



Sterlington Stairlift Stories for Children

Sterlington's Needy Neighbour

ONE day Sterlington went for a ride up to the landing. Across the gardens he could see a lady who was having trouble getting up the stairs and was holding on to the handrail very hard.



"What she needs is a stairlift", thought Sterlington to himself.

He noticed a little while later that the lady was sitting on the edge of a bed, looked a bit uncomfortable, and seemed to be trying to find a number to phone somebody.



"I wonder if she needs help" thought Sterlington.

So, he sent a special red stairlift signal to a mobile phone owned by lady whose phone number he knew from another story. Her name? Veronica.

"Ting-a-ting-ding-a-tringy-tring-tring" went the tone on the lady's phone.

"Helloooo!" she said, "Veronica here".



But nobody spoke. "Hello, helloooo" she said again. But nobody spoke. "Silly me!", she thought "it must be a text message".

So she looked at the picture on her phone and saw "lady at 12 Lime Grv in trbl, plz hlp, SS".

"Goodness me", the lady said, "It's Sterlington and somebody's in trouble, what should I do?"



The lady had been practising snooker when the phone rang and had to think for a moment about how to help the poor lady at 12 Lime Grove.

She said to herself "I know, I'll ask my daughter Julianne to run around with a message and ask if everything's alright".

So she went to the landing and called "Juli, Juli darling, will you do something for mummy".

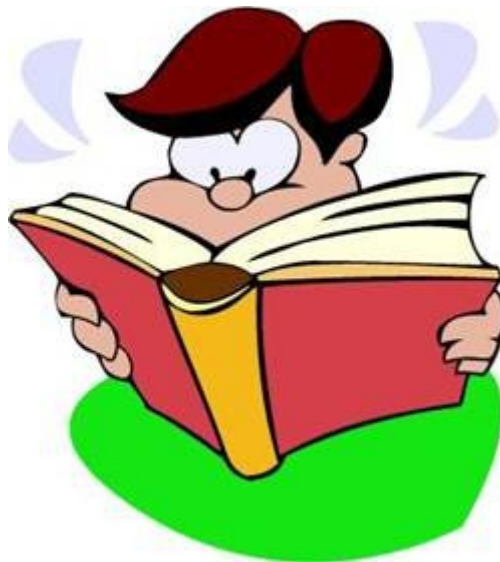
But there was no answer, just a horrible screeching sound.

Then she realised.



It was Julianne practising on her violin.

She couldn't get Julianne to hear because of the noise, so she decided to go and ask her husband Dennis to help. She went to kitchen and there he was busily reading a book, waiting for some toast to pop up for his breakfast.



"Dennis, darling" said Veronica, "I've got a little job for you".

"Not now, Ronnie" said Dennis, "I'm just getting to the end of this page".

He called her Ronnie because it was short for Veronica and if he called her Vera, which is also short for Veronica, some people thought he was talking about a lady on the television.

"Put the book down, please" said Veronica. "This is important, I think someone is in trouble and needs help!"

"Who?" asked Dennis.

"The lady at 12 Lime Grove", answered Veronica.

"Why do you think that?" asked Dennis.

"I just got a text message from a friend" said Veronica. "Please, will you go round and ask if everything is alright".

"OK" said Dennis and went into the hall to get his coat. "I'll take Jake with me", he said.

Jake was a big black dog called a Great Dane. Jake loved going for walks with Dennis.



The only trouble was that sometimes Jake ran a bit too fast and made Dennis's legs ache trying to keep up with him.

If Jake liked someone he used to stand up and put his great big paws on their shoulders, and lick their face.

He was so big that when he stood up like that he was usually taller than the grown ups. Oh yes, and Jake ate lots of dog biscuits too!

It took Dennis and Jake just a few minutes to get to 12 Lime Grove. Dennis rang on the doorbell and Jake jumped up and licked his face.

After a few rings there was still no answer so Dennis went back to the pavement and looked up at the windows. He couldn't see anybody and thought perhaps everyone had gone out.

He was just going to take Jake back home when he saw something at the bedroom window. The lady Sterlington had seen opened the window and held her finger up to ask Dennis to wait a minute.

She got a piece of paper and wrote a note, then dropped it out of the window. As the paper fluttered down the wind caught it and the paper got blown along the road.

There were no cars around so Dennis undid Jake's lead and said "fetch it Jake!".

Jake was so happy to be asked to run and get the piece of paper that Dennis was sure he saw him smile (do dogs smile?).

In a few seconds Jake came back with the paper and gave it to Dennis. "Thanks pal", said Dennis, and Jake jumped up and licked his face.

The note said "I'm not very well, my phone won't work. Can you help?"

Dennis looked up at the lady and said "can you open the front door?" The lady turned her head from side to side to say no.

"OK!" said Dennis, "wait a minute and I'll help you".

Luckily Dennis always carried a pen with him for doing crosswords and things. He got the piece of paper, scribbled over the note the lady had written, then on the other side he wrote "Ronnie, get Stan the man with the van to 12 Lime Grove now, Dennis".

