



CHAPTER

1

Storm Clouds

THE DAY BEGAN ON THE FARM as it had for the last several weeks. The skies were gray, and the drabness robbed the dawn of its normally bright colors. Black and ominous, thunderclouds added to the gloomy atmosphere. The skies threatened with more of the relentless rains that had already flooded the fields.

A clap of thunder jolted the Brittany bird

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dog from her sleep. Displaying her breed's energy and agility, Dixie bolted from her straw bed to peer through a crack in the door of the shed.

My, that sounded close, she thought as she gazed over the flooded farmland.

The shed served as both a home and a prison for the two adult dogs and the two puppies within. Thunder, lightning and rainfall had assaulted the rickety shelter for weeks.

Dixie's pup also felt the tremor of the ground and the deafening noise. He whined, and she returned to him. She gathered him close to comfort him. On the other side of the shed, the English pointer Delilah huddled with her puppy.

Its soil depleted and its outbuildings crumbling, the old farm had failed to weather the recent battering of storms. The rising waters had made it necessary to move the small herd of cattle, three goats, and the entire chicken coup to a neighboring farm for safety.

SEARCH FOR PARADISE

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