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Opening extract from

The Witch and the Dog

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GOOD manners don't cost a penny, but they do help people get along. For most of us they are easy to to learn. But for some, a helping hand is needed

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DAPHNE is a witch with good breeding and excellent manners. She is often called upon to work her magic, taming tearaways, transforming troublesome teens and making awful animals the perfect pets. No job was too tricky. No habit too horrible.

She was the last hope for Harry, a dog with no manners at all ...





WHEN there was a knock on the door, Daphne didn't know that there was a bundle of trouble outside. If she had, she might not have opened it. But she did, and found a scruffy mongrel with chocolate eyes and a cheeky expression that seemed to say, 'Watch out! I'm a pickle!'

She read the note that came with him:

'Dearest Daphne,
We are desperate. We just can't cope with Harry. Please give him a loving home. p.s. You will have to teach him some manners. Good luck!'

"HOW do you do?" she enquired, holding out her right hand for Harry to shake.



BUT Harry leapt out of his basket and smothered Daphne with wet, slobbery kisses.

When you meet someone for the first time, shake their right hand and say, 'How do you do?' or 'Hello'.

As a rule, kissing should be kept for family and close friends.

Daphne tried not to notice Harry's blunders, but the rest of the day passed in a series of doggy disasters that were hard to ignore. Harry ...

... knocked over a visitor ...

Ouch!

... burped loudly without saying excuse me ...

... gobbled his food greedily ...

Belch

... and disgraced himself on Daphne's best rug ...



Daphne had had enough ...