

SOME ANIMALS CAN SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

LOVED  
SO MUCH  
IT'S JUST  
STUPID

*A hauntingly beautiful tale of a palliative care foster dog*



Jenn Gill



# **I COME INTO**

the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives  
with forethought of grief..

For a time I rest  
in the grace of their world  
and am free

~ Wendell Berry  
The Peace of Wild Things

Jenn Gill | Victoria BC | Canada



Loved So Much It's Just Stupid by Jenn Gill

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MARCH 2022

# CHARACTERS

## Cast of Dogs

Bambi (Main)

Big Guy Wilbur

Lola the Lab

Winnie the Scrappy Doo (aka Scraps)

Harley the Husky

The Bulldogs

Neighbour Dog Bella

Buddy

Old Lady Niv

The Puppeh

Hobo Dog

Daphne The Huge

## Cast of Humans

Boss Lady

Runner Man

Extra Nice Rescue Peeps

Smiley Vet

Bulldog Lady Mel

Buddy-Mel

Friendly Neighbourhood Wendy

Daphne's Mom

Grandma

## Famous People

Justin Bieber

Doug Clement



MARCH 2022

# FOREWORD

Research support provided by Big Guy Wilbur, Lola the Lab,  
Winnie the Scrappy Doo (aka Scraps), Sean Sullivan,  
Emily Miller and Shannon McDaniel

Jenn Gill | Victoria BC | Canada



Like many rescued dogs, Lizzy-turned-Bambi came with a complicated and somewhat convoluted backstory. Hers contained more than the usual amount of lore, and there were whispered rumors of a rather wild and tumultuous Bambi in her youth. One story claimed she managed to tear a fender clear off a vehicle in some form of Bambi-protest, causing thousands in damages. Another stated she'd run amok playing one day with a teeny Miniature Pinscher and managed to smuck into the dog with such glee - and velocity - that she paralyzed the poor terrified animal.

Like all tall stories, there's probably some thread of truth to them, and certainly even as a grizzled and lumpy senior citizen, Bambi still retained a genuine wildness to her and pulled off some remarkable antics. What we *do* know with certainty is that at some stage someone decided that they didn't want Bambi anymore and surrendered her to a municipal animal shelter.

From there, she was identified by a rescue group and pulled from the shelter. Soon after, she underwent two successive surgeries to remove non-cancerous lumps, and she lived in foster care for several years on a rural property alongside a sizeable outdoor kennel of dogs, cats, ponies and horses as well as "house dogs".

Ultimately, the rescue shut down in response to external political pressures and Bambi, alongside several other dogs, was once again transferred, this time to RDDR.

What we also know with some degree of certainty, is that the final chapter her life was the most joyous one, after she finally received the latter stage veterinary care she so badly needed. Early on in care in Victoria, Bambi was diagnosed with hypothyroidism, spondylosis, osteoarthritis in all four knees, and ununited anconeal process (UAP), a form of elbow dysplasia particularly common to young German Shepherds. No specific diagnosis was provided for her hips, the veterinarian simply dubbed them: terrible.

Once properly treated for her hypothyroidism, Bambi's many, many festering skin scabs and lesions quickly cleared, leaving her free of the dozens of open sores that once covered her back, rump and her lip. She was also placed on a set of anti-inflammatory and pain medications to offset her spine, hip, knee and elbow pain.

While no one has her breed ID, given her UAP diagnosis it's likely safe to say Bambi was primarily a German Shepherd, perhaps mixed with Smooth Collie. Her true age was also a mystery.



Bambi was transferred from the original rescue to Rosier Days Dog Rescue in Victoria, British Columbia in July 2020, a few months after the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The following day, she met the woman who would ultimately become her permanent foster mom, a retired shelter dog trainer and neighbour of one of the RDDR Directors.

After Bambi settled, it became obvious that she suffered from some geriatric onset separation anxiety. Equal parts funny and tragic, Bambi kicked things if she was left without her people, even with her dog friends present. During her first weeks in foster care, Bambi smashed potted plants, glasses, tipped over cans, and kicked materials from counters if she was separated from her foster parents. Given her frail limbs, Bambi's capacity to kick over heavy glass and ceramics articles, even from heights, was remarkable. It was also dangerous.

While her foster mom began mapping out a complex program of behaviour modification to address her separation anxiety, ultimately it wasn't necessary. The ongoing pandemic meant at least one person in her foster family was nearly always home, and her condition improved with time and consistent routines.

After several months in care, Bambi's behaviour profile shifted dramatically in other ways too. Her experimentation with crankiness toward the other dogs around resting areas vanished immediately after the program of pain management began, allowing Bambi to rest and walk more comfortably.

And while the former rescue group stated Bambi had absolutely no interest in playing with the other dogs, she quickly became the prime instigator of theatrical, multi-hour, uncoordinated backyard play in Victoria, alongside her fur-siblings Wilbur, Lola and Scraps.

But...this is *Bambi's* story; and it's hers to tell, not ours.

We'll simply reinforce the importance of follow up veterinary care and behaviour assessments for *all* rescues and shelters. While her lumps were removed, Bambi spent *nearly three years* in the care of several animal agencies: undiagnosed, untreated and in pain.

Her story underlines the value of concerted partnerships between qualified dog behaviour professionals, veterinarians and rescue.

LOVED SO MUCH  
IT'S JUST STUPID



July 28, 2020

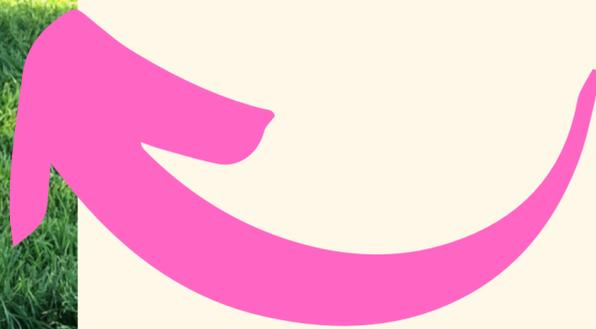
Hi there! I haven't met you peeps yet but I'm pretty sure we're gonna be extra good friends, double fast. That means *really soon*.

I had a extra important, kinda confusing couple days and I'm super duper tired so I'll do a little 'xplaining then I'm going for a big ole nap in a minute here.

So first, I had to stand on the grass for an extra long time waiting for something - no one said what - and I got to hang out with Extra Nice Rescue Peeps. Then, just outta nowhere, there was the most biggest boat I've ever seen in my whole entire life! It made a really huge noise like waaaaahhhh and then - get this - a buncha cars started driving right on the boat like it was swallowing some Pupperonis! Gulp, gulp - every which way there was a car driving into the boat's mouth like that's something you see every day. Holy!



Extra Nice Rescue Peeps took this selfie of me.





## July 28, 2020 (Some More Cuz the Page Cut Off)

Then today I drove with another, *different* Extra Nice Rescue Peeps to a big ole backyard with little weird lizards and trees and stuff and I got to meet THREE new dog friends, what who are called:

1. Wilbur
2. Lola
3. Winnie the Scrappy Doo.

Yep that's her REAL NAME! For reals. Bahaha!

I also met a lady what with giant hair who moves kinda weird or something. Extra Nice Rescue Peeps said her name is "Jenn" but all the other dogs follow her around everywhere and she tells them to do stuff what with her *hands* and they all mostly do that stuff!

So I'm gonna call her Boss Lady. She looks like she means business.

Later that day I met the other person from the big ole house what where the three dogs and Boss Lady live and he's all a jittery and flittery and runs around everywhere like his pants are on fire so I'm taking to calling him Runner Man.

Boss Lady and Runner Man took us all for a walk a little bit down the street and back and I'm extra, extra stiff and sore today so I wasn't walking too too much and my front pair and back pair weren't really cooperating.

Boss Lady said:

*That's ok ole girl, we'll work up to doing that, it's just gonna take some time.*

So I was really happy to hear that I didn't hurt anybody's feelings!

Gotta nap now but I'll write some more later!

July 29, 2020

Yawn! I'm really extra tired today what with all the new peeps to meet and dogs and things to sniff but I'm pretty sure I've got this whole new foster home thing dialed now.

This isn't my first rodeo! Just saying.

I kinda have a crush on Boss Lady. No not like that silly! She's just really nice and she keeps looking at me extra hard what with her big green eyes and she keeps scritching at my back where it's all itchy scritchy and saying real quiet-like: *hmmm this doesn't look good.*

She also got me to walk around the yard and was watching me walk all up the thing and down the thing and back around again. Over and over. It was kinda fun even though I don't know what the whole point was. It was kinda confusing.

This morning I didn't know what to do and I got a little worried.

Boss Lady said it was time to go take a poop and got me all leashed up and at the top of the stairs and I said NO WAY JOSE! So then we went to the smaller stairs on the *other* side of the big ole house and even though there's only a couple of stairs I knew I couldn't make it. But I was all conflicted like because I didn't want to disappoint her right?

So I stood there and made with my eyes. Like I said OUCH THAT'S GONNA HURT with my eyes and I shook a little bit.

And you know what she did? She said: *that's ok old girl, we'll work up to that* and she scooped me RIGHT up like I'm a little small bag of flour and carried me down the stairs! Wowee! She's strong!

Something tells me Boss Lady knows something no dog else knows: I really, really, really hurt in all kindsa different spots. And I'm extra, extra itchy scritchy and it doesn't feel too too good. And it's been that way for too too long now.

Boss Lady and Runner Man talked to Extra Nice Rescue Peeps on the phone for a long time today and they said they were going to start me on something called "Metacam" so maybe that will make my ole bones feel a bit better. Paws crossed for now!

July 30, 2020

I rocked my first BIG ole dose of Metacam this morning and boy-oh-boy do I ever feel GOOD!

