

## The Twintastic Tales of The Johnson Twins: Houdini The Disappearing Dog

By Naomi and Reece J.

We have a dog but she is not an ordinary dog. This is a dog that disappears all the time. She likes to play disappearing tricks on us so we named her Houdini! My name is Missy and I love dogs! On day when I grow up, I want to be a referee at the Puppy Bowl.

The first time we met Houdini, she just appeared at our door around the time of Christmas so we were thinking Santa brought her. Nope, not the case. We were playing with her in the front yard when boy came to up to us and said he was her owner and took her home.

The next time we met Houdini it was around Easter, sore one for the Easter Bunny! My twin brother Alex and I chased her all over the neighborhood! Houdini thought it was a game but we were able to catch her. By the time got home, we had to sneak Houdini in the house because our dad does not like dogs. We already have one dog. His name is name is Prince Harry and he really doesn't know he's a dog, according to my mom.

We took Houdini up stairs and showed her to our big sister, Isabella. One look at Houdini and my sister said, "OMG, dad is going to flip! Where did you get that dog? Because you need to take it back!" But one look into her eyes and she was hooked. Houdini was a Doberman pinscher, not the big scary kind. She was teeny tiny. Not even 10 pounds. She was a reddish brownish color. She has a tiny apple head, huge ears that look like satellite dishes and she has the brown eyes that kind of memorize you when you look into them.

Alex and I ran downstairs to get our mom. She was in the kitchen cooking something healthy as usual and asked her to come up stairs because we had a surprise for her. When she saw Houdini she exclaimed, "Oh no! Not today! We cannot have another dog in this house! Your dad is going to flip his lid! He does NOT like dogs. You need to post up signs around the neighborhood to find its owner right now." So that's what we did. We made flyers and stuck them on every door. No come came to claim her, not even the boy. Probably because she had disappeared so many times, he forgot about her!

We had to have a family meeting with our dad to discuss the Houdini situation. We convinced our dad to let us keep her. When he saw her, and he looked into her eyes, she worked her magic and we were able to keep her. She stayed with us for about a week and then she disappeared! She got out of the fence, ran all around the neighborhood and we got on our bikes and took off to find her. We saw her dart across the street into the neighbor's yard, she dashed under their car and into their garage. Alex took off peddling! Jumped off his bike did a summersault in the air and landed in front of Houdini in the Spiderman pose in front and scared her so she stood still, He scooped her up and we brought her home. Alex is going to be a stunt man when he grows up, but that another tale.

One morning Houdini got out the day of Isabella's award program. Our dad left the front door open and Houdini shot out the door like a bottle rocket! Isabella took off after her in her high heels and let me tell you that was funny! My dad jumped in the car pulled up beside Houdini as she trotted down the street and said "Come here puppy! Come to daddy!" She

stopped, looked at him and jumped in the car with our dad. By the time Isabella caught up with dad, she was sweating, out of breath and her hair was all over her head! She was MAD! “I am DONE with this dog disappearing! Look at me! I’m a mess and my hair and makeup are ruined! I want this dog gone by the time I come home from school!” Let’s just say her wish did not come true.

The next time Houdini did another disappearing trick was after I got home from gymnastics practice. Our mom had let her out in the yard to play and by the time she went to let her back in the house, Houdini was nowhere to be seen! Our dad called for her and we all heard her bark! She had gotten out of the backyard but we couldn’t see her. “Houdini!” we yelled. Bark! Bark! She replied. So we all ran around the neighborhood “HOUDINI!!!!” Nothing. No barking. No Houdini. Alex had an idea. He jumped on his bike, peddling faster than a hamster on a wheel, came to a screeching halt in the drive way, did a front flip over the handlebars landed on the ninja pose and ran into the house. He came out with Houdini’s most hated toy, the squeaky squirrel.

Squeaky, Squeaky, Squeaky! Bark! Bark! Bark! It was Houdini! “Follow her bark,” I yelled! Houdini was three houses down! She was in Mrs. Nguyen’s back yard! Our mom had to knock on Mrs. Nguyen’s door to ask if she could get Houdini. When mom opened the back door Houdini ran right to her and licked her face. Mom scooped her up, with Houdini tightly in her arms.

The moral of the story is to never give up on loving your dog. Even if she pulls disappearing tricks on your family, even if she doesn’t know how to stay in the yard. She’s just a dog and she needs to be trained, but that’s another tale.