

The Dog Who Lost His Bark  
By Eoin Colfer

This book is about a dog who was born in a house and lived there with his mum and brothers and sisters. The man who owned the house was not very nice. The man sold the dogs to anyone he wanted. The dog was bought by a family as a Christmas present. He got punished for barking in the boys ear (he was only a puppy). They poked him in the ribs and pulled him by his tail. They locked him in the laundry room and never let him out. The dog decided he would never bark again, he lost his bark. Then one day they had enough of cleaning up after him and wrapped him in some lino and threw him in the dump. Someone found him and took him to a shelter, the owner was nice. But the dog was still afraid because he didn't know there was nice people in the world.

Then there was Patrick who was going to his Grandads for the summer with his mum. His mum and Grandad taught a music school from the house. His dad was not coming because he was a musician on tour in Australia. But that wasn't the full truth. To stop him asking questions about his dad his mum got him a dog. Which would never have happened if his dad had been around. They went to the shelter and when Patrick saw the dog he wanted him. He was told he would need to give the dog a lot of attention and work very hard to get his bark back. His mum got him a book about training dogs. He needed to say the dog's name 100 times every day, he called the dog Oz so he had to say Oz 100 times a day. He was trying to get Oz out of his crate but Oz wouldn't come out because he was afraid he would get into trouble again. He tried to get him out with hotdogs. He was trying so hard he fell asleep on the floor. Oz crept out of the crate and ate the hotdog from his hand. He tried everything, in the end it was music that helped Oz. I don't want to give too much away.

The book had sad parts and happy bits. It was full of ups and downs and left and rights. I would recommend this book to read.