

Super Fudge

By: Judy Blume

Chapter 1: Guess What, Peter?

Peter learns that his mom is having a new baby and worse yet she's four months along! Peter is horrified that they've waited so long to tell him and feels a little betrayed. He is not happy with the idea of ushering a new baby into the family as he doesn't seem to get along very well with his younger brother, Fudge. Peter and Fudge are oil and water; Peter is sensible while Fudge is outlandish and hyperactive. Peter can't imagine having "another Fudge" in the house. Fudge is a highly intelligent, yet dreamy little guy that perceives his world in his own way. i.e., he's hyper active and likes to have conversations in songs that are often limited to one word. In his anger, Peter, or Pee-tah as Fudge calls him, decides to run away from home, but his parents convince him to stay for dinner by pointing out that he has no where to go since his grandmother is away from home and his close friend lives in a single bedroom apartment. Swayed by his parents' cool logic and lured by the smell of a home cooked meal, Peter gives up on his run away scheme.

Chapter 2: Cutchie-Chutchie-Coo

Fudge is curious about how babies are made and in token Fudge fashion he throws himself into learning about it wholeheartedly. His mother borrows the book they used to teach Peter about babies, to teach Fudge. Not only does Fudge learn the intricate details of how babies are conceived, he shares these details with any and everyone he meets inciting everything from admiration to utter shock. The baby is born while Peter is on a field trip to the museum. The family names her

Tamara Roxanne which inevitably gets whittled down to just Tootsie. Peter worries that people will make fun of her later on by calling her tootsie roll. He shares this with his parents and they laugh. Peter grumbles that his parents must have wanted a candy factory rather than a family; although, he notes that he doesn't have a candy nickname and resentfully wonders why. Meanwhile, Fudge is struggling with being a "big boy". He's yanked on the baby's toes, hides her in the closet and alternately tries to sell, give and pay people to take her away. Peter has a heart to heart with Fudge about the privileges that come with being older and although it doesn't completely work, it makes Fudge consider the benefits of being "big".

Chapter 3: Another Something Wonderful

Life in the house is changing. Peter's dad is doing the grocery shopping, laundry is always being done, Fudge is regressing to infantile behavior including bed wetting and his mom is feeling overwhelmed. Peter sees her crying and tells her that this is what she gets for having another baby. His mom hires Libby as a babysitter for Fudge and Peter spends his afternoons at his friend Jimmy Fargo's house. He feels as if no one misses him. Peter's mom is thinking of returning to school to get a degree in Art History. Peter is beginning to bond with Tootsie; he likes to hold her while she's sleeping. In the midst of this transition, Peter's parents decide to move to Princeton for a year to see how they like being away from the city. Peter's mom can also take Art History classes there, possibly to counter act her postpartum depression. Peter is incensed; another change so soon? He was just getting used to the newness of everything. Peter is upset that yet again a major change in the family was made with out his inclusion. His father also tells him that he is taking a year off to spend with the family. Peter feels that his sister must be more special than he was because his dad is changing diapers and taking time off of work. Peter's understanding of adult issues

causes him to fire off questions about the loss of income; he is very unhappy about the whole situation. Fudge seems generally unaffected about the move, but laments his loss of station as the baby of the family.

Chapter 4: Off the Wall

Peter's move affects the world of others as well. When he tells his best friend Jimmy that he is leaving, his friend is hurt and dismayed. Jimmy lives with his father, a struggling artist, and is upset that he is now losing a close friend. The two argue when Peter turns down Jimmy's offer to live with him, but they quickly make up. Sheila, the girl from down the street runs into Peter and taunts him about leaving the city. Peter gets angry and "sics" his dog on her; she gets scared when he chases her and licks her face. Fudge continues to struggle with being the "middle" child. While dressed in a disguise (glasses with false nose and a mustache) he places his mom's trading stamps all over Tootsie's body, essentially trying to "mail" her away. When asked if he is the culprit, he does not deny what he's done. Fudge is seeking attention in his own way; just as Peter unintentionally seeks attention through his anger. Their mom, frustrated and overwhelmed by their behavior, spansks Fudge, but not hard enough to hurt him. The family loads up their u-haul and prepares to move to Princeton.

Chapter 5: Small Ones are Sweeter

The family moves into their new home. It's a yellow two story, four bedroom house with a fireplace in every room. Peter thinks it's old and creaky, but he doesn't tell his parents that because he knows they'll be upset. The house has a garden and his dad is excited to learn how to care for it. To Peter's utter dismay, Fudge decides to entertain himself by mimicking everything Peter says. Even their parents are losing patience

with him; they have gone from coaxing Fudge into compliance, to threatening spankings. Peter is still unhappy with the move. When he and his mom go for ice cream, Peter enters an ice cream naming contest and submits: Lemon Lunatic, Crazy Chocolate and Miserable Mint. Peter and Fudge meet a kid their age named Alex and decide to go into “business” collecting worms. Fudge begins bonding with Tootsie by making her laugh as he dangles a worm near to her. He shows his mom how he this makes her laugh and she gets angry with him for doing something she thinks might be dangerous. In order to make their business more profitable, Alex and Peter cut their worms into eights and present them to Mrs. Muldour who they think collects them to eat them. Later Fudge orders worm flavored ice cream, reflecting his desire to emulate his brother.

