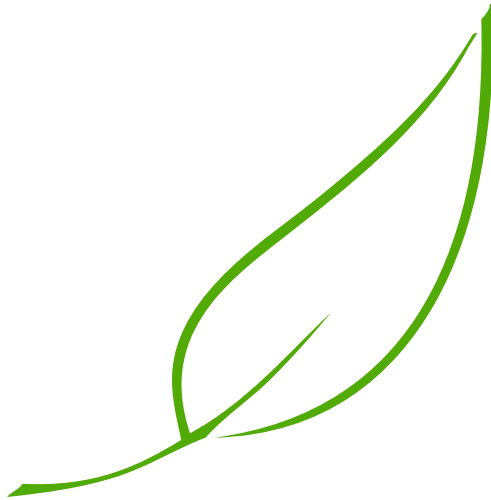


# DOGGIES...FOR DUMMIES

by Ken Bradbury



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*Characters: Devin, Harley, Micah, Scout*

*The Scene: a park bench*

**DEVIN:** *(enters with Harley, his dog, on a leash.)* Good boy ... come on now, we can do this, Harley. *(patting Harley's head)* Good boy! Yes, he's a good, good boy! *(Harley smiles)* Now, let's work on sitting. Okay ... now listen to me, Harley. Sit. Sit boy. *(Harley sits)* Good boy! Oh, he's a good, good boy! *(patting Harley's head as Devin sits)* You're getting so good at this!

**MICAH:** *(entering with Scout on a leash)* Come on, Scout ... come on, boy. *(sees Devin)* Oh. Morning.

**DEVIN:** Hi. Nice dog.

**MICAH:** Thank you. You, too.

**DEVIN:** Just doing a little training.

**MICAH:** No kidding? Me, too. I even got a book. *(holding it up)*

**DEVIN:** Hey! I've got the same book! *(holding his up and reading)* "Puppy Obedience. Mastering Your Dog for Dummies."

**MICAH:** *(laughing)* I guess that's us. This is Scout.

**DEVIN:** Hi Scout. This is Harley.

**MICAH:** Harley. What a sweet name.

**DEVIN:** Named him after my Uncle. He used to shed, too.

**MICAH:** *(sitting beside Devin)* That's cute. So ... have you read much of the book?

**DEVIN:** Just started.

**MICAH:** Sit, Scout. *(Scout sits)* Wow. It's working already! What a great book! You on chapter one?

**DEVIN:** Yeah. Just started. How cool ... we're training our dogs together. Let's see what's next. *(both Micah and Devin begin to read)*

**HARLEY:** (*after a pause ... only Harley and Scout can hear each other*) Can you believe this?

**SCOUT:** No. I've been trying not to laugh.

**HARLEY:** What do they think we are?

**SCOUT:** (*a pause, then*) Dogs. (*both dogs look at each other a moment then laugh*) Sorry. Couldn't help that.

**HARLEY:** How long you been training him?

**SCOUT:** Started last week. He picked me up at the pound. You learn a lot in a dog pound.

**HARLEY:** I've heard stories ... never actually seen one.

**SCOUT:** Oh, there are some good dogs, but it's no place to train for Westminster. So ... how's he coming?

**HARLEY:** Oh, I've taught him a few basic tricks like feeding me whenever I do what he asks. Petting my head when I got house-trained. If you work it right you eat doggie treats all day.

**SCOUT:** I've got a slow learner.

**HARLEY:** Really?

**SCOUT:** Yeah. Took him forever to learn how to rub by belly when I rolled over. I've been trying to find a good obedience school for him.

**HARLEY:** They're expensive.

**SCOUT:** I know. And there's no real guarantee that your owner will come out any better.

**DEVIN:** (*reading*) "It is important to establish the proper dog-master relationship. Above all, your dog must realize that you are the boss."

**HARLEY:** (*Scout and Harley do a slow take as they roll their eyes toward each other and smile*) Yeah ... right.

**MICAH:** (*reading*) "You must achieve dominance over your dog."

**SCOUT:** In your dreams, Bubba.

**DEVIN:** (*reading*) “Begin with simple tasks such as fetching a stick.” Okay, Harley. Here’s your first test. (*standing and picking up a stick*) See the stick?

**SCOUT:** Does he think you’re blind?

**DEVIN:** Okay. Fetch! (*Devin tosses the imaginary stick*) Come on, boy! Fetch! Fetch!

**HARLEY:** Should I?

**SCOUT:** Humor him.

**HARLEY:** Very well. (*Harley suddenly goes into a spasm of happy-puppy frenzy, energetically dashes after the stick, picking it up in his mouth and returning it to Devin*)

**SCOUT:** That was a work of art.

**HARLEY:** Thanks.

**SCOUT:** I mean it. That was totally convincing.

**DEVIN:** (*giving him a doggie treat*) Good boy!

**HARLEY:** (*gulping it down happily*) Works every time.

**MICAH:** (*reading*) “The dog likes to be dominated. He enjoys taking orders.”

**SCOUT:** Whatta you wanna bet a dog did not write that book?

**MICAH:** “Teaching him to beg is a good first step.”

**SCOUT:** I can’t do this.

**HARLEY:** Huh?

**SCOUT:** That’s going too far. Begging. I have my pride.

**HARLEY:** You’re looking at it the wrong way, man. You’re not begging, you’re performing.

**SCOUT:** Performing?

**HARLEY:** Like an actor. You do your act you get your belly rubbed. It’s a great arrangement. And watch this, he’ll beg before you do.

**MICAH:** (*to Scout*) Okay boy, beg. (*Scout looks at him*) Come on, you can do it. Beg. (*Micah acts out begging and prancing on his “hind feet”*) Beg. Beg.

**SCOUT:** I love it. I’ve got him trained to beg.



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