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CHAPTER SUMMARY

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| 1. Meet Annie (pp. 1–6) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We meet Annie Shearer, her family, and her special bond with Runt.• We learn that it hasn't rained in Upson Downs for more than a year. Some of the locals have had to sell up and move away.• Annie's dad Bryan abruptly collects her from school. Annie knows that there's a problem she and Runt will have to fix. |
| 2. Upson Downs (pp. 7–11) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We learn that Upson Downs was once a lively community that produced some of the best wool in the world; now most of the businesses in town are closed.• We also meet Runt and learn that he only responds to Annie, and only when they're alone. |
| 3. The Collector (pp. 12–16) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We meet Earl Robert-Barren, a wealthy lawyer who lives alone in a manor across the road from the Shearers' farm.• Earl is an infamous collector who refuses to share anything – in particular, the water from the dam at the centre of his property. This is why everyone in Upson Downs is struggling. |
| 4. The Magic Finger (pp. 17–26) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bryan's sheep have escaped from the Shearers' farm and made their way onto Earl's land.• Once Bryan and Earl go inside, Annie uses her 'magic finger' to direct Runt to round up the sheep.• Bryan notices a map of all the property Earl has bought from struggling farmers. His is one of the last farms still standing. |
| 5. To the Max (pp. 27–29) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We meet Annie's brother Max, who dreams of being a famous daredevil.• Max attempts a dangerous stunt for his YouTube channel, but his pants catch on fire.• Luckily, his mum Susie sees what is happening and quickly extinguishes the flames. |
| 6. Runt (pp. 30–39) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We learn that Runt was once a stray dog who scavenged and stole food to survive.• Annie started feeding Runt at school, and they soon became inseparable.• Constable Duncan Bayleaf, the local policeman, tried to take Runt away, but Annie's grandmother Dolly intervened. That was when Runt officially became Annie's dog. |
| 7. Humble Pie (pp. 41–45) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We learn that the Shearers eat Susie's Humble Pies most nights. They're made cheaply but taste awful.• Annie overhears her parents discussing finances and something called an 'overdraft'. Susie says that they might have to sell their farm to Earl Robert-Barren. Bryan says they just need some rain. |

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| <p>8. The Deep Thinker (pp. 46–49)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We learn about Annie’s late grandfather Wally, an eccentric but successful sheep farmer and inventor. Annie feels close to him even though she can’t remember him well. • While looking through Wally’s journals, Annie discovers a design for something called ‘the Rainmaker’. |
| <p>9. Kind Lies (pp. 50–56)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie builds a Rainmaker, and Max fixes it on top of the windmill. • Annie asks Bryan about the overdraft, but he tells her not to worry. They talk about kind lies. • We learn a little about Dolly’s past, and the fact that she is looking for love again. |
| <p>10. Show Business (pp. 57–72)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie and Runt come across the canine agility course at the Woolarama Show. The first prize is \$500. • We meet Fergus Fink, his whippet Chariot, and his assistant Simpkins. Chariot runs the course and takes the lead. • Annie plans to enter the competition. She asks Max to create a diversion and takes \$20 for the entry fee when Susie isn’t looking. |
| <p>11. Taking the Plunge (pp. 73–79)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max begins climbing a hundred-foot pole, drawing the attention of everyone at the fairground. • Annie and Runt are just in time to enter the agility competition. The adjudicator, Viv Richards, agrees to hide so Runt can’t see her. Then he runs the course. |
| <p>12. Meteoric Fall (pp. 80–85)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryan and Gretel Patel, the local florist, admire a prizewinning rosebush in the Agricultural Pavilion. It was entered anonymously. Could it be Bryan’s? • Max finishes scaling the pole. The crowd is ready with a tarpaulin. Max leaps from the top with a homemade parachute and lands mostly unharmed – except for his broken arm. |
| <p>13. The Big Fix (pp. 86–89)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viv Richards announces that Fergus Fink and Chariot have come in second place, while Annie and Runt have won first place AND set a new course record. • Annie, Runt, Fergus, and Chariot qualify for the National Titles. They now have a chance to win invitations to the Krumpets Dog Show in London. The grand prize is a quarter of a million dollars. |
| <p>14. Pied and Sneak (pp. 90–93)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back at the pie stall, Susie is upset about the missing \$20, as well as Max’s stunt. • While Susie is at the first-aid tent, Annie gets rid of as many pies as she can. She tells Susie that she managed to sell them all, and shows her the \$500. |
| <p>15. The Glow in the Dark (pp. 94–102)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryan invites Annie into his glasshouse. He has retrieved his rosebush, as well as the agility course trophy. Annie apologises. • Bryan shows Annie the unique plants he has propagated, including one with bioluminescent flowers. • Annie expresses doubt about the National Titles because Runt won’t move when people are watching. |

