

By: Hannah

Gurney's
Journey
Adventures
In Florida



Our story starts in a small house in Wasilla, Alaska. The people who lived here were a big family. The father was Mr. Peyton. The mother was Mrs. Lynn. There were also three kids. The oldest was JD. The second oldest was Bailey. The youngest was Lily.

The family had three dogs. One was a mini poodle named Bo. The second was a black dog named Scarlet. These dogs were special types. They were a little bigger than a four month old puppy. They would stay like this for the rest of their lives. The third and last dog was a Bulldog and Boxer mix. This one was pretty small. He was about the same size as the other two. But he was not the same type. He would grow big. This dog's name was Gunner.

Scarlet and Bo were quiet dogs. Gunner was nothing like this. He was wild. He chewed on guest's pants [if they were long enough]. He chewed on their shoelaces. Scarlet and Bo would just sit around watching as Gunner ran back and forth with something new in his mouth. Each time he ran in a different direction. Although he was wild and a troublemaker, the family loved him.

The other dogs could not understand. "How can such a wild dog who makes a mess everyday be loved?" said Bo one night. "I mean he gets in trouble, the family is mad at him, and just before they get to yelling, they sit in a chair and start laughing." "I know" said Scarlet. "We should help him" she continued. "We should teach him how to be more like us so we are all loved the same." Bo thought for a minute. *Could we really do this?* He wondered. "We can try" said Bo after a minute or so. "We will start in the morning" declared Scarlet.

Gunner was sad because he was so different. He was planning to run away in the morning. Morning came and Gunner woke up early. He peaked into the living room from the top of the stairs. He lost his balance, and fell to the bottom of the stairs. He wasn't hurt thought. It happens every day. So when he got up, he wondered if anyone woke up. No one did. Except for Bo and Scarlet. They woke up. They went down the stairs and looked around. They saw nothing. Except for Gunner chewing on the last pair of shoelaces. Since he was running away, he would have to live on the street. There would not be any shoelaces to chew on.



When Bo and Scarlet saw him they said “What are you doing?” Gunner just barked. That meant he was running away. The other two dogs were shocked. Why would he want to leave the warm and safe home he already had? They had no idea why he would run away if he was loved the most. They were not really excited. They were worried. What if he was run over or he drowned in the lake? The family would never be happy again.

Bo was pleased that he was finally leaving. But scarlet loved her owners and didn't want her owners to be sad. “You can't leave” said Scarlet. “I love you.” Bo was shocked. All this time she loved Gunner? Then Bo felt it too. He loved Gunner nearly as much as Scarlet did.

But Gunner was gone. “We have to catch him!” said Scarlet. They ran out of the house following Gunner's scent. Gunner was happily strolling across the sidewalk when he saw another dog. It was a girl. It looked a lot like a dog Gunner had seen before. It was coming for Gunner! Gunner then remembered who it was. YIKES! It was Scarlet! He ran at full speed. The road twisted and turned. Gunner tried to go a different way each time. Then he went into an alley. There at the end was Scarlet. He tried to turn the other way; But Bo was guarding that side. Gunner looked up. He saw a clothesline. Then he had an idea. He jumped up the first time and didn't get it. Then Scarlet realized what he was doing. “Close in!” she shouted. Then Bo and Scarlet charged to the middle to catch Gunner. Then Gunner jumped one last time. YES! He made it! The other dogs tried to get up there, but they were too small.

Gunner walked across the clothesline and jumped onto the roof of an apartment. From there he saw a strange bird on the ground. It was HUGE! When he reached the bird, he realized it wasn't a bird after all, but an airplane. He got on it. He went into a room and saw a man. He barked at the man. It freaked the man out. The man got up and hit his head on the roof of the airplane. He fell to the floor unconscious, losing his hat. The hat was in the air for a second, but then it fell and landed on Gunner. Gunner climbed into the captain's chair and pressed a red button. The plane moved. It took off. The second pilot came in from the bathroom. He tripped on the unconscious captain and hit his head too. Now he was unconscious also. The plane was in mid air by now. Gunner couldn't read, but he hit a button that said AUTO PILOT. The plane continued to fly.



And hour later, Gunner was asleep. Then the plane made a bumpy landing. It woke everyone up, including Gunner. He ran off the plane into a strange building. He saw tons of people walking around. Then he saw the best thing in the world. A dog store! He ran in. He looked around. There was so much! There were dog treats and bones and dog food! He went to the very last aisle and saw toys! Gunner ran and played and played until he was tired. Then he went to a row of dog beds. He found the coziest one. He laid down on the bed and fell asleep.



