



CHAPTER ONE

Kat giggles. There are puppies everywhere! Some are tumbling in the grass. Some are chasing butterflies. Some are playing in the flower beds.

Some puppies are white, some are brown, some are red with spots. There are dachshunds and Afghans. There are Boston terriers and cocker spaniels.

There are too many puppies to count!

“Hey, Kat!” a voice said. “It’s for you.”



“Hey, Kat!” her brother Aidan says. “They’re for you, Sis. Any puppy you want. Mom and Dad have finally agreed.” He punches her gently on the shoulder.

Kat grins. She can’t believe it! It’s a dream come true.

But which one should she pick? The sweet black and white border collie with the sparkling eyes? The Bernese mountain dog pup wagging its roly-poly body? The cute Labrador retriever with the white star on its black tummy?

“Hey, Kat!” It was her brother’s voice again. “Sis!”

Kat was sitting at the computer in the living room. It was Saturday. Kat had been looking at photos of different breeds of puppies on the computer until she began daydreaming.

“Earth to Kat,” her brother said, handing the phone to her. “It’s for you. It’s Aunt Jenn.”

Kat’s favourite daydream in the world ended.

In real life she wasn't allowed to get a puppy. Her parents said they didn't have enough time to look after puppies.

But she was happy her aunt was phoning her. Aunt Jenn was the best. She loved dogs as much as Kat did. She had opened up a dog-grooming salon in town. Her business was called Tails Up! Grooming and Boarding and it was doing really well — better than she had thought it would. In fact, Aunt Jenn had just hired someone to help answer the phone and make appointments. But even with her new office helper, Aunt Jenn was still busy, busy, busy. So she often asked Kat to give her a hand. Most times Kat got her best friend, Maya, and her new friend, Grace, to come along. They usually helped Aunt Jenn with puppies that were boarding at Tails Up.

Kat grabbed the phone from Aidan. “Hi, Aunt Jenn!” she said.

“Hi, Kitty-Kat,” said Aunt Jenn, using her



special name for Kat. “Listen, I wonder if you can help me out. Things are usually busy here on Saturdays. But this morning, there is an extra challenge.”

“Sure,” said Kat. “What is it? Has someone left a puppy to board with you? Does he need a walk or a play in the yard?”

“Well, something like that — times three!” Aunt Jenn laughed. “This morning I came downstairs to the salon early to prepare for another day of business. I opened the main door to pick up the newspaper, and what did I find? A big cardboard box — with three little white bichon frise puppies in it!” Aunt Jenn said. Now her voice sounded a bit upset.

Kat gasped. “Three abandoned puppies?”

“Yes,” Aunt Jenn said. She sighed. “I think they are about eight weeks old. I put them in a kennel in the doggy-daycare room, and I gave them food and water. They need more attention, but I’m so busy today. It’s almost noon, and this is the first chance I’ve even had to call you. You don’t mind helping out this afternoon?”

“Of course not!” Kat said quickly. “Is it okay if

Maya and Grace come? We all love helping out at Tails Up. You know how dog crazy we are!”

“That would be wonderful,” Aunt Jenn said. “That way there would be three of them and three of you!”

“I’ll check with Mom and Dad,” said Kat. “Then I’ll call Maya and Grace.”

“Oh, and Kitty-Kat, can you bring along poster-making supplies? It would be great if you could make posters advertising that the three pups need homes,” suggested Aunt Jenn.

“Sure thing,” said Kat. “See you in a flash. Or sooner!”