

# **Voices in the Park**

by Anthony Brown

Voice 1



It was time to take  
Victoria, our  
pedigree Labrador,  
and Charles, our  
son, for a walk.



When we arrived at the park, I let Victoria off her lead. Immediately some scruffy mongrel appeared and started bothering her. I shooed it off, but the horrible thing chased her all over the park.



I ordered it to go away, but it took no notice of me whatsoever. "Sit," I said to Charles. "Here."



I was just planning what we should have to eat that evening when I saw Charles had disappeared. Oh dear! Where had he gone?



You get some  
frightful types in  
the parks these  
days!

I called his name  
for what seemed  
like an age.



Then I saw him  
talking to a very  
rough-looking  
child.

"Charles, come  
here. At once!"

I said.

"And come here  
please, Victoria."



We walked home  
in silence.



Second Voice



**I needed to  
get out of  
the house,**



**so me and  
Smudge took  
the dog to  
the park.**





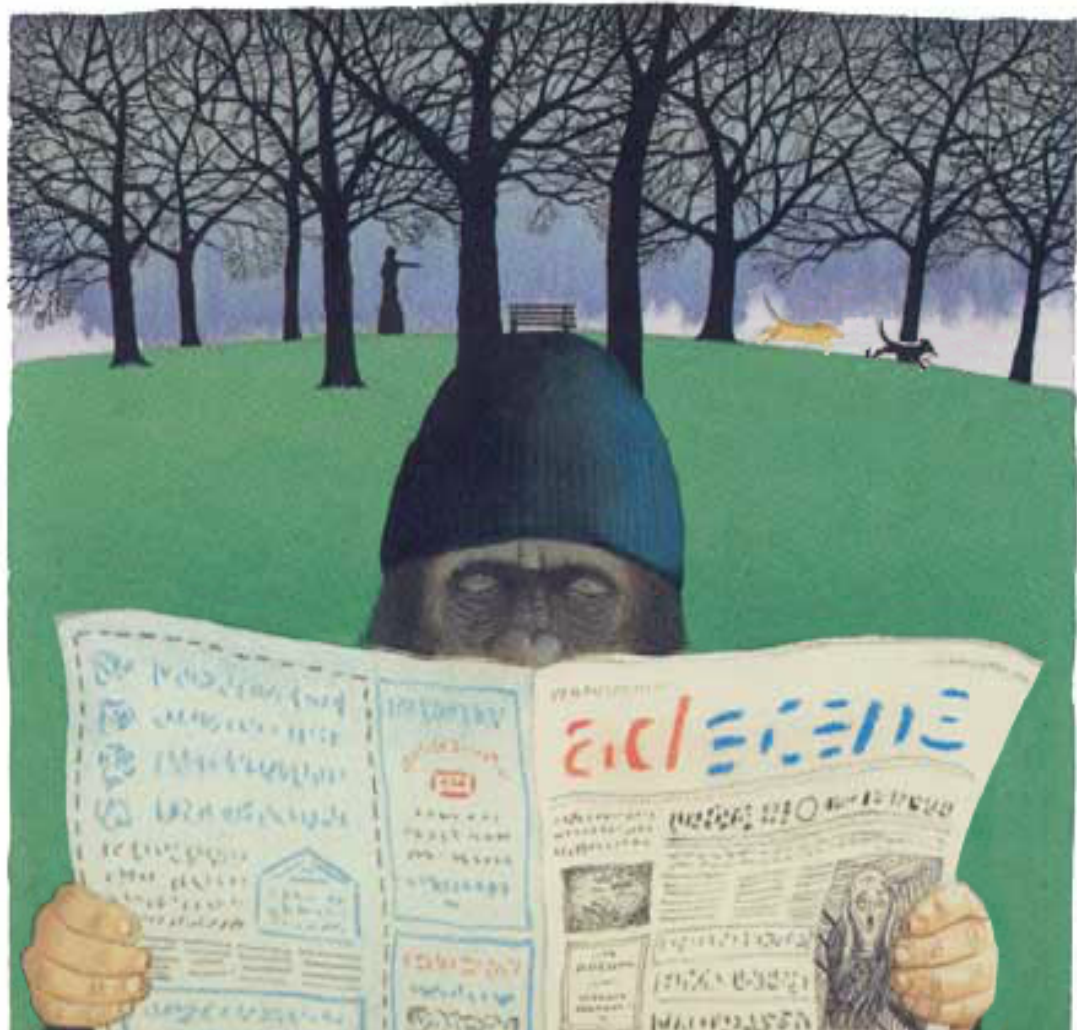
**He loves  
it there.**

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**I wish I had half  
the energy he's  
got.**

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**I settled on a bench and looked through the paper for a job. I know it's a waste of time really, but you've got to have a bit of hope, haven't you?**



**Then it was time  
to go. Smudge  
cheered me up.  
She chatted  
happily to me all  
the way home.**



Voice 3



I was at home on  
my own again.  
It's so boring.  
Then Mummy said  
that it was time  
for our walk.



