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Opening extract from

Oliver and Patch

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Published by

Simon & Schuster Children's Books

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

To Mum and Dad
KH

SIMON AND SCHUSTER
First published in Great Britain in 2012
by Simon and Schuster UK Ltd
1st Floor, 222 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8HB
A CBS Company

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A CIP catalogue record for this book
is available from the British Library
upon request.

978-0-85707-262-7 (HB)
978-0-85707-263-4 (PB)
978-0-85707-708-0 (eBook)

Printed in China
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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.