

Chapter Three

Hank sighed. He looked out of the window. Nipper was chasing Cruncher round and round the café.



Then Hank had an idea.
He went to fetch a rats' tail
pizza from the kitchen.

"Here, boy!" Hank opened
the door. "Look! Lovely pizza!"

"Yip?" yapped Nipper.

"Woof?" barked Cruncher.

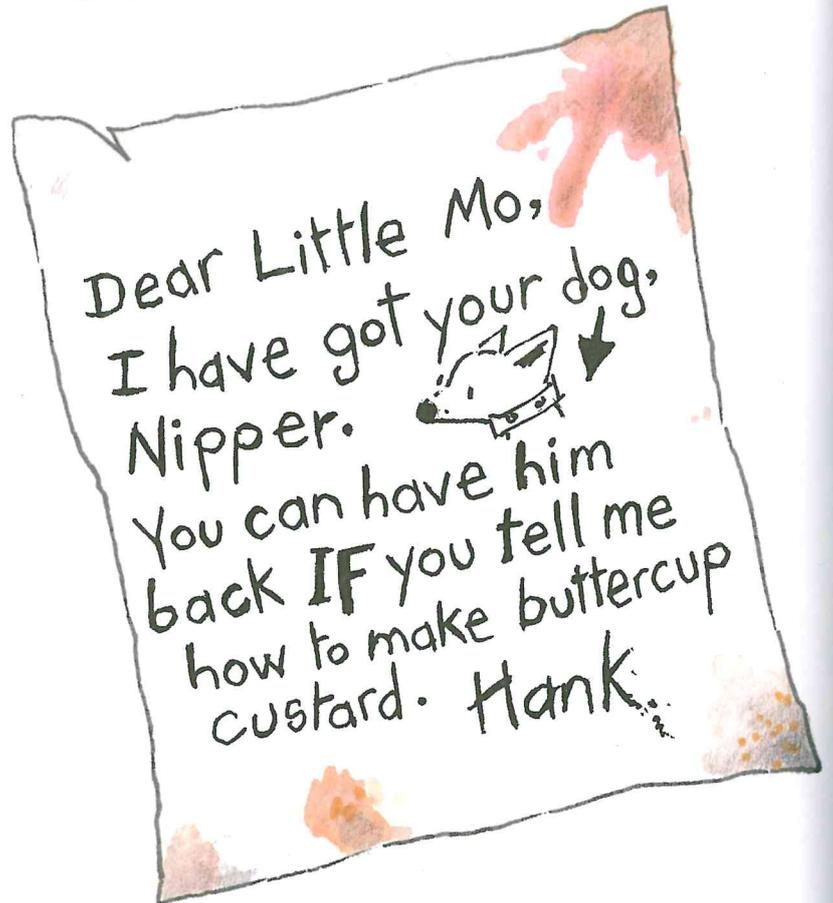


“Come and get it!” said Hank.
As the dogs dashed into the
café, Hank slammed the door
shut.

“Got you!”



Hank sat down and wrote
a letter.



“Cruncher! Here, boy!”

Cruncher came to see what Hank wanted. Nipper gobbled up the last crumbs of pizza.

Hank tied the letter to Cruncher’s collar.

“Woof?” asked Cruncher.



Hank frowned. How could he open the door without letting Nipper out?

He went into the kitchen to fetch another pizza.

“Yip!” Nipper followed him.

“Good dog!” Hank put the pizza on the floor.

Nipper was too busy eating to notice as Hank shut him in the kitchen.





Hank patted Cruncher's head. "Take the letter to Little Mo! Off you go!"

Cruncher nodded. "Woof!"

Hank sat down outside
the café, and waited.



He waited ...



and he waited.



And then he saw Little Mo walking towards the Blood - and Guts Café.



Hurrah! thought Hank.
She's come to tell me how to
make Buttercup Custard!

But she hadn't.

"You think you're SO clever," Little Mo said. "You've got Nipper, but you forgot something. We've got Cruncher! And we won't let him go until you bring back Nipper and say you're sorry."



