Bogart and Vinnie

by Audrey Vernick

Vinnie, a crazy-happy dog, was lost.

(to dog, to squirrel, to garbage can) I'm Vinnie! I like you. Do you like me? Hi!

Hap was heading to work at Wildlands Preserve when he spotted the dog.

Lost animals can be dangerous.

Hap would need to proceed with caution.
(to Hap) Hi! I'm Vinnie! I like you! Do you like me? Hi!

Hap safely rescued Vinnie and brought him to Wildlands. Before he could grab a leash, Vinnie took off?

New surroundings may frighten a lost dog. Wildlands was home to dangerous animals.

Vinnie sprinted past giraffes and zebras, cheetahs, wild horses and camels.?

(> maybe cut this altogether & let us just see it in the art?)

Wow! Oh wow! (Maybe add back in the "New best" line? I think it's so funny! And it'd work w/the art.)

Hi! Hi! Hi!

Way in back, rarely visited, stood Bogart, a square-lipped rhinoceros. Vinnie raced straight toward him as though reuniting with an old friend.

I love you! I'm Vinnie! Hi!

Nobody knew what attracted Vinnie to Bogart.

Was it his color? His shape? His horn? His other horn? ha!

The way he completely ignored Vinnie?
No one knew for sure. Cut this? See potential add below.

Hap knew rhinos could be dangerous. Bogart liked to be left alone. He tried to lure Vinnie away.

Vinnie sniffed Bogart’s horns. Show this in art instead of in text?

Hap, frantic, offered treats. Bones. He thought about where he might find a house cat.

Vinnie would not leave Bogart’s side.

Yo! Nose friend! Let’s play.

I’ll chase you. Now chase me!

Bogart lumbered over to a log and rubbed his back.

That’s fun, too! I love you! So much! Hi!

Could it be, Hap wondered, that Bogart just needed a friend?

He watched as the animals played what would become their favorite game: Follow the leader.

Maybe replace this w/ the parallel to p. 12 -

Nobody knew for sure what attracted Bogart to Vinnie. Was it his X? His Y? The way he’d never leave Bogart alone?
Meanwhile, Vinnie’s owners were looking for him.
The boy, Ethan, worried that Vinnie was scared, alone.

Ethan couldn’t have been more wrong!
The best part of being a crazy-happy dog was Vinnie was always crazy-happy.
(Add back in the “I’ll chase you... this would be more fun if you’d move” dialogue.)

Bogart scuttled to the mud hole.

- Alone, his tail curled with happiness, Bogart lowered himself into mud.
- Then Vinnie appeared: racing in and out, skidding, splashing.
- Bogart’s tail uncurled.

After a long day, Bogart was too tired to move.

Vinnie was too excited to sit still.

Nose friend! Smell this! I want to roll in this smell with you. First me, then you. Smell this best smell!

Bogart walked away.

Vinnie followed.

Again. And again.
(This happens until Bogart, too exhausted to move, falls asleep. Vinnie spoons in beside him.) Do we need to see someone noticing the 2 sleeping? Hap?

Snap! Flash!

(Bogart and Vinnie wake to news cameras rolling video, taking pictures.)

Headlines/TV News Stories:

**In Dog’s Darkest Hour, Rhino Shows True Meaning of Friendship**

**Animals’ Extraordinary Bond Inspires Nation**

Bogart and Vinnie were big news!

Vinnie greeted the photographers and reporters who flocked to Wildlands.

Wow! You’re here! And you! Hi!

Polka and Dot galloped toward the fence to show off their stripes. Reporters ignored them. Two zebras? So what?!

Bogart and Vinnie had an *interspecies* friendship.

Webcams were installed along the fence.

*Illus of media coverage: Playtime! Bogart wiping horn on ground, as rhinos do when angry, as Vinnie goes into let’s-play dog crouch*
Bogart and Vinnie “talking” (Bogart grunting, snorting and squealing in frustration at Vinnie’s crazy-happiness).

Best friends are inseparable (Bogart can’t get away from Vinnie).

No one was prepared for what happened next.

Videos were all over the internet! People sent copies to their friends. And they sent copies to their friends. How would this be illustrated? Is it needed?

Bogart and Vinnie were famous!

Their fans watched everything they did.

When Bogart dozed under a tree, Vinnie played the Wake-Up-Nose-Friend Game.

When Bogart rubbed against a big rock, Vinnie played Pretend-Giant-Rock-Is-My-Enemy.

(Webcams showed it all.) Replace w/something the about how V loves the attention, B not so much?

But their fame didn’t last.

Bogart and Vinnie couldn’t compete with the latest news.

Headlines: Javier and Jenna, spider monkey and hump-backed ox, brave blizzard to rescue orphans town’s blind squirrels. too much?

Felicity, monarch butterfly, joins pack of lions, teaching gentler way to live. 😊
Bogart and Vinnie were no longer famous. But that was okay with them. Because they had formed the kind of family where one member loves the other and one wants nothing more than to be left alone.

But still, a family.

Vinnie watched the fence, hoping a photographer would return. He was very surprised when the boy showed up instead! Ethan! And his parents!

The boy! Hi! Hi! Look, nose friend! It's my boy!

No one could stand the thought of separating the friends.

Ethan's family decided to adopt Bogart. (How much trouble could one rhinoceros be?)

But really, everyone at Wildlands had been like family to Vinnie.

So Ethan's family also took Polka and Dot, the zebras.

Add back in parrots? The joke just feels like it works better than x2.

Also Hap, who, after all, had rescued Vinnie.

They piled into the car together.

Many species, living together.

In peace.

And harmony.

Everyone was happy.
Except the neighbors.

(illus: Bogart, Vinnie, zebras, Hap making interspecies racket)

38-39: endpapers
40: pasted down