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Opening extract from

**The New Friend**

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LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

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This is a story about Polly, a girl who lives  
in a little house by the sea.



She has a puffin friend.  
His name is Neil.



Polly was starting something she calls “Big School”, although you might call it something else.

She was not happy about it. At all. Neil wasn’t allowed to come!





"I think you're going to love school,"  
her mummy said.

"But I love everything how it is now,"  
said Polly.

"I know," said Mummy.



“Can I wear my  
spotty wellingtons?”  
said Polly, staring at  
her new black shoes.  
She didn’t like them.

“No,” said Mummy gently.

“Don’t forget your snack for playtime!” Mummy said as they were leaving.





"Hang on. Have you got Neil in your rucksack?"

"No," said Polly.

"Eep!" said Nobody Who Was In The Rucksack.

