

Bruce

Bruce by Albert Payson Terhune is a touching tale of a brave and devoted collie whose loyalty and adventures highlight the profound bond between humans and dogs.

CHAPTER I BRUCE

"The Coming of Bruce" is a heartwarming story that begins with the unfair prejudices faced by a female collie named Rothsay Lass, making her undesirable in the show dog world due to her prick-eared, broad-headed appearance, despite her flawless pedigree. Considered a "second," Lass struggles with loneliness at the Rothsay Kennels until she's picked out by a young boy named Dick Hazen, who falls in love with her at first sight. However, due to the stigma against female dogs and his mother's disapproval, Dick is forced to part with Lass, who is then seemingly abandoned by his father, Edward Hazen.

A series of unfortunate events lead Lass to be mistakenly shipped to a different family, mistaken for the dog they intended to purchase, Rothsay Princess. In her new home, known as The Place, she is accepted despite her differences and begins a happy life, until the reality of her identity is revealed due to only giving birth to one puppy, named Bruce. Simultaneously, Edward Hazen, regretful over his actions and distressed by his son's ailing health due to the loss of Lass, pleads with the family at The Place to sell Lass back to them to make his son happy again.

As the story unfolds, Lass is happily reunited with Dick, who is delighted to have her back. Bruce, the puppy, remains at The Place to be raised by the family there, serving as a living memory of Lass. This tale touches on themes of prejudice, regret, and redemption, while ultimately celebrating the unconditional love and loyalty between a boy and his dog. It showcases the profound emotional impact pets have on human lives and the lengths people will go to for the happiness of their loved ones.

CHAPTER II BRUCE

In Chapter II, "The Pest," of an unnamed book, we encounter a narrative focused on the growth and unexpected potential of beings initially judged as inadequate or problematic. The chapter begins with references to historical figures like Thackeray, Bismarck, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln, who, despite early life setbacks or seeming mediocrity, became monumental figures in history. This serves as an allegory for Bruce, a collie puppy whose initial awkwardness and ineptitude make him the family's burden rather than a joy.

Born on a place known as The Place, Bruce is a colossal collie puppy, too big for his age, with a disproportionately large head and feet, and a lack of coordination and sense that brings constant trouble. Despite his faults, he is deeply loved by the Mistress of The Place, who sees potential in him where others see only a nuisance. Despite Bruce's many misadventures, including falling into a water-lily pool multiple times and failing to learn basic commands, she champions him against the judgments of others, including the Master.

The turning point comes when Bruce is disqualified from a dog show for not resembling a collie, according to the judge. Humiliated, the Master decides to sell Bruce, attaching a "For Sale" sign to his bench. However, a vivisectionist, Dr. Halting, buys Bruce, intending to use him for experiments. Learning of Halting's intentions, the Mistress rescues Bruce in a dramatic confrontation, recovering him even as Halting tries to

escape, leading to an accident that injures both Bruce and Halding.

Bruce's recovery from this incident becomes a turning point. The once clumsy, oversized puppy transforms into a magnificent, intelligent collie, realizing the Mistress's belief in his potential. The chapter concludes with Bruce winning first place in the puppy class at the Hampton dog show, a testament to his unexpected transformation and the faith placed in him by those who loved him despite his initial shortcomings.

This narrative explores themes of growth, potential, and resilience, illustrating how early judgments can be misleading and how care, love, and belief in someone's potential can lead to remarkable transformations.

CHAPTER III Bruce

The chapter showcases Bruce, a collie dog's remarkable journey and contribution to the war effort. The story begins with a picturesque evening at "The Place," where a visiting army captain, recently returned from France, praises Bruce's intelligence and abilities. The family, fond of Bruce, decide to enlist him as a war dog despite their reservations about sending him into such peril.

Bruce, after thorough training in England, is deployed to France, where he quickly becomes a valued asset for his intelligence and reliability. The narrative centers around a particular mission where Bruce is tasked with delivering an urgent message across a perilous battlefield to call for reinforcements. Despite a barrage of enemy fire and a confrontation with a German police dog, Bruce relentlessly pursues his mission. In a dramatic and harrowing sequence, Bruce is struck down and believed dead by the onlookers, including his own regiment. However, defying the odds and expectations, Bruce miraculously survives and completes his mission, ensuring the reinforcements arrive in time to assist his embattled comrades.

Throughout, Bruce's story is a testament to loyalty, bravery, and the extraordinary bond between soldiers and their canine companions. The chapter captures the essence of wartime camaraderie, the horror of battle, and the indomitable spirit of a remarkable war dog. Bruce's journey is one of sacrifice and service, highlighting the unsung heroes of the war.

CHAPTER IV BRUCE

In Chapter IV of "Bruce," the author delves into the complexities and chaos of war, presenting a mix of humor, camaraderie, and the harsh realities faced by soldiers. The narrative unfolds in the trenches of World War I, where Top-Sergeant Mahan offers rookie soldiers sage advice on survival, emphasizing the importance of always remaining vigilant. The chapter highlights the unpredictable nature of war, where visibility is often compromised—notably illustrated by a dense, engulfing fog that renders eyes useless, thus magnifying the dangers and uncertainties of the battlefield.