Back at the house there was crying and sadness. All of their dogs were gone. They could not go to bed.

Bo and Scarlet were in the airport looking for Gunner. They had smelled his scent on the runway earlier. It could only mean one thing. They looked at the plane that just arrived back. They boarded the plane and smelled something. It was Gunner! The plane was going to the same place Gunner had gone to, which was Florida. It would take all night just to get there. They found a place to sleep, and waited.

Back at the dog store Gunner had woken up. He was hungry. He went to the food aisle and ate some dog food. The store was closed and it wouldn't open for another hour. Then the alarm rang. Gunner ran to the exit but there was an alarm there. It scared him. There were about 20 alarms in the store. There was one at each exit. Gunner ran back to the bed. He pushed it to an empty bottom shelf. He pushed the bed way back. Then he sat on it. He put a few objects around him. They were tall bottles. He stayed there until the police arrived.

The police talked to the store owner. Officers looked everywhere but found nothing. The officer looked directly at Gunner but couldn't see him because he was behind the bottles of water. "Hey Chief!" shouted one of the officers. "Something was eating the dog food." The Chief had the other officers search the store again. Still, they didn't find anything. When they left, the store opened. Gunner ran through the store until he was in another room. Then he remembered how much he missed Bo and Scarlet. He wanted to go home. That's when he saw Scarlet and Bo! He was so happy to see them. They hugged and then talked. "We have to go home" said Scarlet. "Yeah." Said Bo. "They will be worried sick about us" he added. Then Gunner understood. He had a family that loved him.

They all agreed that they would go home in the morning. Then a man grabbed them and put them in a car. He drove off to a strange place. He put all three of them in one cage. "Oh no" said Scarlet. They looked for a way out. They could not get past the lock. The cage was pretty big. Then Gunner got an idea. He used one of his nails to pick the keyhole. The cage opened and all three dogs ran out. They ran to the nearest exit. When they got to the door, the man noticed the open cage. He saw the dogs trying to get out. He chased them. They ran in different directions. Gunner ran to the top of all the

other cages. The man was right below him. Then three more guys came. The man they had seen before went to catch Bo and Scarlet. Gunner knew he had to help. He looked at the three guys. There was a tall one, a medium sized man, and a short man. Gunner jumped onto the tallest man's head. Then he jumped down to the medium man's head. Then he jumped onto the short man's head and then to the floor. He ran to the man that was almost going to grab Scarlet and Bo. He jumped up and bit the man on the butt. "YAAAAAAAAAAAAA!" he shouted, wincing in pain. He fell to the floor. Then Gunner ran to the other three guys. He bit them on their jeans until they fell to the floor. Gunner, Bo and Scarlet ran out the door to catch the next flight home.



