A HOME AT LAST!

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Maggie trotted down the street. Her paws were cold and wet from the snow. She passed coffeehouses, boutiques, and restaurants. Maggie has been on her own ever since she was a newborn puppy. She loved the city, but longed for a home and a family that loved her.
Maggie ate food that people dropped on the ground and curled up on the benches at the park to sleep. She imagined lying in a soft, warm bed and having someone bathe and snuggle with her.
As Maggie rounded the corner, she saw people walking down the street, carrying purses and shopping bags. Maggie sniffed the sidewalk, searching for food. Skyscrapers stood above her and icicles hung from the windows.
Maggie used to roam the city with her friend Lilly, but one day, Lilly disappeared. Thinking about Lilly made Maggie sad. She missed her puppy friend.
Maggie found a half-eaten cheeseburger by a trash can and munchmed away. The sounds of
cars and trucks zooming by made Maggie jump, but she recovered quickly and finished her burger.
Maggie made her way to the park. She curled up in a pile of leaves and fell asleep.

She was awoken by the feeling of someone petting her. Maggie looked up and saw a little girl in a hat and mittens. Maggie licked her and the girl giggled.

“Mom! Come here!” she said.

Mrs. Clark hurried over and asked, “What is it, Piper?”

“Look at this puppy!” Piper exclaimed, jumping up and down. Maggie wagged her tail in excitement. Maybe they were going to be her new family!
Mrs. Clark picked Maggie up and said, “This poor dog is shivering! Let’s take her home and clean her up!”

As they walked to the car, another small girl, Sophie, joined them. She saw Maggie and asked excitedly, “Are we going to keep her?”

“I think so. I don’t see a tag on her.” Mrs. Clark answered.

The car started and Maggie finally felt warm again.
After they arrived at her new home, the girls took Maggie upstairs for a bath. Maggie splashed and played in the tub, making the girls giggle.
Piper put a new collar and leash on Maggie and took her outside to explore. As Maggie got closer to the neighbor’s yard, she tracked a familiar scent. Piper walked her over to meet her neighbors, the Jacksons.

When Mrs. Jackson opened the door, she smiled and asked, “Piper, did you get a dog?”

“Yes! Mrs. Jackson, meet Maggie! I want her to meet Lilly!” Piper told her.
They went into the living room and Maggie immediately recognized her lost puppy friend! She ran to Lilly and they began jumping and dancing around together excitedly.

“Wow! They act like they already knew each other!” Piper said, watching the two dogs interact with each other.

“I can’t believe how well they get along! Maybe they were friends before you found Lilly!” Sophie said, joining them.

“Wouldn’t that be funny?” Mrs. Jackson asked, laughing.
That night, as Maggie curled up next to Piper in bed, she realized that everything she had always longed for was now a reality---a warm place to sleep, a family that loves her, and most importantly---all the food she wants!