Chapter 6: Farley Drexel Meets Rat Face

Fudge announces that he is afraid of monsters creeping up on him in his sleep and demands to either sleep with his mom or sleep with Turtle, the family dog. Mom tells Fudge that he has his own bed and needs to sleep on his own and Peter tells Fudge that Turtle is his dog and that Turtle sleeps with him. Fudge’s demand is reflective of his feelings of loneliness. Their mom and dad are preoccupied with the baby, and Peter has Turtle, a new friend and his mysterious “Kreskin’s crystal” while Fudge is still struggling with becoming a “middle child” and adjusting to a new environment. He starts getting up in the middle of the night and sleeping in front of his parents’ door. Peter starts school and is resentful of having to walk Fudge to school. As a sixth grader, he wants to ride his bike to school with Alex, like a true “sixth grader”. Fudge is just starting Kindergarten and is excited to begin. Fudge tries to keep up with Peter and Alex on their bikes, but when he can’t Peter scoops him up and lets him ride on the handle bars. Peter likes his new teacher Mr. Bogner and notices a pretty girl named Joanne McFadden. He is later

called to the Principal's office on the first day because his brother has kicked his new teacher Mrs. Hildebrand (Rat Face) who will not call him Fudge. She also enforces a structured environment that Fudge can not conform to; he tells everyone that he wants to be a bird. However, Mr. Green, the principal, seems to understand that Fudge is an unusual boy with an unusual imagination who needs to explore. Mr. Green transfers Fudge into Ms. Ziff's class and as Fudge enters the class she is reading his favorite story, Arthur the Anteater.

Chapter 7: A Very Cultured Bird

Fudge decides that he wants a bird and his parents decide to allow it. Fudge is excited that he too has a pet of his very own. He is slowly adjusting to not being the baby of the family. He even asks his parents if he can bring Tootsie for show and tell so he can repeat his lecture on *How Babies are Made*. Fudge's teacher will allow it but Mr. Green says no. At Grandma's house, the family discusses what type of bird Fudge will get. Peter suggests a myna bird because he can teach it how to talk. Peter's parents are not too thrilled by this prospect for obvious reasons, but Fudge is determined to get the myna bird so he can teach it to talk and it, in turn, can teach him how to fly. Peter and Grandma have a wonderful time with Tootsie by singing and dancing with her. Peter is embarrassed that his parents and brother catch him doing so, but realizes that no one seems to think it odd. Both brothers are growing and changing and coming to love their baby sister. Fudge has picked his myna bird and named him Uncle Feather; Uncle Feather can say hello in French. Fudge's one word songs are slowly maturing into real ones. The songs reflect what is happening at the time he creates them and they even keep proper time and rhyme. The bird is a fast learner and Fudge has really taken to him. He no longer sleeps in the hallway outside his parents' room because Uncle Feather "needs him". Fudge still struggling with being the middle child accuses Grandma of only coming to see

Tootsie and not him. He tells Peter that Peter doesn't need as much attention because he's in the sixth grade; this annoys Peter. Fudge takes Uncle Feather to class for show and tell.

Chapter 8: Naturally Fortified

Halloween is around the corner and the family is getting closer and closer. Peter notices that every time Fudge laughs, Tootsie laughs too. Although Peter's dad has elected to "take a year off" to spend more time with the boys, he has immersed himself in researching material for his book. Fudge, who is fascinated by commercials and their jingles, learns that you can't believe everything you see on T.V. Peter sees a painting by Jimmy's dad called "Anita's Anger"; the beautiful woman at the art studio tells him that the painting is being sold for over \$2,000! Peter finds out his parents know that Jimmy's father is doing so well and they haven't told him which makes him angry. He also finds out that his mom is going back to work instead of studying art history like she planned to. He blames his father and his book and becomes angry with his father over it. Peter calls Jimmy and they get in another argument. Both boys are having a hard time adjusting to their new lives. Jimmy is adjusting to his father's new found success, the fairly recent divorce of his parents and the loss of his best friend. The painting Peter saw was painted after Jimmy's parents got divorced and their discussion of it causes Jimmy to yell at Peter and hang up on him. Peter calls on Halloween and apologizes for bringing up the painting. Peter, Fudge and Alex head off trick or treating together. Fudge is a ghost, Alex is the painting "Anita's Anger" and Peter snags Fudge's silly nose and glasses as a last minute costume. The kids arrive at Mrs. Muldour's house and Fudge flat out asks if she eats worms. She pretends that she does because they are "naturally fortified with vitamins", and Fudge believes her. She gives the boys delicious "worm" cookies and sends home extras for the family. Fudge gives a cookie to his mom who exclaims that the recipe is

wonderful. We learn that the art seller, Beverly, is Mrs. Mouldour's daughter.