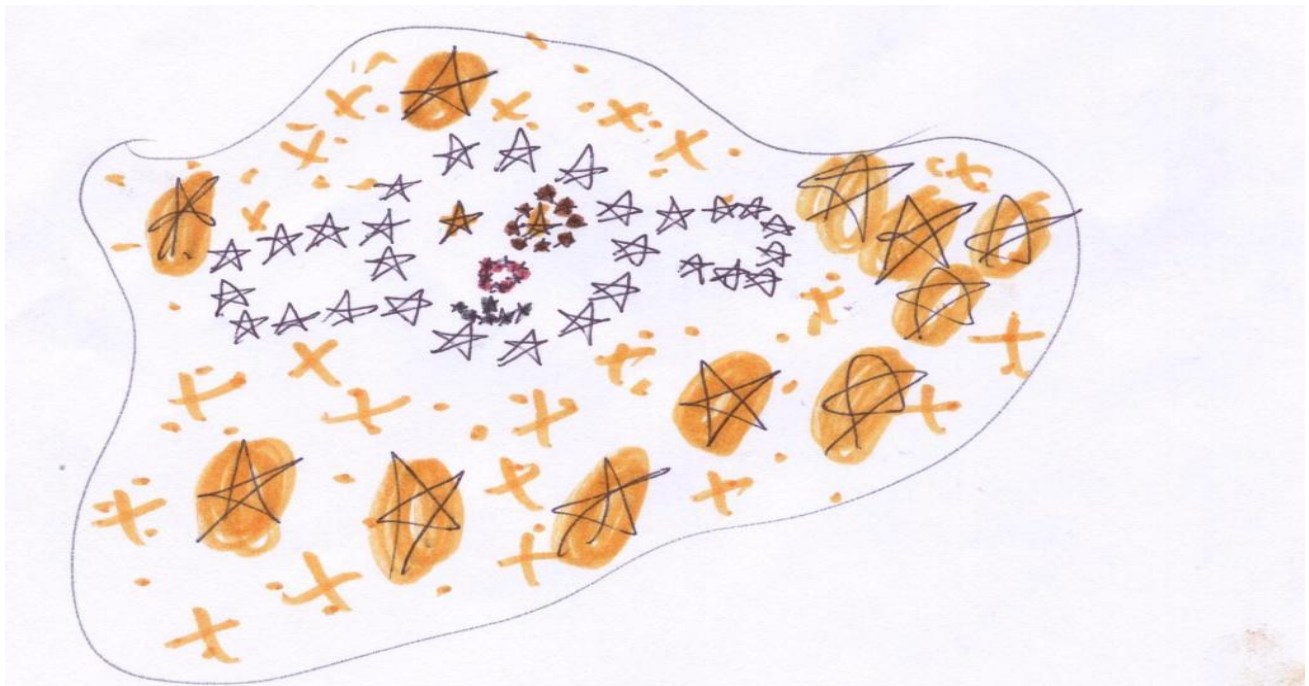
They ran into a hotel. They went into an empty room and spent the night. Early in the morning, they got up and got ready to go. But Scarlet wanted to do some shopping, just in case they were never coming back. So they went to a store and took some treats and toys. They ran to the airport, got on the plane, and put their stuff there. The plane did not leave for a long time, so they put their stuff under a seat and went outside to play.

Gunner soon got thirsty from running and playing, so he started looking for some water. He found a stream. He tried to drink the water, but it was too low. He leaned forward and fell in! He barked and barked. Bo and Scarlet heard his calls and ran to help. He was halfway down the stream when they reached him. They ran after him. The stream was going pretty fast. That meant that if they were going to get Gunner out of there in time, they had to work fast. Bo ran ahead to see if there was anything that Gunner could grab. Then he saw a large log. *Gunner could grab that*, thought Bo. This was true. Gunner was a very strong dog. He could use his claws to get up onto the log. Then when Gunner had to try to jump on the log, he knew he was going to take the biggest jump he had ever taken before. He jumped as high as he could. His claws gripped the log. Then, he noticed that his claws were slipping. He thought about his family and Bo and Scarlet. There was a feeling inside Gunner that was taking a big effect. Would he lose all that? Would he ever be able to see his family again? The feeling inside Gunner was growing. A voice was screaming inside him telling him to think for a minute. With full force, Gunner pulled himself up. He had made it!

The dogs were racing for the airport when they heard a sickening growl. That could only mean one thing. There was a bear right behind them. With one large paw, the bear knocked Scarlet down. With one giant claw the bear jabbed Scarlet in the stomach. Scarlet yelped in pain. Gunner was shocked to see her. He ran to the bear and jumped as high as he could. He bit the bear's nose as hard as he could. The bear winced in pain. Then the bear began shaking his head. Gunner lost his grip and fell to the ground. The bear bent down, and walked away. Gunner couldn't believe it. The clumsy, downright weird dog had defeated a 2000 pound bear. He was so proud that he almost forgot about Scarlet. He ran to her. She was okay. She was bleeding just a little. She would be able to walk to the airport at a good pace. Scarlet got up and began walking.



When they got to the airport, they boarded a plane to Anchorage, Alaska. They flew for six hours straight. Soon they landed in Alaska. When they got off the plane, they raced for home. The Cooks were as sad as ever. They were having a cookout in their backyard. Their view of the town was blocked by a hill in their yard. Then, they saw two dogs racing over the hill. Bo and Scarlet were back! When the dogs reached their family, the Cooks looked again for Gunner. When he didn't come, they assumed he had died on their adventure. Then, they heard a barking sound. They looked at the hill one more time. This time, Gunner raced over the hill. The Cooks ran to Gunner. They were so happy that they threw a party to celebrate. They went out to dinner for two months! They treated their dogs like humans. They were at least the happiest family in Alaska. Every night when you look at the stars, you can see Gunner's, Bo's, and Scarlet's face in the stars. The faces of the three dogs who survived an incredible journey.



The End