

Roberto knew there were consequences of living in the middle of nowhere. He had warned his dad and mom, but they wouldn't listen, they liked solitude. It was frustrating for Roberto because the closest person that lived next to his family was 20 miles away, and all of the people he knew were mean and selfish. That's why when Roberto's parents bought him a beagle he was overjoyed! The beagle's name was Perro, which means dog in Spanish. It was simple but nobody cared, they were in the middle of nowhere for God's sake. Roberto and Perro were inseparable, they did everything together! Perro was the best, he was very well trained and loved his owners. He did have one problem though. Squirrels! It made Perro always think "*That thing, which my owner calls a squirrel, makes me agitated. So I should eat it. That'll teach him.*" So every time Perro saw a squirrel he ran at it and attempted to eat it, but he never got far before the squirrel skidded away.

One beautiful spring day, Perro was lying in the sun, as if sunbathing, when he saw a flicker of movement. He sniffed. "*Squirrel*" He licked his lips. "*Tasty*" he thought. Perro stood up, sniffed, and spun around. A small rodent who Perro knew as *the Squirrel*, the one who always got away, stood there. This was his chance; the Squirrel was taunting him. Then it gave chase. It tore through the grass and climbed the fence. Perro was on his tail. *Literally.*

Roberto was pondering life's questions, like "What is our purpose in life", when he saw Perro, jumping over the fence. "Oh no." He mumbled. Roberto scrambled out the back door and hopped the fence. He saw a blur sprinting through the woods. "Oh no, Oh no, Oh no!" he sighed. He sprinted through the thick-lush woods gaining on Perro. A small root was sticking out of the ground. His foot caught on the root and he went tumbling down a small hill. He hit the ground with a thump. His vision blurred and he saw Perro run to him and lick his face, then, his vision went black.

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He woke up with Perro curled up next to him, asleep. Anger surged through Roberto's veins. He yelled in the forest with rage, saliva spraying on the ground. He was lost. All of Roberto's rage melted when Perro woke up and looked at him with a face of "*What are you doing?*". Coincidentally, that is what he was thinking. "We have to get out of here." Roberto said to Perro. Perro of course wasn't listening. He was only interested in a piece of shiny grass. Roberto tried to stand up but there was a sharp-fiery pain in his left foot. It was the foot that got caught on the root. He cursed and tried to walk but the pain was excruciating! Like none he had ever felt before. He sat back down and mumbled something about how he was in the middle of nowhere, and then he laid down on the grass.

After a while he remembered that he had his phone in his pocket. He turned it on. On the top left corner it showed "NO SERVICE" and it had zero bars of WiFi. He got up and put pressure on his left foot, it hurt so bad. As if he had a heated-metal boot and it

was a tremendous amount of pressure on his foot. He took off his jacket and wrapped it around his leg. It felt a little bit better.

He climbed up the hill and sat down, exhausted. "Heele." He groaned, and Perro sped up the hill and sat next to Roberto. "Do you know which way we came from?" He asked Perro. He responded with a series of licks on the face so Roberto took it as a flat *no*.

Roberto looked back. He had a killer headache and it was hard to concentrate. He knew he fell down the hill sideways to the right so back there was where he should be going. All he saw was trees getting thicker the more he squinted back. He looked forward where the trees thinned. He decided to take it the easy way and went to the thinner area.

After walking for about 20 minutes he saw a lake. Yes! This was Shimmer Lake. He came here all the time. But it was far away. If he looked around he would see a trail. But the more he looked the less confident he became. This wasn't Shimmer Lake, it was just some lousy pond! He found a sign that said "Fire Pond." He looked around the sign and found a piece of trash or litter. He picked it up and unfolded it. It was a map! He found his house, Shimmer Lake, and a small pond called Fire Pond. He was saved. Roberto sighed in relief. He looked around to see where Perro was but he was nowhere to be seen. His stomach churned as he frantically searched around the pond. Perro came happily splashing out of the pond. Roberto sighed in relief, *again*. He stood up and walked in the direction of home. He walked back in pain, blinking back the tears as he sped up, trying to get home before dawn so they wouldn't get lost again and spend the night. Dawn came and went but he continued with Perro by his side. It was night when he saw his kitchen window. He hauled Perro over the fence and managed to haul himself. He opened the door and crashed on the couch. He decided to explain this to his parents later, they were out shopping anyway. Roberto fell into a deep sleep. THE END, for now!