

LOIS DUNCAN

NOW A  
MAJOR  
MOTION  
PICTURE



# HOTEL FOR DOGS



SCHOLASTIC

# CHAPTER ONE

The house was white and square and too small and too perfect.

Bruce studied it from the car window. "Do you suppose there's really room for all of us?" he asked skeptically.

"It looks smug," Andi said. "It has a stuck-up look, as though it thinks it's too good for ordinary people. Even the grass looks fake. I bet it's made of plastic and comes from Home Depot."

"Andi, that is *enough!*" Mr. Walker pulled the car into the driveway and brought it to a stop, but he did not turn off the motor. "You have been acting this way ever since we left New Mexico. We're here now, and in another minute you're going to meet Aunt Alice. I don't want one more unpleasant remark — not *one*."



“Just remember how lucky we are, dear,” Mrs. Walker said. “Nobody wants to rent to a family that may only be living in a town for a short time. If Dad’s aunt didn’t live here and hadn’t invited us to stay with her, we might have had to stay behind. You wouldn’t have wanted that, would you?”

“Yes,” Andi muttered, but she said it under her breath. She did not want to push her luck too far. Besides, she knew she was being unfair and was a little ashamed of herself. The two-story white house in front of them was a perfectly nice place. Actually, some people might have preferred it to the sprawling old adobe they had left behind.

The truth of it was, it was not the house itself that she resented. It was the fact that Bebe would not be allowed to live in it with them.

Until she had discovered that, she had been almost as excited about the thought of the move as Bruce was. Their father’s assignment to a new branch of his company meant a big promotion, and they were proud of him and pleased that he was going to Elmwood, New Jersey, for a training program. New people, new experiences, a car trip all the way across the country — how could they *not* have been delighted about those things!

And then their mother had broken the news. She had done it in what Andi thought was a very sneaky way, remarking casually in the middle of packing, "I talked to the Arquettes about keeping Bebe while we're in Elmwood. They say they'll be glad to have her."

"What do you mean?" Andi asked in bewilderment. "Why would they keep Bebe?"

"We won't be able to take her east with us, I'm afraid," Mrs. Walker had said. "Your father's aunt Alice is terribly allergic to dogs."

"*We can't take Bebe!*" Andi had stared at her mother incredulously. Surely she must be joking! Still, this was hardly the sort of thing you joked about. "Bebe's part of our family!"

"She's only a dachshund," Bruce remarked. He was bent over his suitcase, trying to arrange his camera equipment so that nothing would get broken. "That's hardly even a dog. It's more like a noodle."

"It's dog enough for people who are allergic to animals," Mrs. Walker said. "I'm sorry, Andi. I know how you feel, but there's nothing we can do about it. Bebe will have a fine time at the Arquettes'. Holly and her brothers will take good care of her."



**The Inspiration for the Major Motion Picture  
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## Andi loves dogs.

So when an adorable stray shows up, Andi wants to save it—but she can't take it home. With the help of her brother Bruce, she rescues the stray and its puppies and moves them into an abandoned house down the block. Then they check in Red Rover, an Irish setter whose owner mistreats him. And MacTavish, who begs for scraps in the school playground. And more . . .

Andi is thrilled—she's running a dog hotel! But can she and Bruce keep the canine castle going, or will a bark give their secret away?