There was a very  
friendly dog in  
the park and  
Victoria was  
having a great  
time.  
I wished I was.



"D'you wanna come  
on the slide?"  
a voice asked.  
It was a girl,  
unfortunately,  
but I went  
anyway.



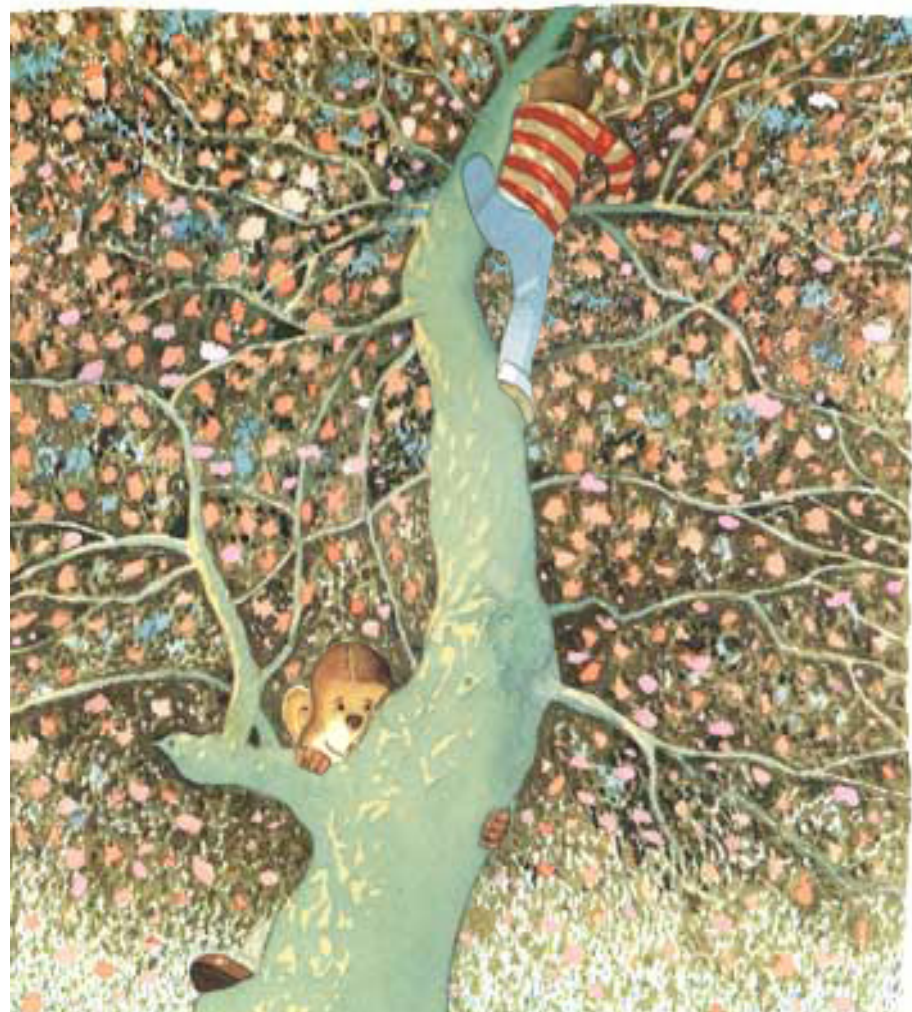
She was brilliant  
on the slide. She  
went really fast.  
I was amazed.



The two dogs  
raced around like  
old friends.



The girl took  
off her coat  
and swung on  
the climbing  
frame, so I  
did the same.



I'm good at climbing trees, so I showed her how to do it. She told me her name was Smudge - a funny name, I know, but she's quite nice. Then Mummy caught us talking together and I had to go home.



Maybe Smudge  
will be there  
next time?

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Voice 4



Dad had been  
really fed up, so I  
was pleased when  
he said we could  
take Albert to the  
park.



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Albert's always in such a hurry to be let off his lead. He went straight up to this lovely dog and sniffed its bum (he always does that). Of course, the other dog didn't mind, but its owner was really angry, the silly twit.



I got talking to  
this boy.  
I thought he  
was a bit of a  
wimp at first,  
but he's okay.



We played on the  
see-saw and he  
didn't say much,  
but later on he  
was a bit more  
friendly.



We both burst  
out laughing  
when we saw  
Albert having  
a swim.



Then we all  
played on the  
bandstand,  
and I felt really,  
really happy.





Charlie picked  
a flower and  
gave it to me.

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Then his MUM  
called him and  
he had to go.  
He looked sad.



When I got home  
I put the flower  
in some water,  
and made Dad a  
nice cup of tea.