I walked for THREE POINT EIGHT kilometers this afternoon, what with my new dog friends Big Wilbur, Lola the Lab and Scraps.

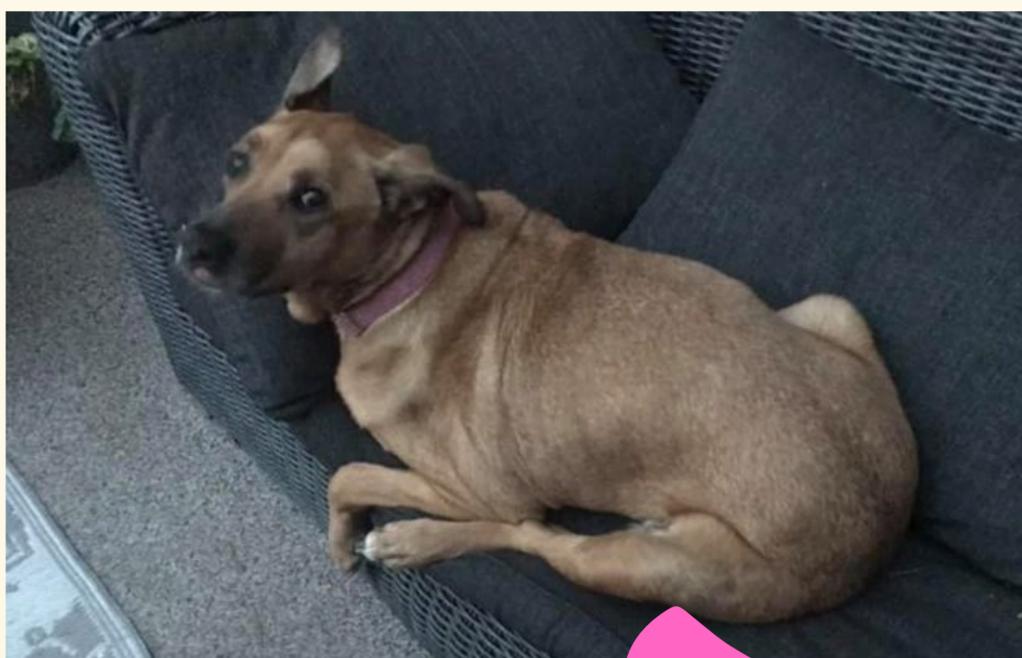
After that we went for a Jeep ride all together! AND I dipped my toe in the ocean.

AND I said hello to lots of dogs and people along the way!

I had three different visitors, made a new dog friend what who is called "Buddy" and has funny google-eyes. His mom is really nice too and has good fingernails for back scratches - I call her Buddy-Mel. After all that exercise and messing around in the backyard with Scraps, I'm pretty sure I'm an ATHLETE now.

And get this - Boss Lady says my old Lizzy name is kinda dumb and doesn't suit me so I've got a WHOLE new name and I really hope my adoption family peeps use it when I get adopted later cuz it's pretty cool: **The Bambi**.

Boss Lady also said I've got weird legs like a baby deer. Don't know what she's talking about, do you?



Totally  
Normal  
Bambi Legs



August 1, 2020

In fact I'm feeling SO good today after rocking some Mega-Bam, becoming a ATHLETE, getting a new name and making a whole bunch of new friends, I figured I'd give the Scraps a taste of you know what from an Ole Lady!

Pow! Bam!

Scrap is a pest and she comes right at your ankles. So whatcha gotta do is grab her right by the NECK and go GRRRRR!!

But then she runs double fast, extra quick and goes and hides and then POW she's run right past ya and you gotta go get her again and show her WHAT'S WHAT!!

When Scraps is done playing she goes in between my legs cuz then I can't get her by the neck, the sneaky brat, cuz I can't bend that way! Boss Lady always says she's a VERY BAD DOG and she doesn't know HOW Scraps can be one of HER dogs! Bahahaha!

~ The Bambi



The Bambi

Scraps



August 3, 2020

Today was the best day of my whole entire life!!

I finally figured out how to go down the back stairs (because I'm an ATHLETE) and I was pretty darn proud of myself! That's a pretty big deal is all I'm saying - that's a LOT of stairs!

I also helped the Boss Lady paint the basement on account of her VERY BAD TENANT who made a mucky muck mess of the walls.

I was feeling so good, I gave the Scraps another taste of the you know what and then...I got to visit the DOG PARK that everyone has been telling me about!

And guess what we found - a lost dog! Hobo dog!

She was suuuuper scared and was bolting into the road and running as fast as she could but she couldn't resist my charms. Hobo dog turned out to be a pretty nice dog friend.

Pretty sure I'm going to get a reward? Anyways her dad seemed pretty relieved so I'm gonna call and tell them I should get some kinda fancy medal. Pretty heroic for an old foster dog if you ask me!



Hobo Dog

The Bambi



August 10, 2020

Today was the BEST!

I went for a Jeep ride like a champ with ALL my friends. It was pretty squishy but Big Guy Wilbur let me put my head on him - he's really nice like that. And then we went to the BEACH!

There were a million other dogs at the beach - oodles of poodles and doodles and collies and everything. Boss Lady said they looked kinda dumb what with their funny hairdos. Bahaha!

Lola and Scraps went all-the-way-in but me and Wilbs just did a quick dip because we don't know how to swim yet. It was EXTRA fun and I've got sand right up in my toes now!

Also, I don't mean to brag...but notice you can see MUSCLES starting to grow out in my leg?? Yeah. Because I'm an ATHLETE!

Napping now!

~ The Bambi



Big ole muscles.



August 18, 2020

Good morning - Bambi here!

I had the BEST weekend ever in my whole entire life!

Remember that dog I rescued?

Well Boss Lady said she was just going to go for a double quick, extra fast bike ride on Saturday morning.

And guess who she caught? Hobo Dog! AGAIN!  
Jeesh, somebody really needs to get a proper fence!

So we had fun playing with the little Hobo Dog in the backyard and then we got to have ice cream! And there were a whole bunch of other adventures but I kind of forget.

Oh yeah - and Extra Nice Rescue Peeps and Smiley Vet figured out that I've got something called untreated hypothyroidism? Huh! I'm looking forward to being an ULTRA athlete soon once my new meds kick in! Boss Lady says I take my pills like a serious champ.

Anyways the REAL reason I'm here is to let you in on a little secret - I'm going up for ADOPTION! That's right. I've passed my foster assessment with flying colours and I'm ready for old lady adventures.

I'm hoping whoever adopts me understands that Scraps is my BEST FRIEND in the whole entire world and will bring me over for play dates once in awhile.

Are you my new mom? You gotta pass my *inspection!* Bahaha!



Hidey-Scrap





August 29, 2020

Well I got some kinda disappointing news that's kinda confusing but also some extra GOOD news too so mostly it's all good stuff when you add it up all in a row. That's the thing to do when you've got all different kinds of news.

A couple days ago Extra Nice Rescue Peeps came and took me for a fun car ride and Boss Lady came too. Vroom! And we went to a different house what where there were two people waiting outside all nervous like and smiling extra big smiles. They kept looking at me so I'm pretty sure I was the one that was making them smile.

Extra Nice Rescue Peeps 'xplained I was going on an ADOPTION TRIAL and maybe these peeps could be my REAL family. Like forever and ever! That sounded pretty exciting.

Except...they had two big ole cats that didn't like me too too much. I got kinda scared of those ole mean cats so I went and kinda hid in the corner for a couple days because I figured that was the thing to do. The peeps were extra nice and got me a big pink fuzzy blanket.

So then after a couple days of pink fuzzy blanket and mean cats that were kinda yelling at me all the time, Extra Nice Rescue Peeps was back. And she said *nope that's not gonna work for a Bambi* so she scooped me up and put me in her truck and the next thing I knew I'm back in the big ole house what with Big Wilbur, Lola, my BFF Scraps and Boss Lady and Runner Man. Huh!

We all went to McDonalds after I got back and you'll never believe this but Runner Man got me FRENCH FRIES. For me - not fries that fell on the floor and I snatched them extra fast! Boss Lady said fries would take the sting out. I'm not really sure what that means but I sure know I love french fries!



That's a french fry.  
You should try some -  
they're really good.



September 15, 2020

Bambi here! I had a pretty weird day. First I had to wake up and NOT have a breakfast and I wasn't super duper happy about that. But then Extra Nice Rescue Peeps came and got me and we went for a car ride. Vroom!

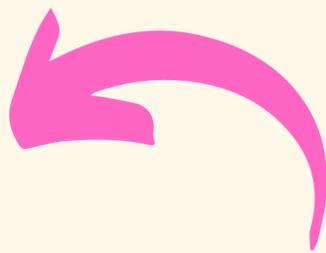
And then we got to meet Smiley Vet again. But then after we got there...I don't remember a whole lot.

Except wheeeee-who-aaaah! Bahaha!

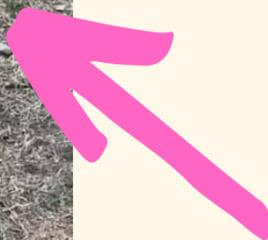
So the Boss Lady 'xplained after what I gots is some kinda old lady bones problem stuff and kinda dumb, crummy joints and things. And she says we're gonna grease up my squeaky old joints.

She squirted a bunch of weird smelling stuff in my dinner on top of the Mega-Bam so maybe that's the grease she's talking about? Who knows - Boss Lady says weird stuff sometimes.

Anyways, it all sounds like super duper good news and Boss Lady doesn't have her ole worry-wrinkle face on anyore so I'm gonna peace out now and have my nap!



Pretending  
to do a nap  
but actually  
he's guarding



That's me, feeling weird



September 20, 2020

Bambi here!

