FinForce

FINFORCE BEDTIME STORIES · DOGS RACING

The Tyre Jar

A FinForce Dogs Racing story, ages 5 to 10

FINFORCE DOGS RACING · BOOK 1



With Frankie, Paddington and Winston from the FinForce Dog House

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THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

A RACING STORY

for

With love from the FinForce team



Meet the racers

Frankie
The oldest, and he loves food. Fluffy light-brown fur and a white chest. He drives a dark grey Porsche GTS, always says "Righto boys," and never says no to a snack.

Paddington
The youngest, but the biggest dog of the team, and he loves to play. Red-gold curls and a white nose. He drives a red Ferrari 488, and is always ready for a bounce or a trick.

Winston
The middle dog, and the smallest, with a very big heart. Black and curly, kind, and always ready to help. He drives a bright yellow Lamborghini Huracán.

Archie
A black-and-white Cavoodle. He drives a sleek grey electric Audi RS e-tron GT.

Freddie
An orangey-brown Cavoodle. He drives a smooth white electric Porsche Taycan Turbo.

Barney, Bracky and Bossy
Three super-speedy black Cavoodles who run the pit crew, with a toolbox, a charger cable and a flag.

A Saturday race in Brisbane, a big playful dog with tired tyres, and a simple idea about saving for a goal. Shaylan and Aslan cheer from the stands. Do the voices!

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After practice, Paddington's red car slid a little on the last corner.
Barney crawled underneath and tapped a worn tyre.
"These are tired, lad."
"But I want to race on Saturday!" said Paddington, bouncing once, then drooping.
"Righto," said Frankie. "Then we need a plan. New tyres first."



At the workshop, a neat stack of new tyres waited on the shelf. They cost a whole jar of coins.
Next to them sat a shiny spoiler, glittering under the lights. Paddington's eyes went wide.
"We could buy the sparkly one!"
Frankie shook his head kindly. "The spoiler is a want. The tyres are a need. Let's make a goal, and save for the tyres."



Back at the Dog House, Frankie washed out a glass jar. Paddington painted two sturdy tyres on the side.
“This is our tyre jar,” said Frankie. “Every time we have a coin to spare, it goes in here, until we have enough.”
Frankie dropped in a coin, then sniffed the air for biscuits, then laughed and dropped in another. Winston, the smallest, quietly added two coins to help.
Archie and Freddie added theirs. Barney, Bracky and Bossy jingled in a few more. The jar sang a tiny clink.

A goal you can see is easier to keep.



All week they practised. Paddington bounced around the track as if practice were a game, and after every run a coin went into the jar.

Shaylan and Aslan waved from the fence. “The jar is growing!” called Aslan, who was nine and very good at noticing.

At the snack stall, Frankie sniffed a warm bun, because Frankie loved food. “May I?”

“You may,” said Winston kindly. “But not with the tyre-jar coins. Those are for the goal.”



On Thursday a stall opened by the pit, full of shiny extras: horns, stripes and sparkly wheel nuts. Paddington, who was the biggest of the three, lifted the jar as if it were part of a game. It felt heavy and tempting.

“The goal,” whispered Archie.

Freddie nosed the painted tyres on the glass.

Paddington set the jar down again, and bounced. “Right. Tyres first.”



By Friday the jar was almost full. One more practice, one more clink.

Barney held an old tyre up to the light. “Even thinner. Tomorrow’s race is no place for tired tyres.”

Winston, small but very serious, guarded the jar with all of his very big heart. Frankie guarded a biscuit of his own, for later.

