

Lady Donamerry

This story is dedicated to Donna Merritt and her little Yorkie rescue Happy. The two together define the meaning of unconditional love.

The King and his men slowed their horses to a walk as they neared the castle entrance. The candles lit within the interiors, spilled a warm yellow glow through the windows, casting shadows on the outer castle walls. Prince Kristopher was sitting in front of his father enveloped in the King's cloak. "Father, it is so good to be home", whispered Prince Kristopher. The King looked down at his son, and ruffled the fur on the top of his head, "Son, home is where you belong!!"

The King pulled out in front of his men as his huge stallion stepped onto the castle drawbridge. "We are home, bellowed the King, and we have brought company!!! Everyone, help my men, we have brought all the Yorkies from the evil Ludwig, and they must be cared and tended to properly. We will need to set up a larger healing room. Where is my Queen?"

One of the servants rushed to the Queen's healing room to tell Queen Karyn her King was back, and Prince Kristopher was with his father. Leah got up from Bruno's bedside and turned to the Queen, "Go, I will watch over Bruno. Go to the Prince and the King. The Queen looked at Leah, "I will check on Bruno in awhile, I will be back.

Prince Kristopher saw his mother approaching just as he and his father dismounted the beautiful black stallion. Prince Kristopher squirmed in his father's arms, "Father, put me down, Mother is coming!!" The King did as his son bade, and Prince Kristopher ran to his Mother and leaped into her arms, "Mother, I have missed you so!! I am so happy to be home.....but you must help us. Father brought all the yorkies from the evil Ludwig's puppy mill, and many are sickly and hungry. There is a very special yorkie that needs my help....her name is Kayla. The Queen squeezed her son in an enormous hug, "Do not worry my son, we will care for all those you have brought with you, especially Kayla". The Queen ordered the servants to set up a healing room in the castle ballroom, and the kitchen staff to begin preparing food for the hungry yorkies. The King's men began dismounting their horses, taking great care to protect the bundles they had carried throughout the long journey

back to the castle. The other servants came forwards to help the King's men carry the Yorkies into the great ballroom.

Lady Donamerry moved slowly as she set up areas for each Yorkie. Her body ached from her lupus, and the potions the doctor had given her sometimes worked and sometimes did not. Her brown cotton gown was crisp and clean and fitted her thin body loosely but even with the stiffness of her joints, she moved with grace. Her face had a glow that exuded her gentleness and kindness. The servants at her side carried blankets for the bedding and bowls of fresh clear water. Lady Donamerry stood aside as the servants and the King's men began to bring the yorkies inside. So many she thought, how could the evil Ludwig have treated so many babies so badly? Many of the yorkies struggled to stand up and looked in wonder at the fresh water put before them. One particular scraggly yorkie walked with difficulty towards the water, then slipped and fell. The little dog struggled to get back up and continue her path to the fresh water. Lady Donamerry stopped as she watched the aged and crippled yorkie. Lady Donamerry lent the yorkie a helping hand, and as the old yorkie looked up at her, their eyes met. The liquid black eyes reached into the soul of Lady Donamerry, and the yorkie gave her kiss. The yorkie then looked longingly at the bowl of fresh water. "Drink" urged Lady Donamerry. Once the old yorkie had quenched her thirst, Lady Donamerry asked the yorkie, "What is your name?" The scraggly yorkie shook her head. She looked at Lady Donamerry and said "I cannot hear, but if you speak very slowly, I can read your lips." Lady Donamerry nodded and spoke each word very slowly, "What is your name?" The scraggly yorkie watched Lady Donamerry's lip move and replied, "I have lived my life in a small cage with many others, I have no name". Lady Donamerry cupped the old yorkie's face with her hand, "You, my love, deserve a name, and that name is Happy." The old yorkie smiled and stamped her front feet up and down, "I have a name and it is Happy. Everyone, I have a NAME and it is HAPPY!!" The newly named Happy looked at Lady Donamerry and said "You have given me life, and I am yours forever." Several tears fell from Lady Donamerry's eyes, as she said "Yes, Happy, we are meant for each other. We both struggle to get up in the mornings, but together we will give each other strength to enjoy each day!! You rest now, and I will bring you food. I must go and help the others, but I will be back to tend to you. Happy lay on her warm and clean blanket and looked adoringly at Lady Donamerry, "Yes, I will wait for you." Happy's eyes glowed as she watched her new mistress go to help the others, and she said to herself, "I love Lady Donamerry with all my heart."

True to her word, Lady Donamerry returned to Happy. Lady Donamerry stiffly lowered herself onto Happy's blanket and offered

Happy some of the nourishing stew that the kitchen staff had prepared. Tender chunks of beef swimming in carrots and potatoes brought a gleam to little Happy's eyes. "Eat slowly", Lady Donamerry instructed Happy, "You will never go without food again." Happy looked at the bowl of food, then looked at her new mistress. Happy cocked her head and wondered to herself "Have I died and gone to heaven? Just to be sure, Happy nipped at her toe, and felt her teeth against her skin. "Nope, I am alive" she thought as she contentedly turned towards the bowl of food and picked up her first juicy morsel of beef with her teeth. Never had Happy tasted anything so wonderful!!!!

Many days followed, and Lady Donamerry tended to Happy's every need. The Queen had given Happy a thorough exam and had removed several of Happy's teeth. The Queen and Lady Donamerry could be heard whispering as they discussed Happy's bad hips. The sad news was that Happy was too old and the damage to her hips so severe, the Queen could do nothing except give Happy healing powders for the pain. Happy did not care that she was old, nor did she pay heed to the Queen's sad news about her hips. Happy flourished under Lady Donamerry's love and her little feet stamped up and down with joy each and every time she saw her mistress. Happy's thin body began to fill out from the nourishing meals she got, and her coat began to shine. Lady Donamerry loved to go walking but Happy could not walk far because of her hips. Happy would watch sadly as her mistress went for her daily walk and Happy could not go. The castle wood carver noticed the sadness in Happy's eyes and he decided to make a buggy for Happy. It was a fine wooden buggy and when the wood carver presented the buggy to Yorkie and mistress, the pair hugged the wood carver with all their hearts.. Happy and her mistress could go together for their daily walk and enjoy the outings by the lake together. The two became inseparable, and everyone in the castle would stop by to see how Happy and Lady Donamerry were doing. When Lady Donamerry went to work at the Doctor's office, she shared Happy's story with the patients, and each and every one would ask how Happy was doing when they came in for their treatments. Lady Donamerry's small court of friends would watch over Happy until her mistress returned from her day's labors.. Lady Donamerry would return to find Happy sitting contentedly in her wooden buggy waiting to go for their daily walk.

Time went by, and Lady Donamerry knew that Happy was ill. Happy struggled to do her "Happy dance for her mistress. Lady Donamerry took Happy to the Queen's healing room. The Queen looked over Happy and gently told Lady Donamerry "Happy is getting old, her time is nearing. You must be prepared to let her go."

Lady Donamerry shook her head, "I cannot imagine life without my beloved Happy." The tears slid down her face as the impact of the Queen's word sunk like a knife into her heart. The Queen put her hand on Lady Donamerry's shoulder and said "Happy will tell you when her time is nearing. You must listen with your heart, and when the time comes, you will know." Lady Donamerry nodded, "Yes, you are right, but until the time comes, Happy and I will enjoy the time we have."

Lady Donamerry and Happy are still enjoying their time together. Lady Donamerry and Happy share a secret together that unconditional love gives each the will to get through one day at a time. Happy has pulled her mistress close and whispered, "Don't worry, be Happy"!!!!