

Spirit

THE DREAM
CHASER:
A DOG
WITH A MISSION



BY ROBIN AND SPIRIT HAMME
ILLUSTRATED BY PEM PFISTERER CLARK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction: My Story	1
1. The Beginning	2
2. I'm Here!	4
3. My Forever Family and Mork	6
4. It's Show Time!	9
5. I'm a Flying Freight Train!	12
6. Ducks, Sheep, Herding, and Me	16
7. Let's Get Rolling!	19
8. Life Can Get Bumpy— Ups, Downs, and Surprises	22
9. Catch Me if You Can!	27
10. Let's Get Rolling, Again!	30
11. Try, Try Again!	32
12. Finding the Silver Lining	34
13. Yes, We Can!	36
14. Let's Try For Dream #2!	41
15. What's Next?	44
16. My Wish for You	46

Appendix 1	48
Becoming a Dream Chaser: What I Learned Along the Way	
Appendix 2	50
Becoming a Dream Chaser: Some of the Feelings and Emotions that Guided My Way	
Appendix 3	52
Becoming a Dream Chaser: Thought Starters as You Think About Chasing Your Dreams	
Appendix 4	55
Want To Learn More? Spirit's List of Resources	
Appendix 5	56
Discussion Guide for Spirit, The Dream Chaser: A Dog with a Mission	
About Robin Hamme	57
Reflections From Illustrator Pem Pfisterer Clark	58

CHAPTER ONE: THE BEGINNING

My story begins when I was waiting to be born. There were so many soon-to-be-born puppies that I couldn't see the front or back of the line. I noticed that we came in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Some puppies had long coats while others had short, curly, or wiry fur. Our ears ranged from long and hanging to upright and pointed. Our heads came in all shapes and sizes too. Some puppies had short, wide, pushed-in faces while others had long, narrow heads. My head was flat on top and broad. My muzzle was strong and straight. What an amazing assortment of puppies we were! I loved our individual uniqueness. Each of us was beautiful and filled with excitement. We were all dreaming about our forever homes.

Looking back, this was the first lesson I learned as a Dream Chaser. **Everyone is one-of-a-kind and special. Dream Chasers see the greatness and potential in themselves and others.**

Today was the big day! All of us puppies were going to be born. We gathered to read our instructions about being good dogs when we joined our forever homes.

Looking around, I noticed that mine had a second page with a message, one meant just for me. It said:

