



HOLLY WEBB

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Barrington Stoke

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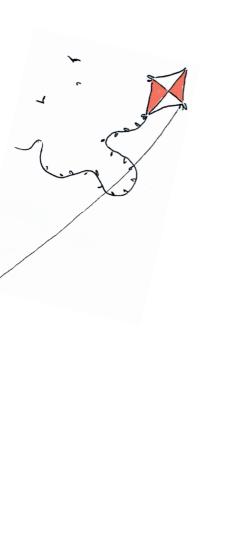
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This book is in a super-readable format for young readers beginning their independent reading journey.



For Martha



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Chapter 1 A Special Surprise

Coco felt the dog crate shake again as she was lifted out of the car. She made a sad noise and scratched at the front of the crate. She wanted to be back with her mum and the other puppies at the shelter.



The door of the dog crate creaked open. Coco didn't know what was going on, and she pressed herself back into the dark box.

"Come on out, little one," a man's voice called softly to Coco.

"What is it, Dad?" said another voice from outside the crate.



"It's a surprise. A special surprise for you, Ruby ..." the man's voice said.

Coco saw a girl crouch down next to the door of her crate.

"A puppy, Dad! For me?"

Coco padded to the door. The girl sounded so happy, and Coco wanted to see what was happening.

"Oh, she's so sweet!" Ruby said.

"A sausage dog! Mum, look at her!

She's so little."

Ruby's mum bent down next to the crate. "We know you love sausage dogs, Ruby," Mum said. "And you've been so good since I had Sam. It's not always easy having a baby brother. We wanted you to have someone special to play with and look after."



"She's coming out ... Is she coming to see us?" Ruby asked.

Coco could see that Ruby's eyes were wide and excited.

"What's her name?" asked Ruby.

"At the shelter they called her Coco," Dad said. "I think it's a great name for her."





"It's perfect. Hey, Coco ..." Ruby put out her hand and Coco slowly sniffed her fingers. Then she nudged Ruby's hand with her nose and wagged her tail. She put her front paws up on Ruby's knee and looked around. Coco wasn't sure what was happening, but she did know that these people were kind.