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Where is Rusty? by Sieb Posthuma

Publisher: Gecko Press

RRP \$19.99

A cautionary tale for inattentive youngsters who don't listen to parental instructions to stay together when they go on outings.

Mother Dog arrives at a swanky department store with Rusty and his two friends. She gives strict instructions for the three pups to stay with her. The young dogs are astounded by the follow her up the escalator.

But Rusty has sniffed something delicious. He trots off in a different direction and steps into an elevator that opens onto a baking demonstration. His delight soon turns to terror when he hears two watchdogs looking for stray pups to lock in the pound. Rusty panics and runs off, setting up a frenzied hide-and-seek chase all over the store.

The colourful, intricate illustrations are packed with hustle and bustle. The busy scenes are perfect for young readers who will discover interesting and amusing details when they look closely. There's an amazing variety of dogs of all shapes, sizes and facial expressions.

Adults and children will enjoy finding new delights each time they share the story. Plus the message will be enforced that it really is a good idea to stay close together when out in a crowd.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

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