Kelsey Berta

Barbra Moss

ENG 150

4 December 2021

Unexpected Friend

Do you remember the first time you left home and lived on your own? During my experience I had a pit in my stomach and my mind was always 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 of 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 and my best friend who was going to college on the opposite side of the country than I was. 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 of these fears swarmed my head until I finally got to school. What was worse is that all of 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. It just was not enough because I was not used to being alone. I didn’t have friends in my class 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. I was forced to make new friends and no one really “clicked” with me. I have roommates, but we have nothing in common. Some are older and have college experience and just weren’t looking for new friends. We grew up differently and live differently. They are messy and never clean up after themselves while I never left a crumb behind. My relationship was becoming difficult. Not having the one person who was with me every day really made me feel alone. When I needed a simple hug or wanted to cry, the one person I needed was not able to be there. We needed each other to survive, we were as cliché as it came. We are just better together then we are apart. We take care of each other by doing simple things like making sure the other person ate. He always came when I called and was the reason that I smiled every day.

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. One option was that I could leave school and drive 2,000 miles home where I had family, friends, and especially my boyfriend (or I would say my love but that’s up to you). Another option was that I could fly my boyfriend out here and have him stay here because he is my safe place. I also thought about transferring to a school closer to home so I would feel protected. And finally, the last option I came up with was to find a friend to not be feel completely alone. These were the only ideas that came to me. I did try to fly my boyfriend out here, but it wasn’t a good experience for him. He was away from his own family, his job, and the only place he had ever known. When my boyfriend was here, he said he would drive home with me. The only problem with that was that I didn’t have a plan once I was home. I needed my degree to get a good job for my future. I then considered transferring schools when I got home. More problems kept occurring with each idea. I realized I wouldn’t be able to afford another school to transfer all of my credits. What was worse is that the other schools I was looking at didn’t have the degree I wanted. I finally decided that going home was not the best option for me. I knew that I couldn’t just go home and leave school. 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. 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 took a few weeks to think about this responsibility. I knew this would take up my time and result it late night walks and dog training. I knew that, and wanted the responsibility and finally decided it would be worth it, and that it was the best decision for me. I searched day and night, doing research and visiting other dogs. I finally came across the one. The one I knew needed me just as much as I needed him. He was a light eyed corgi mix with red fur. Only 6 weeks at the time, and I knew it would be a challenge. The first few weeks of having this puppy was the best few weeks I have had since I came to school. The puppy brought me outside every day and we played. Random people walking around would come and say hi to him. My puppy began to love my roommates as well. He would run out to them when they would walk in the door. I started to open up to the people around me. 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 was missing the people closest to me and anxious about what the future would hold. Going through this change was hard not only on me, but my boyfriend. We need each other and nothing would be the same without him. Even though these challenges I faced felt like they would never be solved, they did. A little furball of sunshine makes me feel needed. He gets excited when I come home, gives me cuddles at night when I am crying and is my comfort away from home. This puppy 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 feel happy and school is exciting. I am so happy that I took these steps and found a puppy just for me.