

ONE DOG'S DARE

Treatment by Sandra Hall

Logline

When the manager of a pet store coaxes a new owner-to-be into buying the world's most reckless canine, the repercussions threaten to bite both of them in the butt.

Characters

Sienna Rose - The manager of Critter Cubby, Sienna is fiercely loyal to her animals.

Unfortunately, that same passion doesn't carry over to herself. When it comes to her own aspirations and desires, she's never been sure what she truly wants out of life.

Avery Cruz - The most eligible of bachelors, Avery has everything going for him. The only thing he lacks is companionship. With his new dog, however, he gets waaaay more than he paid for.

Nugget the Dog - A Chow Chow from the literal depths of hell, Nugget is a menace to almost every human being on Earth. The exception? Sienna, the absolute light of his life.

Synopsis

OPEN ON CRITTER CUBBY, a cozy little pet store in the heart of Boise, Idaho. SIENNA is the sole manager (and employee) of the store, even though it technically belongs to her aunt. But Sienna isn't in the business for profit, only for the animals. She's their fiercest defender and advocate, and in turn, the shop animals return her affection in spades.

Cue AVERY, a dashing young man who walks into the store one day and tells Sienna he's been looking everywhere for a companion. Sienna, caught off guard, humorously interprets this as a *human* companion. After a few more cute missteps, Avery accidentally knocks over an entire row of SCORPION cages! Sienna quickly re-contains them before they can wreak havoc on the store. Avery sheepishly apologizes, offering Sienna anything she wants to make up for the embarrassing mess. Sienna smirks and takes Avery to the back of the store. There, Avery

meets a sleeping Chow Chow named NUGGET. Sienna explains he's been passed over time and time again, but the pup truly deserves a good home. Avery can help make that a reality.

Not long after Sienna's successful sale, however, Avery returns with a very awake Nugget in tow (aka the complete opposite of the peaceful pup we saw). Avery is at his wits' end, unsure how to get the dog to behave. Sienna offers one-on-one obedience lessons, and the pair set up their first date. Well, not *date* date, but a training date. Which... essentially turns into dating without either of them realizing it, their chemistry becoming undeniable.

Just as their relationship starts to blossom, Sienna's aunt falls gravely ill, forcing her to temporarily close up shop and pause their lessons. Her aunt, convinced her time has come, pushes Sienna to take over Critter Cubby entirely. But that's a lot of responsibility. Responsibility Sienna isn't sure she's ready to inherit. Thankfully, her aunt makes a promising recovery, and Sienna feels a crisis has been averted. She reconnects with Avery, who invites her out for a puppy playdate. He wants to show her how much progress he's made with Nugget, and what better way than an outing at the park? That is... until poor Nugget is overloaded by all the outdoor stimulation, causing him to act out and drag Avery along by the leash. Together, Sienna and Avery calm the beast, forming a special (and hilarious) memory they'll never forget.

Now entranced by Avery, Sienna can barely focus on work. But her aunt's health takes a dark turn, the store's future unknown. Sienna must now make a choice: does she take over Critter Cubby? Or does she let the store go? As she wrestles with her decision, Nugget waits for her at the pet store. How did he get here?? As if the Chow Chow knew what was ailing Sienna, the dog embraces her. It's in that moment that Sienna, for the first time in her life, finally knows what she wants to do.

Avery opens his front door to find Sienna and Nugget (the latter charging headfirst into Avery). Avery can hardly believe it – he was a mess when he realized Nugget was missing! Sienna finally confesses her feelings, which Avery sweetly returns. The two share a tender kiss. Sienna will run Critter Cubby, but now she'll have Avery and Nugget at her side.