He put the paper in Jake's mouth and said "Home, veronica, now, good boy" .

"Powwww!" Off went Jake with giant leaps from his big long legs and very soon he was giving the note to Veronica (whom Dennis called Ronnie).

"Thanks Jake" said Veronica, and Jake stood up and licked her face.

Veronica got her phone and called Stan the man with the van, who had a very nice red and grey coloured mobile phone.



Stan got there quite quickly in his van and soon worked out what was wrong.

He got a ladder from the top of his van, and, with the lady's permission, he climbed up and through the window so he could go down and open the front door.

While Stan the man with the van did that, Dennis phoned for the lady's doctor.

Jake stayed with Veronica, and Julianne. But Julianne didn't know anything about what the others were doing and carried on playing her violin.

Secretly, Dennis was quite pleased to be out of the house because violins can be really screechy sometimes.

Dennis and Stan the man with the van had a chat with the lady.

The doctor came and said it was best if everyone had a cup of tea because it was a bit chilly that day.

They found out that the electricity in the house wasn't working. She had got very cold and hadn't eaten much. She wanted to get into bed to keep warm but it was hard for her to get up the stairs. It was a good job Sterlington saw her!

Stan the man with the van was very clever at mending things.

His main job was stairlifts but he did other things as well. He soon found out why the electricity didn't work and fixed it. Then he found that the lady's phone was unplugged so he fixed that too!

While they were having a cup of tea the lady said other things had gone wrong and she wasn't having very good luck lately.

Dennis and Stan the man with the van learned that her washing machine had broken down and she had a lot of wet washing inside it that she couldn't get it out to dry it because the door was stuck.

Dennis said to Stan the man with the van "could you have a look and see if you can fix it please, Stan, and I'll pay for your time".

"OK" said Stan the man with the van, and went off to find the washing machine.

"If you're OK for a while I'll see if I can help him with anything" said Dennis to the lady. "I think I'll have a nap" she said. "You carry on, and thank you very much".

Dennis went to the kitchen and saw Stan the man with the van standing by the washing machine.



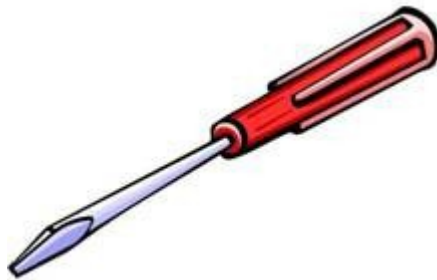
"I'll soon fix this", he said. To Dennis's surprise Stan the man with the van took a great big hammer from his toolbox.



"That's much too big, you'll break the machine!" said Dennis in horror.

"I was only joking" said Stan the man with the van. "I think I know what's wrong".

He put the hammer away, took out a nice slim red handled screwdriver instead, and it was juuust right.



As Stan the man with the van thought, it was the controller in the washing machine that was broken. He also found that the heater wasn't working so the water couldn't get hot enough to wash the clothes properly.



Very soon afterwards he had fixed the washing machine and rescued the wet washing from inside. But there was a lot of dust and muck on the floor.

"This is a job for Hungar the vacuum cleaner", said Stan the man with the van to Dennis. "I'll get him" said Dennis.



Dennis had seen Hungar before when Stan the man with the van had used him at Sterlington's house when Dennis was visiting there.

So, off Dennis went to Stan the man with the van's nice tidy van and got Hungar.



Very quickly they cleared up all the dust and muck and emptied Hungar's dust bag into a nice waste bin that the lady had at her house.

To save doing all the Lady's washing again Dennis agreed to take the wet things round to his house and dry them in Veronica's posh new green and red tumble dryer.



A little while later they had just finished taking the dry clothes out of the tumble dryer when Julianne came downstairs.

"I'm fed up with playing my violin. I want to do something different for a change", she said.

"We've got just the thing for you" said Veronica and Dennis together, and pointed toward the ironing board.

Later on they all went round to 12 Lime Grove to take the nicely ironed things back. The lady's doctor had told her she needed some help with the stairs because her legs weren't very strong.

So the next day Dennis and Veronica went to see their friends at Sterlington's house and asked his owners where they got him from.

Then they asked the people at the council if they could help the lady at 12 Lime Grove to pay for a stairlift so she could get up the stairs safely. The council people said it would be OK.

So the lady, with some help from the council people, some help from her doctor, and some help from Dennis and Veronica, found a nice stairlift, and Stan the man with the van fitted it for her a few days later.

Now she can get up and down the stairs without a struggle and is much happier.

When it was all done Dennis and Veronica and Julianne and Jake all went round to Sterlington's house for a visit.

Jake went to see Sterlington. "I'm very pleased" said Sterlington, "because now there's another new stairlift near here at 12 Lime Grove, and I can send it secret stairlift messages when everyone else is asleep".

Then he said to Jake "hop on and I'll give you a ride up and down the stairs".

Jake gave one of his doggy smiles, looked at Sterlington, then stood up and licked his face.

The End