

## **JAX AND WU HAVE AN ADVENTURE**

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ON A BRIGHT SPRING DAY TWO DOGS WALKED IN A certain field. One dog was a Pekingese with shaggy brown and black fur. He was tall for his breed, a foot and a half long and a foot high. It is rumored that his ancestry may have had Dachshund mixed in, but as any self-respecting Pekingese, Wu preferred to think that his ancestry was kept in the family. His name was Wu, and if you know anything about Pekingese you will know that he thought himself to be a large and strong dog. Wu also believed that he was very intelligent and put himself in charge of Jax, for Jax's own good of course. The other dog, Jax, was a giant fluffball that is referred to as a Golden Retriever. Jax was the most loveable dog that you could ever meet, but as most big loveable dogs he believed that he was a small lapdog. He tried to squeeze into small places and sit on people's laps. While this was adorable it was also quite terrifying to see a giant golden fluffball lunge at you (tongue first).

On this particular spring day the pair was searching the field for food. While their master always provided them food, the dogs preferred to go for adventures and see if any other goodies could be found first.

"I am getting hungry," Jax moaned, "maybe we should go home now."

"Not yet, not yet," Wu yipped, "I want to check around that building up ahead."

The building was a barn, and its owner was not there when the dogs came near. They looked around to see if any treats were sitting unattended.

"Hmm," Wu puzzled, "what is this?"

He ran up to it with his little furry legs and smelled the object thoroughly. He had seen objects like this before only they were much, much larger. For it was a red jeep, but it was for a small child and ran on an electric battery. The child would simply push the pedal and steer with the wheel (or perhaps just let it go where it wanted, if the child did not understand the steering part). Wu did not know any of this, but assumed that it must be a miniature version of a jeep that he saw on the road.

"I believe this is a jeep," Wu proclaimed.

"What does it taste like?" Jax asked.

"It's not for eating, it's for driving," Wu explained.

"Oh, I want to try," said Jax as he leaped over Wu at the driver's seat.

Jax missed the seat and landed between the dashboard and the seat. Then it occurred to him that he was stuck and would be unable to drive or get out.

"I'm stuck! I'm stuck!" Jax cried.

"Don't panic," Wu scolded, "I will get you out."

Wu looked around to see if anything could help his friend. Jax had already given up and laid his head awkwardly on the seat. Wu looked around the barn and found a wooden board. "Maybe I can pop him out with this," Wu thought. He dragged the board over to the jeep. He then pushed a small rock to center the board and wedged the board under Jax's large behind.

"Is this going to feel like a paddling?" Jax asked in a worried tone.

"You deserve a paddling," Wu muttered.

"What?" Jax asked.

"Oh, it shouldn't hurt," Wu said.

The Pekinese then leaped onto the board with all his might and was able to get enough of Jax up to allow him to scurry up onto the seat. Jax then leaped out the other side of the jeep and no longer wanted to drive. Wu pushed out the board and decided that he would try to drive.

It was quite awkward for him to get his paws into the correct places. He knew that one paw was needed for the peddle and something would need

to steer. After a long struggle, Wu was able to prop his back against the seat and barely reach the pedal and was still able to see a little bit over the steering wheel. He slowly put pressure on the peddle and the jeep began to move.

"Oh boy!" Jax exclaimed, "Wu you're driving!"

Wu had a very difficult and awkward time driving, but it was much better than walking in his opinion. He was able to keep up with Jax's long legs without wasting all his energy. Wu decided to drive around the field a little and show off his new ride to the other animals they knew. Jax followed behind as the loyal companion that he was.

First, Wu drove up to the oak tree where the owl Albert liked to sleep during the day. Wu did not like Albert because the owl thought he was the smartest animal in the valley. "This will show that old owl who is smarter," Wu thought.

As they approached the tree, Wu began to yip to wake Albert up from his daytime sleep. Albert, as any owl, was quite annoyed by Wu's rude behavior, but then he was shocked by what he saw.