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| <p>16. Scarecrowd (pp. 103–111)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie constructs her own agility course so that she and Runt can practise. Max, who is grounded, secretly films their performances. Annie researches phobias, looking for a way to help Runt. Nothing seems to work. Fergus Fink spies on Annie and Runt from afar. |
| <p>17. Pedigree (pp. 112–116)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We learn that Fergus comes from a long line of dog handlers and trainers, but has never won a competition himself. In fact, Fergus hates dogs. Simpkins is the one who trains and looks after Chariot. The chapter ends with Annie reflecting on pedigree, inheritance, and legacies, and how much happier Bryan seems with his plants than with the sheep. |
| <p>18. No Good, No Good, No Good (pp. 117–129)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bryan and Annie take Runt to a hypnotist and a ‘holistic animal behaviourist’, neither of whom help. Their last hope is Bernadette Box, a recluse who won five National Titles in her youth. Bernadette initially declines to talk to Annie but, after watching Runt through her window, invites the pair in. |
| <p>19. The Bond (pp. 131–137)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernadette explains that the key to winning agility competitions is the bond between a dog and its handler. She reveals that she never competed in the Krumpets Dog Show because her labrador, Moxie, hated travelling. Bernadette observes that Annie is Runt’s whole world, and encourages her to treasure their bond. |
| <p>20. In Stitches (pp. 138–144)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the way home, Annie has an idea. She sketches it out and shows it to Susie. Susie helps Annie create blinders, which she puts on Runt’s head. Now he can’t see anyone but her! |
| <p>21. The 97th Annual Australian Agility Course Association National Titles (pp. 145–152)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the National Titles, Annie and Runt head to the arena while Bryan, Susie, Max, and Dolly take their seats. Fergus Fink orders Simpkins to locate a copy of the Official Canine Code; he is plotting something. |
| <p>22. A Spanner in the Works (pp. 153–159)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie and Runt are about to compete when Fergus interrupts. He accuses them of cheating by using blinders. Annie and Runt are escorted from the arena. The crowd boos – they want Annie and Runt to compete. |
| <p>23. The Trial (pp. 160–164)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie and Runt are brought before the board of the Australian Canine Agility Course Association. The four board members are divided; they cannot decide whether to permit the blinders or disqualify Annie and Runt. The fifth board member is revealed to be Bernadette Box. She casts the deciding vote to permit the blinders. |