Dear Spirit,

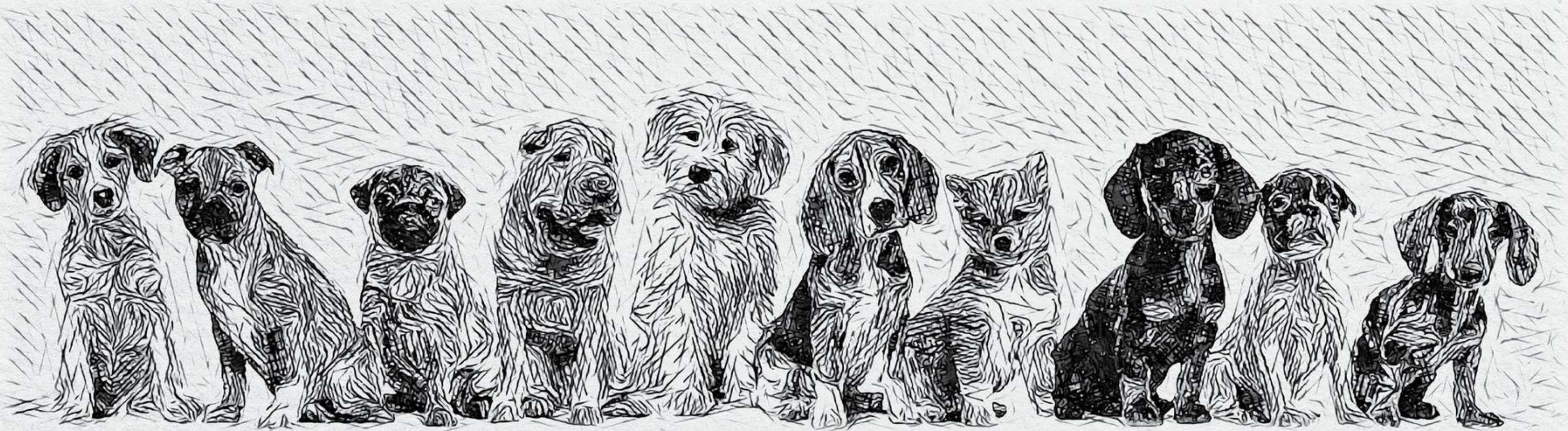
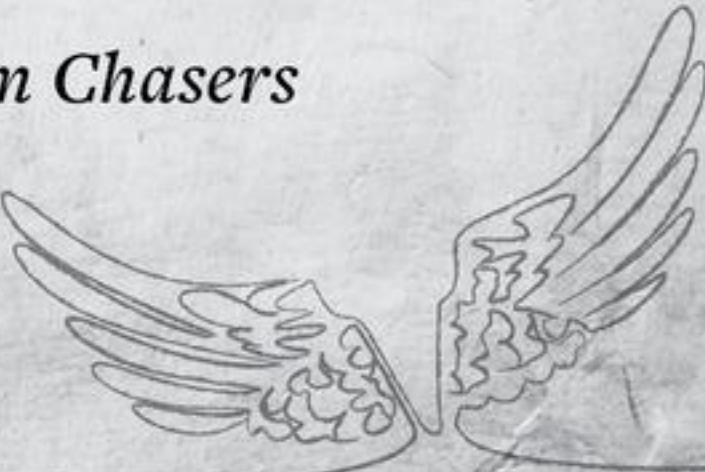
You have a special mission while you are a dog on Earth. We've chosen you to become a Dream Chaser. You will learn what that means as you grow up and experience life. But, right now, what you need to know is that a Dream Chaser is one who has the courage to follow their dreams, even when discouraged or facing obstacles and setbacks. Dream Chasers don't let "being different" stand in their way. Their faith, hope, and courage give them the strength to succeed.

Spirit, you will learn by chasing your own dreams. Then your mission is to help a very special human do the same.

As a Dream Chaser we have given you a pair of white wings that will grow as you learn. Your name has been carefully chosen to reflect who you are. You are Spirit, the Dream Chaser, and champion of faith, hope, and courage. Take flight, dear boy.

We will always be nearby and support you with our love,

The Chief Guardian Angel of Dream Chasers



There were so many puppies waiting to be born—all shapes, sizes, and colors.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN: MY WISH FOR YOU

My wish for you is—chase your dreams! Dream big and let your imagination run free. You’re capable of amazing things. Be kind and grateful. Believe in yourself and find courage, even when you’re afraid. Try new things and work hard at what you try. Remember that it’s okay if you’re not good at or don’t like everything. The point is that you tried and gave it your best. Find others who will support and encourage you—and do the same for them.

Life is a team sport to be played with others who share your dreams. When you get knocked down or frustrated, get back up, and try again. There is always more than one road to success. Be creative and open your mind to the endless opportunities that will come your way. With faith and hope at your side, run for your dreams with courage and joy in your heart.

With love,
Spirit

GCH Ayehli’s Don’t Beat Around The Bush Marben
CD RA TKN DS DCAT SCN NDD
BMDCA Active Dog Excellent Award
BMDCA Versatility Dog Award

Dream Chaser Angel



Run for your dreams with courage and joy in your heart.
(Reference photo by Robin Hamme)



“Chase your dreams! Dream big and let your imagination run free.
You’re capable of amazing things.”

SPIRIT



“When looking through Spirit’s eyes I can see that anything
is possible with faith, hope, and courage.”

ROBIN