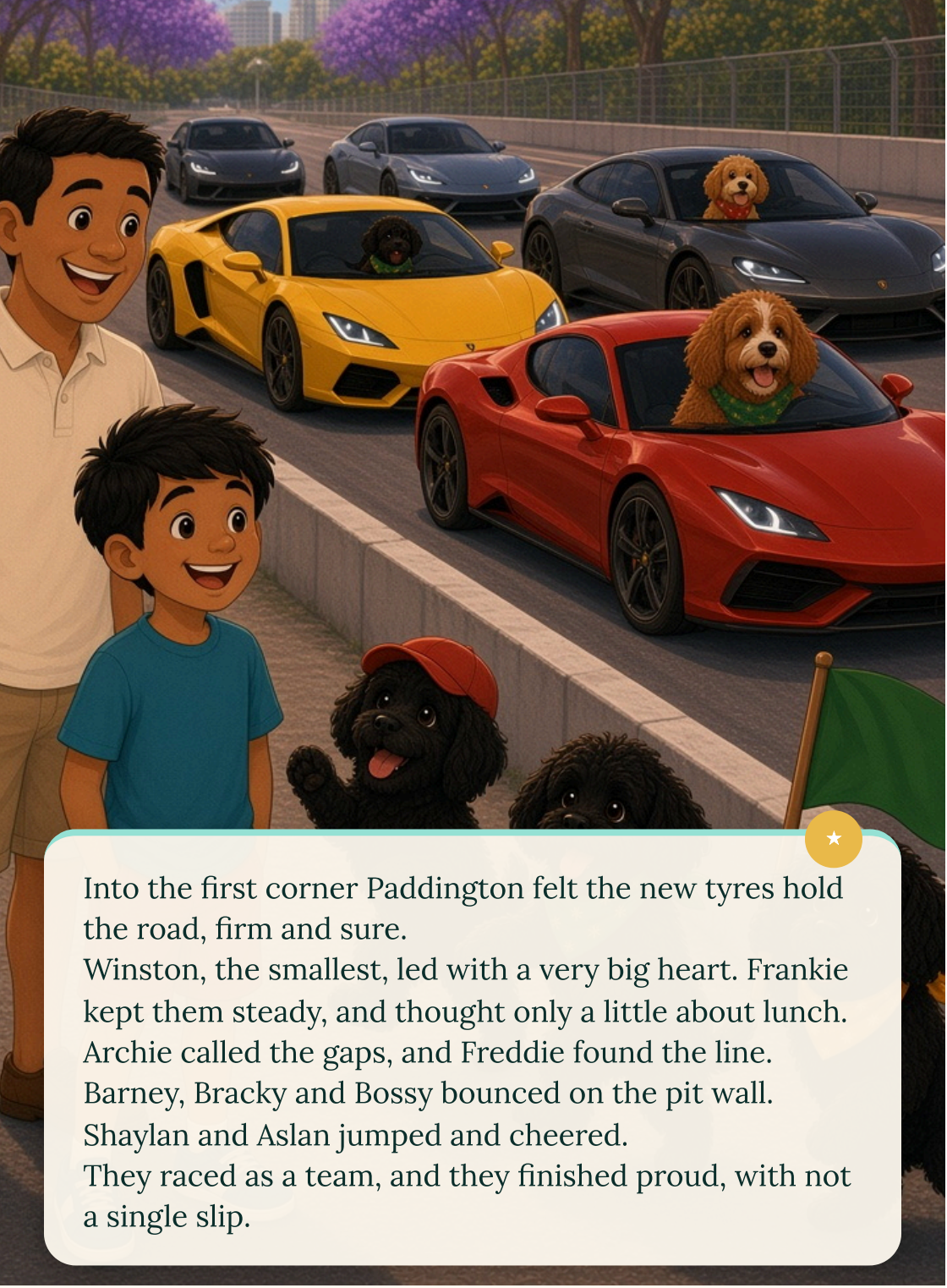
“Righto boys,” said Frankie. “We’ve done it.”



They carried the jar to the workshop and bought the new tyres. No spoiler. Just four round, grippy, perfect tyres.
Barney, Bracky and Bossy fitted them, super speedy, while big Paddington did a happy, playful spin.
Bossy tucked the receipt into a little folder, so they would remember.
The red car sat lower and steadier, ready for Saturday.



Race morning was bright and breezy. Winston lined up in his yellow car, Frankie in the dark grey, Archie in the sleek grey electric and Freddie in the white electric.
Paddington grinned over the wheel of his red car, new tyres dark and clean.
Shaylan and Aslan cheered from the stands. “Go Paddington! Go team!”
Bossy lifted a plain green flag. The lights went red, red, green.



Into the first corner Paddington felt the new tyres hold the road, firm and sure.
Winston, the smallest, led with a very big heart. Frankie kept them steady, and thought only a little about lunch.
Archie called the gaps, and Freddie found the line.
Barney, Bracky and Bossy bounced on the pit wall.
Shaylan and Aslan jumped and cheered.
They raced as a team, and they finished proud, with not a single slip.



After the race, Paddington patted the empty jar, then patted a new tyre.
“The goal was worth the wait,” he said.
Frankie smiled. “When you want something that matters, you choose it, and you save for it, little by little.”
Shaylan ruffled Aslan’s hair. “What a save,” he said. “What a race.”
Frankie, who loved food, suggested a single celebratory sausage.
Winston helped divide it fairly. Everybody agreed, and everybody wagged.

Little by little, the goal comes closer.

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That evening the dogs lay on the cool grass beside the track, the empty tyre jar glinting in the last light. “I almost bought the shiny spoiler,” said Paddington. “I know,” said Frankie. “Wanting is easy. Saving for the right thing is the clever trick.”

The End

LITTLE CHATS IN THE MORNING

What was the team’s goal? · Why didn’t Paddington spend the jar on the shiny spoiler? · How did they get enough coins for the tyres?

Series idea by Aslan, age 9

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With love from the FinForce team

A racing story about setting a goal and saving a little, often, until you get there. Thank you for being part of our year.

Series idea by Aslan, age 9. For grown-ups: this is a story about setting a savings goal and putting money aside regularly, instead of spending it on other wants. It is not about any product or plan, and it is not personal advice.

Also in the series: Book 2, *Lap After Lap*; Book 3, *Fuel First*; Book 4, *The Spare Wheel*; Book 5, *Drive-Away Day*; Book 6, *Meet the Team*. And from the Christmas Series: *The Great Christmas Race*.
Printing tip: print at A5, or choose the 'booklet' setting on A4, double-sided. Officeworks and Kmart photo centres do lovely little prints.

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