Hanna had always been a normal girl, nothing special. She was kind-hearted and happy student who lived with her parents, brother and two pet Golden Retrievers, Blue and Kali, until everything changed. On the night of March 22, she was startled awake by the sounds of arguing in the kitchen. She listened closely, however didn’t recognize the voices of anyone in her family. She slowly opened the door of her bedroom, taking care to make no noise. With shaking hands, she grabbed her brother’s baseball bat off the floor of the hallway and padded down to the kitchen.

Expecting to see strangers in her house, Hanna was astonished to see that the voices were not coming from people, but instead from Blue and Kali. She stared, awestruck, as the two dogs continued to argue about who deserved to sleep on the new dog bed and who would be left with the lumpy old one. Finally coming to terms with what was occurring, Hanna dropped the bat which clattered to the floor and got the attention of the dogs. At once, their heads whipped around and Hanna kept staring until Kali murmured to Blue, “Do you think she can understand us?” Unable to believe that this was actually happening, Hanna responded, “I must be dreaming,” and turned around to go back to her bed. The two dogs exchanged a look and then silently followed her up to her room.

The next morning, Hanna forgot for a brief moment what had occurred the night before. Once it hit her, she played it off as a dream and went along with her morning. She was packing up her school bag when Blue entered her room and said, “Can you hear me?” Hanna froze, shook her head (thought she must be hallucinating) and continued her task until Blue said again, “I know you can hear me.” Hanna turned around and responded, “How? I’ve had dogs all my life and I’ve never been able to hear them talk. Why can I hear you now?” Blue said, “I’m not sure. But haven’t you always wanted to know what we were thinking? It’s hard to communicate with just barks and whines, now we can really tell you what we want.” Very freaked out by what was occurring, Hanna grabbed her bag and ran out of the room and welcomed school as an escape from what was happening at home.

When she returned from school, she was alone in the house until her brother was done with baseball and her parents were off of work. She prepared herself a snack in the kitchen and Kali sat at her feet, waiting patiently for handouts. Hanna grabbed a couple of crackers from the box and fed them to her to which Kali responded, “Thank you!” and ran from the room before Blue could steal any of her treats. Wow, thought Hanna. Even though it definitely still freaked her out, maybe knowing what her dogs were thinking and wanted wouldn’t be so bad after all. She would know when they were hungry, when they needed to be walked and when they needed extra love.