Runner Man and Boss Lady had a big ole cuddle on the couch what with Big Wilbur and Lola the Lab and Scraps and me last night after our EXTRA big walk and play in the yard what where I gave Scraps a taste of the left and the right! She's a pest so you gotta bite her right in the neck!

They did some massages on my bad elbow and knees and my spine and said they were extra proud of how much longer a Bambi is walking now. That makes Bambi's heart feel good. I did a whole 6-point-0 kilometers today! And nobody had to wait for me to catch up - I was rapid-flapping my ears which gives me extra speed.

I got to thinking today I didn't really introduce my pack proper yet. So here's them: Big Guy Wilbur, Lola-the-Lab and Scraps. Scraps has got lotsa names just like me - she's also rightly called Winnie, Scrappy Doo, Small Fry and Scrappity-Scrap. I'm the Matriarch. That's a like a Very Important Dog what who is also an Ole Lady.



That's art what from  
Extra Nice Rescue Peeps





September 23, 2020

Bambi here!

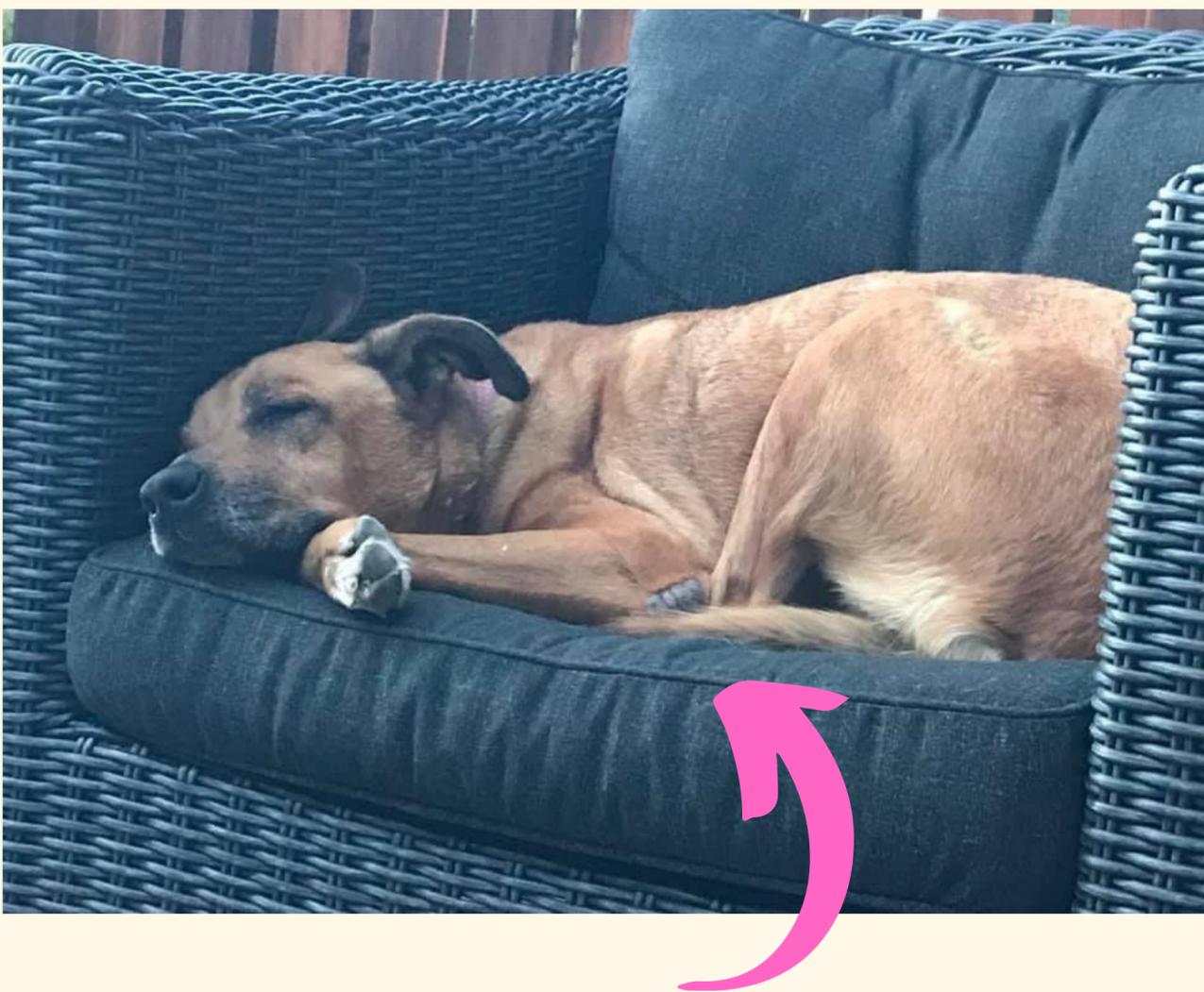
I had a kinda cranky couple of days here and Boss Lady said that's SUPER weird for me because I'm extra super duper always extra special nice. So we packed up my things and VROOM we went to see Smiley Vet with Extra Nice Rescue Peeps - what an adventure!

Smiley Vet's house has air conditioning and everything and I didn't really wanna leave there because it was soooo nice and cool and they've got tons and tons of SNACKS! Bahaha!

Friend of Smiley Vet at the front counter said my ole lady hips are kinda sore so I probably gotta lay off chasing a Scraps for a couple of days. Jeesh!

Don't worry though peeps - I'm just having a nice little nap then I'm going back out on the ice with some EXTRA special pain meds!

Bye for now!



Just a Bambi having herself a nice nap



September 29, 2020

Today I helped Boss Lady with some painting what out on the deck on account is was extra warm and sunny today even though it mostly rains a lot. But not today - today was extra sunny so I plopped up on the deck-couch and watched her paint while Big Guy Wilbur and Lola and Scraps was inside fighting over who got to keep a purple octopus or some kinda crazy thing.

Boss Lady had some kinda sad eyes on and you can tell when she's sad because those big ole green eyes go kinda watery so I asked her some questions and we got to some pretty deep thinking today.

Boss Lady said she's sad because she has to stay at home all the time and mostly friends can't visit except in YARD because there's an ugly mean ole rotten VIRUS what that's hurting people all over the the whole PLANET.

And she said that some peeps are so scared their brains are going all kinda mushy-like and they don't even think the virus is real even though it's EXTRA real.

And people are being kinda mean to each other, which makes the virus, and what staying home all the time extra more hard. And some people are even making money from people who are having mushy heads which is pretty gross she said.

I was kinda confused about lots of that sad stuff from the Boss Lady so I asked why she'd be sad about all that?

And she said she was sad because INSIDE all the time is really hard for her and lotsa people don't understand it because they get to go outside and things on account of their jobs.

I had to think for a long time about what she said cuz there were lots of words and things to think about. And sometimes when you're an old girl dog like me you really got to sit with a thing for awhile and put all the pieces in your head together like in a row.

That's the thing to do when there's lots of words.



September 29, 2020 (Some More Cuz the Page Stopped)

So I told Boss Lady that dogs like me know all about what it's like to be kinda stuck inside all the time too and waiting for a thing to happen, mostly for PEEPS to come home.

I told her before I used to live what in a yucky ole animal shelter and also different kinda houses and lotsa times I was always inside kinda waiting all the time for people to tell me it was ok to go back outside again. But now I don't gotta wait anymore what because Boss Lady is always at the house and that's really nice for Bambi.

Boss Lady looked at me for a long time with her big old watery green eyes and her paintbrush kinda pointed up in the air all still-like and then she reached over and pulled a whole Bambi right up on her lap and gave me the biggest hug I ever got in my whole entire life! I kinda liked it but also kinda couldn't breathe too too good but I let her hug me like that anyway.

And then Boss Lady said this:

*Bambi you're so wise. Lotsa peeps and pets spend their whole whole lives what all trapped up inside, waiting for a thing to happen. And I've only been doing this for a couple months and here I am all crying about it.*

*And I get to be stuck at home with you Bambi and that's the best place a girl could ever hope to get stuck.*

So a Bambi felt pretty swell about all that. And a big PROUD got all up into my chest and filled up like a buncha balloons on somebody's birthday.

So I went and sat up close to Boss Lady and rested my chin on her leg while she finished painting on the deck. And we stayed out there until the sun all fell down in the sky and landed some place to make it go dark. And then after the sun fell down, Boss Lady went inside and got us a big ole fuzzy blanket and came back out on the deck and we cuddled under the blanket and looked at the stars.

That was my favourite part there - today was my favourite day of my life so far. Big ole important stuff talks, extra big hugs, sparkly stars and proud days are super duper important.

That's what a Bambi thinks anyway.





October 7, 2020

Bambi again!

Oh woweeee this weekend was fun and I made a new friend what who is a German Shepherd AND also a Husky. And I named her PUPPEH! I gave her a right..and a left..and a right in the you know what and a bit of the POW and some of the TAKE THAT young punk! Bahaha!

So listen up!

Boss Lady picked me up yesterday for the vroomy Jeep ride because she also likes to pretend she's a young pup and then she made "eek" and "ooph" and "owwww" noises and said I'm a big fat old Bambi monster-banana whatever that means?

Anyways I'm thinking if I had one I'd those whatchamacallits... a DOG RAMP that maybe Boss Lady won't make those noises anymore. Anyone got one of those laying around? Hit a sister up!

Oh and speaking of sore backs - Runner Man got me one of them fancy doodle automatic massagers for after when I play with the puppehs and show them what's what! Pretty cool right?

Bahaha - bye for now!



Puppeh

October 15, 2020

Bambi here!

I've got some super nice but also kinda confusing news to share!  
Ahem!

