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It's the school holidays and all Billy wants to do is ride his bike and play football. He absolutely does not want to take care of a baby lamb! But with his arm broken, Billy is struggling to find fun things to do on the farm – until this baby lamb turns out to be better company than he expected.



Narrative

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Level  
25

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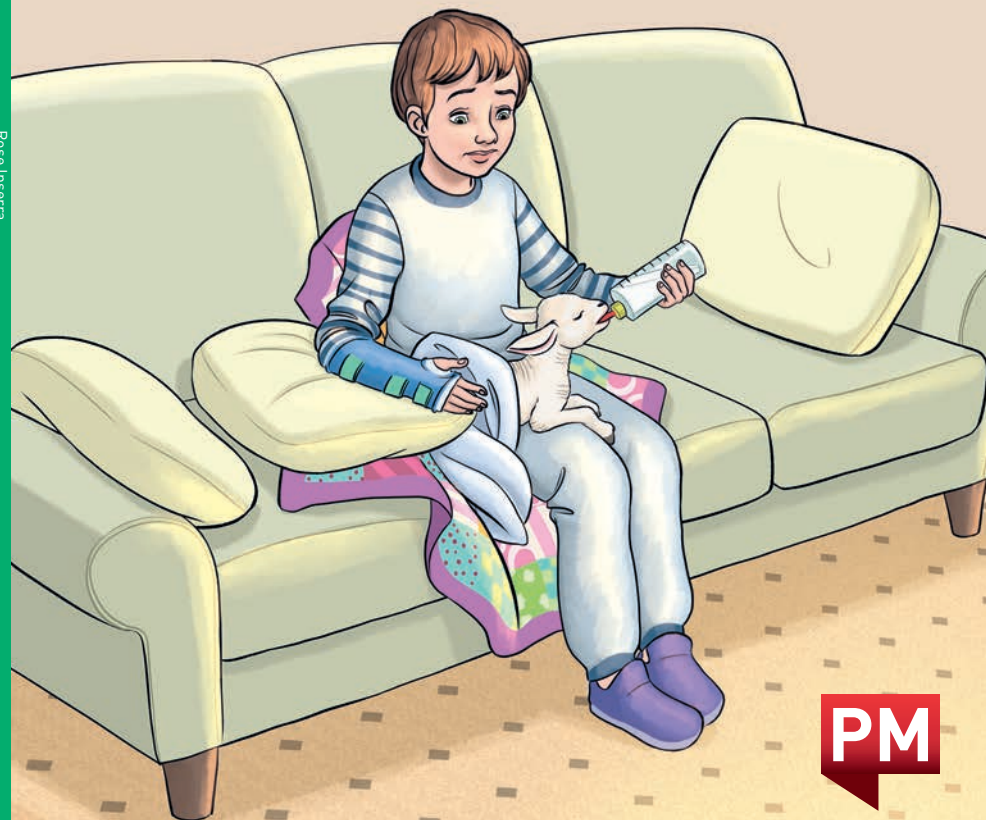
A Baby Lamb Is Too Much Trouble

Rose Inserra

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Story by Rose Inserra

Illustrations by Nathalie Ortega



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## Chapter 1

# Surprise!

It was the first week of school holidays. Billy and Annie were having breakfast when Dad walked in from the paddock. He had a surprise for them, and it was wrapped up snugly in a blanket in his arms.

The bundle was soft and woolly. It was very small and made a bleating sound.

"It's a baby lamb!" said Billy and Annie together.





"Mike from the big sheep farm down the road asked if we could take care of her. Her mother can't look after her," said Dad.

"Why not?" Billy asked.

"The mother had triplets, and it's too much for her to take care of three lambs. She'd have to feed all of them at one time," Dad explained.

Mum came from the kitchen holding a small bottle of milk. "I hope you like your surprise," she said. "We all need to help this little lamb to grow. She needs special food and lots of cuddles."

"Cuddles is a good name for her," said Annie.



Mum said it was a good thing it was the school holidays, as there would be lots to do to take care of Cuddles. Annie and Billy would need to feed her, change her nappy, hold her and stroke her.

But Billy didn't really think he could do much to help, and he thought looking after Cuddles was going to be a lot of work. Plus, his arm was still feeling sore after he broke it playing football.

"You can start by giving Cuddles a bottle of milk," Mum said to him. "You only need one arm to do that."

*Surprise!*

