

THINKSDAY

## *Lassie Come Home!*

April 2, 2026



Lassie could whistle. She did it every time they rolled credits at the end of the show. I knew it was Lassie because I saw and heard her myself, and maybe because I really wanted to have a dog like Lassie. I thought my older brother was just a mean, stupid booger when he told me it wasn't really Lassie whistling. I didn't believe him. Mom, the final arbiter of truth, was kind of non-committal about the matter which left plenty of room in my mind for understanding that my brother was just trying to mess with me. So, I let it go, and I did not hold his malignant ignorance against him. Even today, I still love that crumb-bum nogoodnik! And only now as I write this do I realize Lassie wasn't even a boy dog — at least not by her name. Well, I was young and hadn't learned to speak Scottish yet. Besides, what difference does it make? Mr. Ed could be a mare for all I care!

I digress. Today I don't watch much TV, but I listen to a whole lot of Spotify. Usually just for background noise. Recently, the Spotify algorithms started bringing me to blues and soul music. I don't know why; I'll have to reflect on that another time. But it brought me to such artists as Mikhail Bennet, Eddie Dalton, Xania Monet, Marina Sway, and others who, it turns out, are not real — or they are real AI generated artists. I don't know if it bothers me a lot or not at all. I probably should ask my brother to explain it to me. Hopefully he has grown up a bit and will be straight with me this time.

I mean, the music is real, I heard it myself. The videos (if that's the right word) do have suggestions of having been whatever we used to call "photo-shopped" but the music is what music is — it does evoke feelings, it tells stories, it reveals humanity, it means something... to me, if not to the "artist." It has beauty and truth. Fake truth, maybe, but it has it. Here's all I know (I think): Truth and reality are not always the same, but trust always feels good even if you doubt a little — maybe, especially then.

Lassie! Come here boy.

*Happy Thinksd*