

## Introducing... Annie!

It was a rather chilly Sunday morning. My mother had been gone for work for nearly two weeks and my brother, father, and I deeply missed her. Things just kinda felt... empty and lonely without mom. "Hey!" I started, "Aren't we supposed to pick mom up from the airport today?" My father confirmed this as my brother and I could barely hold in our excitement. Still, the best was yet to come!

As we drove to the airport, our father took an unexpected detour. "Where are you taking us?" I thought out loud. But, he didn't need to respond as the answer quickly became *very* clear; we had arrived at a pet store! Inside were the adorable sounds of puppies yelping with delight to see three people enter their space. We placed ourselves over by the Cocker Spaniel cage as they came crashing out, leaping to lick our faces in attempts to be the chosen one.

However, one quiet and calm puppy slowly made her way to my lap where she made herself comfortable. "This is the one," I whispered. "Her name is Annie." It was at that moment that I learned that we don't always pick our dogs – sometimes they pick us!