Little Mo looked at the sign.



“Absolutely no girls?
Huh! Just like a boy to write
something silly like that. Well,
let me tell you something. I
hate boys.”

She turned round and
marched back up the road.



Chapter Four

Hank paced up and down.



If I can't make Buttercup Custard, we won't have any customers. If we don't have any customers, I won't have a job.



But I love Cruncher. He's the best dog ever, and he's my friend – I have to get him back, even if I do have to say I'm sorry to that girl.

Hank stopped. He'd thought
of something else.



It's all my fault that Little
Mo's got Cruncher. Maybe I
wasn't so clever after all.

In the kitchen, Nipper was lying on his back. He looked very fat.

The stew pan was empty. There were no rats' tail pizzas. The bowl of worms was upside down. The oven door was open, and every pie was gone.

“Wow,” said Hank. “Wow!”

“Burp,” said Nipper.



“Come on, Nipper. You’re going home,” said Hank.



Nipper shook his head.
“Don’t you want to go home?” Hank asked.
Nipper shook his head again.

Hank put Nipper under his arm and walked out of the café and down the road.

He walked all the way to Mighty Millie's Travelling Cake Shop.



Little Mo was tidying up.
She put down her cloth.

“Have you come to say
you’re sorry?” she asked.



“Yes.” said Hank. “Here’s
Nipper, and I don’t want to
know about Buttercup Custard.
I just want Cruncher back.”

“Really?” Mo looked surprised.

“Really,” said Hank.

He put Nipper down. Nipper didn't move.

"Nipper!" Little Mo looked even more surprised. "Don't you want to say hello?"

Nipper shook his head.



“Mum!” Little Mo shouted.
“Mum! Nipper’s here and he’s
not right!”

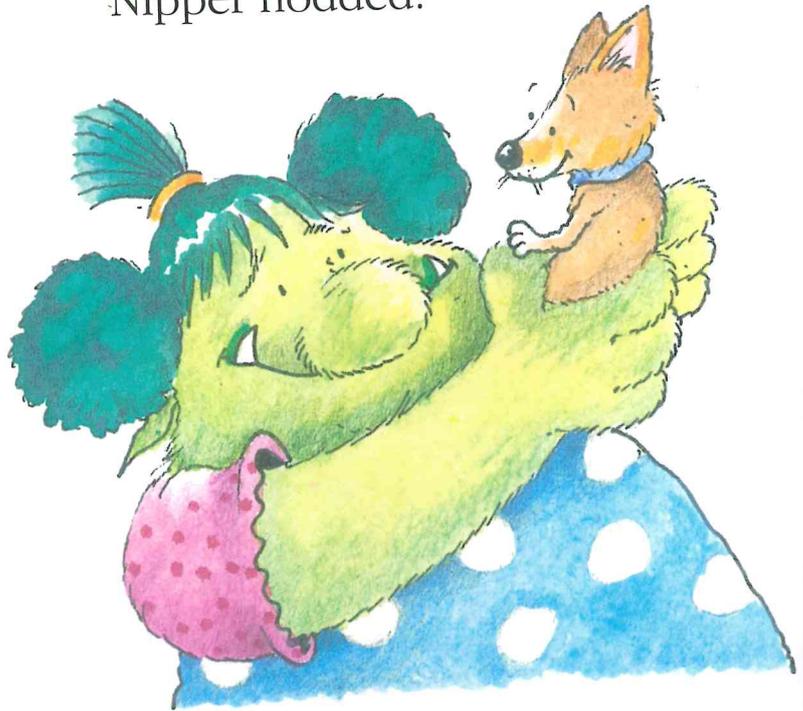
Mighty Millie came outside.
“What have you done to my
dog?” she said.



“Nothing,” said Hank. “He
did eat a lot of pies though.
And worms. And rats’ tail
pizzas. And **all** my Slug and
Snail Stew.”

“Did you really eat all those things, Nipper?” Mighty Millie asked.

