

Sash's story by Kurtis Davies

We've all heard of angels and miracles, and have met many who believe in one or both and those who knock such things in this too often closed world. My dog Sash was and still is my angel and my miracle. She unlocked my closed mind and opened my heart.

I was a young man interested in tasting life and testing it to the full. Not a bad boy, but a tad naughty. My mother, who is still the wisest person I've ever met, decided I needed to learn responsibility and to experience the power of unconditional love.

We set off to Mareeba, where I was confronted with nine weaning puppies. One left her siblings and toddled over to me. I put her back, but she came again, again and again not deterred that I wasn't interested as I'd set my sights on one of her sisters or brothers. But it was obvious she'd chosen me. I found this amusing and enjoyed a surge of extreme warmth when I relented, picked her up and held her close. From then on Sash and I were inseparable.

Two weeks later, at a party, I was offered a smoke which I didn't know had been laced and it blew me into oblivion. As I slumped on a couch feeling death was near, I realized my Sash was in possible danger because she was reliant on my care. But she turned the tables and became my guardian angel, pressing into my arms and licking my face. Then someone put chocolate in my hand and even in that state I knew to protect my beautiful friend who, if she licked it, could be poisoned. Then the miracle happened. Sash alternately nudged my hand, then the pocket housing my mobile. We were in a black spot where mobiles are useless, but Sash insisted so I gathered strength and texted. This was our rescue.

For months I was in an abyss - a deep and bottomless chasm - I didn't care about anything, Sash never left me, her eyes questioned, she licked my hands and constantly snuggled. Doctors and a psychiatrist did nothing because I refused drugs, but Sash brought me round. One day I looked at my faithful friend and offered a high five. The second time I gestured she raised one paw and pushed my palm.

Sash brought laughter back into my life, she is my friend, my dependable source of unconditional love and best of all she holds the key to open my heart.

