

## A Boy and his Dog

by ned *Tuesday, Aug 21 2018, 7:00am*

international / prose / post

country boys display great affection  
for their pets in this case a half-breed hound  
and retriever; his instincts were strong  
and every now and then he would freeze  
while on walks with his master,  
indicating game in the wild grasses

if the boy wasn't armed with his small calibre rifle  
he would throw a stone to see what type of game  
the dog had detected, in this instance nothing took to flight  
and so the boy concluded a burrowing animal or a snake  
but adventure was today's pursuit.

the boy had heard of a deserted cabin by a lake  
said to be haunted and so had set off to find it  
and hopefully encounter a disembodied spirit or ghost  
a young boy's curiosity is stronger than his fear  
at this pubescent age.

after half a day's journey the boy and his dog  
arrived at the lake, deep and brooding with a faint mist  
hovering just above the water,  
but no sign of a cabin on any shore tho he thought it must be hidden  
in the bushes but now it's time for a late lunch

the boy fumbled through his backpack and withdrew  
a brown paper bundle nicely wrapped and tied with string  
the dog knew the familiar sounds of unwrapping paper  
which promised food, the boy always shared his food with his dog  
though the lad had taught the dog to stand erect on its back legs  
begging for food, though the dog would have thought nothing of it  
other than a learned game it could play with its master.

up it went to catch food accurately aimed at his mouth  
after which the boy would call it back and share his food  
with the now relaxed dog.

with belly full the boy laid back in the grass and fell  
asleep aware that if danger approached the dog would  
awaken him.

the boy slept longer than he anticipated with his dog  
nestled comfortably beside him untroubled but guarding

his master all the same.

only two hours daylight remained when the boy awoke  
so he thought it best to return home though  
the last few miles would be in darkness  
but no matter as the boy would be in familiar territory.

as he grabbed his pack and swung about to return home  
a shinning, reflected flash caught his eye,  
the angle of the sun had changed since he arrived.

curiosity got the better of him and he decided to investigate  
in the direction from where the reflection issued.

after a few strides his dog hesitated with a whine,  
c'mon, the boy commanded his dog  
the dog was slow to respond but remained alert as if  
he was stalking game, the boy called again and the dog  
moved close to his side as they approached the bushes  
and sure enough, the boy could see an abandoned shack  
through the trees with broken window fragment  
in the corner of the frame which must have been responsible  
for the reflection of the late afternoon sun

the boy headed for the cabin, however, his dog hesitated, whined  
and yelped a high-pitched bark, c'mon dog there's nothing to fear  
so together they approached the door-less, overgrown cabin

the boy peered tentatively inside, the dog some distance behind

the inside only contained a table, long bench by the wall  
and two broken chairs, the dog refused to enter  
and began barking loudly in alarm.

the boy entered as the light was sufficient to see everything clearly.

this cabin has been unoccupied for years, the boy thought, though  
the bench-top remained smooth and clean to the touch, which touch  
of the bench-top produced an intoxicating fatigue in the boy  
who was ready to lift the top of the bench to see what was inside  
but the sudden fatigue prevented him.

the boy overcome with this strange fatigue  
reclined on the bench and sank into a deep sleep

to be continued ....