

The Garden and the Boat

Lilly and Rose opened the door for Jon, Rico, and Whitey. “Did you three gentlemen come to work on our garden?” asked Lilly.

“Yes, but we are two gentlemen and one funny dog. You said to come to see you on the first warm day,” said Rico as Whitey jumped up and down.

“We have the day off from our other jobs at The Country Breakfast. We can work on your flowers and vegetables all day,” said Jon as Whitey ran in circles.

They all walked down the hill behind Lilly and Rose’s home. Whitey ran down the hill. Then he ran in the water, jumped on the boat, ran in circles in the garden, and ran back in the water. The sun was keeping Whitey warm, and it was beginning to make the grass and trees green. It was time to work on the garden.

“Why is there a *No Trespassing* sign on your garden? How can we work on the garden if we do not trespass?” asked Rico.

“If we ask you to go in the garden, then that isn’t trespassing,” said Lilly. She took the sign down and put it in the grass beside the garden.

“One summer, someone went in our garden without asking. They took many of our vegetables. We called the police. The policeman said to put up this *No Trespassing* sign,” said Rose.

“Why does your boat have an *Out of Order* sign?” asked Jon.

“The boat is not working. That’s why it has an *Out of Order* sign. We did not use it all winter, and now it will not run. I am going to work on the boat, and you four can work on the garden,” said Rose.

At the end of the day, they were all dirty. Whitey was brown from running in the water and then in the garden. Lilly, Jon, and Rico were brown from working in the garden, and Rose was black from working on the boat.

“The boat is back in working order! We could take a trip to the store across the water,” said Rose.

They all got in the boat. On the way to the store, the boat stopped in the middle of the water. “Is the boat out of order?” asked Lilly.

“I know what’s wrong with it. I can get it working,” said Rose.

The sky and the sun were red. They were all happy to sit on the boat as the sun went down. But not Whitey. Whitey jumped in the water. Jon pulled Whitey back onto the boat, and Whitey ran in circles. He got water all over. Rose got the boat running again, but it was night when they pulled up to the store.

“That sign says *Closed*,” said Rico.

“And that other sign says *No Trespassing*,” said Rose.

They got in the boat and went back across the water. The water and sky were now black, because the sun was down. Whitey was sleeping.

As they pulled the boat out of the water, Lilly put the *Out of Order* sign back on it. “This will keep trespassers from using our boat,” she said.

Rose put the *No Trespassing* sign back up beside the garden. They all walked up the hill. Rico was carrying Whitey. Whitey was asleep. “Whitey says this day is over,” said Rico.