So Boss Lady and Runner Man drove us all to the Empress Hotel for an extra double fancy walk with twinkle lights and sparkle waters and I met a 2 years-old-husky-dog (whooweeee he was cuuute ) and then they stopped Big Jeep at the pet store to get me this red new super cushy bed. Screeech!

And they said: *we've gotta have a BIG OLE TALK Bambi!*  
And when the Boss Peeps talk like that you gotta listen up!

Boss Lady says my senior lady bones are super brittle and not so great and I've got a really bad busted up elbow and an ole twisted up spine and a bunch of bad knees and a hypothyroid and that's why I can't get in Big Jeep by myself without RAMP. Jeesh!

Then Runner Man said that place I went what with the nice people and mean kittehs was supposed to be my FOREVER HOME but those cranky pants cats were gonna make everybody all kinds of NOT super duper happy.

And then Boss Lady said a BAD WORD! She said: *Bambi everybody knows you're gonna transition to another home like SHIT.*  
Bahaha! She really said that!! With her mouth!!

Then she said:  
*Bambi's should alllllways be super duper happy. Bambi's have had a pretty darn rough life. And Bambi's...well they deserve a big ole happy.*

So then Boss Lady said I've got another new name that the extra nice rescue peeps gave me that's really hard to say! Why they keep giving me new names no-dog knows! But anyways my double new name is PALLIATIVE PERMANENT FOSTER DOG.

And what my new extra-name means is I don't have to go trying on new homes and get all sad/frustrated like when Boss Lady tries on some kinda too-too-tight jeans!



October 15, 2020 (Some More Cuz The Page Ended Before)

It's pretty long sorta word-soup!

And it's not like the good kind with the chicken that you gotta steal double-fast from the counter before they catch a Bambi doing a stealing!

It's all kinda confusing so I asked Boss Lady a couple questions:

*What do we call a Bambi now?*

The Bambi.

*Can I make a poop in the yard?*

Anytime you want Bambi.

*Do I get to play with Scraps?*

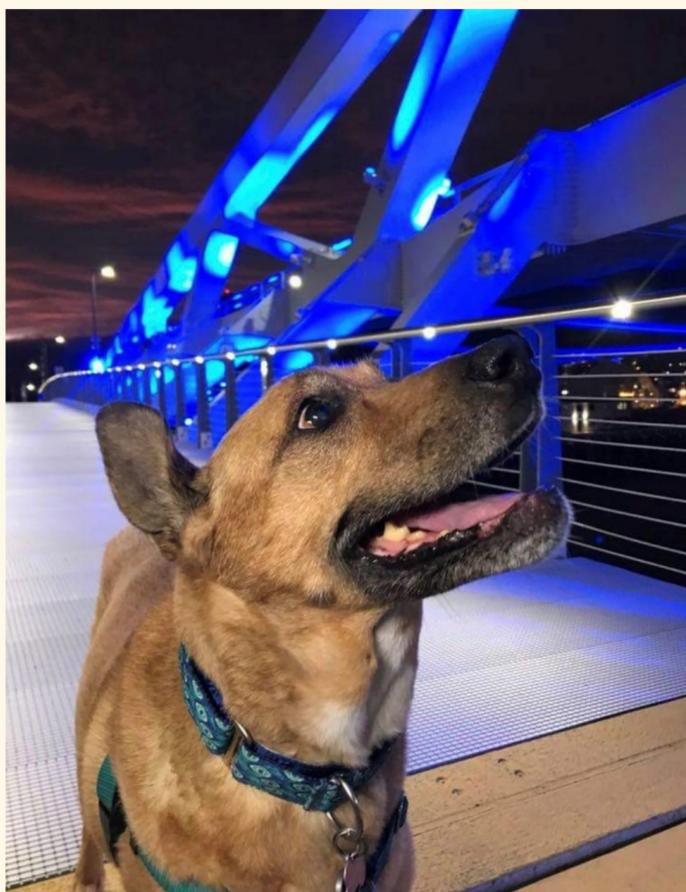
Yup just don't overdo it, old girl.

*So what do I call YOU?*

Mom. And Dad.

So Bambi's heart feels REALLY good today.

That's a whole lot of 'xplaining so I gotta go do a extra big nap now.



Bambi bed. It's red.



November 14, 2020

Last week if you'd asked a Bambi, "what's your Bambi biggest, bestest kinda dream of all dreams?" I woulda said four things gotta happen for that:

- 1) Lola and me would do a major counter-stealing and we woulda scored one of them chip bags again
- 2) Get to play all day long with a Scraps and maybe a puppeh or two what in YARD
- 3) Nice cuddles with Mom and Dad and all my dog friends under fuzzy blanket after supper
- 4) The end of best day ever

That was last week.

Now a Bambi mind is soooo much bigger with ALL kinda different possibilities for dream Bambi days! My thinking words are all coming super duper fast so excuse me if I don't line em up all in a row. Whoweee!!!

I got to go on a VACATION. Yeah.

And no, not like one of those "pretend vacations" what where they actually take you to some smelly ole kennel what with forty other dogs all yelling about how they wanna go HOME RIGHT NOW. Not like that kind - a REAL vacation! Bambi's dream!!!

Oh my dog, so we all piled up in the back of the truck what with suitcases and blankets and VROOM off we went. Mom and Dad was singing Johnny Cash real loud so I asked Lola where we was going but all she did was kinda stick her head out a window and open her mouth so all the bugs was gonna dive down her throat.

I asked Big Guy Wilbur but he was busy what giving the **Pyrenees Special Stink Eye** to some man dressed all in black and looking kinda scary out the window and he was also listening to his favourite Johnny Cash song.

And I asked my BFF Scraps and she got a little cranky at me and said she didn't know nothing what because she's too little to see out the window and know where is coming next. Jeesh!



**November 14, 2020 (Some More Cuz The Page Cut Off)**

So Bambi did the only thing that made sense - she laid right down and had herself a nice little nap using Wilbur as a pillow cuz he kinda feels like a fluffy pillow even though he looks like one of them clouds up high.

But then she woke up double fast because truck stopped all SCREECH!

And peeps...I've never seen anything with so much magic in it in my whole entire life.

Right before my peepers was the biggest beach all over from your left eye to your right eye and back - so big it musta taken...maybe 1000 dogs to fill it all up! And no rocks or ouchies for your paws, just sand, sand, sand. And there was ocean of course and so many smelly things my eyes were watering what with all the information of smells every which way. Oh. My. Dog. Unreal!!!

There was birds all over every which way and collies and shepherds and doodles and poodles. I didn't even know what to do with a Bambi - so I just stood there what with my mouth kinda hanging wide open.

And then Runner Man Dad yelled "Whoop! Whoop!" real loud and took all our leashes off and we all started running!! And they was running too and laughing what like little kids or something. And I chased Scraps cuz she was zigzagging and zipping in circles real fast. And then I chased Wilbur and Lola and next thing I knows there's all the collies and doodles what running WITH us! I've never ran like that in my whole entire life and the sand made the best noises and kicked up all the smells right to my snoot. Bambi almost wanted to cry it was so many smells and running!!

We musta been on Magic Beach for all the hours when Mom said we gotta go back. That made a Bambi kinda sad for a minute but then we went walking into a FOREST. And Runner Man Dad said "guys this is HOME for a little bit!" and pointed to the nicest strangest home a Bambi has ever seen.

The walls was not real walls but made of some kinda wood logs and the fireplace inside was all stuck together what with rocks. And all them furnitures was made of those kinda wood logs too! Amazing!!



**November 14, 2020 (Even Some More!)**

Boss Lady Mom said I could go on the BIG BED and I didn't believe her what cuz dogs aren't allowed on beds so I kinda just stood there. So then she put my fuzzy blanket down what smelled like me and scooped me up and we fell asleep cuddling on BED while Dad made a extra hot-hot fire.

Then later after our nap we all had a big supper and I got to try spaghettis with Scrap while they took selfies of us and laughed and said we looked like some kinda movie dogs called Tramp and Lady.

And then just when a Bambi was thinking it was time what for evening resting they grabbed our leashes again and back we went down to Magic Beach, in the nighttime this time, what with headlamps on. The stars was sparkling all twinkling and chatting to each other in the sky and Oh My Dog the SMELLS! All different kinds of seagull poops and dead fishes and oysters and clams and seaweeds and I couldn't even smell them all there was too-too many smells. It made my eyes go watery!!

And you're not gonna believe this but you know what the best part is? The next day we all woke up and had a breakfast and then we DID THE SAME DAY AGAIN! Almost exact same! Except this time after a couple hours, Boss Lady Mom said: *"ok ok old girl you're not gonna be able to walk for a week if ya keep that up"* and made me take a rest on a leash. Huh!

But all our dog friends was back and I chased so many dogs I couldn't even count how many. Oh - and this time peeps made a Quebec thing called a POUTINE for dinner, what with mushroom gravies and we all got some of them gravy on our suppers!

All us dogs was so tired on the drive home we made a Real Pile in the back of truck and Big Guy Wilbur laid out his round ole belleh so we could all pile in there and rest up right ON him. Wilbur is super super nice like that - he kinda reminds me of my dog mom - because he makes hisself up as if he's a pillow and blanket all in one. And he really likes it when everybody piles all on top o' him in a heap o' dogs cuz he doesn't have to look around all the time to make sure he's doing a guarding over us right.



November 14, 2020 (Even Some Extra More!)

I think Boss Lady Mom and Runner Man Dad was pretty tired too because they weren't all singing Johnny Cash on the way home and they was super quiet and holding hands while we drove back to big ole house.

And just before I fell asleep I heard Boss Lady Mom say:

*It feels good to be able to give something so magical to that ole Bambi girl. What a wild old lady she is. Total badass.*

So Bambi fell asleep with her heart all full of extra big dreams and a Really Big Proud because if Boss Lady Mom says you're a big deal, that's a really, really big deal.

