

JiNA JEONG

Project Pets



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For Review Only

Chapter 1



PETS IN NEED

“Oh, look! Banana-flavored Choco Pies!”
Jina Jeong said. She grabbed the box of
chocolate-covered snack cakes off the shelf.

She ran to Dad with the package. “Please,
can we get these?”

Dad took the box from Jina. “Well, okay,”
he said. “Only if you share them with me!”

Jina grinned. “It’s a deal!”

She and Dad walked up and down the aisles of the Korean grocery store. “Where did Mom go?” Jina asked. It felt like they had been shopping forever.

Finally, Mom rounded the corner, pushing their cart. It was overflowing with groceries. “We’d better get in line to check out,” Mom said. “It’s getting crowded.”

As they walked to the check-out lines, Jina groaned. All the lines were so long, people had to stand in the grocery aisles. “This is going to take forever,” Jina sighed.

Mom looked at Dad. “Why don’t you and Jina wait outside?” she said.

Jina hugged Mom. “Let’s go, Dad!” she said.

Outside, there wasn't much to do, but Jina was happy to walk around. Across the parking lot, a sign caught her eye. Jina read it out loud, "Pet adoption day! Give a home to a furry friend."



Jina started tugging on Dad's arm. "Can we go to the pet store, *please*?" Jina asked, pointing to the sign.

Dad let Jina pull him a few feet. Then he stopped. "Jina," he said. "Remember our agreement? We are not getting a pet until you are older."

Jina looked up at Dad, using her sad face. "I just want to look," she said.

"Just to look," Dad said, his hands on his hips.

Jina nodded. "Yes! I promise not to make you adopt a pet," she said.

Dad smiled. "Okay, go tell Mom where we are going."

A few minutes later, Jina ran across the parking lot, Dad right behind her. “Slow down, Jina,” he said.

Outside the pet store, Jina saw several pens with dogs. A few adults sat on folding chairs next to them.

Most of the pens had at least one or two people nearby, talking to the dogs or petting them. Then Jina saw a long-haired dog with dark brown and black fur lying by itself in a pen. Jina walked up to it and knelt down.

A woman sitting nearby smiled at Jina. “Why isn’t anyone paying attention to this one?” Jina asked.

“Well, the puppies always get most of the attention,” the woman said. “This pooch is an older dog, and not as playful.”

Jina leaned over, rubbing the dog’s head. The dog opened its eyes and gazed at Jina.

“Why don’t these dogs have owners?”

Jina asked.

“Sometimes people don’t realize how much it takes to have a pet,” the woman said.

“You need lots of time to spend with it. It also costs money. There’s food and vet bills.”

“You mean owners give their pets away? To the animal shelter?” Jina asked.

“Yes,” the woman said. “We try to only let people adopt who are able to commit for the long-term.”

Jina walked around, looking in all the pens. One table held several smaller cages. “Kittens!” Jina cried.

“Would you like to hold one?” A woman with long, dark hair was sitting at the table. She smiled at Jina. Her name tag read “Megan.”

“Oh, yes, please!” Jina said.

Megan reached into one of the cages and gently picked up a gray and white striped ball of fluff. She handed it to Jina.

Jina cupped her hands around the small creature. Then she held it against her chest. “Hey there,” she said. The kitten looked up at her, then closed its eyes.

Dad walked over to Jina.



“Oh, isn’t it the cutest thing?” Jina asked.

“I wish we could keep one!”

Dad sighed. “I know it’s hard to be patient, Jina.”

Jina nodded. "It is!" she said. Then she looked up at Dad and smiled. "But thank you for letting me visit them." She stroked the kitten behind its tiny ears.

Jina gave the kitten one last little squeeze before handing it back to Megan. "Thank you," Jina said. "I wish we could adopt them all."

Megan smiled. "We just need more people to come to these events," she said. "Maybe you could tell your friends about it. We are here every Saturday."

Jina nodded. She was going to tell everyone she knew! Every one of these animals needed a good home. Jina was going to do all she could to help them.