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| <p>24. Here Comes Annie (pp. 165–172)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie and Runt return to the arena, delighting everyone except Fergus Fink, who is poised to win. • The blinders work and Runt successfully runs the course. He beats Chariot's time to claim victory. • Runt becomes agitated during the winner's presentation and loosens his blinders. He finally sees the crowd and flees the arena. Annie and the Sheares follow. |
| <p>25. The Devil in the Details (pp. 173–176)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shearers catch up with Annie and Runt, who has calmed down. • They soon realise that the invitation to compete in the Krumpets Dog Show will not cover their travel costs. They won't be able to afford to go. |
| <p>26. Dolly the Dodger (pp. 178–182)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dolly tells Annie the story of how she got into boxing. She spent years touring around the country with a promoter and, in all that time, never lost a bout. • She urges Annie not to give up and assures her that they'll find a way to get her to London. |
| <p>27. The Cherished Rascal (pp. 183–188)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shearers decide to raise money for the trip to London as a surprise for Annie. • People in town won't buy Susie's pies, but they're eager to help Annie and Runt and happily donate money anyway. |
| <p>28. Wally's Words of Wisdom (pp. 189–194)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie comes across Wally's old diary. The final entry details his legal battle with Earl Robert-Barren and his gratitude for his son and grandchildren. Annie tears the page out and puts it in her tool belt. • Meanwhile, Bryan brings a selection of his plants to Gretel Patel and asks if she's willing to buy them. |
| <p>29. Wolf at the Door (pp. 195–200)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the sale of Dolly and Wally's wedding rings, the Shearers have raised enough money to send Annie, Runt, and Bryan to London. • Earl Robert-Barren arrives and informs Bryan that his sheep have caused \$12,000 worth of damage to his property. He intends to keep the sheep until the Shearers pay the full amount – or sell him their farm. |
| <p>30. The Mysterious Moustachioed Man (pp. 201–206)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie spots Bryan's rose at Patel's Petals and realises that he sold it to raise money for their trip. She resolves to win the Grand Championship in London. • A mysterious man who calls himself Arthur Throwguls offers to buy Runt for \$150,000. He leaves abruptly when his obvious disguise begins to fall apart. |
| <p>31. Highbrow Lowbrow (pp. 207–210)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur Throwguls is revealed to be Simpkins in disguise. He reports back to Fergus Fink, who is livid that his plan did not work. |

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| 32. The Impossible Choice (pp. 211–214) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie deliberates over the \$150,000 offer, while Bryan deliberates over Earl Robert-Barren’s legal notice. In the end they both decide to ignore them, hopeful that Runt might win the Grand Championship. |
| 33. Team Shearer (pp. 215–221) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shearers say their goodbyes at the airport. Annie, Runt, and Bryan depart for London. |
| 34. London (pp. 222–227) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie, Runt, and Bryan spend their first day in London. They go over the schedule for the Krumpets Dog Show. The big day is almost here. |
| 35. The Tale of Gorgeous George (pp. 228–234) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This chapter tells the story of Kingsley Krumpet, the founder of the Krumpets Dog Show, and his border collie Gorgeous George. Annie and Runt visit Kingsley and Gorgeous George’s statue outside the Royal Canine Exhibition Centre. Annie rubs the patch on Gorgeous George’s chest, which is said to bring luck and love. |
| 36. The Big Day Begins (pp. 236–239) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie, Runt, and Bryan arrive at the Krumpets Dog Show. It’s not long before they run into Fergus Fink, but he storms off after a pug urinates on his ankle. |
| 37. Basil and Camilla (pp. 240–242) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We meet Basil Peppercorn and Camilla Crowne-Jewel, the longstanding commentators of the Krumpets Dog Show. Basil and Camilla explain what has happened in the qualifying heats so far. |
| 38. Qualifications (pp. 243–248) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It’s Annie and Runt’s turn to compete. After a moment of hesitation, Runt springs into action. They qualify for the final, though Annie is worried about their time. Bryan, noticing the tension in the air, suggests they go elsewhere to pass time before the final. |
| 39. Key to the City (pp. 249–256) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie, Runt, and Bryan spend the afternoon exploring London. They find a shop selling Humble Pie and visit Buckingham Palace. They also encounter a man fishing for treasure in a canal. Annie has a go and finds a mysterious old key, which the man lets her keep. |
| 40. Sabotage (pp. 257–259) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fergus Fink reveals his plan to tamper with the agility course obstacles. Simpkins refuses to help. He walks away and Fergus resolves to carry out his plan alone. |
| 41. The World is Watching (pp. 260–266) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It’s the middle of the night in Upson Downs, but everyone has woken up to watch the final – including Constable Bayleaf, Earl Robert-Barren, and Bernadette Box. Backstage at the Krumpets Dog Show, Annie notices that the dogs are behaving strangely. Something is wrong. |

