# JASPER

# VIKING DOG



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**Illustrated by Lewis James**

STRAUSS HOUSE PRODUCTIONS

For the real Bruce – HR

For Jonathon Bentham – LJ

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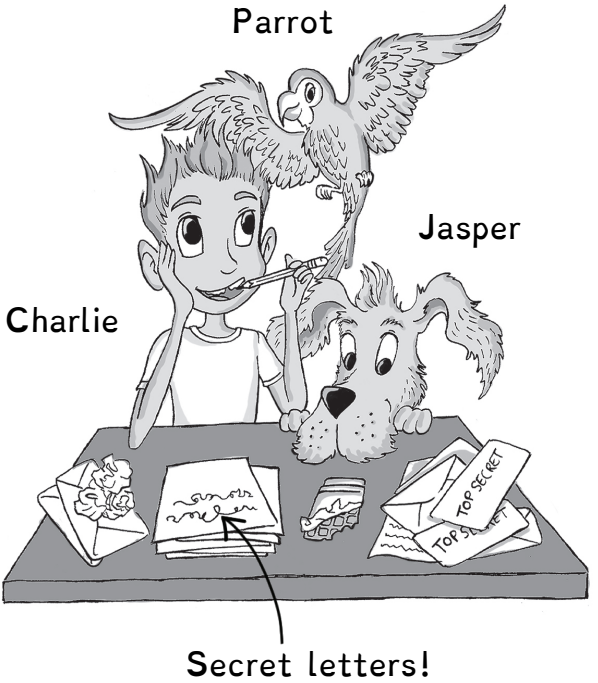
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Parrot
Jasper
Charlie
TOP SECRET
Secret letters!

Astrid the Curator
Viking Museum
Bogna, UK

Dear Astrid the Curator,

My name is Charlie Tanner. I am writing to you because my dog, Jasper, has heard you are looking for actors to work in Bogna Museum. He would like to be considered for the role of a Viking dog. Jasper believes he may have Viking roots. He thinks he may even be a surviving dog from Viking

times.

I know acting as a Viking dog is not the sort of thing dogs would normally want to do, but Jasper is not like normal dogs. He came from a rescue centre and we're not sure how he got there. He wonders whether he was left on their doorstep by a Viking invader.

Sometimes I think Jasper makes stuff up. I have no idea why he thinks he has Viking roots. When I ask him, he doesn't seem to know.



**Jasper just says**
**he feels 'Viking-ish'.**

Our parrot, who is called Parrot, thinks Jasper's big ideas are bonkers. Jasper just ignores him most of the time.

Jasper has heard from the dogs in Bogna Park (and we've read it in Councillor Nigel Pyle's newsletter) that a Roman museum is opening in the town next year. Once, when Mr Pyle called round to talk to us about our wheelie bins, Parrot kept squawking, 'Who's a pile of rubbish? Who's a pile of rubbish?' and I felt so embarrassed. Even Jasper said he felt his furry face going red.



Anyway, Jasper thinks it might be a good idea if you start to think about different ways of attracting tourists. He thinks they may all go to the Roman museum instead of the Viking museum if you do not prepare for what he is calling the

## ‘Roman invasion of Bogna’.




Jasper thinks it would be interesting for visitors to see how Viking dogs used to live – in the same way as they like to look at how Viking people used to live.

The question we would like to know – well, what Jasper would like to know – is this: Did real Vikings keep dogs and, if so, what sort of dogs were they?

From Charlie Tanner, age 8 and a half, and Jasper, who is about 2 or 3 we think, but now he thinks he's an abandoned Viking dog he says he could be over 1000 years old.

Dear Charlie Tanner,

Thank you for getting in touch and asking whether Vikings had dogs.

I can confirm that Vikings did indeed keep dogs. They used dogs for hunting animals such as moose and bears.

Jasper might be interested to know that the Norwegian puffin dog was very good at hunting seabirds and puffins. Dogs were also used for herding goats, pigs and sheep.

I think if Jasper were to be a Viking dog in a museum he would have to **show** what Viking dogs did, rather than sit around posing for visitors. Posing is fine for selfies but I am not sure visitors would learn much about Viking dogs unless the dogs were actively doing Viking work.

Best wishes,
Astrid the Curator