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Unexpected Friend

Do you remember the first time you were by yourself? No friends, family or even acquaintances within miles and miles of you. I was about to start college. On the other side of the country. 2,000 miles away. Not the most ideal situation, but you can imagine a pit in my stomach and my mind racing of what could happen because I would be alone, and what if I needed help? I found myself worrying and wondering constantly what I would do. I cried day after day just thinking about all the people I was leaving behind and especially those that mattered most in my life. Specifically, my boyfriend who has been by my side every day for the last three years being the one to give me a hug when I needed it. I was worried my relationship that I worked so hard on would be destroyed with my life changing decision of going to college. Would I even be able to make friends? Who could help me through college and help me enjoy my life there? These were just a few questions that went through my mind daily.

All these fears swarmed my head until I finally got to school. What was worse is that all the fears I had were coming true. No one was there when I needed help with homework or when I was stressed, and I was left to comfort myself. I was not enough. Everything seemed dull. A smile on my face was a rare occasion. Crying myself to sleep every night. I didn’t have friends in my classes that I could ask questions about homework or study with. I had to worry about how to take care of myself and always make sure I knew when to start dinner, what to cook, when to do laundry, or even when to get up in the morning. Leaving everyone I cared about left me with no one. Making friends had always been hard, I’ve had the same best friend for 14 years of my life. My roommates didn’t become my best friends like everyone was saying and so I stayed in every weekend.

After struggling so much, I knew I needed a solution, and I needed it fast. There were so many ideas that ran through my head because I knew I needed something that would make me happier. I could go home, change schools, and have more familiarity, but I wouldn’t be able to keep my major. I decided I wouldn’t give up my dream and needed to try harder. I was down to my last option, and it was that I needed a friend that would make my college experience bearable. I had already tried making friends so what could I do?

I needed the right solution. I was running out of ideas and then finally something came to me when an ad popped up. What about a puppy? A puppy to give me purpose, to give me something to take care of and to take care of me. A furry companion to have while being alone and feeling miserable. I found a breeder and contacted them and showed up that day to see the puppies. I looked through them all when one jumped up to me. He was 6 weeks, blue eyed, corgi mix and his ears were standing up. Looking at him my world wasn’t dull anymore. He was practically glowing. I looked at the breeder and said, “this is the one.” The breeders daughter came up to me and said, “good choice that one is my favorite.” I took him home and he immediately started to cuddle with me. The whole world lit up and my heart was full. He licked my face, and he knew I was his forever home.

His name was Bruce. We went outside for walks and people started talking to me. They would all say, “seeing him has made my day.” My roommates adored him. He was a little furball of light. He ran up to them when they walked in the door. My roommates and I started having real conversations and doing things on the weekend. I started to talk to people in my class and finally had people around to help me when I needed it.

When I first began on this new journey, I felt a heavy dark cloud over me constantly. I missed the people closest to me and was anxious about what the future would hold. Going through this change was hard not only on me, but my family and friends. Even though these challenges I faced felt like they would never be solved, they did. A little furball of sunshine gave me a reason to wake up in the morning. He gets excited when I come home, gives me cuddles at night when I am crying and is my comfort away from home. Bruce has brought me closer to my roommates and even my boyfriend. He takes me out of my comfort zone and makes me feel wanted. He was not what I was expecting when I thought of needing to make a friend at school. But he is exactly what I needed, and now I am excited for the future. He will be by my side and be the constant in my life.