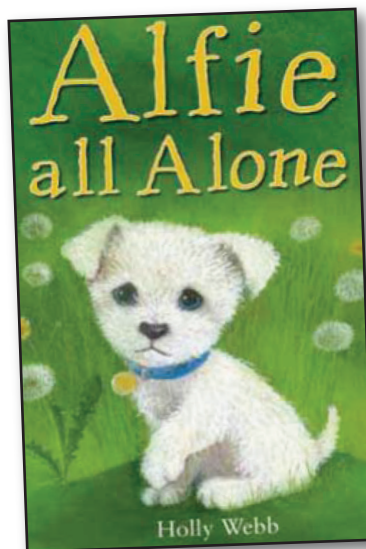


## Children's Book Review

**Evie is desperate for a puppy and with a new baby on the way Mum and Dad think it would be a good companion for her. So when they spot a picture of Alfie, a cute West Highland Terrier puppy, on the noticeboard at the local supermarket they decide the time is right and tell Evie she can have him.**

At first Alfie fits into the family perfectly, but soon baby Sam arrives and everyone is far too busy, and too tired, to worry about Alfie. Mum and Dad decide it isn't fair on Alfie to be neglected and the next day Dad and Evie take Alfie to the animal shelter to find someone who can care for him properly. But without Alfie everyone in the house is miserable. Evie misses him so much she cries herself to sleep. When Evie catches her Mum staring at his picture she realises they've made a mistake but is it too late?

Holly Webb has a wonderful ability to combine cutsie images with realistic animal traits. The voice of Alfie expresses his confusion and sense of abandonment when the new baby arrives making this tale a subtle way of addressing the only child's complex emotions in the event of a new sibling.



**Holly Webb** *Alfie All Alone*  
(Stripes, pbk, 2007) rrp. £3.99.

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