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Opening extract from **Oliver and Patch**

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Books**

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For Nancy and Mike,
all the way over in Green Bay.
Miss yooz lots Nanci!
CF

To Mum and Dad
KH

SIMON AND SCHUSTER

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Oliver had just moved to the big city. It felt strange, and his old home in the countryside seemed far, far away.

“I miss the green fields,” Oliver sighed. “I miss the wide open spaces. Most of all, I miss my friends.”





One morning, Oliver felt restless. Even though the rain was pouring down like silver needles, he wanted to be outside, to explore. Misty, grey buildings towered above him.

People hurried by, un-seeing and un-looking. Oliver glanced about, wondering which way to go, when he saw it, bright as a poppy in a corn field . . .



... a small, soggy, white ball of a dog,
trailing a streak of red leash.

He was all alone, just like Oliver.

“Hello!” said Oliver. “Are you lost?”



He looked at the little dog's
collar tag. Patch it read.
Just Patch.

Oliver looked around.

No one was calling for
their little lost dog.



“What shall I do with you?” Oliver said to Patch.

“I can't leave you on your own.”



Before he knew it, Oliver had the
lead in his hand and Patch was
trotting along beside him.



Oliver and Patch had a wonderful day
getting to know each other.



For the first time since moving to the city, Oliver felt happy.