

Chapter 4

Blanca and Luca go to the seaside.

Blanca, Luca, and their new friend Max were buzzing with excitement as they prepared for a much-anticipated trip to the seaside. Since their owners were blind and could not drive, they had arranged for an Uber to take them all to the beach. The dogs had been on many car rides before, but this one felt special—it was a day of sun, fun, and ice cream just waiting for them.

The Uber arrived right on time, and the driver, a kind woman who immediately took a liking to the three well-behaved guide dogs, helped their owners get settled in the car. Blanca, with her soft golden fur, took her usual spot by the window, enjoying the cool breeze on her face. Luca, always full of energy, wiggled around in the backseat, eager to get going. Max, the young chocolate-brown Labrador, was still learning the ropes of being a guide dog, but he was just as excited as his friends.

The ride to the seaside was filled with anticipation. The dogs could sense the adventure ahead, and their tails wagged non-stop. Blanca, ever calm and composed, sat quietly, her big brown eyes watching the world go by outside the window. Luca could not sit still, his eyes sparkling with mischief as he nudged Max, who was trying his best to imitate Blanca's calmness but could not help letting out an excited bark every now and then.

After about an hour, the scent of saltwater filled the air, and the sound of seagulls could be heard in the distance. The Uber driver smiled as she turned onto a narrow road lined with sand dunes, and soon enough, the sparkling blue sea came into view. The dogs could hardly contain their excitement as the car came to a stop near the beach.

The driver kindly helped their owners out of the car, making sure everyone was safe and ready to enjoy the day. As soon as the doors were opened, Blanca, Luca, and Max leaped out, their paws sinking into the warm, soft sand. The beach was a paradise for them—endless stretches of sand to run on, waves to splash in, and the sun shining brightly overhead.

Blanca trotted alongside her owner, staying close while still enjoying the freedom of the open beach. Luca, full of energy, darted towards the water, barking happily as he chased the waves. Max, still young and curious, followed Luca, eager to join in the fun. The three dogs ran up and down the shore, their harnesses left behind for the day as they embraced the joy of simply being dogs.

After hours of running and playing, the dogs and their owners took a break under a large beach umbrella. The dogs sprawled out on the sand, panting happily as they watched the waves roll in. Their owners had brought a picnic, and soon the smell of fresh sandwiches and fruit filled the air. But the best part of the picnic was yet to come—ice cream!

The ice cream truck arrived, its familiar jingle making the dogs perk up their ears. Their owners bought three small bowls of vanilla ice cream, one for each dog. Blanca ate hers slowly, savoring every lick. Luca, true to his playful nature, finished his in-record time and then tried to sneak a lick of Max's bowl, only to be playfully nudged away by Max, who was thoroughly enjoying his treat.

With their bellies full and their energy renewed, the dogs and their owners set off for a leisurely walk along the beach. The sun was beginning to dip towards the horizon, casting a golden glow over the water. Blanca walked calmly beside her owner, her golden fur shining in the evening light. Luca trotted ahead, occasionally glancing back to make sure everyone was still following. Max, full of youthful energy, ran in circles around the group, his joy contagious.

As they reached a quiet cove, the group decided to rest on the soft sand. The dogs curled up together, Blanca in the middle, with Luca and Max on either side. Their owners sat nearby, enjoying the peaceful sound of the waves lapping against the shore. The sky turned a brilliant shade of orange and pink as the sun set, and the world seemed to pause for a moment in the beauty of the evening.

Blanca looked out at the sea, her heart full of contentment. Luca nudged her gently, a playful glint in his eye even as he started to doze off. Max yawned and rested his head on his paws, his earlier excitement now giving way to a calm, happy exhaustion.

As the stars began to twinkle overhead, the three dogs drifted off to sleep, their dreams filled with the day's adventures. They had run on the sand, splashed in the waves, tasted the sweetness of ice cream, and enjoyed the warmth of the sun with their owners.

When the time came to head home, their owners called another Uber. The driver, this time a cheerful man who loved dogs, helped them into the car. Blanca, Luca, and Max settled into the backseat, their eyes heavy with sleep but their hearts full of the day's memories.

As the Uber made its way back home, the dogs rested peacefully, knowing they had shared a perfect day at the seaside with their owners and each other. And with the promise of more adventures to come, they knew that life as guide dogs—and best friends—was the best life of all.