Nipper nodded.



“Well I never.” Millie looked at Hank. “Nipper’s fussy. You must be a good cook.”

“We used to sell out every Saturday,” Hank told her.



“Hank’s Slug and Snail Stew is yummy,” said Pete.

“The Scrambled Worms are scrummy,” said Larry.

“Didn’t you sell out today?”
asked Little Mo.



“No,” said Hank. “Nobody
came. They all came here
instead.”

“I see.” Mighty Millie nodded.
“Wait here!”

She opened the door of her
Cake Shop.

Cruncher came bursting out.
“Woof!” he barked. “Woof!”

“Hello, boy,” said Hank, and
he hugged Cruncher. “Let’s go
home.”



“Just a minute.” Little Mo pulled a piece of paper out of her apron pocket. “Haven’t you forgotten something?”

“Forgotten what?” said Hank.

Mo handed him the paper.
“Here. Now you can make Buttercup Custard.”



“Thank you!” said Hank.
Little Mo looked at Hank.
“We don’t like boys who are
rude. We do like boys who like
dogs.”

“And we do like boys who
can cook,” said Mighty Millie.



Hank went very red. "I'm sorry I was rude," he said. "Maybe ... maybe **SOME** girls are OK."

"And maybe **SOME** boys are OK," said Little Mo.



Chapter Five

Hank walked along the road with Cruncher beside him.

“We’ll have to tell Big Billy Bones, Cruncher,” he said.

“Girls aren’t all bad. They make the best custard, that’s for sure!”

“Woof!” said Cruncher.



“Yip!” Nipper ran after them.
“Go home, Nipper,” said Hank.
Hank picked up Nipper and
took him back.

“Thanks,” said Little Mo.
Hank and Cruncher set off
down the road again.



“Yip!” Nipper ran after them.
“Go home, Nipper,” said Hank.
Hank picked up Nipper and
took him back again.

“Thanks,” said Mighty Millie.
Nipper began to howl.
“Yowl! Yowl! Yowl!!!!!!”



Millie scratched her hairy
head. Mo pulled at her pigtails.
Hank rubbed his nose.

None of them knew what
to do.



“Hmmm ...” Hank had an idea, but he wasn’t sure if it was a good one.



Big Billy didn’t like girls. But Big Billy did want Buttercup Custard. And he did want his customers back...

“Hmmm ...” Hank had an idea, but he wasn’t sure if it was a good one.



Big Billy didn’t like girls. But Big Billy did want Buttercup Custard. And he did want his customers back...

“Maybe,” he said slowly,
“maybe we could cook
together? Your cake shop is on
wheels. You could park next to
our café.”

“Yip!” Nipper jumped up and
down.

“Woof!” barked Cruncher.

“OK,” said Mighty Millie. “It’s
a deal.” She and Hank shook
hands.



So Pete, Larry and Fred
rolled Mighty Millie's Travelling
Cake Shop along the road.



They stopped right next to
the Blood and Guts Café.

The door of the Blood and Guts Café opened, and Big Billy Bones stepped out. “Do I see **girls?**” he growled.

Hank swallowed nervously. “They’re going to make us Buttercup Custard. Loads and loads of Buttercup Custard,” he said.

There was a long pause, then Big Billy Bones nodded.

“That’s all right then,” he said.



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Slug and Snail stew -

Rats' tail pizza -

Scrambled worms on toast
SATURDAY SPECIAL!!!

Guts Pie with Blood Sauce
ALL with Mighty Millie's
extra-special super delicious
Buttercup CUSTARD!!

ps Try one of Mighty Millie's
teeny Weeny Posie Posy Pies for
Pudding. They're the BEST!

PPS ALL girls
welcome!



The café and cake shop
were full to bursting



and so were the customers.





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The Blood and Guts
Café is empty. There's
delicious Rats' Tail
Pizza and special Guts
Pie with Blood Sauce
- but no one to eat it.
And when Hank sets off
to find his customers,
he's in for a surprise...



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