

TWO DOGS IN A TRENCH COAT

Go to School

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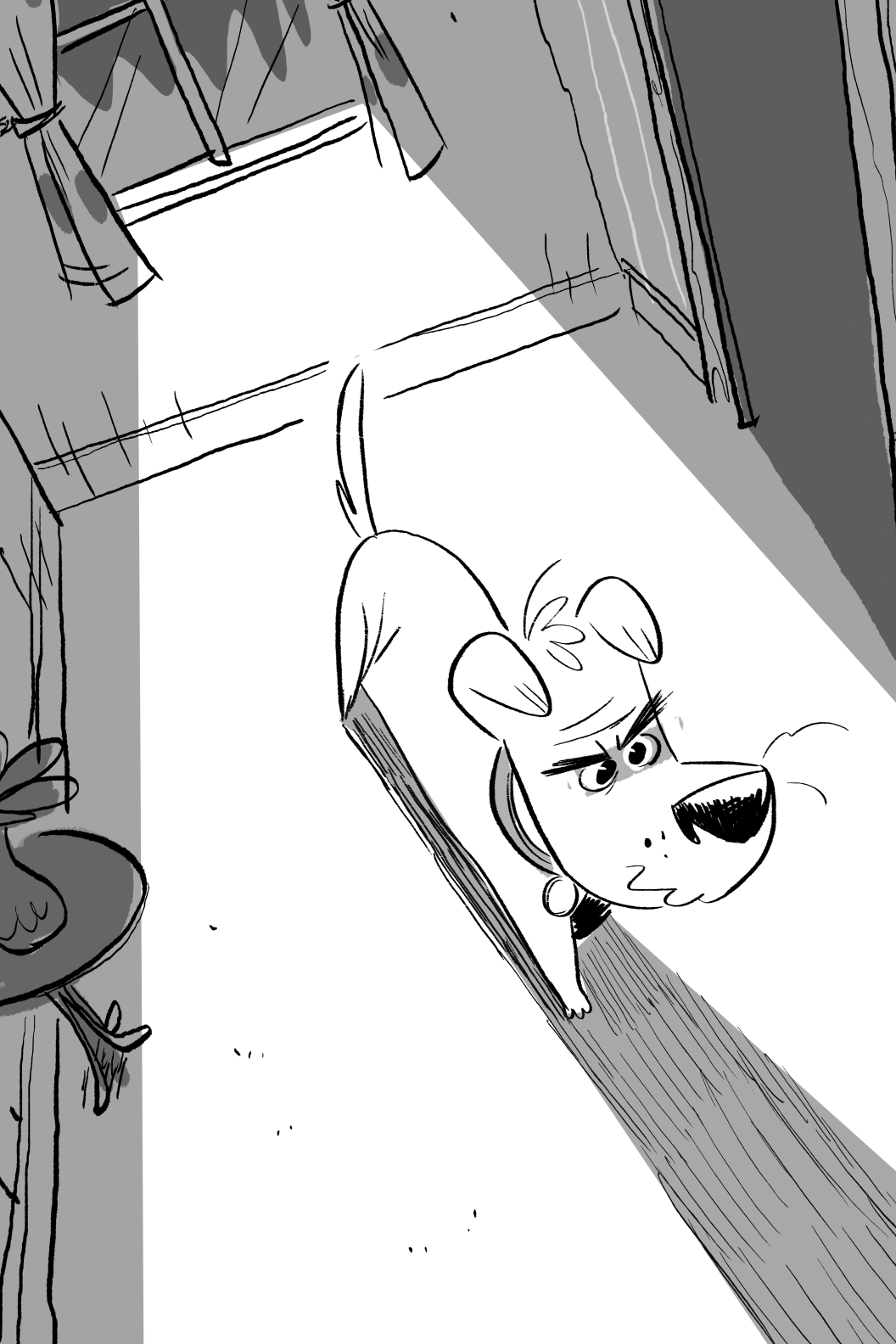
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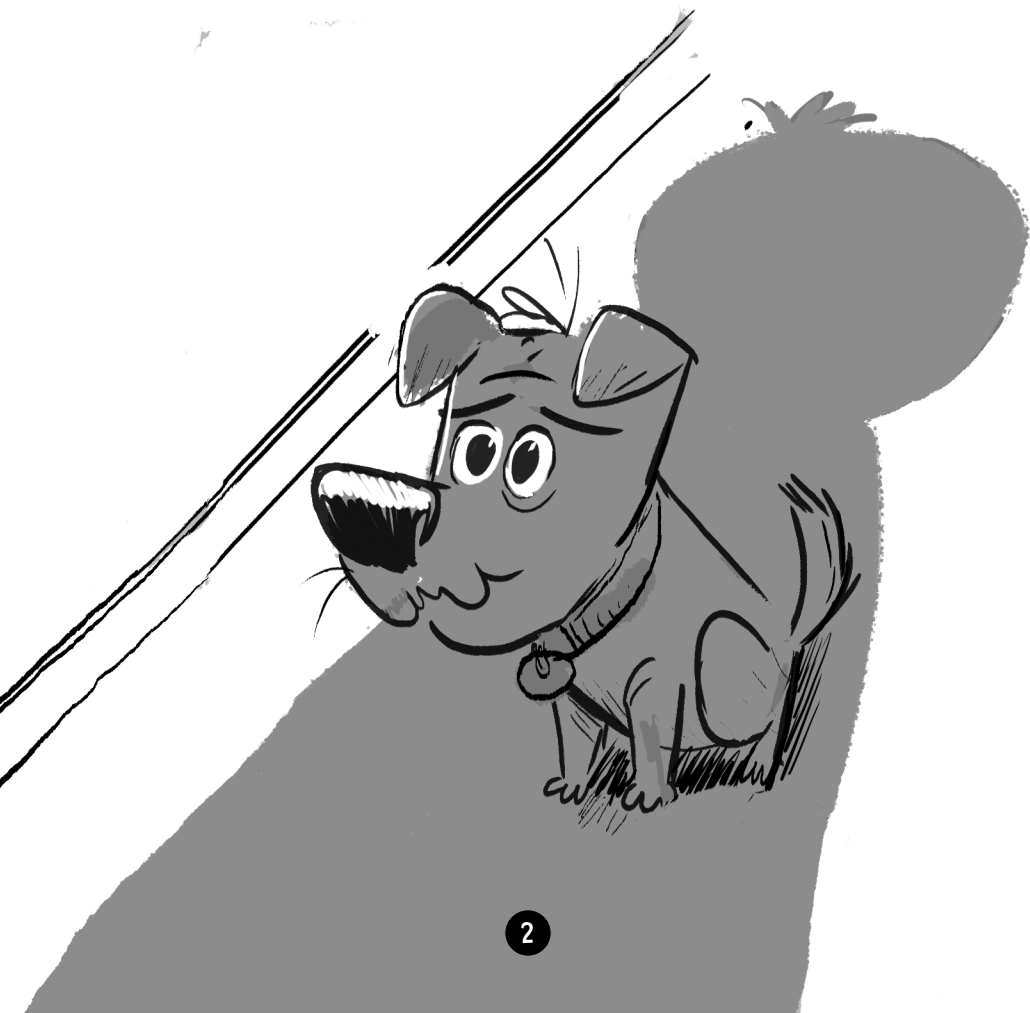


