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True Illusion

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True Illusion

This was just another one of those minor miracles that is forgotten in a moment, maybe so that it can happen again. The stoplight was red. The old Labrador put a paw into the road. He dragged his legs along, making heavy progress.

“He’s going to get run over!” screamed a girl who was walking with her mother on the opposite sidewalk. She turned away with an anguished look. She was six or seven years old. Her hands were as slender and delicate as frost. She waited to hear the screeching of tires and the thud, but the dog reached the sidewalk without injury.

Dragging her mother after her, the girl knelt at his side and buried her hands in the fur at his neck. According to the harness circling the front of his body, this was a seeing eye dog. Maybe his owner was old and couldn’t take him out very often. Or his owner had died, and the dog was guiding a ghost that could no longer sense danger.