

As Time Goes On

By: Trinity M.

“It’s okay, Briana,” whispered her older brother, Alex, as he urgently placed his hand around his little sister’s shoulder.

“No, it’s not,” responded 11-year-old Briana, sobbing while looking at her dog on the ground. Taking in a deep breath, she softly pleaded, “Please Arun! Wake up!” The only answer was the deafening silence after the sound of her voice died away.

The German shepherd had just saved their lives from the intruder that broke into their family home. Briana’s and Alex’s parents had recently left to grab a bite to eat on their weekly date night. Nobody could have foreseen the tragic events that were about to unfold.

“We have to go now. Hurry,” Alex urged his younger sister, concern lacing his words.

Briana closed her eyes, clenching her fists at her sides. “I can’t leave him!”

Little did they know that the masked invader was gaining strength with each passing moment. The deep anger coursing through his body unleashed something that could only be described as pure evil. Suddenly both Alex and Briana heard the click of a gun beside them.

Alex heard his sister gasp as his eyes focused on the gun in front of him.

“Pl-Please. Please don’t,” Briana begged as she slowly stood up, her body trembling. Alex did the only thing he could think of and pushed his little sister onto the ground behind him. He bravely stood in front of her, shielding her body with his own.

Venomous words dripped from the intruder’s mouth, and a crooked smile could be seen beneath his mask. Missing teeth behind chapped lips moved up and down as he spat out, “See yah later.”

Brianna screamed, her body frozen with paralyzing fear. Her hands were trembling in the fur of her sweet friend laying on the ground.

Alex squeezed his eyes shut waiting for the bullet that would surely enter his body. He took a step back getting closer to his sister, hoping that the bullet wouldn't find its way through him and reach his sister.

The loyal dog that had saved their lives moments before had not been able to move, but after hearing Briana's cries and feeling her hands tensing on his fur, an unexpected strength exploded in his chest. He could feel his family trembling in fear. That was enough for him to wake up, to be back.

Out of nowhere, a deep, angry growl split the air like a razor sharp blade. Alex, Briana, and even the trespasser knew exactly where it came from.

Briana opened her eyes and saw her dog standing up again, his muscles tensing as sharp teeth boldly showed. His gaze was completely focused on the intruder. With a deep intake of breath, her fear shattered at seeing her beloved pet.

Bang!

The surprised intruder shot his gun in a rage, but he easily missed as Arun bolted towards him and smashed him onto the ground. Angry grunts and snarls flooded the air while the children watched in fear, their arms trembling as they held on to each other.

What felt like hours lasted only seconds. The invader was on the ground motionless. Arun staggered, clearly injured and in pain, as he looked back at his frightened owners. He held his head high, proud to have protected his beloved family, while his rapid panting betrayed his fragile state.

"Arun! You're alive!" shouted Briana with joy. She jerked off the floor and rushed to her dog, tears streaming down her face.

Alex was right behind her. "Oh Arun," he sobbed, throwing his arms around his sister and his loyal friend.

Willing his heart to slow down, Alex whispered, "Briana, are you okay?" His eyes looked her up and down, searching for any kind of injury.

“I’m okay,” Briana murmured, bending her head against Arun’s soft fur. She could still feel her body trembling, but the shaking gradually stopped as a new sensation filled her senses.

Arun’s large tongue licked her repeatedly all over her face, and in contrast to such a terrible situation, she could hear the laugh of her older brother as he realized that the threat was over and his family was safe.

Briana and Alex knew that things would finally get better as time went on. They could only imagine what would happen when they called their parents and told them about the frightening turn of events. Briana wondered how much police their parents would call for. A slight grin found its way to her face as she imagined not only the police coming, but FBI, CIA, and maybe the army as well? Yeah, definitely the army.

Briana’s smile widened as she gazed into her brother’s eyes, his relief shining clearly as each of his tears continued to fall. She felt his hand squeeze hers, and a small laugh escaped from her lips. The best part of all of this was that her whole family had survived. Not just Briana and her brother, but her *whole* family... which included her courageous and loyal dog as well.

“Good boy,” both Briana and Alex murmured, their words coming steadily. Arun’s tail slowly wagged back and forth, growing faster and faster as Briana and Alex’s soothing tone and comforting words filled his ears. Arun was injured, but he really couldn’t feel pain anymore as he only felt the soft and gentle stroking of his family’s hands on his fur. Yes, the love of Arun for his family was so strong, that it had him do the impossible. It was a love that would never end, a love that would only get stronger as time goes on.

THE END