Chapter 9: Superfudge

Fudge has made a new friend named Daniel who is pretty smart like Fudge, is very interested in science and has an odd habit of ending statements with "you want to make something of it?" Daniel is very particular about his routine (i.e., he cuts the crusts off his sandwich and always he eats dinner in front of the T.V. etc) and is extremely factual. We find out that Fudge was in a bike commercial before. Tootsie learns how to crawl and is soon able to pull herself up on the furniture in a standing position. Peter and Fudge react to her new exploration in different ways. Peter closes the door so she can't come in and Fudge demands that she be put in the playpen and proceeds to step on her arm. Jimmy has come to visit and is excited to see how Tootsie has grown, is fascinated by Uncle Feather and meets Peter's new friend Alex. The trio is asked to take Fudge and Daniel to see Superman at the movies. It becomes obvious that Alex is a little jealous of Jimmy and Jimmy is a little jealous of Alex. They run into Beverly and Peter thinks that she and Jimmy's dad might like each other and thinks about arranging a meeting. They also run into Joanne (Peter's school crush), Sharon and Elaine. Elaine, who likes to punch boys, tells Daniel to stick him up when he barks his token line which causes him to cower and Alex to come to his defense. Elaine punches him in the gut and after their "encounter" everyone shuffles into the movie. Joanne and Peter hold hands during the movie and Alex and Jimmy bond over teasing Peter about "being in love". Peter feels left out now that his two friends are getting along so well and Fudge has decided that he is a super hero.

Chapter 10: Santa Who?

Peter's dad becomes engrossed in his next project, taking a Chinese cooking class. Peter again feels left out by his dad who continues to give his projects a lot of attention. Thanksgiving has just passed but Fudge is already writing a letter to Santa. Peter decides to help him. Fudge tells Santa that he wants a red two-wheel bike just like Peter's. The letter is given to their dad who promises to mail it. Peter, who has never believed in Santa, thinks it's a mistake to let Fudge and Tootsie believe in him. Although, this seems to come from his subconscious wish to have been able to believe in him. At three he saw his parents put the presents under the tree and never believed again. Everyone writes a letter to Santa Claus; Daniel calls Fudge stupid for believing in Santa and for asking him if people who celebrate Hanukkah have a "Hanukah fairy". Peter and Joanne exchange an awkward kiss under the mistletoe at school. Fudge gets just what he wants for Christmas and is ecstatic. Peter tells Fudge that he'll teach him how to ride his new bike. Fudge later confides to Peter that he never believed in Santa; that he pretended to believe because that's what his parents wanted him to. This confidence brings the two of them together. Peter understands that his brother is a lot more complicated than what he appears to be.

Chapter 11: Catastrophes

Peter's dad talks less about his book and more about cooking. He has also started taking Jimmy and Peter to hockey games. Peter finds out that Jimmy is seeing the school psychologist about his pent up anger about the divorce and his new obsession with violence (he yells "kill, kill" at the players during games). Jimmy warns Peter to look out for signs of divorce as it's a "catastrophe". Tootsie has her first birthday and has learned how to walk and Fudge is learns how to ride his bike. He rides his bike to school, but crashes into the bike rack. The school has a guest speaker, Brian Tumkin, an author of children's literature. During

the assembly, the author introduces himself and an imaginary person "Uriah". He talks to him and holds his hand throughout "their" conversation, then asks the audience if anyone can see him. Fudge raises his hand and is asked to come up to the stage. Brian asks Fudge to describe "Uriah" and he gives a detailed description of a portly balding man who walks like a duck; it turns out to be Mr. Green the principal. While on stage Fudge manages to use three of the "big" words his brother always uses. When Mr. Green walks on stage to ask if he can hang the autographed picture in his office, Fudge says "Was this a catastrophe?" to which Mr. Green laughs and says no, but he's sure Fudge will try harder in the future.

Chapter 12: Tootsie Speaks Out

Fudge tricks Peter into thinking that he's late for school; but it turns out it's actually Saturday. Peter changes Tootsie's dirty diaper and Tootsie exclaims "yuck" at her stinky diaper, but Peter doesn't notice. Then he catches Fudge and holds him upside down until he promises not to trick him like that again. Peter and Alex make a picnic and went to the lake; Fudge threw a tantrum because the boys wouldn't take him. When the boys return they find out that Fudge and Daniel are missing. Each mom thinks the boys are at the other parent's house. Turns out the boys emptied their piggy banks, rode their bikes to the deli, shared a sandwich and then went to the shop next door to buy brownies. The boys call home and are picked up. Peter suggests that their bikes are taken away as punishment and the parents adopt the punishment. Fudge announces that his punishment isn't fair because Peter tried to run away and that his dad ran away by moving to Princeton. Their dad refutes this and announces that the family can either stay in Princeton or move back to the city. When asked what the family wants to do about their living arrangements, Tootsie exclaims "yuck"! The family decides to move back to the Big Apple, just in time for Tootsie to start talking.