That's what Bambi thinks anyway.



Bambi at Magic Beach



**November 22, 2020**

Sundays are Very Important Dog (VID) days around here.

I have to team up with BFF Scraps or Lola-the-Lab or Big Guy Wilbur and be a WORKING DOG.

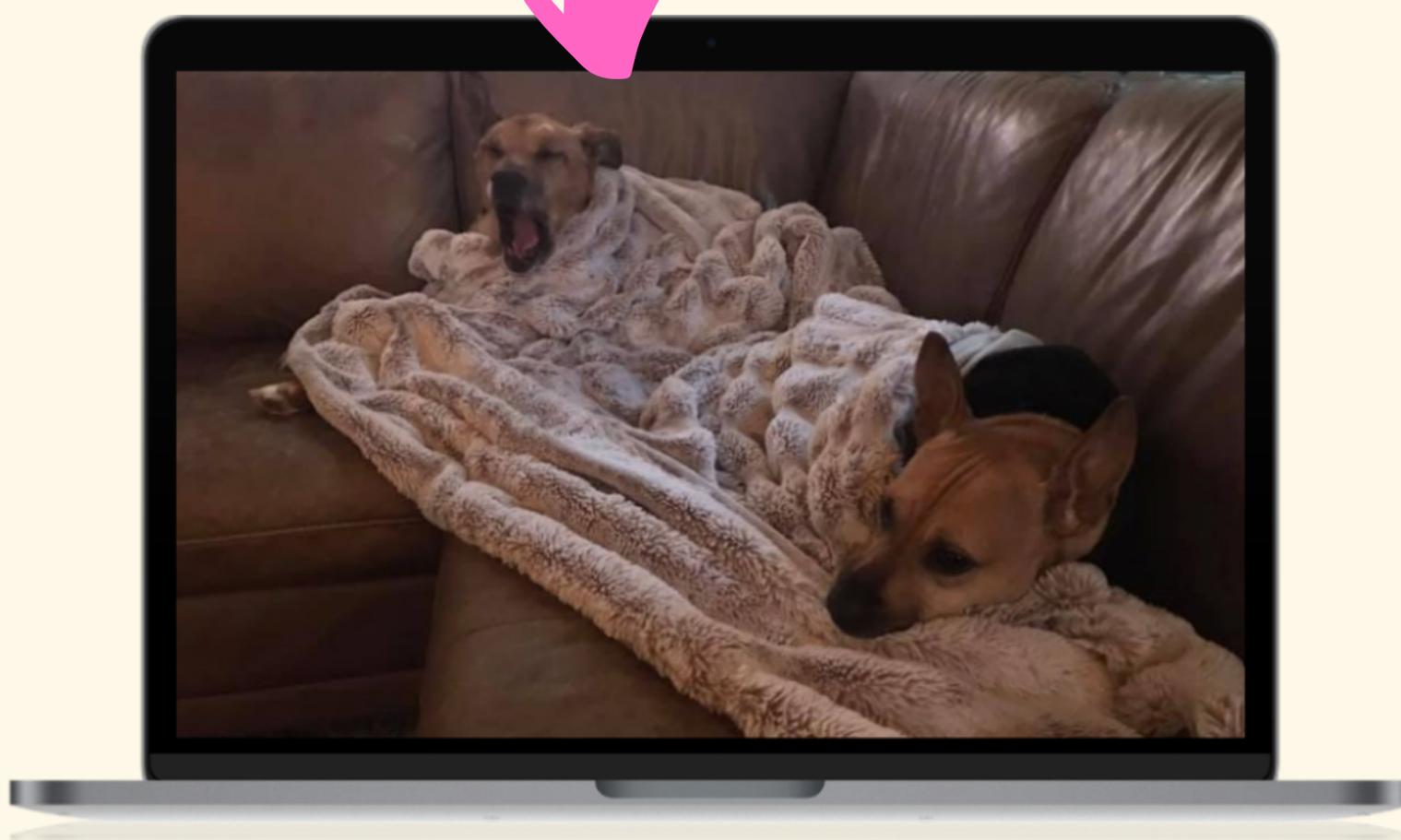
So like not only am I an athlete, I'm also a working dog with a VERY important job: helping other dogs be nice to Bambi dogs and Scrappy dogs and other dogs. We mostly just stand there while the other dog gets way more treats than we do which kinda isn't fair but it's still fun. And sometimes we stand real still while they walk by us over and over and try not to yell at us.

Mostly they aren't really all that super duper nice to other dogs right now and they like to yell at us from across the street but they will be soon! Boss Lady tells them what to do what with their bodies and gives them lots and lots of that ole dried smelly liver I like too and then they stop yelling pretty fast.

So anyways just saying I'm a pretty big deal on Sundays.

And it's hard work.

**Working Dog Bambi**





January 1, 2021

You wouldn't believe what happened today! Friendly Neighbourhood Wendy brought me Christmas presents! Except it's after Christmas so it's kind of like January-holiday presents.

I really like all of Scraps' jackets and she's got lots of different colours of jackets and hoodies and things so I closed my eyes really, really hard all squished up and said "Santa please bring me a matchy matchy jacket of the Scraps". And then Friendly Neighbourhood Wendy brought me a jacket! She doesn't really look like Santa on account of her not having a beard but close enough I figure!

Check out all the loot - I couldn't even believe my peepers! Runner Man and Boss Lady gave us one of EACH different kinda treat from each of the bags of treats. Nom!

And now I'm wearing my fancy new jacket. It's got a hood that's made of fur. But not real fur cuz that wouldn't be nice, not at all. Scraps and I are gonna dress up soon in our new matchy matchy clothes and go stroll around the neighbourhood and see how many people notice us. Maybe I'll get some good scratches too!

Oh ya and that's Old Lady Niv. She's a retired sled dog what from up at a place called Whistler. I really, really like Old Lady Niv - she's pretty fun. She comes and stays with us here sometimes and Big Guy Wilbur watches over her while she sleeps. I think he thinks she's a baby goat or something; it's pretty funny how he does that.

Ole Lady Niv





March 9, 2021

I was making weird noises.

Which Boss Lady says is normal because I'm kinda really weird. Sometimes she comes outside and I'm kicking all the dirt outta a raspberry planter and no one knows why, not even Bambi.

Or like sometimes I wander off in yard and kinda get stuck in my brain and I'm smelling something I already smelled but I can't remember what I was doing and then everybody else goes inside and I don't rightly realize. So then Boss Lady comes out to find me and she goes:

*What IS it you think was so important to do out there ole lady that you skipped over dinner when all the other dogs had a dinner?*

I don't even know what a Bambi was doing!!

But this time the noises were even weirder than usual so she came all up to inspect what was a Bambi up to.

Imagine trying to explain to Boss Lady what I was doing what with PlayDoh and why I was frantically trying to get the lid off. Bahaha!



**PlayDoh**



March 20, 2021

My ole busted up elbow was giving me grief for a couple days and I was all like oowwww and ouuuch and so Boss Lady and Extra Nice Rescue Peeps had a big ole conversation in Yard.

I really like Extra Nice Rescue Peeps - she comes right on up strolling to yard-fence and comes right on in like she lives here too and all the dogs come excited-running out the back door and down the stairs all double extra fast when she comes an visits.

Sometimes we gotta wake up a Bambi when Extra Nice Rescue Peeps comes cuz I'll be taking my naps and then I come double extra fast running too and I bring my extra big smile!

I like to show her how much of an ATHLETE I've become what since she did a rescue on me and today was extra good because her and Boss Lady made a DECISION and then I got extra happy pills.

I take my happy pills two times a day like a CHAMP and they make a Bambi happy and not so ouch-like.

So because of my special visits and extra happy pills, I celebrated by beating up Big Guy Wilbur, Lola AND Scraps for her. Bam!!

~ The Bambi



Bambi



**April 3, 2021**

Bambi here!

I don't know about you but I'm having a VERY GOOD WEEKEND.

Yesterday I got to play here with Harley The Husky and THREE bulldog friends what belong to Bulldog Mel.

Then today Neighbour Dog Bella came for a visit. She's a Lab like Lola. Except she's a Chocolate. Not black. More like a kind of brown. But but not like a chocolate for Easter that Bambi's aren't supposed to steal. It's all kinda confusing.

Anyway I gave everybody a right and a left and a right in the you know what! Bahaha!

Happy Easter!!!



**One of them bulldogs  
what from Bulldog Mel**



April 11, 2021

Listen up it's Bambi here!

Yesterday was a VERY GOOD DAY and I got to walk to my favourite store (Starbucks! Home of the Puppachino!) with Big Guy Wilbur and the Scraps and the Lola AND a big ole Great Dane named Daphne! She's yuuuuuuuge. Like yeah I know Wilbur-the-big-guy is VERY BIG BIG right? Nope - not beside Daphne!!

After we said goodbye to Daphne the Huge and Daphne's Mom we went to Bosleys in a big ole herd o' doggos while people took selfies of us. And inside, Boss Lady got all funny-flustered and was trying to figure out how to pay for stuff with Apple Pay from her iPhone because she forgot her bank card, the dummy. So me and Lola whoooweeee - we pulled a MAJOR stealing bahaha and we got pepperonis off the counter!!

Anyways, Extra Nice Rescue Peeps are taking great care of my busted up knees and spine and bad elbow and stuff and you're NOT just allowed to go into Smiley Vet's house and do a stealing of my meds off the counter! Nope no way, and they're not super duper cheap and I've gotta take them TWICE a day so I'm not hurting and cranky and getting weird spots on me and stuff.

So if you don't mind I'm just gonna leave a "SPONSOR DOGS" link in the back of the book here and if you can do a helping, awesome! If not, that's cool too - you can just admire the photos. Pretend like you never saw the name "Lizzy" though - that's my old name!



