MILLIE'S GONE

My search for a little dog lost

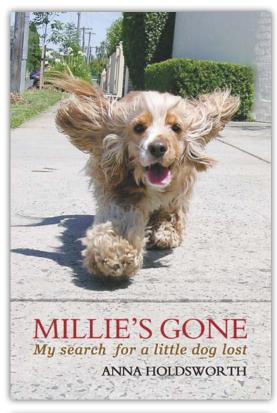
ANNA HOLDSWORTH

This is a story about Millie, a small golden spaniel that was adopted from the local dog pound as a companion after Anna's husband died. It is the story of how Millie was stolen from outside a supermarket in innersuburban Melbourne and Anna's intense efforts to find her which involved the whole community. But this is more than a 'lost dog' story, it is also about the healing powers of a dog and the way their particular habits and characteristics become so endearing. It is a human interest, feel-good story that will strike a chord with dog lovers who will be able to relate to emotions Anna and her family felt when they got her, when they lost her and when they found her again. It also shows how the wider community can become passionately caring about the well-being of a small family pet.

The chief means Anna used to find her were those involving saturation coverage of Millie's photo and details throughout the neighbourhood including advertising in the local press, doorknocking, letterboxing and pasting posters about her everywhere, about 4000 in total. She thought that if the public knew she had been stolen they would look out for her like a kidnapped child. When no-one initially claimed a reward for finding her, Anna knew she had been stolen by someone who intended to keep her so she began a campaign to make sure that if the thief took her out into the street someone would recognise her and report back to her.

After 3 weeks of non-stop searching she was sighted trying to find her way home, the plan worked exactly as Anna had hoped and they were reunited at last.

Public interest was so high in the search for Millie that Anna needed the local press to publish a report when she was found and ever since, people regularly stop Anna and Millie in the street to congratulate them on finding each other again.





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