



# Elijah's Big Heart

Amanda Panda



Elijah and his little dog, Minnie Pinnie, race through the golden grass of an Atwater park. Minnie's tiny docked tail wiggles with excitement as she chases her favorite boy under the warm California sun.



The house is filled with cardboard boxes, and the air feels quiet as Elijah gives Minnie Pinnie one last long hug. Even though he is sad to say goodbye for now, he promises his little friend that their bond can never be broken.



In their beautiful new home, Elijah helps his mom, Amanda, arrange their things to make it feel cozy. He misses the pitter-patter of tiny paws, but he stays brave and helpful, wanting to make this new start a happy one.

## Mother's Embrace



Elijah notices his mom looking at an old photo of Grandpa APA, her eyes filled with a quiet sadness. He gently sits beside her and gives her a warm hug, offering the kind of comfort that only a truly good-hearted son can give.



It is Elijah's ninth birthday, and the room is bright with colorful decorations and the sweet scent of cake. As he blows out his candles, his only wish is for his family's happiness and for the day he can play with Minnie Pinnie again.



Every day, Elijah shows how much he has grown, taking care of his chores and working hard at school without being asked. He carries a small photo of Minnie Pinnie in his pocket, a reminder of the loyal friend waiting for him.



During a special video call, Minnie Pinnie's ears perk up at the sound of Elijah's voice through the screen. Seeing her happy face and wiggly tail fills Elijah's heart with joy, knowing she is safe and still loves him just as much.



Elijah spends his afternoon drawing a beautiful picture of Minnie Pinnie and Grandpa APA walking together in a field of flowers. He uses bright, bold colors to capture the love he feels for both of them, keeping their memories close.



Amanda sits Elijah down and takes his hands in hers, her face glowing with pride and love. She tells him that even though things have been difficult, his kindness and strength have been the light that guided them through.



As the moon rises over their new home, Elijah feels a deep sense of peace and belonging. He knows he is a good kid with a big heart, and that no matter the distance, love keeps his family and his pup connected forever.