

First Meeting

'I'm home ... WHAAAAT? WOW!'

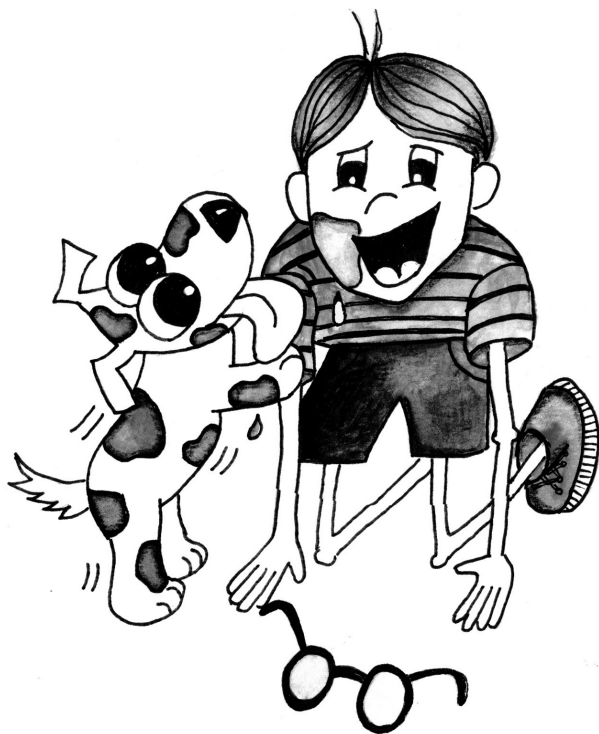
My father is standing before me holding a wriggling, squirming, squealing mass of brown and white fur.

'Pant! Pant! Pant! Chuuueeeee! Chuuueeeee!' squeals the fur ball.

I am sure it can't be ... but it is! Eyes wide, I drop down on my knees, as Papa

puts down my long-awaited puppy. In a flash, the fur ball shoots forward and BAM! rams into my face. My spectacles go flying off my nose. I fumble for them.

Lick! Lick! Lick! Slobber! Slobber!



'Oh okay! Down,
boy, down!' I laugh, my
face wetter than a drippy
washing-line. Not-so-gentle
nips and tugs on my hair now.

'Ow! What's that all about?' I wonder
aloud, as I crawl around on all fours,
squinting into space, in search of my
spectacles.

'SQUEAL!'

I squish fur ball's tail under my
hand. I reach out to pet him and feel
something smooth and hard in his
mouth. Aha!

'Give! Drop it! Good dog!' I say,
smiling broadly at how intelligent my
puppy is.

My smile disappears as fast as it



appeared when I see his blurry, furry
behind running off, my spectacles still
in his mouth. Two rounds of the living
room, a close miss with the lamp, sounds
of mother screaming, sister clapping,
father grunting and me begging, and
my brand-new pup's furry behind is now
behind our gigantic furry sofa.

Gnawing, slurping sounds drift to
my ears through the space below the
couch. I cringe with every crunch. I clap

my hands, blow kisses his way, snap my fingers, but nothing works. The rest of my family disappears, leaving me to get back my spectacles myself. Heartless.

Rushing to the biscuit jar, I come back armed with treats to tempt him out. I pick up the coffee table and huff and puff it out of my way. I roll the edge of the spiky carpet to give myself an extra inch of space. Then I lie down flat on my stomach and hold the biscuits out as far as my hand will go. The crunching stops for a moment. I sense a Sniff! Sniff! Sniff! And then the crunching starts again.

Who doesn't like Gluco biscuits, I wonder.