That's Starbucks cuz you can't tell in my picture

July 10, 2021

Today was a wild and crazy day! I was trying to get a blade of grass out of my snoot by sneezing extra hard and just mostly hanging out in the sunshine with my BFF Scraps and everybody and then Boss Lady Mom all of a sudden yelled *ohmyGodSean-raaaaattttt!*

And like pants on fire everybody was all in motion all at once all crazy like. Runner Man ran to go get a shovel, Boss Lady yelled something else, nobody knows what. Big Guy Wilbur zoomed up and down and up and down the fence with his BIG BOY VOICE on and Scraps was yipping like some kinda wild coyote!

And then the next thing a Bambi knew, Scraps had a BIG UGLY OLE RAT WHAT IN HER MOUTH. Not even kidding! And she was soooo proud of that darn dead rat her lil staffy-tail went all up in the air high and she ran as fast as she could up and down the rock wall what right there in YARD.

Lola was trying to do a stealing and grab the mean old dead rat from Scraps - but Scraps wasn't having NONE OF THAT and Big Guy Wilbur was barking so loud because he thought something must've been up in the tree like one of them raccoons he hates so much, 'cept there wasn't anything - it was all up in Scraps' mouth!

So I ran around smiling a bunch and did a couple of real loud ole lady WOOFs to make sure everybody knew I was part of all the excitement and whatnot. Then Boss Lady told Scraps to give her the rat in her BOSS VOICE and Scraps eventually gave it up and we had to give the ole rat a nice burial what in a garbage bag. Runner Man Dad said probably one of the neighbours poisoned the poor guy cuz he was wobbling all around like he was drunk or something. Man oh man, that was some pretty wild adventure today!



**BFF Scraps after she got the rat in her MOUTH**

July 28, 2021

You remember I'm an athlete now right? Ahem!  
Well today I went for a SWIMMING!

Me and Big Guy Wilbur, we're on the same page what when it comes to water. Lola-the-Lab sees a water and her brain goes all crazy pants and and looney tunes and she can't even stay away!!

She runs as fast as she can right up to the ocean - even when it's JANUARY - and she goes right dives on in like some kinda lunatic!!

But me and Wilbs, we know how to do a thing right.

You gotta go in juuuuust up to your ankles first. And then ya kinda hang out and smile and stuff and sniff around until the water feels good. And then maybe if it's a summertime like today THEN you go up to your knees. But never past knees - NO WAY!!

Mom and Dad tells me today is GOTCHA DAY!

That means I been living in big ole house a whole year! Woweeeee!!

I got some extra hugs today on account of Gotcha Day which made a Bambi feel real good inside.

**That's my DAD.  
Runner Man.**





September 4, 2021

Today was a VERY SPECIAL DAY. Runner Man and Boss Lady went and got all married! On a beach what with seaweeds and oysters and all kinds of different smelly things. Jeesh!

Before they left for up island, peeps told me and Lola and Scraps that we had to be what on our VERY BEST BEHAVIOUR on the Zoom and then we could watch the wedding.

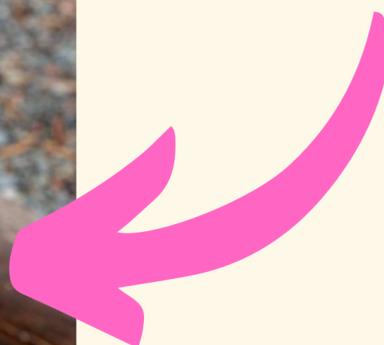
Big Guy Wilbur got to go drive up island just for the one day what with Bulldog Mel and he had on a TOP HAT and a TIE. He looked extra super duper handsome and matchy matchy with Mom on account she had on a white dress. Wilbur got to walk her down the middle of the peeps and everybody was laughing and trying to grab a Wilbur for cuddles on the Zoom we watched at home.

Runner Man says walking a Wilbur is like going down the road with JUSTIN BIEBER - everybody wants to reach out and touch him.

And when Wilbur came back that night, he told all of us he went up for a ceremony for WILBUR and all kinda peeps were waiting to see him. Bahaha! Scraps and Lola and me knew it wasn't about Big Guy Wilbur but we didn't set him straight. Sometimes not telling a peeps where they're wrong is the best thing to do when you don't gotta hurt someone's feelings. That's what a Bambi thinks anyway.



**Big Guy Wilbur.  
Best Dog.**





September 21, 2021

Hi folks!

Did I mention I'm an ATHLETE? I did a SUMMIT today.

And I met a really, really, really handsome weird-looking kinda guy on the mountain. Boss Lady Mom said he was an Aussie. I dunno why dogs from Australia are hanging out in BC? Pretty confusing.

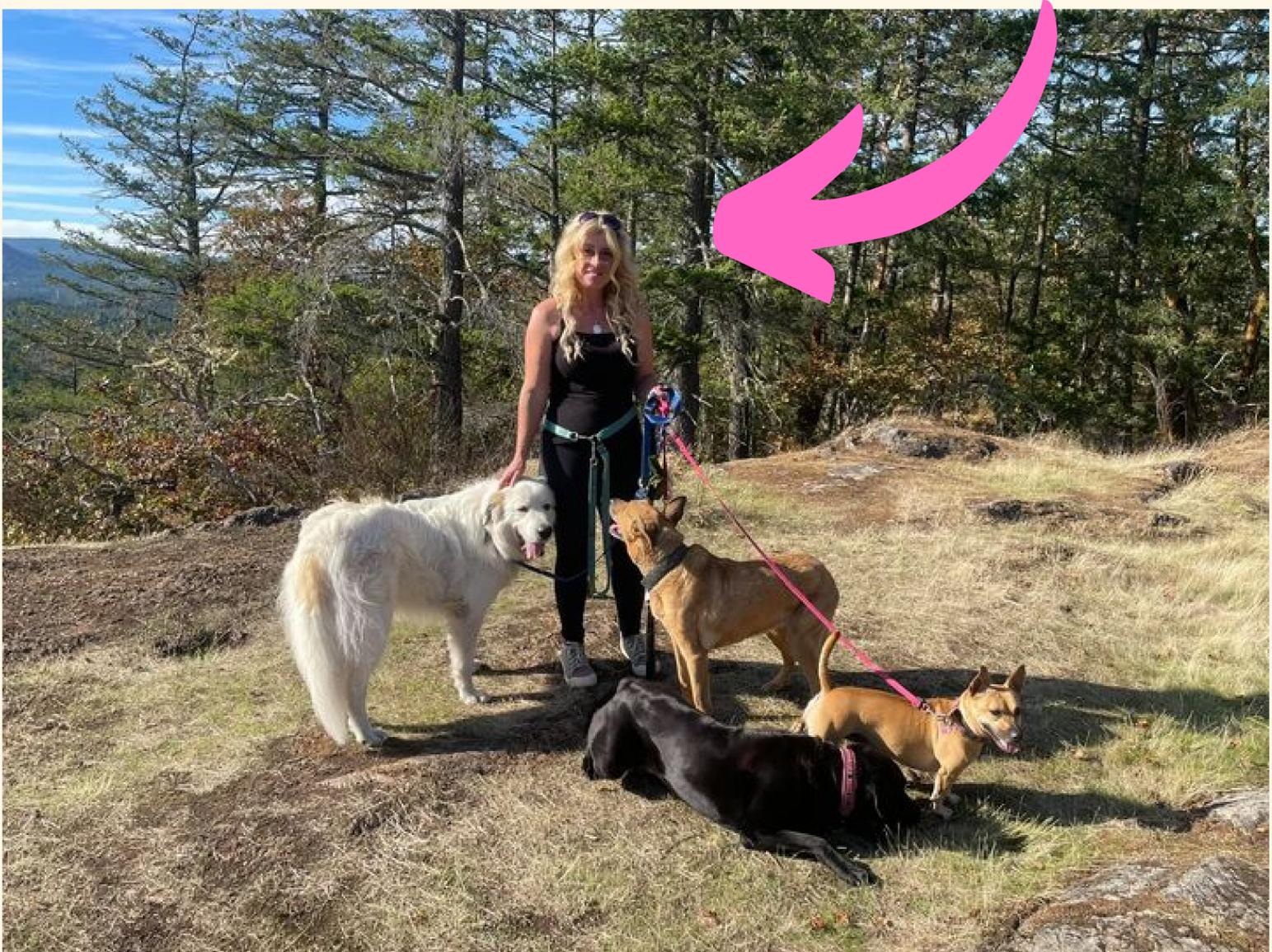
Lola went ALL THE WAY in some kinda swamp. Runner Man Dad was yelling "*Loooooollaaaaaa!!!*". Bahaha! There was NO stopping that girl! That's cuz she's a Lab.

Kinda pooped now so bye for now!

PS see all my MUSCLES?!

~The Bambi

**That's my MOM.  
Boss Lady.**





October 8, 2021

It's been pretty nice out what in the big ole yard lately so a Bambi hasn't been feeling much like coming inside when she's called and on account of my ears not working too good I kinda get away with it! Dad says Mom let's me get away with ANYTHING. Bahaha!

But sometimes when I don't listen, one of them Mom and Dad peeps comes and gets the Bambi and scoops me right up and brings me back in. They tell me I'm not too too good on the stairs. And sometimes stairs are HARD. But usually I'm just doing really important stuff they don't rightly understand outside.

Like I'm looking at pretty birds - they're nice. And sometimes I gotta sniff every single flower and then go back and sniff em again because I forgot what they smelled like last time.

Sometimes they pick me up to go up a too too big hill, what when we are doing forest walks. And they scoop me up to get up in the big truck because it's extra high. It's kinda embarassing. Maybe I'll try to remember to sniff the flowers just ONE time tomorrow and then I'll try to do the stairs on my own so I don't gotta get scooped! I gotta take my nap so bye for now!



