

But There Was Hope

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14-year-old Lexi was in the kitchen with her mom baking an apple pie. Lexi walked over to the refrigerator to get the apples but there was one problem – they were out.

“Mom?” said Lexi.

“Yeah?” replied her mom as she put the crust in the pan.

“Did you already get the apples out?”

“No. Why?”

“Because we’re out.”

Lexi’s mom walked over to the refrigerator. “Sure enough,” she said, “It looks like we’ll have to go get the apples from the trees in the forest.”

Lexi and her mom lived close to the forest. They got berries and apples from there all the time.

“I’ll go get them, Mom,” said Lexi happily.

“OK but you can only go if you have Hope,” replied her mom.

Just then, their 3-year-old Siberian husky, Hope, ran into the kitchen.

Lexi got her coat and Hope’s leash while her mom grabbed a basket for the apples.

“Here you go,” said Lexi’s mom as she handed her the basket, “and be careful.”

“Thanks, Mom. We will,” replied Lexi as she and Hope ran out the door, across the yard, and into the forest.

Lexi was smiling at Hope as she picked apples from the tree. Hope was running around the trees and rolling in the leaves just like she always did when they came to the forest.

“OK, girl,” said Lexi, “let’s go over to that tree – I can’t reach anymore apples from this one.”

Hope barked in reply.

Lexi laughed as she and Hope walked towards the other apple trees. Just then Lexi felt something wet on her nose. She looked into the sky and realized it was snowing.

“It’s snowing, Hope!” Lexi exclaimed.

The two were walking in the first snow of the year when they reached the next apple tree. Lexi climbed up and started picking more apples when the wind picked up. The snow started falling harder and the flakes kept getting bigger. Lexi jumped down.

“Come on, girl, we have to find shelter and fast!” yelled Lexi over the roaring winds.

They ran into a nearby cave and Lexi got the mini flashlight out of her coat pocket.

“OK, we’ll stay here until the storm passes through,” shivered Lexi, “and I’ll start a fire with the matches that are in my pocket.”

Hope lay down next to Lexi as she started a fire.

“Here we go,” sighed Lexi as she sat down. “I hope mom isn’t worried.”

An hour and a half passed while Lexi and Hope stayed in the comfort of the cave. The snowstorm was over.

“Alright, I think the storm is over so we can go home now,” Lexi said to Hope as she stood up and put the fire out, “Let’s go, girl.”

Lexi grabbed the basket of apples and they walked over to the entrance of the cave to go out but the door was snowed in.

“Oh no! This is not good!” exclaimed Lexi.

Hope barked in agreement.

“How do we get out?”

Hope just looked at Lexi and wagged her tail.

“What? Do you have an idea?” asked Lexi.

Hope barked and started digging through the snow.

“Awesome idea, Hope!” said Lexi with a smile as she started digging, too.

Within 30 minutes they had made a complete path to the outside. Hope ran through with Lexi right on her tail.

“We did it, girl!” Lexi said as she stood up to look at where they were. Everything was white and snowy and Lexi couldn’t tell which way led to their house. “But which way is home?”

Hope looked into Lexi’s eyes and seemed to say, “Follow me.” Then she turned and jogged off. Smiling and thinking that Hope was a pretty smart dog, she followed.

When they reached the front porch, Lexi hugged Hope and thanked her for getting them home safely. They walked inside and Lexi ran to hug her mom.

“Oh, honey, I’m so glad you’re OK,” said Lexi’s mom as she hugged her tight.

“Yeah, I’m fine – thanks to Hope. She led me home,” explained Lexi.

Lexi told her mom the story of how they stayed in the cave until the storm passed and how Hope dug her way out and led them home. Lexi and her mom looked at Hope. All she did was wag her tail and look at them.

“And even after all of that, I still managed to bring home the apples,” Lexi laughed.

“Well then, if you’re not too tired, let’s make our pie. We can even make a special doggie-safe pie for Hope since she did such a brave thing today,” replied her mom.

“Let’s do it,” smiled Lexi as she and her mom started making their pie.

Lexi and her mom ended up having their apple pie for dinner and Hope had her own little special apple pie. They all sat on the couch next to the fire and watched a movie. It was the perfect ending to a crazy afternoon. And it was all because of Hope.