

DYLAN

By Ann Crago



Her name was Dylan and she was left for dead. Tied to a tree in the blazing sun of Beirut, an unwanted present, a victim of a collapsing economy.

Watching the abandoned puppy for two days and giving her water to keep her alive. Sam made a decision. Scooping up the scared and shivering puppy she drove her to a vet. Watching the puppy asleep on the seat next to her and listening to the Bob Dylan song on the radio she named her Dylan. The vet pronounced her healthy, if a little thin and proceeded to start all the vaccinations and medication a healthy dog needs. It was to be the first of many vet visits for this pup.

Sam rescued her but in the end, it was to be Dylan who rescued Sam.

Sam lived in a large city centre apartment with huge glass windows; her desk next to the window became the puppy's favourite place to sleep right next to her new human. Sam was determined to

be an exemplary owner and despite being a committed vegetarian, bought and cooked fresh meat daily for Dylan. Sam studied You tube videos entitled “How to housetrain your puppy in a week” and “Command and control your dog without shouting”. Regular walks around the building became a daily occurrence. Dylan was indeed house trained in a week. Sam rarely shouted at Dylan.

Dylan thrived under all Sam’s love and attention. Sam in turn, had a new focus in her life and adored Dylan. Hassan, a colleague, commented that she seemed to be really enjoying the city of Beirut during her long exploratory walks with Dylan. Sam invited him to join her walks along the Corniche next to the sea. Dylan was very taken with this new human and as he spent a lot of time with Sam over the coming weeks, it seemed that Sam liked him too.

One August afternoon Sam was trying to finish some work but Dylan was insistent it was time for a walk. Keeping her on a lead Sam led Dylan outside to the scrubland. Suddenly a massive blast threw Sam and Dylan to the ground. Dust and debris filled the air. The silence that followed was pierced by Dylan’s screams. More childlike than animal the sounds were horrendous and pulling Dylan to her side Sam could instantly see the cuts and blood running down Dylan’s face. One eye seemed to be shattered and whilst Sam was outwardly calm Dylan was completely panicked.

Sam phoned for help and Hassan raced to her side. Scooping both her and Dylan into his car he drove like a madman to several hospitals to find treatment for Sam’s cuts. After which he found an emergency vet and Dylan was sedated for eye surgery which ultimately saved her sight.

Sam’s apartment windows had blown in and the heavy glass panels would have killed Sam and Dylan had they been inside. Hassan asked Sam to marry him. She said yes.

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