

Chapter 8: Hello Fredi

One morning, Dee and Nancee were about to visit Cocoa and Cream in the barn, but when they opened the kitchen door, they saw the most adorable visitor. “Nancee, look! There’s a little doggie waiting for us.” They knelt down to pet the cute dog with bushy whiskers and pointy ears. Dee looked at her collar. The tag said her name was Fredi, but there was no contact information.

Before they could say another word, the little dog said, “Hello, girls. I’m Fredi. Did you know I’m a Scottish Terrier? I’ve traveled around the world. Do you play the bagpipe? I love that kind of music. What are your names?”



"I'm Dee Ann and this is my little sister, Nancee. Neither of us play the bagpipes, but we like that music."

"Pleased to meet you," Fredi said, extending her paw to each girl.

"You're the cutest little dog ever. Come and meet Daddy." Dee picked Fredi up and carried her into the barn.

"Daddy, look who was waiting for us outside," Nancee said. "She told us her name is Fredi. If you say we can keep her, we'll tell Mama you already approve. She'll be sort of a little sister for us."

"She certainly is adorable. I know you've wanted a doggie for a long time. You can tell Mama it's okay with me." The girls jumped up and hugged their father. Fredi pressed her whiskers against his cheek. Then they ran toward the house to introduce little Fredi to Mama.

"Mama! We have a special visitor. Isn't she sweet? Can we keep her, pretty please?" Nancee pleaded. "Fredi would be perfect for us and Daddy already said we can keep her."

"We should look for her owners first, don't you think?"

Fredi said, "Nice to meet you, Mama. I ran away from home because my friend moved away. I was lonely without her so I went looking for another place to stay. Your little girls are sweet. I would be so happy to stay with them. I won't be any trouble at all, I promise. I'm a therapy dog, so if I have a little coat with pockets in it, I can help Nancee and Dee carry things. And I know all about Scotland if they ever write a paper on it for school."

Mama stared at Fredi with her mouth open wide. "What an endearing little dog. You girls will have to help care for her."

The girls jumped up and down in circles of delight and hugged Mama. Then they raced out the door carrying Fredi to the barn. "Daddy, Mama said we can keep her! You both said yes! Hooray for Fredi!" Both girls danced around with their new best friend.

"My darlings, as long as you help care for her, Fredi will be a welcome addition to our family."

The girls clapped and cheered. Fredi twirled on her hind legs. Look, Daddy, Fredi's dancing," Nancee said.

"Thank you, sir. I know I'll love it here," Fredi said, sitting down and extending her paw to her new dad.

"Thank you, Daddy. We love Fredi and we promise to take good care of her." They both hugged him again and he patted Fredi's head.

Mama went to the store for dog supplies and came home with bags of surprises for little Fredi. There was a fluffy bed, a leash, some food for small dogs, a brush, and some toys. Fredi was

thrilled. Mama even bought a little jacket with pockets in it so Fredi could help carry things for the girls. It was tartan plaid.

Mama had one more treat in her pocket. She took it out and gave it to Fredi. "What a yummy surprise!" Fredi said. "It's been a busy day. I'd like a nap in my new bed. Goodnight, everyone." Dee lifted Fredi up and the little dog gave each person in her new family a nudge on the cheek. "Aw, she's kissing us goodnight, Mama. How adorable is that?" Nancee said.

The next day, Fredi came into the girls' bedroom and growled ever so softly, like a loud purr. No one woke up, so Fredi took the next step—she barked. Her voice was loud and shrill for such a tiny dog. Nancee woke up and stretched her arms.

"Mornin', Miss Fredi. Would you like to go outside?" Fredi nodded and danced in circles. Nancee put her shoes and her bathrobe on. The two trotted downstairs. Nancee attached the leash and took Fredi outside. A few minutes later, they came back inside as Mama was preparing Fredi's breakfast. Fredi stood on her hind legs and twirled around. She ate every bit of breakfast.

When Dee came home from school later that day, she said, "Mama, we're having *Take Your Pet to School Day* tomorrow. Can we take Fredi?" The little dog bounced around the kitchen.

"I'd love that. I adore children, if you haven't noticed," Fredi declared.

"That's a lovely idea, darlings. Fredi can wear her new jacket with the pockets so she can carry things. You can tell your classes that your little dog is special and Fredi can explain all the things she can do. Bring a picture of a bagpipe and put a sample of that kind of music on your phones."

"Good ideas, Mama. I can't wait," Dee said. "Nancee, did you know the principal said Fredi will be in my class in the morning and yours in the afternoon? She'll make so many friends."

"Girls, I have an idea. Why don't we call 'Suds up Your Pup' dog groomers? They'd love to meet Fredi and give her a bath and haircut for the big day tomorrow."

"Oh, I'd love that!" said Fredi, hopping around. I get leaves and dust stuck in my whiskers. That could even make some little children sneeze." She jumped into Mama's lap and gave her a kiss on the cheek.

Fredi rode in the car, sitting on Dee's lap. The little dog's head stuck out the window during the trip. "I love the feeling of the wind on my face," Fredi said.

"She is so cute," said Mary the groomer.

"I'm Fredi," the tiny black dog announced. "I'm pleased to meet you." Fredi extended her paw.

Mary patted Fredi's head and started to work. Suds and bubbles flew around. Then they rinsed and dried her with the hair dryer. Finally, they gave her a special haircut, including her bushy whiskers.

Fredi pranced about, smiling at everyone with pride about her new look. She was ready for the big event.