

# The Dog Who Wanted to Play



by Fred Ash

Illustrated by  
Kristina Shvedai

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*Siretona*  
*Creative* 

Tommy was  
afraid of Dog.



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Dog had big teeth and sharp claws.  
His bark was like thunder.

When Dog came close,  
Tommy ran away.  
When Tommy ran,  
Dog ran after him.



He ran down  
the streets.



He ran into the grocery store.



He ran through the school.

He ran by the bus stop.



He ran along the path  
beside the river.

He ran from Dog  
because he was afraid.



Tommy hid from Dog  
in the street.

He heard the people say,  
“What a beautiful dog.”



He hid from Dog  
in the park.

He heard the workers say,  
“What a magnificent Dog.”



Tommy hid from Dog in the playground. He heard the children say, "What a nice dog."

He saw them touch Dog's fur.



But Tommy was afraid and ran away.



Behind him he thought he heard  
Dog's paws hitting the pavement.

He thought he felt Dog's breath  
breathing on his neck.

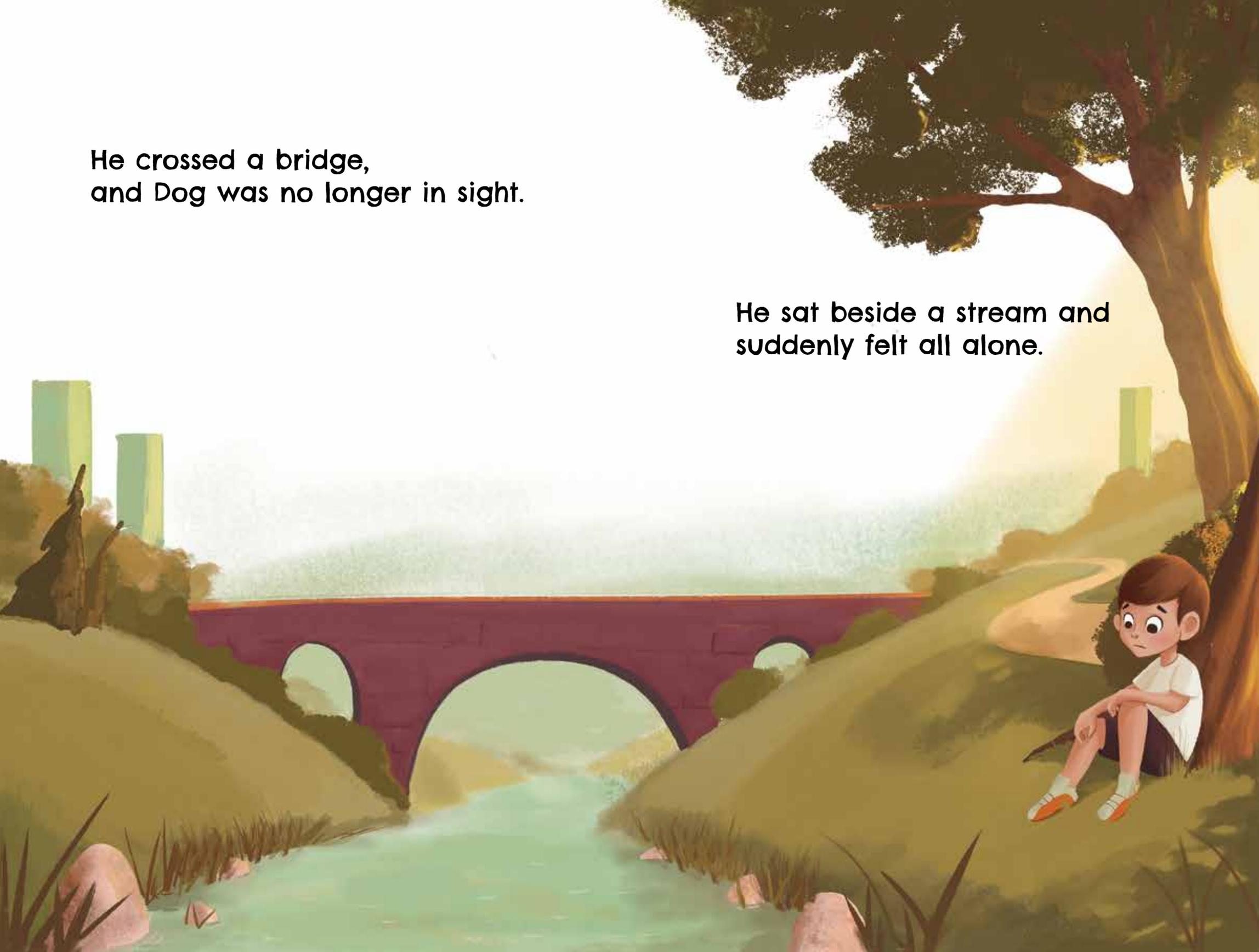


He even thought he heard  
Dog's voice say, "Tommy,  
don't run away; stop and play."

But Tommy was afraid and ran on.

He crossed a bridge,  
and Dog was no longer in sight.

He sat beside a stream and  
suddenly felt all alone.



He ran to his friends,  
but they were tired of playing.



He went to the ice-cream shop but  
it was no fun eating by himself.



Then he heard the sound of paws on pavement. He saw the shadow of Dog, and he began running again.

He ran fast. Dog ran faster.  
Dog seemed to be everywhere.



Tommy thought he heard the voice again: "Don't run away; stop and play."

It grew dark.  
Street lights came on.  
Shadows fell across the road.  
Tommy could not run anymore.  
He was out of breath.

He looked around.  
He did not recognize the street.  
He did not recognize the houses.  
He did not recognize the playground.

Tommy was lost.





Night came and it grew dark.  
He sat beneath a street light  
and waited for help to come.

He waited  
and waited  
and waited.

In the darkness Tommy heard  
the sound of footsteps.  
No, it was not footsteps.  
It was PAW steps!

He looked into the shadows  
and saw something VERY BIG.

It was Dog.

