waited in front of them.

It had a glowing sign above it: **Back to the Present.**

They stepped inside, and no one said a word at first as the doors closed.

Nick finally smiled a little. "Maybe I'll go back home."

Fiona looked thoughtful. "I might donate to a shelter or something. That lady touched me."

Vivian leaned back against the wall and closed her eyes. "Maybe it's okay to not be perfect."

The elevator made a *DING*, and the golden elevator doors re-opened. They were all back at the Grand Palace Hotel. Everything was still loud and shiny, but all three people had changed on this adventure.

Just like that, they all walked outside, and the elevator doors closed slowly behind them.

# The End