**That's my Dad.**



December 18, 2021

Bambi here!

I went ALL the way around Thetis Lake hiking trails yesterday. Well ok.

Runner Man Dad carried me up ONE hill but I'm pretty sure I coulda made it double fast. Jeesh!

And I sorta saw a really nice guy that Boss Lady said was Doug Clement, some kinda famous photographer and his heeler dog friend. He walked past us anyway! And for some reason no dog knows he didn't try to take my picture so we took a bunch of selfies of me instead.

That's my good side.

Pretty good lookin if you ask me! And oh yeah that's Lola, Scraps and Big Guy Wilbur looking serious which is weird because Wilbur is NEVER serious except if there's a predator around. Jeesh!

Bye for now!  
The Bambi



**Hoodie for fashion**





December 24, 2021

I have to be *super duper* quiet talking to you guys here because Boss Lady Mom and Runner Man Dad have something awful yucky what's called COVID. And they said Christmas is kinda cancelled this year but we'll do an extra fun thing later. That sounds good!

I'm actually kinda happy that they got the COVID because it means we are doing extra cuddles on the couch and BOTH of them are around what in the big house ALL the time. Sometimes Big Wilbur, Lola, Scraps and me all make a REAL PILE. Real piles are from *Where the Wild Things Are* - that's my favourite movie of all time.

The thing when human peeps are sick is you got lots of time to think about stuff so I've been doing lots of that thinking. And you know, sometimes a Bambi doesn't know too too many things, but she does know this for sure: part of a pack is the best place to be.

Even when a Bambi drops a little ole poop what right there on the sofa by accident. Even when a Bambi tries super duper hard but she can't go extra fast what on the slippery dippery ice and snow, when she turns around well right there before her peepers is Big Guy Wilbur with his big ole Pyrenees smile, Lola the Lab ready for any ole kinda adventure ('specially where there's water!) and my BFF Scraps what with her kind eyes and sassy struttin-walk.

And right behind there's always, always Runner Man Dad and Boss Lady Mom - looking like a big ole happy family, filled right up to the brim with all the dogs like a mug a hot chocolate with too too many marshmallows.

No dog ever gets told what you're supposed to do now what when we get old and them cranky ole front pair of legs and back pair of legs don't seem to wanna work together all cooperating like.

But I'm trying really super duper hard.

And that's what matters for a Bambi, I think. Because always trying to do your best - and family - is the most important part of all when you're an old girl like me.

That's what a Bambi thinks anyway.



December 25, 2022

Yep so Christmas is for sure extra cancelled and we can do a celebrating another time, and Boss Lady and Runner Man went what to go get a PCR TEST so I thought I'd tell you about a different other Christmas thing that happened.

Bambi is FAMOUS!

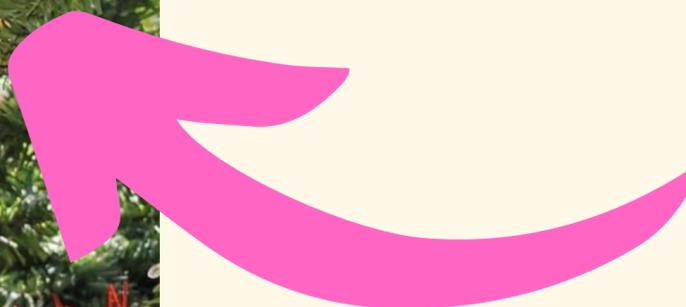
We went all into the pet store a while ago and me and Lola was all sniffing up them Greenies and figuring out how to steal a Pupperoni without getting caught for being a NAUGHTY BAMBI...and guess what was on the Christmas tree, what right in the store!  
Yeah! That's me!

Pretty good looking picture too - what was taken by Buddy-Mel. And then somehow Extra Nice Rescue Peeps got a picture onto some kinda Christmas ornament to celebrate a BAMBI. That makes a Bambi heart feel really good cuz I'm basically like Santa I figure!

I was so excited I mighta done a little ole poop what on the way out and Boss Lady hadda grab it double extra fast before the store peeps caught on! Sometimes my pooper isn't working too-too good nowadays and they just kinda fall out every which way. Boss Lady always says *you don't worry about them old poops falling out, Bambi - we got lotsa paper towels for that.* Bahaha!



**Famous Christmas  
Bambi**



January 1, 2022

I went to Scafe Mountain today and I kicked everyone's butt.

We ran into two dogs what are called Smooth Collies that I'm pretty sure I've met before. Like everywhere. Maybe they want to be kinda like The Bambi?

Scraps ran around up and down and up and down the mountain like some kinda lunatic. Boss Lady Mom said she insists on being "cougar bait" but if an actual REAL COUGAR met up with the Scraps thinking she's an easy meal it's a gonna be the WORST day that nasty ole cougar's had for a LONG while. Bahaha! She's right!

When we got back I figured I'd show the little runt a thing or two so I gave her a right..and a left...and a right in the YOU KNOW WHAT! That's what I'm doing in the picture in case you can't tell. And that's my green jacket. Not my purple jacket. I've got a purple one too.

But anyways..phew! Long day here - so I'm a gonna do some naps now that supper's in my belleh. Bye for now!



Green jacket.  
It's got a fuzzy  
hood.



January 6, 2022

This morning walk what in the snow was extra super fun but man-oh-man I've got the funny ole legs today.

Sometimes I say to them up in my Bambi head:

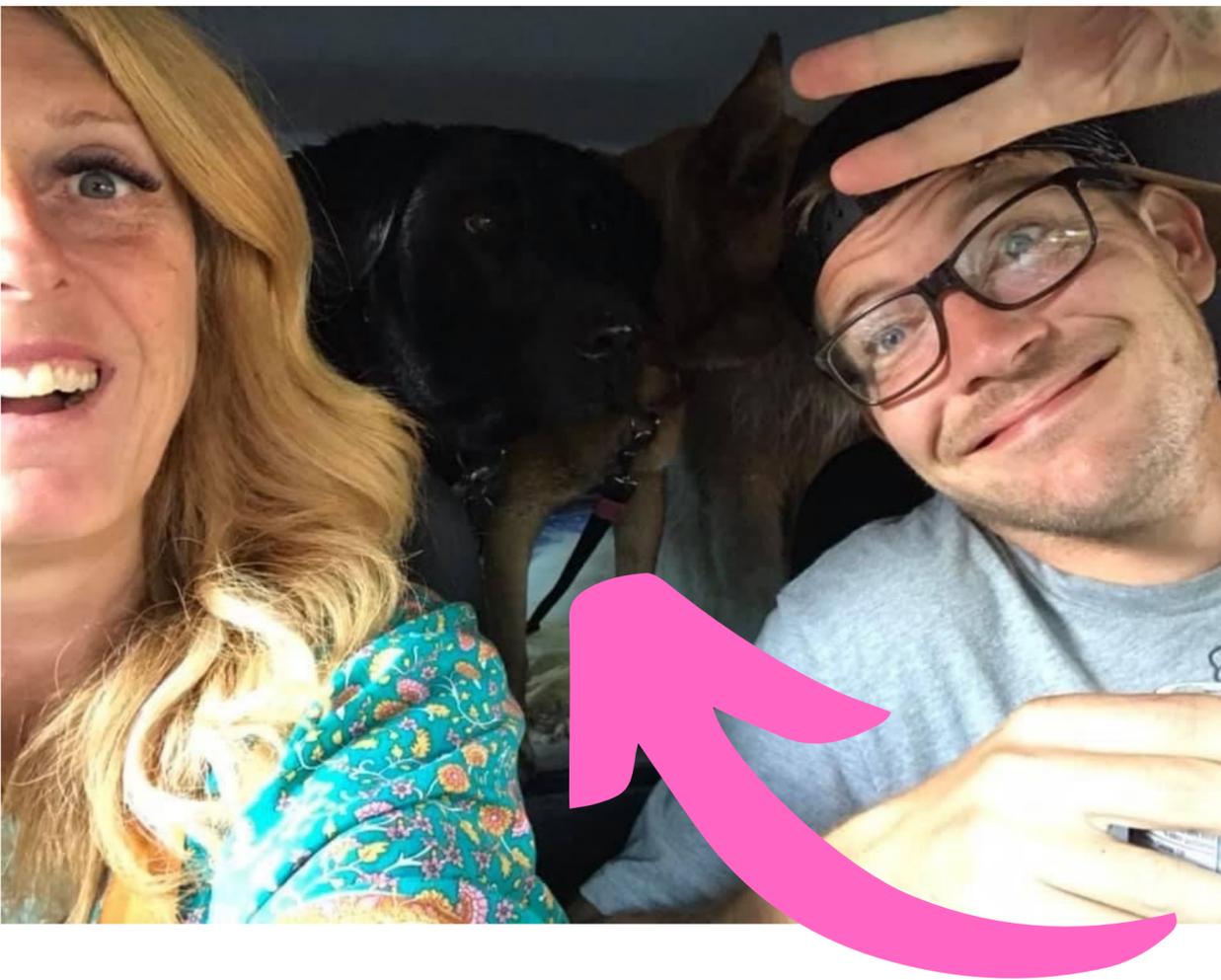
*Ok legs. Yeah you front pair. And you guys too, back pair. You work together now! You gotta cooperate to make it work!*

But sometimes they aren't really listening. And some of them wanna go one way and others go another ole way and Bambi ends up on the floor like what happens when those Olympic ice skaters make with the too too fast twirls.

It's kinda frustrating because if it was up to a Bambi I'd be a-running and a-hiking with the Scraps and the other guys EVERY DAY - it's so much fun!

Mom and Dad put in a big camera called a **BamCam** so they can watch for me what on their iPhones if they go out to the store.

