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My dog that would not leave

The wind was blowing and it had just stopped raining. The temperature had just dropped to 20C. The winter chills of England in December blew into my bones. Luckily I had a thrown-away blanket to keep my dog Abby warm, and her body temperature in turn gave me the warmth I needed, outwardly and inwardly. I am a homeless man, unemployed as well. I usually just worked for spare change to keep Abby and me from starving.

But it was Christmas week, and the stores were closed for the holidays. Christmas should be a time of reunion with friends and family. But now I only have Abby by my side. Our stomachs were growling from hunger. I spotted a decent and rich-looking woman while lying on a public bench. The woman took out a sandwich from her bag and gave it to my dog – a turkey sandwich with tomato and lettuce. Abby took it and gave it to me despite being hungry herself. I ripped the sandwich in half and gave one half to Abby, then thanked the woman.

“Your dog is so considerate! What’s her name?” she asked.

“Abby,” I smiled, patting her head.

“Here, why don’t you give her to me? I can provide her with a better life than this,” the lady offered.

For like a minute, I didn’t know what to say. A good dog like her should not be roaming around with a homeless man like me. She deserved better.

“Very well,” I muttered with tears trickling down my cheek. I gave the kind lady, with my trembling hands, the leash to take Abby away. Abby, who was silent the whole time, barked loudly at the woman as if she heard the decision we had made and disapproved. The rich woman smiled and tried to tug Abby away, but to no avail.

“It seems her bond with you is unbreakable,” she commented, panting. Just then I saw a delightful glint in her eyes.

“Of course! Why don’t I help you two start a fundraising website?” Abby looked at her innocently and I was also skeptical. “With your touching story of friendship I’m sure you can receive donations from hundreds of thousands, then you two can live a better life!”

And she was right. That actually put an end to our life of hunger and poverty. The story of loyalty between a man and his dog went viral and donations kept pouring in from that day onward. I even got a job through recommendations through the net. Abby and I now live a decent life thanks to a stranger’s kindness and Abby’s loyalty.