

# Bourne toWrite...

creative writing  
workshops

## Partners in Crime

by Zoé Carroll

It was love at first sight for me. I knew he was the one as soon as I clapped eyes on him. He was beautiful, uncomplicated yet unreadable and I wanted to spend every waking moment with him. A lot of work had gone on behind the scenes to match us together and they were spot on. We were a match and he would see it eventually. I had to keep my desire to be openly affectionate towards him under control, he didn't always like my attention. Some people find him difficult to get to know but he is actually very straightforward, he will react to things the same every time, but you have to spend a lot of time watching him closely to realise that.

I have time to watch him and I probably know him better than anyone in the World. He can be easily frustrated though, and when that happens he can lash out and I've been on the receiving end of a few thrown punches and slaps, but he is always sorry. He sits with me later and rocks me, whispering his apologies into my ears. I know he loves me and that he really is sorry, otherwise I wouldn't stay loyal to him, I wouldn't put up with violence for no reason.

It's my job to protect him but I've also put myself between his fists and his family members before. They get so frustrated with him and he gets upset. I hear the tension rising between them and intervene. Sometimes I can distract him from his anger but sometimes I just become the target for it and he shouts at me but that's OK. He tries really hard to control his anger and not hit me and I'm so proud of him for trying to control himself.

Sometimes I wish for more attention from him because he ignores me a lot of the time. I try to get him to look at me with my puppy dog eyes, but then I nudge him when he's reading or focused on something and his hand will reach out and touch me and I know he loves me too, even if he doesn't say it.

His mother says that she doesn't know how I do it because she's tried to do what I do. I know it's because I'm different, I'm special and I don't have an opinion on everything he does like other people seem to. I love him just as he is. Sometimes if he has had a particularly rough day he shouts a lot and cries and it can be draining but I just stay close to him and let him know that I am there for him. I'm always here for him. I love him so very much. When he has calmed down he will reach for me and hug me and I know he needs me to stay with him. At night he holds me close to him and hugs me and it is all I need. I think my heart will burst with love.

When we go out of the house he walks close to me, always holding onto me, and people often say how great we look together, "There they go, the partners in crime," they say as we stride out past them and I feel ten feet tall because I'm out with my hero. It's no cakewalk being a support dog for an autistic child, but it's my calling and I wouldn't have it any other way.