They said they'll keep me safe, and I know they will, because that's what families do. They take care of one another.



**Three dogs and a Bambi all up in Jeep**

January 10, 2022

Bambi here!

There's snow on the ground and it's pretty amazing because it's slippery dippery and extra crunchy and there's no rain when it's snowing. Well kinda..actually..well sometimes it rains up on the snow but anyways it's pretty amazing!

Today we practiced INDOOR THINGS after Boss Lady was all done work in the bedroom on account it's too-too slippery for a Bambi to do much walking. So me and Big Guy Wilbur practiced our special tricks which are mostly like this:

Boss Lady: *Okay Bambiiii and Wilburrr!*

<All four of us comes a running crazy like to Boss Lady>

Boss Lady: *Ah no, not you two greedhounds!! Wilbur and Bambi ONLY!*

Bahaha!!!

We gotta take turns doing tricks and things, what on account of there being FOUR of us and Boss Lady says there's too much greed all up in her face! So me and Wilbur practiced doing a siiittttt and a touchhh and some other stuff and that all makes Boss Lady pretty happy and she gives us pieces of them yummy livers. I really like indoor things what because I don't have to do too much slippery sliding and risk falling down and whatnot. Good times!



That's my turquoise harness.

It's matchy with my peacock collar.



February 11, 2022

Bambi is feeling pretty ouchy and not so good so no big ole adventures to talk about today. So instead I'm a gonna talk about SNACKS. Because snacks is extra super duper really important to us ole girls and lotsa peeps don't know how to get this part right!

There's two main kinda snacks: found snacks and gotcha snacks.

Found Snacks are RIGHT away more tasty what because you stole them offa the floor or outta a pocket when somebody puts a jacket on a chair. Even better is if you get em off a counter after reaaaccchiingggg extra double hard. Them snacks are the BEST.

Then there's the Gotcha Snacks, as in "*Bambi look what I gotcha*".

Mostly you gotta EARN those snacks by doing something weird like touching your snoot to somebody's hand or something kinda useless like that. No dog knows why the peeps like that kinda thing so much, but they do!

Inside of Gotcha Snacks there's a whoooole lotta different kindsa snacks and these are the NOT SO GOOD KINDS:

- Green vegetables that are all limp and sad-faced looking
- Too-too crunchy dry snacks what have been in a cupboard for a long time and taste like cardboard
- Any kinda snack that's too-too hard and makes a Bambi's teeth go all ouchy-like

And then, there's the GOOD kinda Gotcha Snacks, ahem! From bestest kind to really extra good, but not the bestest kind:

- Bambi McHappy Meals (but not the pink yogurt, it's yucky)
- Cheese - especially the extra stinky kinds
- Hot dogs - all nice and cut up small for a Bambi
- Them squishy extra nice Wellness chunks livers
- Little mini kinda squishy treats peeps use for training

But you know a Bambi is extra super duper old and sometimes her brain doesn't work too-too good anymore. So maybe you outta bring that WHOLE list of stuff over for a Bambi to try again and she can redo the list. Bahaha!



February 28, 2022

Everybody says a Bambi is older than dirt which I kinda don't get because cuz how do they even know how old dirt is anyway? Not like dirt has a birthday cake! Jeesh!

Boss Lady also says I'm mostly patched together with duct tape, glue and opiates and I'm ALL kinds of spirit and pure goodness. And Runner Man says I have the most kindest eyes of any dog EVER. Holy!

They also tell me I had a too too hard, not-so-good life before Extra Nice Rescue Peeps brought me to the big ole house what where Scraps and the big guy Wilbur and Lola are too. I don't really know what they're talking about because here and FAMILY is all I can really remember.

I'm the Matriarch - that's like a girl dog VIP.

I'm part of a PACK. Except Boss Lady says dogs aren't *actually* pack animals. And she goes all weird faced talking about science stuff so I go and take a big ole poop when she does that!

Family and Extra Nice Rescue Peeps and Smiley Vet said I wouldn't live too too long.

Whowee - I showed them!

20 months I've been here, kicking butts and taking names, thank you very MUCH!

I've got lots of different names: The Bam, Bam-Bam, Bambi and before that I was Lizzy and before that I had another name I can't rightly remember. I also have a very special name - "Permanent Palliative Care Foster Dog". That means I get to call the Lady "Mom" and the Runner Man "Dad" if I want. I like to follow Mom around right at her heels every which way. Sometimes she says I make her go crazy pants because I'm like a creepy Bambi-shadow.

Bahaha!

Since a Bambi got herself a family, I've chased all kinda dogs around the dog park, hiked ALL over and climbed a whole mountain. I've dipped my toes in the ocean like a ATHLETE and amazed people with my extra good looks at the Empress Hotel.



February 28, 2022 (Some More)

I travelled to a fancy doodle place what was called *Tigh-na-mara* where we were allowed to run like a wild buncha crazy dogs on the beach - WOWEE that was the BEST! I even got to see Mom and Dad get married on a Zoom what where big Wilbur wore a top hat.

Oh - and I met a buncha sea otters at the harbour, drove all the way up the island to Campbell River to visit Grandma, and I've kicked Wilbur, Lola and Scraps' butts more times than I can count. Especially Scraps! Bahaha!

Thanks for following along in my great adventures - I've met lots of you peeps now and was impressed you knew how to give the GOOD kinda scratches (right behind the ears, thanks!!).

You probably already know what I gotta tell you. And you're not gonna like it.

It's time for me to take another kinda journey now because this ole bag of bones has finally given out and that's just not right for Bambi.

But don't go all ugly crying on me.

It's ok. I've had a LOT of fun. And a little while ago there was a big ole rainbow that blew fat globs of colour all over the sky and Mom said it was gonna guide me home. She said that her and Dad love me so much it's just stupid. I'm pretty sure that's a lot.

Maybe over the bridge, I'll run into you peeps again - not for a while though. I'll keep an eye out for you anyways.

When that day comes...don't forget the good scratches!  
Right behind the ears.

Love forever,

Bambi, Matriarch/VIP  
Victoria Pack

MARCH 2022

# AFTERWARD

Jenn Gill | Victoria BC | Canada

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I was emotionally prepared to lose Bambi from the moment she joined our dog crew - in fact I'd steeled myself to have to help her pass over the bridge in just a few short months. But her impossible *joie de vivre* and amazing "anti-aging" techniques to some extent lulled us into a false sense of security - that she might very well live forever.

Bambi's loss in the face of so much global unrest, the pandemic, political discord and more recently the Ukraine war, has unsurprisingly brought me to new depths of grief. But it's also brought me to some new layers of understanding and self reflection and I can only credit her beautiful dog soul for that.

I can't in good faith walk away from this project without sharing what this odd creature named Bambi taught me along the way, during the 584, sometimes very, very long days I was blessed to spend with her, through lockdowns, Zoom fatigue, toilet paper shortages and an uncountable number of theatrical dog play bouts in the backyard.

Admittedly, I cringe sometimes at the things well meaning people offer when you lose a dog, particularly the phrase "they come into our lives for a reason". For me, it's uncomfortably entitled to think the millions of interactions, moments and events in life somehow revolve around *me*, and that all of those elements line up to drive the direction of my present and future. I'm simply not that important.

Bambi didn't come into my life for a reason; she came into my life through a random series of moments, thoughts, choices and activities, most of which were entirely outside of her control.

She came to be our dog, as much a part of our family as any of our fully adopted dogs, largely by accident. Leading up to her "permanent" foster dog status, I'd said more than a few times that "I need a fourth dog like I need a hole in the head" when friends and family suggested we simply keep her with us.

While I'm not one to align myself with the mysteries of the universe or divine intervention, I can say with absolute honesty: ultimately I needed Bambi far more than she needed me.

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When she came to be with us, I had no idea how long the pandemic would drag on for, nor would I have believed for a moment that I'd be sitting here writing these words exactly two years after being unceremoniously exited from my workplace along with millions of others across the country.

Against a backdrop of more than a little awfulness in the world, she was an accidental vehicle of sheer sweetness and pure joy. And whereas the events of the pandemic, the raging forest fires and flooding, the looting, the disinformation war and more left me bereft of a great deal of hope for humanity, I *knew what to do* with Bambi. I could do this.

I could identify pain-induced grumpiness. I could lift her into a vehicle or up a set of stairs. I could measure her meds out properly and monitor her health. I could gradually help her rebuild muscle mass and balance and strength, and I could offer an alternative to escalating separation anxiety.

I could love her with all my heart; and I did.

Bambi gave me purpose in the madness. She followed me around like a furry, crooked-eared duckling for 584 days, during times where I thought I'd lose my mind if I had to face another day staring at these four walls, cut off from the world.

She bounced around the yard like a furry lunatic when I felt like I couldn't take another moment of being separated from friends and family. She leaned on my leg while I painstakingly painted ceilings and wedding decorations and made us all belly laugh when there truly wasn't a lot in the world to laugh about.

For that I'll be forever grateful - for Bambi, for the set of accidental circumstances and random choices, for the rescue that deeply cared. All of these elements converged in the way things sometimes do, leading her to become an integral member of our family - for some of the longest days of my life.

Rest in peace Bam. You mattered.

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**Victoria Bulldog Society**

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BAMBI 2008-2022



LOVED SO MUCH IT'S JUST STUPID

A WHIMSICAL AND POIGNANT TALE OF BELONGING

LOVED SO MUCH IT'S JUST STUPID

*Recounted through her ongoing foster care diary entries, ride along with Bambi, a senior dog in the final chapter of her journey through multiple animal shelter and rescue agencies in her quest to find her "forever home".*

*Equally hilarious and touching, Bambi weaves together her wild West Coast adventures, experiences throughout the pandemic, perspectives on aging without a guidebook and the importance of finding your tribe.*



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