

SAM IS MISSING!

CONTINUED

Sam Hyman—and David has the kind of sense of humor that might lead him to do that, but it's not true! If you read the story of David's life, you know that his mother called him "Smilin' Sam" because he was such a happy child, and when a friend gave David a dog some time ago, David took one look at the lopsided grin the dog wore and his mother's old nickname leaped into his mind. From that moment on, the dog wasn't ever called anything but "Sam!"

If anything ever happened to Sam, David would be heartbroken, and that's why he was so upset and frightened the day Sam disappeared!

SOMETHING WAS WRONG

It was a day that David wasn't working, and he woke up at about eleven in the morning with a strange feeling in the pit of his stomach, as if something was wrong and he couldn't really think of what it was! He put on his old blue robe and went out into the living room, where his roommates, Sam and Steve, were sitting around talking. David said good morning and went in to



fix a bowl of cereal for breakfast and brought it back into the living room.

Sam and Steve were teasing him about his "beauty sleep" and saying that David would probably sleep through a world war if no one woke him up when all of a sudden David felt something was wrong. He put down his bowl of cereal and went out into the back yard. A moment later he came in and asked, "Have you guys seen Sam today?"

That was what had been bothering him—Sam hadn't awakened him! Sam and Steve said that they hadn't heard or seen David's dog all morning, and the three went out and started calling him, expecting to see him run up, tail wagging, like he always did! But today there was no answering bark, no noise of Sam crashing through the undergrowth—in fact, no Sam at all!

David was all the way down into the street, calling Sam's name over and over, before the curious stares of some people in a passing automobile reminded him that he was still wearing his robe! He ran back up into the house while Steve and Sam continued to search and call the dog, and David emerged a few moments later fully dressed, started up the van, and backed out the driveway.



He was really scared. Visions flashed through his head of Sam laying dead in a street somewhere or lost miles from home, looking for a friendly face or a familiar voice—or even dognapped by one of the heartless pet-thieves who steal the dogs of people who have some money and hold them for ransom! By the time Sam and Steve got in the van at the bottom of the hill, David was too nervous to drive!

Steve took the wheel, and the three of them cruised the streets for hours, calling Sam's name over and over. By three o'clock, they were exhausted and they had covered miles and miles—but there was no sign of Sam at all.

By now, David was really frightened. All he could think of was the good times he and Sam had had together, and he actually *hurt* inside at the thought of never seeing his beloved friend again! Steve and Sam tried to comfort him, but finally David's long face got to them and they rode the way home in silence as David stared moodily out the window, still hoping to see the familiar four-footed form come wag-

ging its tail around each corner they passed!

The instant they got home, David sprinted to the phone and called his answering service. Perhaps someone had found him and called! No luck. As Steve and Sam watched David's face grow even sadder, the lady at the service told him that there hadn't been any calls while they were out. David hung up the phone and sat heavily on the couch, running his hand absent-mindedly through his hair and staring at the carpet. After a long moment of silence, while Sam and Steve tried to think of something to say, David got up and went into his bedroom and closed the door.

He lay on his bed, staring up at the ceiling, thinking about his wonderful dog. There was no way he could be replaced. True, David could get another dog, but that would be like trying to replace a dear friend with the first person who came along! David knew it wouldn't work. He was so deep in his depression that he didn't even hear the phone ring, and he had almost given up hope altogether when Steve burst through the door. He was laughing!

"Guess what!" Steve shouted. "Sam's been busted! He's down at the pound right now, and they're waiting for us to come and get him!"

Both Steve and Sam say that David broke his lifetime speed record for getting off a bed! He was all the way out to the van by the time the others caught up with him!

THERE WAS SAM!

The ride down was jubilant and excited. David was so happy he was almost babbling, and by the time they reached the pound, he already had the van door open. They hurried inside, and there was Sam, jumping up against the wire and barking frantically at David to get him *out* of there!

It was done in no time, and the *four* of them were soon on the way home, with Steve driving and David in the back with his arms locked around Sam in a bone-crushing hug! Sam wagged his tail as if it would fall off, and "talked" to David all the way home. Sam Hyman turned around and said, "he telling you about it, David!"

David didn't even hear, though. He was listening to Sam and hugging him while Sam whimpered and licked David's face. David said later to Sam and Steve that it was one of the happiest moments of his life!



YOU can visit David in his dressing room! All in the December issue of Tiger Beat on sale Nov. 9th!