Helping your children choose books they will love

I reading

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

opening extract from

Wag and the King

written by

Joan Lennon

published by

Catnip Publishing Ltd

All text is copyright of the author and / or the illustrator

please print off and read at your leisure.

Lovereading4kids.co.uk



CATNIP BOOKS
Published by Catnip Publishing Ltd
14 Greville Street
London EC1N 8SB

First published 2009
1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Text copyright © Joan Lennon 2009
Illustrations copyright © Scoular Anderson 2009
The moral rights of the author and illustrator have been asserted

All rights reserved

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

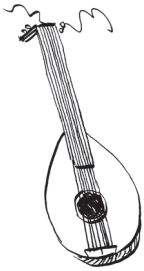
ISBN 978-1-84647-065-3

Printed in Poland

www.catnippublishing.co.uk

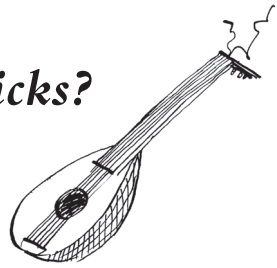






Chapter One

Old Dog, New Tricks?



Remember that thing they say?

You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

Ever stop to wonder *why*? If you did, you probably thought it was because old dogs are too stupid, or old dogs are too stiff. Rubbish! Old dogs can't learn new tricks because *they haven't got the time!*

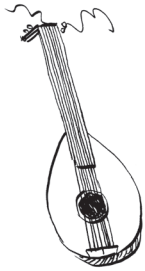
My name's Wag. I'm old, and I'm a dog. And I am SO BUSY keeping my human out of trouble that I have NO TIME LEFT to learn tricks. Old tricks, new tricks, tricks of *any* sort or smell.

Oh, come on, you say. No one can get in *that* much trouble, you say. You *must* be exaggerating.

That's what you say.

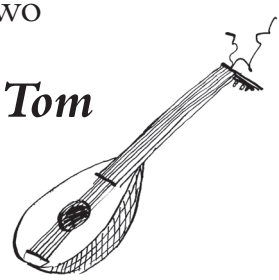
Are you right? I don't think so. Take last week, for example …





Chapter Two

Apprentice Tom



The Boy's name is Tom, and I've had him ever since his parents left him here, at the Castle, when he was little more than a puppy.

Do you know about apprenticing? If you do, you can skip the rest of this bit. If you don't – this is how it works.

Humans with a big litter apprentice some of them to other humans (called Masters) who are skilled at something the parents don't know much about themselves. The children learn a new trade by watching and helping and being taught, and the Master gets a

new assistant. Even the Princes and Princesses get sent away to other castles, to learn things about Kinging and Queening that maybe their own mothers and fathers aren't so good on. It's a pretty sensible system, and mostly it all works out quite well.

Mostly.

In Tom's case, his parents apprenticed him to the Court Minstrel. On the face of it, they couldn't have chosen a better job for their son: no heavy lifting, indoor work, guaranteed invitations to every feast, nice clothes and a warm basket, er, bed to sleep in.

The Master Minstrel was one of the Old King's favourites. The Old King died not so long ago, and his son Roderick was called back from *his* apprenticeship to take over. So now we

have a Young King. He's still new at the job and has a lot to learn, but he seems a likeable enough human. *And* he seems to be perfectly happy with his father's Minstrel, so that should be good news for the Boy, too.

It sounds great, doesn't it?

As it worked out, however, it was a bit like apprenticing a Jack Russell to an Irish Wolfhound.



Not exactly the perfect match, if you get what I mean.

