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An extract from
V.I.P (Very Important Pup)

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Chapter Two



“We’ll start in the Doggy Spa,” Aunt Tiffany said, opening a door with a glittery sign on it. Lulu pushed her way through first, her little nose snuffling along the floor, following trails of scent.

Stepping into the room, Abi stopped and sniffed too. The air was filled with delicious smells, all mingling together. Abi gazed around

her at the Doggy Spa. It was certainly different to washing Lulu in the bath at home and drying her on a towel!

The room was decorated in calming blues and greens, with tiny spotlights dotted all over the ceiling. Soothing classical music played and shelves full of bottles, all with neatly printed labels, lined the walls. Round the edge of the

room were the grooming stations – tables with padded towelling cushions and baskets filled with the grooming supplies attached to each one. And in the centre of the room...

“Is that a bone-shaped bath?” Abi asked, looking down at the strangely shaped tub. Lulu barked excitedly as she hopped up the two steps leading into the bath and peered over the edge.



“A perfect doggy bath,” Aunt Tiffany replied. “Now, the first thing Lulu needs to do is choose her bubbles.”

Lulu looked like she might jump into the empty bathtub at any moment, so Abi stepped up to her and said, “Wait, Lulu.” She smiled as the little dog did as she was told. “Good girl.”

Aunt Tiffany walked over to the wall of bottles. Hands on her hips, she stared at them. “Hmm, now, what would be just right for Lulu?”

Abi stepped closer and peered at the bottles, reading the labels. There was “Barking Blossoms”, “Fur Tree Forest”, “Papaya Paws” and lots of others. Finally, Aunt Tiffany picked three bottles from the shelf and carried them over to the bath.

“Come, Lulu,” Abi said, and Lulu hopped down the steps again and sat, tail patting the tiled floor.

Crouching down, Aunt Tiffany held each bottle and let Lulu sniff the bubbles inside. Then Lulu barked once and pushed her nose against the “Papaya Paws” bottle.

“Great choice!” Aunt Tiffany said. “That’s one of my favourites.”

Lulu looked very pleased with herself, and Abi laughed at the way she wagged her tail and shuffled around on the tiles, impatient to get into the bath.

With the water running, Aunt Tiffany handed Abi the bottle. “Do you want to pour it in? Just two capfuls.”

Abi nodded and, taking the bottle, carefully measured out the right amount and poured it into the running water. Almost immediately the bath started to smell of tropical fruit and desert islands. This was definitely the most luxurious bath Lulu had ever had – in fact,

Abi wondered if Aunt Tiffany might have more of these bubbles at home for *her* to try!

Aunt Tiffany handed Abi a Pooch Parlour apron, just like hers, and Abi tied it round her waist. She felt like real Pooch Parlour staff now!

Lulu loved baths. As soon as Aunt Tiffany had brushed and combed out her coat and called for her to hop in, she flew straight into the bubbles, splashing and barking. Bits of foam and droplets

of water flew everywhere, but Aunt Tiffany didn't seem to mind.

And when she started to rub the doggy shampoo into Lulu's fur, the little dog calmed down and stood still in the shallow water.



After her bath and shampoo – Aunt Tiffany called it a “Sudsy Special” – it was time for Lulu's blow-dry. Abi got to help, rubbing her pet down with a super-fluffy towel, before Aunt Tiffany combed through Lulu's thick coat again and got out the Doggy Dryer to finish drying her off. Then she picked up the grooming scissors to give Lulu's coat a trim.

“Beautiful,” Aunt Tiffany said, standing back to admire her work.

Lulu barked with pride and, Abi had to admit, her coat had never looked quite so gleaming white before.

“And now for the fun bit!” Aunt Tiffany said.

“That wasn't the fun bit?” Abi asked, her excitement rising. “Then what's next?”

“The wardrobe room!”

