



Letter from BADGER バジャーからの手紙



チコとエスは年とった飼い主さんにかわいがられていた。毎晩、おじいさんはエスと、おばあさんはチコといっしょにねた。やがて、からだが弱ってきたふたりは、家を出て老人ホームにはいることになり……犬たちと泣く泣く別れなければならなかった。そんなわけで、チコとエスはアークで暮らすことになったんだ。それから4年間、ふたりは、ときどき“子どもたち”に会いに来てくれた。

ある日、チコの呼吸がおかしくなって、急いでお医者さんにみせる必要があった。家族にれんらくをとったところ……なんと、数日前におばあさんが亡くなったとのこと。そして、チコも、病院にはこばれる車の中で急死したんだ。まるで、愛する犬とはなれられないおばあさんが、あの世で仲よく暮らせるようにさらっていったみたい。彼らは“虹の橋”をいっしょに渡って、今ごろは、再会を次は、別のお話……

ある日、ひとりのおばあさんがアークをたずねて来た——小さな年とったポメラニアンをしっかりと胸にだいて。「この子を手ばなさなければならぬのよ」と彼女は泣いた。「どうしてですか?」とたずねると、おばあさんは事情を話した。彼女はムスコとポメラニアンといっしょに暮らしてきた。ところが、ムスコが結婚すると、オヨメサンが家を“しきる”ようになった。(自分の家だというのに)おばあさんは犬をつれて一室に引きこもることに……それでも、オヨメサンは「うちには、あんなきかない犬はいりません」と言って、おばあさんをいじめるんだ。そして、とうとう申しわたした——「犬がいすわるのなら、私が出て行きます」と。彼女はアカチャンをつれて実家に帰っちゃった。おばあさんはムスコがガッカリして——いくじのない男だこと——ヨメと「ヨリをもどし」たがっているのを知って、ついに、たったひとつの“生きがい”を捨てることにした。若ふうふが次に“しょぶん”したいのは誰か……わかるでしょう?

これでこの話はオシマイのようだけど、実は……うれしいことに、ムスコがようやく迷いからさめて、オクサンと別れようと考えてるんだって。そうすれば、おばあさんは、たったひとりの仲良しといっしょに暮らせるよね。と思ったら、やっぱりヨメが戻ってくるんだって。ザーンネン! やっぱいくじのない男だったってこと。

さいごは、ジャスパーのお話:

ジャスパーは、おとなしく、ひかえめで、やさしい小型犬。あわれな状態で徳島の町をさまよっているところをアメリカ人女性に助けられた。ひどい皮膚病にかかっている、しかも、ヘルニアで「こ関節」がダクキューしていた。犬をしんさつしたじゅう医さんは、「助からないから、もとの所にもどしてきた方がいいよ」と女性に言った。

アークに来てから、ジャスパーはシュジュツを3回うけて、すっかり元気になった。徳島のお医者さんは「ノライヌなんか助けるねうちがない」と信じていたのか……それとも、自分に能力がないのをかくそうとしただけ?

Chico and Esse were much loved by their elderly owners. The husband slept with Esse while his wife slept with Chico. As they had become frail, they were forced to give up their home and move into a retirement facility, which meant they had to make the heart-breaking decision to part with their dogs. So Chico and Esse came to ARK. That was four years ago and when they could, their former owners came to visit them.

One day Chico had trouble breathing and needed to see a vet urgently. We phoned the family to let them know this. They told us the old woman had just passed away. As she was rushed to hospital, Chico suddenly died in the car. It was as if the old woman couldn't bear to be separated from her beloved dog and had spirited her away so that they could be together in the next world. I hope they have crossed Rainbow Bridge together and are now reunited.

And a different story……

One day an old woman came to ARK clutching her little old Pomeranian. "I have to be rid of her," she wept. When we asked "why?", she poured out her story. She had lived with her son and her little dog but when he got married his new wife began to rule the roost. The old woman retreated into one room with her dog (despite the fact she owned the house), but still the young wife taunted her. "We don't want that dirty dog in this house." Finally she gave an ultimatum; if the dog didn't go, she would. She took the baby and returned to her parent's home. The old woman, seeing her son unhappy (what a wimp!) and desperate for peace, agreed to get rid of her only joy in life. You can easily guess who'll be the next one they'll get rid of.

Well that seemed to be the end of the story but I am happy to report that the son has since come to his senses (finally) and is thinking of divorcing his wife. This means his mother will be able to live in peace with the only friend she has.

And another tale……

Jaspar is a quiet, unassuming, friendly little dog who was rescued by an American, who found him wandering in a pitiful state in the street in Tokushima. Apart from a horrible skin condition, he had a hernia and his hips were dislocated. The vet she took him to advised her to put him back on the street as that was his 'fate'.

After coming to ARK he had three successful operations which cleared up all his problems. I wonder if the Tokushima vet really didn't consider a stray dog worth helping, or if he was just covering up his incompetence.