

MAPLE

I'm Jessie and I have a brother called Archie. We live at the top of a very tall block of flats with our Mum and Dad. As you can imagine, it's quite hard living at the top of a tall building; for example, when you want to go outside it takes you ages to get to the bottom floor with all the never ending stairs!

It was Archie's birthday coming up and I didn't know what to get him. I sat thinking on my bed for ages. Then it finally came to me... a dog! Archie had always loved animals, especially dogs, but how was I supposed to get one? I looked on Bamazon to see if I could find any dogs and surprisingly I did. I eventually persuaded Mum and Dad to get a dog. He was a three-year-old boy Labrador called Maple. He lived quite far away but it should be worth it.

I told Archie that we were just visiting a friend's house, and he seemed to believe me. Mum, Dad and I all went to Maple's home. Maple's owner Liam told us all about how to look after him. I put Maple in the back seat next to me on the way home. Mum and Dad went inside first to distract Archie, so I could bring Maple into my room. It worked! Now it was only one week until Archie's birthday.

Archie could not know about Maple, so Maple lived in my room for now. Thankfully he didn't bark otherwise it would have been a disaster! Taking Maple out for walks was tricky. I thought of a way that might work (ish). Abseiling! I know, it sounds impossible but it could work. So as soon as it became night, Mum brought through some rope. I tied the rope tightly to my window and the other end to Maple's harness.

Maple looked so desperate for the toilet - I couldn't blame him, he'd been inside all day. I started lowering him down the side of the flat a little at a time. Once he reached the bottom, I went down after him. After we were both at the bottom, we went on a nice dog walk. We went back in the door because it was the middle of the night and no one noticed us, which was great. I didn't really get any sleep that night but Maple did.

Eventually it was Archie's birthday! The day I could finally give Maple to him. I was so happy but I knew Archie would be even happier. I went to the kitchen and left Maple in my room. Archie was opening his presents, and then he asked where my present to him was, so I went to my room and opened the door and Maple burst out. Archie was so happy and he loved him.

Now, four years later, Archie keeps telling me Maple was the best birthday present ever and that it was extra special that it was a surprise!