Lovereading4kids.co.uk

Opening extract from

Mystery Pups: Dognapped!

Written by

Jodie Mellor

Published by

Simon & Schuster

All text is copyright of the author

Please print off and read at your leisure.



SIMON AND SCHUSTER
First published in Great Britain in 2008 by Simon and Schuster UK Ltd
A CBS COMPANY

Text copyright © 2008 Jenny Oldfield
Illustrations copyright © 2008 Penny Dann
Cover illustration copyright © 2008 John Butler

This book is copyright under the Berne Convention.
No reproduction without permission.
All rights reserved.

The right of Jenny Oldfield to be identified as the author of this work and of Penny Dann and John Butler to be identified as the respective interior and cover illustrators of this work has been asserted by them in accordance with sections 77 and 78 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988.

Simon & Schuster UK Ltd
Africa House, 64-78 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AH.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual people living or dead, events or locales is entirely coincidental.

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

ISBN: 978-1-84738-224-5

Printed and bound in Great Britain
by CPI Cox and Wyman, Reading, Berkshire RG1 8EX

www.simonsays.co.uk



Chapter One

"Hey, Caitlin – we're making badges for our new Magic Mountain Puppy Club. You can join too!" Lauren called to her friend as she came into the kitchen.

"Yes, join our club!" Megan nodded, her dark hair flopping over her face.

"But I don't have a real puppy," Caitlin said wistfully. Her toy dog was tucked under her arm. "I only have Daisy."

Megan smiled and patted the cuddly Yorkie. She knew Caitlin's parents were strict about pets. "But Daisy's so cute!"

"Here, grab these scissors," Lauren said.

"Help us make these badges!"

So Caitlin perched Daisy on the table beside the crayons and felt-tips. "Sit!" she said, laughing.

"Draw her picture," Megan ordered. "Then cut it out and give it to Lauren. She'll run it through the badge-making machine."

"Look, this is Buster!" Lauren announced proudly. She showed Caitlin her drawing of a scruffy, light-brown crossbreed pup. "Isn't he cool?"

"And this is my picture of Dylan," Megan added. "He's a black Labrador. Wait till you see him – he's so-o-o cute!" Both girls had been down to the local rescue centre to choose their very own puppies, and now they chattered about them non-stop.

"I'm making a medal thingy to hang around Buster's neck," Lauren said, rushing on to the next task.

"A medallion?" Megan asked.



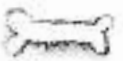


"Yes, a medallion." Lauren used a gold pen. "We'll have badges and the puppies will have medallions."

"Cool," Caitlin said, busily drawing Daisy's long, silky fringe. "So, when can you bring Dylan and Buster home?"

"Tomorrow!" Megan and Lauren said together. Their eyes shone.

"Why don't you come with us?" Lauren invited Caitlin. "And bring Daisy too!"



"Be good, Daisy!" Caitlin whispered, giving her toy dog a little squeeze – *squeak-squeak*. She jumped out of the car and followed Megan and Lauren across the yard towards the Magic Mountain Rescue Centre.

Lauren's dad paused to talk with Megan's mum, while the girls ran on ahead. Lauren dashed through the door into the waiting area.

"I can't wait to see Buster!" she cried, ringing the bell on the desk.

Drrrring!

An old man with gold-rimmed glasses, white hair and a long moustache came in. He smiled at the girls and the two grown-ups. "Have you come to collect Buster and Dylan?"

"Yes, please! Are they ready?" Megan asked. It seemed ages since she and Lauren had chosen the two pups, though really it was only a couple of days.

"Absolutely." The old man's eyes twinkled as he spoke. "I've fed them and brushed their coats. They know this is their big day."

"Can we see them?" Lauren begged.

"Wait here," he said, stooping to give little Daisy a pat on the head. "Sweet," he murmured.

Caitlin smiled bravely. "Yes, but I wish she was real."

"Your mum and dad won't let you have a live one, eh?" the old man asked.

"Mum's too busy," Caitlin said sadly, letting her long hair fall across her face. "She says maybe one day…"

"One day, who knows?" Smiling, the old man went to fetch the pups.

Lauren sat on the waiting-room bench, tapping her feet impatiently.

"Calm down," her dad told her.

Megan stood by the window. "One-and-two-and-three-and—"

Caitlin frowned. "What's with the counting?"

"Four-and-five. I'm making the time go quicker. Six-and-seven…"

By the time Megan had counted to thirty, the old man was back.

"This is Dylan," he said, handing the black puppy to her. "And this is Buster – oo-ooops!"

A light-brown pup jumped from his arms and made a break for it, scampering across the room.



"Come here, Buster!" Lauren cried. She chased him under the bench.

"Yap!" he said. "Yap-yap!"

"Oh Dylan, you're so gorgeous!" Megan whispered. She cuddled her warm puppy close to her chest. She could feel his little heart beating almost as fast as her own.

The black Labrador put out his pink tongue and licked Megan's hand. He had big brown eyes and floppy ears. He wagged his little tail.

"Buster, come here!" Lauren grinned as her pup wriggled out from under the bench and charged towards her. "Good boy!" she sighed as he jumped into her arms at last.

"Keep still!" Caitlin murmured to Daisy under her breath. "Be good!"

The old man who ran the rescue centre caught Caitlin's eye and smiled kindly at her.

"Yes, one day, who knows?" he muttered to himself. Then he turned to talk to the grown-ups

and asked them to fill in some forms.

Lauren held Buster tight. Untidy curls fell over her eyes. "You're even more fantastic than I remember!" she sighed. "You're perfect!"

"Keep an eye on that pup – he's into everything," the Magic Mountain man warned Lauren's dad. "A real livewire."

"A bit like his new owner!" said Lauren's dad, winking at his daughter.

Megan smiled from ear to ear as she cuddled her very own puppy. "Can we buy Dylan a red collar?" she asked her mum.

Lauren's mum nodded. "He really is lovely," she said, smiling.

"And that one is smart as can be," the old man said, pointing to Dylan. "Nothing gets past him, believe me!"

At last, the forms were signed and they were ready to leave.

The owner shook everyone by the hand.