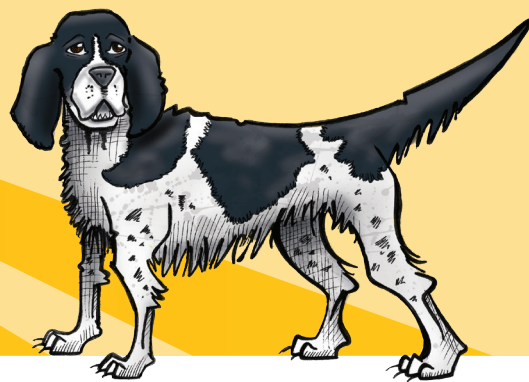


JIM

THE WONDER DOG



CHAPTER ONE

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Illustrated by Christopher Grant

They call me Bud. A simple name for a simple dog. I'm a Llewellyn Setter, you see. Like all Llewellyns, I have a black and white coat, a smattering of spots that look like freckles, and a long feathery tail. Llewellyn Setters are a purebred strain of the English Setter breed, and it's our job to help our owners hunt. Setters are bird dogs. We chase quail out of the bushes and then retrieve them. We're very useful! I've been a bird dog all of my life.

My owner is a good man, and I'm happy to help him. His name is Sam Van Arsdale. Sam and I live in Marshall, Missouri. Marshall is a little town in the heart of the state, right between Kansas City and St. Louis. Here, I enjoy plenty of woods to roam, fields to hunt, squirrels to chase and sunshine to sit in. I live in a good home with a kind family.

But this story is not about me. It's about another Llewellyn Setter owned by Sam. That dog was my father, in fact. He looked just like me and lived in the same home that I do, but he was different. He was special, and his name was Jim.

To start our story we need to journey back a few years, to the 1930s. In those days my father was known as *Jim the Wonder Dog*. Why was that, you ask? Well, Jim was remarkable.



Sure, like me, he was a bird dog. I am a good bird dog, and faithful to my master, but Jim was exceptional at the sport. He knew exactly where to find quail, and he learned how to point and retrieve without any trouble or training at all, he just always seemed to know what to do. Sam was happy to have such a great hunting companion when he got Jim. What he didn't know was that my father was more than just a bird dog. He was a Wonder Dog!

What is a Wonder Dog? Well, Jim was the sort of canine that really went

beyond the typical human/animal bond. Most dogs that I know love humans. We are born to be faithful friends! But Jim was different. He wasn't simply faithful to his owner. He understood him.

He knew what Sam wanted before Sam even told him. He recognized plants, animals, objects and certain people by name. He seemed to read numbers and identify colors. He responded to commands in any number of languages, including Morse Code! He even had the power to predict

the future. On top of this, Jim was a friendly, loving companion to the Van Arsdale family and all who knew him. He was exactly what all young pups hope to be. A good dog.

Sounds unbelievable, right? Back in the 1930s, a lot of people agreed. Missouri is known as the *Show Me State* after all, and Sam's friends wanted proof! Jim performed for groups across this state and elsewhere demonstrating his ability to comprehend and answer all sorts of questions.

Sam used to tell me lots of stories about my father on our long walks together during hunting season. I'm not a spry young pup anymore, and my hunting days are well behind me, but I tell you, I remember those stories as if I'd heard them just yesterday.

So come along, and feel free to curl up by the fire with your favorite furry friend. Let me tell you a little about my father.

This is the story of *Jim the Wonder Dog*.



PAPER TRAINING

In the newspaper, find pets for sale in the Classified section. Create a bar graph to represent the different types of animals. What is the average price of the pets for sale?

Learning Standards: I can read historical fiction and make text-to-text and text-to-world connections.