

WONTON

Chapter 1: Dreaming of Dogs

I was writing an essay about dogs for science class. I grabbed the watermelon-scented pen sitting beside me and added more details, like female dogs have litters of puppies and they pant to cool off. I wish I could get a dog, I thought, but no one can have animals in this apartment building! I stopped writing and decided to go to my friend Jane's house. She's lucky because she has a dog, Rover. We often walk Rover on Main Street in Naperville, IL. I stepped down the icy stairway of my building and walked to Jane's house.

I rang Jane's door bell. "Who is it?" shouted Jane. "Me, Amy!" I said. Jane quickly opened her door. "Can you go for a walk?" I asked. Jane yelled, "Sure!" She dashed away and a second later, she came back with a dog leash covered in tiny poodles. "Come, Rover!" chirped Jane. Rover ran to us. "Hey, Rover!" I said to the poodle. "Want to go for a walk?!" Rover barked YES! "You're so lucky you live in a house," I said to Jane as we stepped onto her porch. "Living in a house is better because you can have a dog," I said. "I guess," Jane replied. I said, "Well... this might sound like a crazy idea... but I thought maybe I could sneak a dog into my apartment." Jane shouted, "You're right, that's a HORRIBLE idea! You could get in SO much trouble!" I said to Jane, "NOTHING can stop me from sneaking a dog in!"

Chapter 2: The Secret Sneak-In

The next day, I decided to sneak a dog into my apartment. Jane and I went to Naperville Animal Shelter to pick out a dog. "Sure you want to do this?" Jane asked me when we arrived at the animal shelter. "I'm sure," I said. We walked into a building full of barking dogs and purring cats. A tall lady greeted us. "Hello, I'm Macey," she said. "What animal are you looking for today?"

Jane said, "A medium-sized dog. Right, Amy?" "Right," I said. Macey said, "Follow me," and led us to a room full of dogs.

Jane and I looked in the crates. One dog was named Rover, but he barked too much. We met Sonic, but he growled. Finally, we met Wonton. Wonton was the cutest puppy with wavy, peach fur. "This one!" I said to Macey, pointing to Wonton. "Great choice," Macey said. "We have to go over what being a dog owner is like. You need to walk Wonton twice a day. Wonton prefers to sleep in a bed and not a crate. But the most important thing is you need to give Wonton LOTS of love. Fill out this form and you'll be all set."

I filled out the form and Macey gave us Wonton. Wonton was bundled in a cozy blanket in my arms. But how would I hide Wonton in my apartment? "Oh, I have an idea!" shouted Jane.

“Hide him in your jacket!” We got home and I shut Wonton in my hallway closet. “Well, hello, sweetie!” Mom said. “Why are you in such a big rush? Are you okay?” asked Mom. “I’m okay,” I said. Wonton suddenly popped his head out of the closet. “Wait-- is that a dog? Sweetie, you know we’re not allowed to have a dog. I asked, “Can we please talk to the apartment owner?” Mom said, “Well, I suppose. Let’s go to. Ravenderr’s apartment,” Mom said.

We took the elevator to the basement. Mr. Ravenderr was working at a desk. “Um, excuse me,” Mom said as she quietly approached him. “Could we please talk about the apartment rules? Amy, go to the children’s play area while I chat with Mr. Ravenderr.” A little while later, Mom came back. “What did he say?” I asked. “Well, he said maybe,” Mom told me. “He’ll have a decision in two days. But for now, we’ll have to give Wonton back.”

Chapter 3: The Right Place for Wonton

It was sad living without Wonton. I missed him. I was nervous to hear what Mr. Ravenderr would say. I kept looking in the hallway and Mr. Ravenderr finally came. “Hi Amy,” Mr. Ravenderr said, walking into my living room. “I have news for you. I talked to other people in the building and I agree that we should allow dogs,” he said happily. My face brightened like the sun. “REALLY?!” I screamed. “Yes, really,” Mr. Ravenderr said. Mom and I immediately drove to the animal shelter to get Wonton. “Macey!” I yelled, running into the shelter. “I can have Wonton!” Macey smiled and got Wonton from his crate. She lifted Wonton into my arms. At once, I knew exactly where Wonton belonged. With me.