

Dream Comes True (Part 2)

At first, Darlene and Snowball got along fine. Snowball was well behaved in the house and did not make a mess. But Snowball did not like anyone getting too close to Darlene. When she was out on the block or at the park and a pal came to say hello, Snowball would go wild, barking and growling. She would even show her teeth. Darlene would say, "Stop, stop," and pull on Snowball's leash, but this had no effect. So far, Snowball had not growled at small children, but what if she started to do that?

Snowball was sweet and playful at home. One day, Darlene needed a repairman to fix her gas stove. Without thinking, Darlene let the man into her house before putting Snowball on the leash. Snowball ran to the man and snapped. Darlene grabbed her collar just in time. The repairman, Dave, had owned many dogs. He said, "Snowball just wants to protect you."

Darlene told Dave that she had rescued Snowball from a shelter, but that she was frustrated by the way she acted.

Dave gave Darlene a kind look and said, “You may have rescued Snowball, but you don’t understand what she needs. A dog who is not trained is confused and full of fear. She thinks her job is to protect her owner, but she needs an owner with the right skills to tell her what to do.” Now Snowball was sniffing Dave’s hand and pants. “Oh, you are a sweet dog, aren’t you, Snowball?”

Darlene knew Dave was right. The shelter had offered free training classes. Darlene should have made the time to go. Having a dog was a dream come true, and Darlene would give Snowball the training she deserved.