

Birthday Poem to PD Lips
Why I Talk to Kelpie Dogs



In Nov. 2018 I stayed with one of my favourite U.S. families. Waking each morning, 2 hours before my hosts (12 hr time change), their dog Scooby greeted and presented me with his lead and took me on a guided walk around the neighborhood. This stirred some very early memories of my own dog when I was the same age as my hosts' son 'PD Lips'. Then when I was invited to PD's 5th birthday party, this year; ["PD adores his Uncle Ron & asks when you are back. As I said, he only wanted you and his grandmother for his birthday."] I Skyped through this poem for PD's birthday.

When you look at a kelpie,
they reciprocate, looking right back.
So deep into your soul,
takes me back to my age of four.

I had an older brother called Ian
and Tiger was his dog.
Never any doubt
where Tiger's loyalty lay.

Ian unfortunately contracted meningitis,
a fatal disease, at that time.
Off to hospital Ian did go
and Tiger visited him, every day.

Walking to the hospital,
all on his own.
Parked under Ian's bed,
then returning home each night.

Then one fine day,
our father said,
I wonder if Tiger could
take Ron to visit Ian.

So that's what happened,
quite often.
Off we went,
Tiger in charge of crossing streets.

Then the inevitable sad ending
and from exactly that time,
Tiger became my dog
and my chief protector.

Happier years ahead,
filled with many conversations
between Tiger and me.
Oh, what a good listener he was.

Tiger was always there.
He often came to my defence.
I even recall a skirmish
with a visiting postman.

His parcel delivery
may have been misinterpreted,
as a threat of a kind,
hard to understand a dog's mind.

Then Tiger was gone,
"Ran away from home".
That's what I was told
but how could this happen?

Many years later,
my father confided.
Biting a postman
was a capital offence.

The dog inspector
had taken Tiger from me.
His reward for protecting me
had backfired in the worst way.

That's why, now, I always
talk to kelpies.
To warn them
that loyalty must have its limits.

And that under no circumstances,
should they ever
be tempted —
"never-ever bite a postman."



Ron & Tiger