CHAPTER ONE

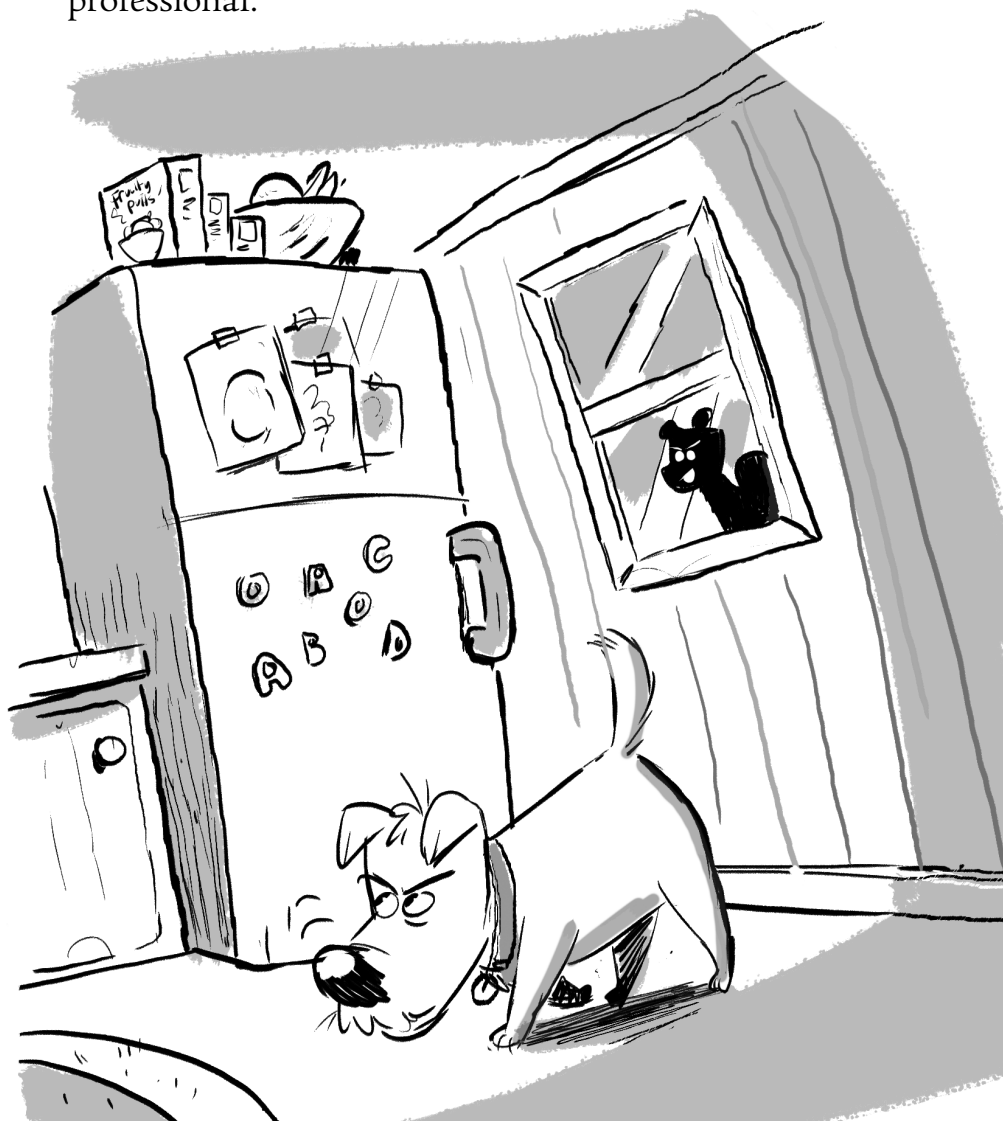
Waldo was pacing the perimeter. He was a small and scruffy dog who smelled like **kibble** plus something else he'd rather not discuss.



Waldo walked from room to room, checking all the doors and windows. What was he checking for? **Stray meatballs.** Squirrels. (Squirrels were a real threat, and required constant vigilance.) He also had to check for his humans. Every day they escaped, despite Waldo's best efforts. He begged. He pleaded. He made his eyes extra sad. And still, every day, they escaped. Somehow.