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| 42. Chaos (pp. 267–274) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first two dogs to compete become distracted and are unable to run the course. The commentators are perplexed. All the dogs (except Runt) stampede onto the course. Annie works out that they are reacting to the obstacles. |
| 43. Reactions (pp. 275–277) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spectators in London and Upson Downs watch the chaos unfold. The commentators speculate that there may be foul play. Bernadette Box knows who to blame: Fergus Fink. |
| 44. The Unfinkable Occurs (pp. 278–283) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the obstacles cleaned, the competition resumes. Eventually, it's Fergus and Chariot's turn. Chariot executes a flawless run, despite Fergus' showboating, thanks to her bond with Simpkins. Meanwhile, Simpkins approaches the Krumpets Dog Show Fairness and Ethics Committee. |
| 45. Things that go Bump in the Corridor (pp. 284–288) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie collides with Fergus on her way to the course. He falls to the ground near Runt, but is strangely kind to her. Everyone back in Upson Downs is excited for Annie and Runt to have their turn. But Bernadette Box and Susie notice straight away that something is wrong. |
| 46. The Big Moment (pp. 289–296) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie realises that Runt isn't wearing his blinders. Unbeknownst to her, they've been stolen by Fergus, who now throws them in the bin. Without his blinders, Runt won't move, so Annie picks him up and takes him through the course herself. Everyone cheers but Annie knows she has failed. For the first time in her life, she begins to cry. |
| 47. The Miracle (pp. 297–301) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back in Upson Downs, out of nowhere, it starts to rain. Annie's Rainmaker worked! Everyone is overjoyed except for one man... |
| 48. Dam (pp. 302–304) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The storm is torrential. Earl Robert-Barren tries to keep the water inside his dam, but is ultimately swept away when it bursts. He isn't seen again. |
| 49. The Winner (pp. 305–306) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At long last, Fergus Fink claims the Grand Championship Cup. No one is really interested. |
| 50. One Man's Trash (pp. 307–311) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A media storm awaits Annie and Runt when they try to leave the exhibition centre. While looking for another way out, Annie spots Runt's blinders in the bin. She realises what really happened with Fergus. She also remembers that she still has the page from Wally's diary. |
| 51. Emerald City (pp. 312–320) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annie, Runt, and Bryan go to the Temperate House at Kew Gardens. Annie unlocks the door using the key from the canal. Annie and Bryan talk about everything that's happened, and Annie gives Bryan the page from Wally's diary. They answer a call from home and learn two things: it's raining, and Annie and Runt have gone viral. |

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| 52. Hidden Talents (pp. 321–325) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Max reveals that he secretly filmed hundreds of moments in the lead-up to the Grand Championship, then uploaded them to his YouTube channel.• The video has had more than ten million views and attracted the attention of MUSH Canine Cuisine. They've offered Annie and Runt a lifetime supply of MUSH and a lot of money. |
| 53. Upson Downs and Up Again (pp. 326–333) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upson Downs comes back to life. Earl Robert-Barren's manor is converted into a museum. The town grows.• Susie starts a clothing label called Humble Pie. Dolly becomes the president of the newly revived recreational clubs. The town builds a statue of Runt and opens the Wally Shearer Memorial Reserve.• Fergus Fink is stripped of his title and banned from competing. Chariot enjoys her retirement with Simpkins. |
| 54. Meet Annie (pp. 334–342) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This chapter sums up how everyone has grown and changed. Annie and Runt are still famous, and Bryan now runs a nursery.• Bernadette Box visits the Shearers with her new puppy, Annie. There is a spark between her and Dolly.• Runt finally responds to Bryan, and Annie is overcome with happiness. |