



Oddie

LATVIA:

A big brother with a little sister Annel went home from a friend's birthday in a late autumn evening. The friend's house was right here in the neighbourhood, and the surrounding area was well known. The evening was quite chilly. The children blew their warm breath, watching whose pattern disappeared faster. They already saw the house yard, when Annel heard rustling of leaves and sound of footsteps. When they looked back, the children saw a large white dog, which ran in their direction. The children froze. The doggie was very happy about late pedestrians, and soon Annel felt a touch of a friendly and moist nose on her arm. The doggie was white with brown ears, almost as large as Annel. His eyes imploringly and carefully watched the children.

SPAIN:

The children soon deduced that the dog needed and claimed for a home. Annel asked his brother,

- Nico, can we take him home with us? - Annel's eyes took on the same form and sadness as her new four-legged friend.

- He looks cold. We should take him home so he gets warm. But tomorrow morning we will have to hang posters around the neighbourhood to see if he has an owner.

Annel took off her coat and put it on top of the puppy. The two siblings walked home and as they entered the front door, Nico stopped surprised:

- Look, Annel. Looks like it has something on the collar. - Nico rubbed a dirty plaque hanging from the dog's red collar: Oddie.

BULGARIA:

- Hello, children – their mother met them at the door. – You should be cold, it seems like the winter is coming.

Then Mom saw the dog.

- Who is this?

- His name is Oddie – said Nico. – We met him not far from here and he followed us.

- Mom, can he stay with us? He is soooo nice..... – Annel looked at her Mom and her eyes were almost full of tears. – And it is so cold outside.

Then their father came out of the room to see what is going on. He saw the big white dog and asked whose dog it was.

- We don't know. He followed us... – Nico explained. – And we asked Mom if Oddie can stay with us

- Well, – dad said. – let stay for tonight. I will prepare a place for him in the garage. But in the morning we will need to find his owner. Maybe some other children are looking for him now...

Children entered home and Dad took Oddie to the garage.

Early in the morning the door-bell rang. Dad, who was ready to go to work, open the door. An old woman, in long white coat stayed at the threshold. Her hair was very long and completely white, and her eyes were brown.

- Good morning! – The woman said. – I am Oddie.....

TURKEY

The children's dad was extremely surprised and he could not say a word for a minute then he said "Oddie" and welcomed her. At that time the kids came down from their rooms and tried to understand who she is.

- I heard a dog barking from your garage and thought it was my dog "Oddie". I lost him yesterday at the park while we were walking, said Oddie.

The kids got sad, frightened and answered together “We did not steal him, he followed us”.

The kids’ father tried to support them but the lady did not let them speak. She said “I want to see my Oddie. Please bring him as soon as possible.” Then the kids went to the garage and took the puppy to her. Oddies met each other and gave a hug, it was a very nice moment and also the kids were both happy to find the owner of the dog and sad to give the dog to the owner.

Oddie saw the sadness in the kids’ eyes. And she said “To tell the truth I saw you yesterday with my dog and you were very happy and kind to my dog. I am getting older and older and I cannot look after my Oddie well. I was looking a new owner for him but could not find one till I saw you yesterday. I decided to give him to your kids if they want.”

The kids were surprised and shocked. They shouted “YES we want him!”

- OK then. Please, promise me to take care of my Oddie well said Lady Oddie.

The kids promised to the lady and said “Good Bye”.

PORTUGAL

The children loved playing with Oddie. They often took long walks with the dog, rolled on the grass in the nearby park, or even walked to the sea, where were running along the beach. They built for their new friend a very pretty dog house in the yard. The time was flying - days, weeks and months spent with their fluffy friend, time full of joy and jokes. Oddie was considered a member of the family, so he was treated that way.

One day, children noticed that Oddie became very quiet, didn’t want to play, to eat and kept himself away from everybody.

- What’s happening with our dog? - Annel asked.

- I don’t know, but he looks so sad. Or maybe he is ill? - worried Níco.

- Maybe. Let’s take him to the vet. - Annel said promptly.

- Yes, let’s go. But we have to ask our parents take us, the vet clinic is quite far from here.

Annel and Níco ran home. Their mother was preparing lunch. Seeing the afflicted children, she immediately agreed to drive Oddie to the vet. The vet was very kind, the dog was thoroughly examined, but no disease was diagnosed.

They went back home still worrying about the dog...

ITALY

Níco had an idea:

- Why don't we take Oddie to see his previous owner?

Annel agreed:

- Yes! Maybe he wants to see her again! That lady was so kind! Let's go to visit her!

When the father came from work children asked him to take them and Oddie to the old lady's house.

Lady Oddie was sitting in the garden when they approached their house. She was surprised and so happy to hug her loved dog and she never stopped to thank Níco and Annel for caring about Oddie. And the dog was glad to visit his old home, to walk through the garden and to sit beside the lady with his head on her knees...

Everybody felt happy. And when an hour later lady Oddie was seeing them off, the children promised: "We will come again!" and the dog wave his tail...

Since that moment Oddie had become again happy like he was before.

The End