**Dog Snaps**

A white-walled classroom with black chairs and beige desk seated fifteen students.

Jackie, wearing a plaid tunic and ripped jeans, walked in with the confidence of a world-class

athlete. She sat next to Mike in the front row. “Somebody had a good night,” he said.

Jackie took her phone out of her bag and gave it to Mike. “I took these last night during

golden hour,” she said.

Mike swiped through her phone. “Dope,” he replied.

Professor Tiffany Fields entered the classroom. A tall, swanky woman, she wore Gucci

frames and an *it’s-game-time* expression on her face. She sat behind her desk and spoke to the

class, “Students, here’s your final project. You will go to the Morningstar Animal Rescue Shelter

and take photos of the dogs.” She rose from her seat and looked straight at Jackie. “This is a

mandatory assignment. If you don’t complete it, you will fail this class.” Jackie’s confident

smirk morphed into a worried frown.

As Tiffany grabbed her bag and left the classroom, the students engaged in their own

conversations. Jackie sat quietly.

Mike asked, “What’s wrong?”

“Dogs. I am afraid of dogs,” Jackie replied. “I won’t graduate if I don’t pass this class.

I’m going to be the first in my family *and* I have a paid internship lined up.”

“Why don’t you talk to her? Perhaps she’ll understand.”

oursHours later, a knock is heard on the door of a stylishly decorated office. “Come in,”

Tiffany said while seated behind her desk. Jackie entered. “Jacqueline, have a seat,” Tiffany

said. Jackie sat on the chair across from Tiffany. “What brings you by?”

Jackie replied, “It’s about the project. I have a phobia against dogs.” She sighed and

pushed back her curly hair. “When I was a kid, I was attacked by a stray.”

Tiffany laughed. “Jacqueline, it’s not my problem what you are not comfortable with

doing.” She removed her Gucci glasses. “I must reiterate that if you do not complete this

project, you will fail the class. Okay?”

Jackie replies, “Yes, ma’am.” She sulked as she left Tiffany’s office.

The next day, Jackie entered the Morningstar Animal Rescue Shelter. She approached a

lanky young man at the desk. “Hi. I’m Jacqueline Brown. I’m here to photograph the dogs,” she

said.

“Sure. Follow me,” the young man replied.

They approached the kennel. The young man said, “Here we are. If you need any

assistance, feel free to call me.”

“Thanks,” Jackie replied.

As the young man walked away, Jackie took a deep breath. Her hands trembling, she

opened the door and entered the kennel. She looked around as dogs of various breeds are

nestled in their cages. Jackie approached one cage, where a beige Yorkshire Terrier was seated.

She positioned her camera and snapped a few photos of it. She nervously smiled. “Good

doggie,” she said to herself.

The young man returned and walked over to Jackie. “How’s it going?” he asked.

“Not bad,” Jackie replied. “Not bad at all.”