

We sat and drank our lemonade and watched my silly little dog as he came out of the bush, panting, then dived straight back in again. I could have stayed there much longer, but I knew I had to get home and start thinking about dinner.

"I guess I'd better be going," I said. "Thank you for the money."

Old Nina nodded and smiled. "You're welcome, Jake. Thank you again for all your hard work."

I stood up and got Wilson's lead, giving it a little jingle.

"Come on, Wilson. Home time," I said. I could see the tip of his tail peeking out of the bush. "Wilson!" I said, a little more firmly this time. He still ignored me and I looked at Old Nina and rolled my eyes and she smiled. I went over to the bush and crouched down. I could see his little furry bottom and his tail wagging madly. He was digging and brown soil shot out from between his back legs.

"Wilson, stop that. We've got to go!" I put my hand into the bush and tried to grab his back end, but he twisted to one side. That's when I saw he had found something. It looked like a large white stone with some holes in it.

"Is everything all right, Jake?" called Nina.

"Yes. Wilson is just being silly," I said, still trying to grab him. "Wilson! Keep still!"

I decided that if I reached the thing he'd found and pulled it out he'd follow. I looked around for a stick, then crouched down and poked at the white object. I managed to push the stick into one of the dark holes, then I angled it so that I could lift it up and out of the bush. Wilson had worn himself out at last, and he came out covered in dirt and flopped on to the grass as he watched me.

"What is it you found, Wilson?" I said. "It's heavy!"

I eased the stick out and the white thing dropped off the end and rolled on to the lawn. I gasped as I stared at it.

"What is it, Jake? Have you found something?" said Old Nina, slowly standing up from her seat.

"Um. Yes. You could say that," I said.

Lying on Old Nina's lawn and staring at me with dark empty eyes was a human skull.