

## Chapter 10

### **Blanca and Luca's Carcassonne Adventure**

Blanca, the ever-watchful Labrador, and Luca, the exuberant Golden Retriever, were brimming with excitement as they embarked on their journey to Carcassonne, France, with their beloved owners, Lily and Ben. This medieval city, with its enchanting fortress and rich history, promised a unique adventure for all.

### **Arrival in Carcassonne**

As they arrived in Carcassonne, the majestic sight of the fortified city greeted them. Blanca and Luca led Lily and Ben through the Cobblestone streets; their eyes wide with wonder. The towering walls and turrets of La Cité de Carcassonne, a UNESCO World Heritage site, stood proudly against the sky.

### **Exploring La Cité**

Blanca guided Lily through the narrow, winding alleys of the old city. The scent of freshly baked pastries from local boulangeries wafted through the air, making Luca's nose twitch with curiosity. They visited the stunning Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus, where the stained-glass windows cast colorful patterns on the ancient stone floor.

In the courtyard of the Château Comtal, Blanca found a shady spot for Lily to rest while Ben and Luca explored the medieval architecture. Luca's adventurous spirit led him to discover hidden corners and secret passages, much to the delight of Ben, who followed with eager steps.

### **The Canal du Midi**

Their adventure continued with a peaceful walk along the Canal du Midi, a picturesque waterway that runs through the Languedoc region. Blanca and Luca enjoyed the cool breeze as they trotted beside the canal, with Lily and Ben taking in the serene views of the countryside. They watched boats pass by and even shared a friendly greeting with a family of ducks.

### **Local Cuisine and Culture**

Carcassonne's vibrant market was a feast for the senses. Blanca and Luca navigated the bustling stalls, guiding Lily and Ben through the array of fresh produce, cheeses, and artisanal goods. They savored the aroma of local delicacies and enjoyed the lively atmosphere of the market.

In a charming café, they sampled traditional cassoulet, a hearty dish of white beans and meat. Blanca lay contentedly at Lily's feet, while Luca made friends with the café owner's dog, exchanging playful barks and wagging tails.

### **Evening at La Bastide Saint-Louis**

As the sun set, the group explored La Bastide Saint-Louis, the lower town of Carcassonne. The streets were lined with quaint shops and cafes, and the glow of lanterns created