



Me, My Dog, and a Sheep

Melissa Mullamphy

Andrew Thomas, Illustrator

Dog Ear Publishing (Dec 1, 2017)

Softcover \$14.95 (53pp)

978-1-4575-5982-2

In Me, My Dog, and a Sheep, a determined dog's fight is a reminder of what really matters. Young readers will hang on to every word.

Melissa Mullamphy's inspiring *Me, My Dog, and a Sheep* contains an important message: never give up.

Luke, the author's son, is very happy when his father brings home a sad-looking dog from the pet store. Luke and Grizzy become fast, inseparable friends. Thus begins Grizzy's true story—that of a large dog who just wants to romp around like any other dog, but who is left paralyzed by a neck injury.

When Grizzy can't walk after his injury and resulting surgery, the family tries everything to help him. They even buy him a special wheelchair, but Grizzy is unable to use it. As a last resort, they leave him at an animal clinic. They are overjoyed when the kind people at the clinic get Grizzy to walk again. This is where the “sheep” part of the story comes in—a squeaky toy named Sheepie becomes both a reward and a means of communication for Grizzy.

This is a true underdog story, one that emphasizes that “you cannot choose what happens to you, but you can choose how you handle it.” Though the text contains some errors in punctuation, the thoughtful, straightforward themes shine through.

With Luke as the narrator, and with the inclusion of the clinic workers who helped Grizzy, the story feels deeply personal. Mullamphy does such a masterful job at building suspense about Grizzy's outcome that without these personal touches, readers might forget that this story is true. Clear, colorful illustrations by Andrew Thomas work well to enhance understanding of the text, and real pictures of the family and Grizzy at the end are an added bonus.

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KELLY THUNSTROM (January 22, 2018)

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