

THE GREAT ESCAPE

by Ken Bradbury



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(he enters, hesitantly, looking around, pulling his dog on a leash)

I think we made it. Don't hear any sirens or nothin'. Man, this is great, Bob. You're about the best friend a guy ever had. I could never have run away from home if you didn't go with me. Oo-oh! Here's comes a car! Just look casual, Bob. Like we're talking walk or somethin'. *(watches the car go by.)* They didn't suspect a thing.

It ain't my fault, Bob. It's Mom and Dad. All day the same old thing ... pick up your clothes, pull your pants up, clean your room. It's like a livin' in a dungeon! *(sees something)* Another car! *(He stands there smiling, happily petting Bob.)* Smile Bob. Don't let 'em know we're runnin' away from home. You smilin'? *(looks at Bob)* Good dog.

So where do you think we oughta go, Bob? Arizona? Paris? You think they let dogs into Paris? Maybe if they speak French. I wonder if it's farther to walk than Arizona? And what if they don't have cheeseburgers? Man, I can't live in a place without cheeseburgers. I got this map out of Dad's car. *(looks at it)* Okay, here were are ... and here's ...wow ... Arizona's a long ways away ... and I can't even find Paris. It must be on the other side of California 'cause that's where the map ends. *(sees*

something) Police car! Oh, no, Bob! Act like we're out for a stroll! No! Don't roll over! They'll think you're hurt! Get up, boy! Get up! No, don't growl at the police car! Smile, Bob, smile! No, don't wave! Just smile! (*watches the car pass as he and Bob smile*)

We gotta get out of here, Bob. There's too many people seein' us. And one of 'em might know us and call Mom and Dad. And I don't know about you, Bob, but I don't think I want to walk to Arizona. Oh, come on, Bob, get that sad look off your face! This is gonna be fun! Look, I saved up over fourteen dollars! We can live in style, buddy! I'll bet they got girl dogs in Arizona. I'm not kiddin'. I think I saw it on The Travel Channel ... Whole rows of doghouses with nothin' but good-lookin' girl dogs.

Would you look at that! Here comes a bus! Is that luck or what? (*pulling Bob along*) Come on boy, let's move over to the bus stop and he'll pick us up. Oh, heck. I'll bet they don't allow dogs on buses. (*taking off his hat*) Here, put my hat on. (*getting something out of his pocket*) And put on my shades. Hey, you look really cool, Bob. Now don't say anything. They'll never notice.

(*The bus stops and the doors open.*) He's openin' the door. We got him fooled, Bob! (*getting on the bus*) And remember, don't speak to anybody or they might think you're a dog or somethin'. (*gives some money to the bus driver*) (*moving*

back to a seat) He didn't even ask us where we're goin'. I'll bet he looked at you and figured we were goin' to Hollywood, Bob. He probably thought you were a movie star ... Or a big league baseball player. *(takes a seat and helps Bob into his)* Here, you can have the window seat.

(A lady across the aisle speaks to him.) Yeh. Yeh, is it a nice morning, M'am. Us? Oh, we're goin' to Arizona ... Him? Oh, he's my cousin Bob. No, he don't say much. He's from Paris. He don't know our language yet. I gotta translate for him. Yeh, they wear their hair a lot longer in Paris. He's a movie star, too. Yeh, a Paris movie star. What movies? Well, I don't think you've seen 'em 'cause they were in Italian. Paris is where? Uh ... this was the Italian part of Paris I guess. Bob knows lots of languages.

(to Bob) Stop lookin' at her, Bob. She's gettin' suspicious. Just stare out the window. Bob, don't lick the window, just stare ... just stare. *(to the lady)* They do that a lot in the movies. Yeh ... it helps him feel the part. He's makin' a movie tomorrow about bein' out on the desert. Bob's mouth gets dry and he has to lick bus windows to stay alive. *(to Bob)* Bob, don't nibble on the seat covers. *(to the lady)* He gets hungry in the desert, too.

I wonder if we're gettin' close to Arizona yet? *(to the lady)* You been to Arizona? Really? Cool! They got cheeseburgers? *(to Bob)* Hey, Bob, she said they got



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