Tommy's heart beat faster.

Dog came closer.  
He stopped beside Tommy  
and looked straight  
into Tommy's eyes.

Then Dog sat beside him.



They sat together  
for a long, long time.

Two mean-looking men came by.  
Dog barked like THUNDER  
and showed his big teeth.  
The men ran away.



A hungry coyote crept out of  
an alley. Dog growled and  
showed his big claws.  
The coyote slunk  
back into the  
darkness.



Tommy began to feel a lot safer.  
Dog's bark and fiery eyes  
comforted him.

He reached out his hand  
and gently touched Dog's fur.  
It was soft and warm.



The night grew colder. Dog and  
Tommy moved closer to each other.  
Tommy put his arm around Dog  
and allowed the warmth  
to soak into his body.

“Why was I so afraid of  
you?” Tommy asked.  
Dog barked, but  
not like thunder.  
Tommy thought it  
sounded like  
laughter.



A police car stopped in front of them. A woman stepped out. "My name is Officer Angela," she said in a friendly voice. "Are you Tommy Francis?"

"Yes, Ma'am," said Tommy.

"And is this your shepherd?" she asked, looking at Dog.

"No, he is just Dog. He doesn't belong to me," said Tommy.

Then Dog turned to Tommy and gave him a big, wet, doggy kiss-lick.

"Well, he may not be yours, but I think you are his," said Officer Angela. "Come, I will take you home."



Officer Angela opened the door of her police car and let Tommy in. Dog jumped in beside him.

As they drove homeward Tommy was sure he heard a voice say, "Tomorrow we can play."



THE END

## From the author

*The Dog Who Wanted to Play* was inspired by the 19th century poem "The Hound of Heaven" by Francis Thompson.

Like Aslan in C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*, Dog, the good shepherd, cares even for those who run away from him.

**Author bio**

**Contact information**

**Etc.**

**Thank you!**

Thank you for reading this early copy  
of *The Dog Who Wanted to Play*.

Please tell us what you thought of it!

Click this link:

[www.siretona.com/kidtest-thedog](http://www.siretona.com/kidtest-thedog)

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His bark was like thunder.

Tommy was afraid and ran away.  
Dog ran faster.

A story for everyone  
who has ever been  
afraid of the  
unknown.



**ISBN**  
barcode