"Oohoo, dogs driving?" Albert said in a sleepy voice, "what next pigs flying? Or perhaps cats scuba diving? Preposterous, what is this valley coming to?"

Jax thought that pigs flying or cats scuba diving would be neat tricks. Wu did not know what that "P" word meant but he knew that he annoyed Albert and was content. Next stop would be the rabbits.

Jax and Wu liked chasing the

rabbits, however Wu was always too slow to keep up with them and Jax. "Now," Wu thought, "I will be able to keep up."

There were many rabbits in the valley but Wu decided to visit three that he knew the best. They were light brown rabbits named Jimmy, Emma, and Butch (His real name was Harold, but for some reason everyone called him Butch. Don't ask me why because no one ever told me). Jimmy and Butch were eating clovers and Emma was sleeping nearby. Then Emma popped up because she thought she heard something odd. She looked around and saw the small jeep being driven by Wu.

"What on Earth?" Emma exclaimed, "Wu is driving something weird and is going to chase after us. Run!"

"But I am still hungry," Butch complained.

"No time for pouting," Jimmy said while giving Butch a push.

The three rabbits were easily able to outrun the jeep, because the jeep was made for a child and the adults did not want their kid to go too fast. This disappointed Wu greatly, but Jax was having a wonderful time chasing the rabbits.

Then the rabbits sprinted down a steep hill. Wu did not think about how steep it was until it was too late. Now his jeep was really moving and nearly hit Jimmy on the way past them, but the rabbit leaped out of the way. Wu let go of the wheel and laid down on the floor of the jeep, because he was afraid of how fast he was going. Jax was barking after him all the way

down and thought it was a great game they were playing.

Finally the jeep stopped at the bottom of the hill and Jax ran up beside it. When Wu realized he stopped he gingerly got back up. His eyes looked like the ones your uncle has when he has had too many beers. I believe that Wu would have looked emerald green in the face if he were a human. He no longer liked his knew toy and decided that the only thing to do was to take it back to the barn they found it.

So, he propped himself back up into a driving position and pressed on the peddle, but nothing happened. He tried two more times and got the same result. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, appeared Arizona the silky black cat. Arizona was actually the smartest animal in the valley, but please do not tell Albert I said that because it would upset him greatly. Arizona walked up to the dogs and looked at the jeep.

"The battery is dead," Arizona said, "you will need to recharge it."

"Yes, yes I know that," Wu said, "but...you had better explain that to because you are better at explaining things to him."

Arizona knew that Wu did not know what she was talking about but also knew that pointing it out would be a waste of time. She looked up at Jax and explained, "The jeep runs on what the Humans call a 'battery'. When the 'battery' dies it needs to be plugged into a hole in the wall so the battery can be revived. So, you two will have to push the jeep back to the barn."

"Just what I was going to suggest," said Wu. Arizona rolled her eyes. "Well Jax," Wu continued, "You will

need to push and I will steer.”

“Why can’t you push?” Jax asked.

“Someone needs to steer, and you cannot fit in the seat, remember?” Wu asked in his patronizing voice.

“Oh--right you are little buddy,” Jax replied.

Poor Jax had to push the jeep up the steep hill, and back across the field to the barn where they found it. It was very hard to push the jeep up the hill. Especially when you have to use your head. But, Jax managed and got the jeep back to the barn. When they arrived Wu hopped out of the jeep and looked much better than he did after his wild ride.

“Well we should get home and have something to eat,” Wu proclaimed.

“I suggested that a while ago,” Jax panted.

“Yes, but now that we have finished exploring it is time to return home,” Wu explained.

“Oh, that makes sense,” Jax panted as the pair started walking back home.

Jax was very relieved when he finally had his lunch and decided to lay in his bed for the rest of the day. One adventure was enough for Jax today. Wu on the other hand was trying to examine the wall holes that Arizona was talking about. However, he could not quite figure out how a hole in the wall could power a jeep. After he gave up, he laid down with Jax and the pair slept until their master came home for dinner. \*