

The Black Dog

By Hazel Delgado Planco

Animals have always fascinated me
I took care of a few until my teenage years
But I got busy growing up that I didn't have time for them
So I've been pet-free for so many years

I have embarked on a journey
Trying to reach life's milestones
Though the way there ain't filled with diamonds and pearls
But with patches of sharp rocks and dubious rhinestones

Life has been a labyrinth of simple joys and heartaches
There were times a lot really got in the way
And so there will always be some price to pay
I did my best to still be okay

It was around that time that I became a lost soul
Wandering here and there
In and out of my hole
Until a little black dog found its way to my home

The little black dog kept me company
It became my shadow
And everywhere I go, it follows me
Day and night, it gets into me
It's fierce loyalty forced me to give in
My fault for keeping it unleashed and undisciplined

I felt helpless
The little black dog took control of me
I have lost the zest and passion inside me
It has become my enemy

I was afraid and at loss with what to do
The little black dog won't leave me
I've been bitten, scarred
And traumatized by its attacks on me
How I wish it'll just die down
So it can no longer bother me

I have grown tired and weary
I can barely manage my daily life
Because the little black dog consumes my energy
If only something can be done to bring back my liberty

Days, months and years passed
I became a living dead
Waking up each day thinking I shouldn't have woken up
I was constantly wishing to end all this agony

Nightmares, flashbacks and memories
My mind got flooded with ideas in a blast
And I finally claimed that this was not me
I was turned into a person
That I didn't want and never would want to be

I got up and doused the black dog with cold water
It stood up and tried to shake the water off its fur
While I went to the door and turned its knob
I must do this or else I'll be forever in a void

Finally, I mustered enough courage
To show the little black dog the door
And as the wooden panel opens, sunshine finally hits me
I looked up and with tears in my eyes ,I gave away
Every dog has its day, while I finally saw the light of day

And as I step into the light, the dog moves away from me
Now, out in the open, I felt my breath has returned to me
The little black dog looked back at me
I shooed it away so I can claim the life that used to be mine

And now I'm filled with joy in my heart
That episode with the little black dog has taught me a lot
And the lessons I learned the hard way
I should never let the black dog rule over me
Because I have the power and the strength within me

I am the Master of that little black dog
Never again I will allow it to enslave me
Farewell Black Dog, I'm letting you go

We will now have to part ways at the crossroad
This will be the best for you and me
It's time to learn and to grow
Not to let anything to make me feel low
And that's the finest way to cushion the blow