

# TRUE TEEN STORY

Logan is proud that he made it through such hard times. He has a favorite quote from the movie *Rocky Balboa*: "It ain't about how hard you hit; it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward."

VOCABULARY QUIZ

ACTIVITY: INFERENCES

VIDEO

READ 180 LESSON

## Vocabulary

**dreaded:** was afraid of

**foster care:** a system in which children are cared for by people who are not their legal parents

**advocate:** someone who speaks or acts on behalf of another person

**biological:** related by blood

**character:** traits and features that make up someone's personality

# Adopted at 19

**After growing up in foster care, Logan was homeless and alone. Then his life suddenly changed—he was adopted.**

The little boy always **dreaded** special events at school: When other students' families attended graduations or open-house days, the boy, then named Seth, would manufacture excuses for his own parents' absence.

Beginning at age 7, he resided in different foster homes. At 18, he began living independently—and then he became homeless.

Now 19, he's enjoying a new home and a new name: He changed his name to Logan Hunt after being adopted earlier this year by Ara and Robert Hunt.

This is the story of how Logan finally found a family.

## Lonely Years

"Growing up in **foster care** was really hard," Logan remembers. "You feel this separation from other people—you feel different."

In his foster homes, Logan never felt completely included—he frequently experienced feelings of sadness, isolation, and

frustration. He'd observe parents with their children in the park and think, *I wish I had that.*

Logan didn't verbalize these emotions: The adults in his life had often disappeared unexpectedly, so he no longer expected any sympathy or understanding.

"I didn't let anyone in," Logan acknowledges, adding, "I lost most of my friends because I pushed them away."

Increasingly, Logan opted

for solitude—and when he turned 18, he left foster care altogether.

## On His Own

Still a junior in high school, Logan attempted to support himself by working at a fast-food restaurant—but he was quickly reduced to sleeping in his car.

Finally, Logan contacted Virginia Barrett. Barrett, a volunteer who helps foster children, was Logan's court-appointed special



Logan, in green, with his family. From left, his dad Robert, sister Siara, mom Ara, sister Shyann, and brother Cody.

**advocate**—and the only adult who had consistently been supportive of him since childhood.

Barrett helped Logan get an apartment—and she also located his **biological** sister, 12-year-old Shyann, who had been adopted as a baby by Ara and Robert Hunt. Initially, they rejected Barrett’s suggestion to meet: Having no experience with Logan, they were worried about Shyann’s safety.

However, they reconsidered after Robert saw an interview with Logan on a local news program: “I was just knocked down,” Robert remembers, adding, “I saw good **character** in him.”

## Warmth and Love

The Hunts began texting with Logan—but before they could get together,



“He was such a sweet boy,” says Virginia Barrett of Logan, shown here at age 7.

Logan was injured in an automobile accident. Ara traveled to Logan’s apartment to help him during his recovery.

That evening, Logan and Ara talked extensively: “We really connected,” Logan remembers. The following morning, Logan asked, “Do you think by any chance I could go home with you?”

Later that day, Logan was introduced to Shyann and found the resemblance between them astonishing. “We hugged and cried,” he recalls.

Absorbing the Hunts’ generosity and enthusiasm, Logan remembers, “I could feel the warmth, I could feel the love. It felt like family.” The Hunts felt the same way. Soon, Logan moved into their home in Rockwall, Texas.

Gradually, Logan’s life and perspective have been transformed: “I feel a change in me,” he declares. “I feel stable—I feel normal.” He’s steadily regaining his ability to trust.

Logan graduated from high school in June. On this memorable occasion, his parents, siblings, and grandparents attended—and, he reports, “It was amazing.”

—Sarah Jane Brian



Left: Logan with Virginia Barrett;  
Below: Logan surrounded by family at his high school graduation in June

