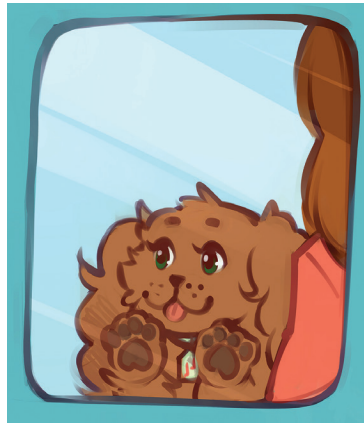


Chapter 1

WE'RE ALMOST THERE

Lindie Lou looked out of the window. She was on an airplane. This time she was allowed to sit on Kate's lap. Kate was her owner and made her feel safe.

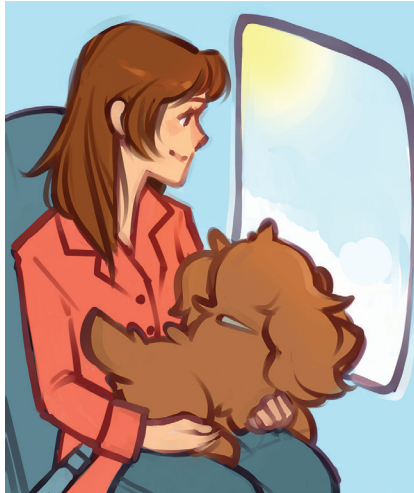


Lindie Lou liked to ride on airplanes. It was fun to *fly* across the sky. She also liked being near the clouds. But

most of all, Lindie Lou liked airplanes because they are fast.

We're on our next adventure, thought Lindie Lou. She **L**♥**O**♥**V**♥**E****D** adventures. She also loved to travel. When she was out in the world, she met many new people and learned a lot of new things.

The airplane was flying above the clouds. Up here, the sky was blue and the sun was shining. Lindie



Lou liked to look for shapes in the clouds. Today the clouds looked like a

soft white

blanket.

Lindie Lou closed her eyes. She thought about what it would be like if she had wings and could fly.

I wonder how fast we're going, thought Lindie Lou. She could hear the airplane's engines humming. Lindie Lou opened her eyes and looked around. *I wonder where the engines are.*

Kate stretched out her arms and gave Lindie Lou a **big squeeze**. She was happy they were traveling together.

Lindie Lou is fun to travel with, thought Kate. She's calm, quiet, and cuddly. Kate hugged Lindie Lou again.

"We're almost there," said Bryan.

He was Kate's husband. Bryan reached over and tickled Lindie Lou on the top of her head.



The airplane t i p p e d down and flew
under the clouds.

"Look," said Kate. "There's the New
York City skyline."

Bryan leaned over and looked out of
the window.

"The buildings are even taller than
the ones in Seattle where we live," said
Bryan.

"Agreed," said Kate. "Can you see the
two rivers on either side of Manhattan
Island?"

"I sure can," said Bryan. "The Hudson is on the left and the East River is on the right."



"Exactly," said Kate.

The airplane made a **wide** turn.

"Look," said Kate. "I can see the **Statue of Liberty.**"

"**I see it too,**" said Bryan. "**She is beautiful.**"

"She reminds me of our freedom," said Kate.

"She sure does," replied Bryan.



What is freedom? thought Lindie Lou. I think freedom means. . . I can go anywhere I want without being on a leash. But then I have to be very careful not to get into any trouble.

Lindie Lou looked at the Statue of Liberty.

Freedom must be very important, if someone made a statue to remind us of it, thought Lindie Lou.



The airplane
flew closer to the
ground.

"Good afternoon,"

said a man with a

loud voice. The sound was coming from a speaker. "Please prepare for landing. Make sure your seat belts are on and everything is stowed away."

"Time for you to go into your travel cart," said Kate. She lifted Lindie Lou off her lap and set her on the floor. Lindie Lou crawled inside her travel cart, turned around, and lay down. She knew she would be safer there during landing.

Kate reached over and held Bryan's hand.

"I'm looking forward to showing Leeza the drawings I made for her new book."

"I think they're great," said Bryan. He smiled at Kate.

A few minutes later, Lindie Lou heard a loud **THUD** when the plane landed.

I can't wait to see where we are, thought Lindie Lou. I heard Kate call this place New York City.

Lindie Lou jumped up on Kate's lap. She looked out of the window. The airplane was moving very slowly now and the airport building was far away.

Lindie Lou closed her eyes, rested her head on her huge front paws, and smiled.