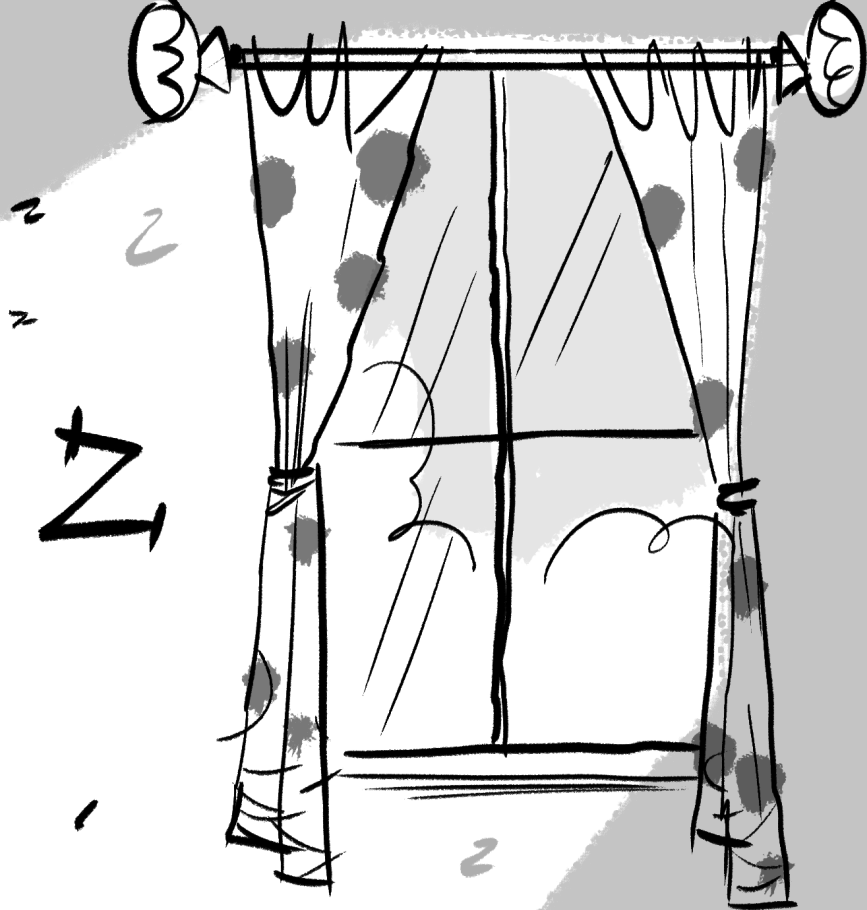


Even though the humans got out every day, Waldo was the best at his job. Had a squirrel ever gotten into the house, for instance? No. Never. And while he had yet to find a **stray meatball**, he was very good at finding odd bits of **cheese** around the refrigerator, and he cleaned them all up, as a good dog should. He was a professional.



Sassy was a lot bigger than Waldo. She had helped him pace the perimeter earlier, but then they got to the part of the front hall with the wood floors and her back feet kept slipping and then she was lying down and then she was napping.





Every afternoon a square of sun came in the window and made a warm spot on the floor. It was very important for Sassy to nap in the sun square every day. It was her job. She also kept the squirrels out of the house. (Had there ever been a squirrel in the house? Not a one.)

Sassy was the best at what she did. Not only did she keep all the squirrels away, but she also let the humans rub her belly, which they loved to do.

Sassy had reached the good part of her nap where the sun was so hot it was like a blanket of fire, plus she was so relaxed she couldn't move. The only thing ruining this stellar nap was Waldo. He kept walking by her head and clearing his throat, which sounded like a bullfrog doing a dog impersonation.

"How can you sleep when there are so many squirrels and imminent intruders?" asked Waldo.

Sassy lifted her head. She sneezed. The sun made her sneeze, and whenever she sneezed, she sneezed *fifteen times* in a row. "There are intruders?"