The character of Bruce, a valiant Scotch collie, emerges as a beacon of loyalty and bravery. Through his actions, the author beautifully illustrates the bond between soldiers and war dogs, showcasing how these animals were more than mere companions; they were heroes in their own right, pivotal in saving lives and delivering critical messages. Bruce's return to the trenches is met with admiration and affection from the soldiers, especially from Mahan and Vivier, signaling the deep emotional connections formed amidst the backdrop of war.

As the narrative progresses, the chapter takes a tense turn when Bruce, Mahan, and a group of American soldiers embark on a dangerous nocturnal mission in no man's land. Their task is complicated by the thick fog, a condition that nullifies their visual senses, escalating the suspense and highlighting the omnipresent risks in trench warfare. The mission takes an unforeseen twist due to a rookie's mistake, leading to a chaotic

confrontation with German soldiers. Amidst the ensuing commotion, Bruce's instincts and training shine, as he leads the American soldiers back to safety, avoiding German patrols with remarkable acuity.

The chapter encapsulates the unpredictability of war, where fear, confusion, and split-second decisions can mean the difference between life and death. Through Bruce's heroic actions, the author underlines the critical roles animals played in the war effort, showcasing how these creatures were not only companions but also saviors on the battlefield. Bruce's disciplined response to complex situations exemplifies the training and intelligence of war dogs, underscoring their invaluable contribution and the special bond they shared with the soldiers.

CHAPTER V BRUCE

Chapter V of "Bruce" portrays the ravaged landscape of Meran-en-Laye, a village in northern France turned into a bleak shadow of its former self due to the war, becoming the temporary respite for the "Here-We-Comes" regiment. The chapter intricately maps out the strategic importance of Meran-en-Laye, laying the groundwork for a gripping narrative that intertwines military strategy, espionage, and the valor of both men and animals amidst war's desolation.

The focus shifts to Bruce, a valiant and sagacious collie, bred not just for battle but for companionship and loyalty. His acute senses detect a spy disguised as a Red Cross nurse, sowing seeds of dissent and sabotage within the ranks. This cunning adversary, Herr Stolz, masquerades under the guise of compassion, his presence a looming threat to the regiment's safety. Despite Bruce's valiant attempts to unveil Stolz's true identity, misunderstandings arise, casting Bruce as the aggressor, much to the dismay of Sergeant Mahan, who vouches for Bruce's inherent goodness and undeniable contribution to the regiment's morale and security.

Bruce's relentless pursuit of justice leads to an electrifying confrontation atop a ridge, far from the prying eyes of the village. The collie's steadfast determination brings the spy's machinations to a violent end, showcasing the nuanced understanding between man and beast, wherein loyalty and bravery transcend the chaos of war.

In a vivid portrayal of heroism, the narrative seamlessly weaves through the tapestry of war, loyalty, and the unspoken bond between a soldier and his canine counterpart, culminating in Bruce's unwavering resolve to protect his comrades, thereby cementing his legacy within the regiment. The chapter closes on a note of silent tribute to bravery, both human and canine, against the backdrop of war's harsh reality.

CHAPTER VI BRUCE

Chapter VI of "Bruce" by Albert Payson Terhune revolves around Bruce, a noble collie, who transitions from the peaceful life at The Place to the horrors of the Western Front as a courier dog. Despite the precarious existence of war dogs, highlighted by threats from both enemy action and disease, Bruce's service is characterized by loyalty, bravery, and ultimately, a heartrending act of heroism.

At the front, Bruce becomes a valued member of the Franco-American regiment known as the "Here-We-Comes," respected for his courage and service despite his longing for his distant home and the mistress and master he left behind. However, the narrative takes a grim turn when the quiet sector near Chateau-Thierry erupts into violence, and Bruce witnesses the consequences of war firsthand.

The climax is reached when Bruce, acting on instinct and loyalty forged in battle, foils a German night attack meant to exploit a gap in the Allied lines—a gap inadvertently left by the overzealous advance of the "Here-

We-Comes." In tracking down a German soldier who has slain an American sentry, Bruce becomes a victim himself, shot by the terrified Corporal Freund, who believes Bruce to be a supernatural avenger in the form of a werewolf.

Despite being gravely wounded, Bruce's action alerts the regiment to the imminent danger, averting what could have been a devastating surprise attack. His sacrifice is recognized by the men he served, who pay him the respects often reserved for a fallen comrade.

Miraculously, Bruce survives his injuries, returning to the serenity of The Place, bearing the physical and emotional scars of war. His story concludes on a note of peaceful repose, with the master presenting him with a medal, symbolizing his valorous contributions—a stark contrast to the canine's earlier brushes with death and a testament to the enduring bond between humans and their loyal animal companions.

The chapter encapsulates themes of loyalty, bravery, the harsh realities of war, and the remarkable contributions of animals in human conflicts, portraying Bruce as a symbol of nobility in the face of adversity.