

# Half a dog for Emma



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1

**Emma** loves dogs more than anything.  
She has over a hundred:  
on calendars, posters, stickers, T-shirts and socks.  
Unfortunately, there is no "real" dog among them,  
because Emma lives in a city flat  
where dogs are not allowed.



2

In the morning, when Emma goes to school, it's a dog walk for her. She knows exactly where Nero, Tarzan or Hasso live.

Tarzan has a bandaged paw today. Emma stops and comforts him.



3  
On Saturday Emma goes to the market with her Mum.  
Suddenly Emma discovers the biggest  
and most beautiful dog she has ever seen.  
The big dog stands up and wags its tail.  
Now he is almost as big as Emma.



4

"His name is Eddi," says a man who is now arriving with a box of plants.

"You can touch him if you want. He won't hurt you."

"I know," says Emma. "Because I understand dog language. "

Now Emma's mum is coming back.

"I thought so! You've ended up with a dog again!"

And then she turns to the man and says:

"You must know, our Emma is crazy about dogs!",

The man laughs and says, "I like people who love dogs!"



5

They have the same route to the car park.

Emma is allowed to lead the dog on a leash.

That's fun!

"Here we are" the man says and goes to his car.



6.  
With a heavy heart,  
Emma says "good bye" to Eddi.

"Please, Mum," begs Emma,  
"Can I have a dog? A teeny, weeny, tiny one?"  
"You know that this is not possible,"  
Mum sighs quite annoyed.



7

Some days later Emma is playing  
with her friends in the park.

Suddenly Klara calls out:

"Look! There's a dog paddling in the water!"

"I bet he can't swim!" says Emma. "We have to save him!"

She is already up to her knees in the water.





8

The little dog struggles and fights back.

But Emma holds him tight.

"Someone has to take him," says Emma.

"We already have a cat ...", Kerstin hesitates.

"... and my dad is allergic to animals," says Robby.

"In our house dogs are not allowed," says Emma.

"But I'll try!"



9

"What are you doing?", exclaims Emmas Mum,  
as her daughter stands in front of her with the wet dog.  
"An emergency!" says Emma. "He nearly drowned."  
"Emma saved his life!" assures Robby.  
"Can I keep him? Just for a few days? Please!!!  
The poor dog! He's homeless and helpless!"  
"He was probably chased away or abandoned" adds Kerstin.

Meanwhile, Emmas Mum has discovered the capsule  
with the phone number on the dog's collar and says:  
"I think we'll call his family first!"



10

The dog owners are not at all surprised when the children show up at the door with the little dog. "She often runs away, bathes in the park, and then comes back again. She loves to swim. But thanks anyway for catching her."

The three lifesavers look at each other in embarrassment. It almost sounds like they saved a duck from drowning!



11

Back home again Emma is bursting with anger.

She scolds her stuffed animals:

"You are all fake dogs! You don't bark,  
you don't howl, you don't eat, you don't sniff,  
you don't wag your tails, you don't even stink.  
You are not happy when I come.  
There is nothing I can do with you.  
Nothing! Nothing at all! "

Furious, she throws one after the other out of her bed.

A big tear rolls down Emma's cheek.

Oh, if only she had a dog! Just a tiny real one!



12

The next day, while skating,  
Robby discovers a Foto on the tree with a message:

**Dog lover wanted**

Who is taking my Florian for walks?

**Ina Moll, Hasenweg 4, Tel 60 60 12 14**

"This is my big sister's music teacher," says Robby.

"Let us call her right away!"

"Moll," a friendly voice answers on the phone.

"I'm calling about your dog ...", Emma says.

"I'm so glad," says Mrs Moll. "Just come over.

Then we can discuss everything."



13  
Mrs Moll is very happy that Emma  
wants to take Florian out.  
She had a knee operation  
and has to walk with crutches for a while.



14  
Florian jumps right up to Emma.  
It is love at first sight for both of them.  
Emma cuddles Florian behind the ears  
and only has eyes for him.



15

Emmas life has completely changed.  
She gets up voluntarily in the morning.  
She sings and is cheerful.  
She spends every free minute with Florian  
and takes him for walks even on rainy days.





16

One evening, when Emma brings Florian back, Mrs Moll is in the garden watering her roses. The crutches are leaning against the apple tree.

"Soon I'll be able to walk properly again," she says cheerfully. Emma makes a sad face.

"What's the matter? Aren't you happy that I'm feeling better?" asks Mrs Moll disappointedly.

"Oh, of course!" says Emma. "But - then - then - you don't need me anymore!"

"Oh Emma!" says Ina Moll and laughs.

"Of course I need you! And Florian would become sick if you stopped coming. I know that for sure!"



17

"In fact, Emma," says Ina Moll, "Florian is already half your dog."

She smiles. "We could split him right down the middle.

Do you want the front half or the back half? You can choose!

You can also take the top or bottom half!"

"This is crazy! We can't split Florian ..."

"Or it's yours on Mondays and mine on Tuesdays...",

Mrs Moll considers. And then she says - with a twinkle in her eye:

"No, I think I have a better idea: it's yours by day and mine by night!"

"You mean, then the whole Florian is my real, genuine, own dog during daytime?", Emma asks.

"Exactly!" says Frau Moll. "And you can go and get him, whenever you want."



18

"Yippee! I have to go home right away and tell everyone!"  
Emma takes Florian by the leash and storms off.



19

When Dad comes home from work, Emma exclaims:

"Dad, Dad! I have a real, living dog of my own.

Florian! Mrs Moll gave him to me!"

"But child, you know it won't work ...", sighs Dad.

"When will you finally understand?"



20

"And it's all right, though!" says Emma.  
"Because it's only half a dog!  
He's mine during the day.  
And it's not me, it's you who must understand!"

And then she told him the whole story.  
And Mum too. And everyone who wanted to hear it.  
That day, dog-crazy Emma  
was the happiest child in the world.

