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opening extract from

Jake a Friend Indeed

written by

Annette Butterworth

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Chapter One



Jake was excited. He was going on holiday to a farm.

Jake had never been on holiday before and he had never been to a farm.

He was looking forward to meeting all the animals. He knew there were sheep on the farm because he'd heard his owners, Mr and Mrs Foster, telling Sam.

Sam was Jake's favourite person. He lived in the house at the bottom of Jake's garden.

Sam took Jake for walks in their local park. He always had a friendly word and pat for Jake. Jake usually stayed with Sam when the Fosters went on holiday. But this year, they were all going together.

Of course, Jake would miss his friends from the park, especially Holly, the collie, who lived next door. Jake told her how excited he was. He was especially looking forward to herding some sheep.

Holly didn't think he'd be allowed to do that. Farmers were very funny about their sheep. They were fussy about dogs. She'd even heard of a dog being shot at because he was in a field with sheep.

Jake found that hard to believe and thought Holly was just being silly. He was sure he'd be able to do it. Jake reminded Holly that his grandfather was a Belgian



Shepherd dog, so he had sheep herding in his blood.

Holly looked doubtful. She said that even though she was a Rough Collie, with lots of herding "in her blood", she wouldn't want to try and push big sheep about.

Jake wasn't worried. He was going to have a great time, and when he returned from holiday, he would tell her all about it.



Chapter Two



Jake was prepared for a long journey to the farm. He settled down in the back of the car.

He was right. It was a long way. He must have had eight sleeps! This was the longest journey he'd ever had and he was glad to jump out of the car into the farmyard.

The farmer's wife, Mrs Warden, greeted them and began to explain where the Fosters and Sam would find the caravans. Nobody noticed what Jake was doing.

He had spotted some farmyard ducks nesting in a corner, by a big barn. They were a different colour to the ducks in the park, but Jake was sure they'd be ready for a game.

He charged towards the ducks, expecting them to complain noisily at him, ruffle their feathers a bit and then settle back down onto their nests.

But these ducks didn't. They weren't used to boisterous dogs and they ran out of the farmyard, leaving their nests and their eggs to go cold.

Jake was surprised. The farmer's wife was very annoyed.

"I'm terribly sorry, Mrs Warden. He's used to chasing the ducks in the park." Mrs Foster said.

Mrs Warden looked at the eggs and

sighed. "Well, it can't be helped." she said. "He's had a long journey, so he's probably full of beans. But it might be best if you keep him on a lead around the farmyard. My husband doesn't like dogs who can't behave themselves."

At that moment, Mr Warden arrived in the farmyard with his sheepdog, who was called Shep.



Shep was a working sheepdog, and had herded sheep all his life. He was wary of town dogs. He thought they were stupid. Eagerly, Jake ran to him, ready to introduce himself and make friends. But Shep walked straight past and ignored him.

Jake felt quite upset. He liked to be friends and he didn't care if his friends were clever or not, he liked them anyway. But this Shep seemed a very unfriendly dog.

The Fosters and Sam drove over to the field where their caravans were sited. There were only two so it was a peaceful spot. Jake was to stay in Sam's caravan because there would be more room.

The caravans were next to a field with sheep in. "That's good," thought Jake. "I'll probably get a chance to herd them. That'll show Shep I'm not completely stupid!"