Chapter Nine By Jingoes!

Monday morning I heard voices in the kitchen when I woke up. Dad!

I flew out of bed and into the kitchen. "Em!" Dad said. "Did you miss me?" Holding Andrew in one arm, he wrapped the other around me, giving me a hug and a kiss.

"Of course! But I designed something really special while you were gone that I want you and Mum to come see!" I led Mum and Dad out to the shed.

"Now pretend the sheep have drunk almost all of their water. The trough will get lighter and it will close this switch." I began scooping water out of the trough with a bucket to demonstrate. Beep! Beep! We heard the buzzer on the outside of the barn ringing. "And there's a light on top of the barn that flashes, too!"

Dad's mouth dropped open and Mum smiled broadly. Even Bessie and Molly seemed interested, poking their muzzles around the new trough.

"By jingoes, Em," Dad said. "Mum told me you had a solution to make sure you're on time to do your chores, but I never imagined anything like this. How did you ever put this together?"

"Pete helped me," I said. "He taught me all about electricity and designing things."

"You really did think of everything," said Mum. "But I guess I shouldn't be too surprised. When it comes to jumping and riding, you're very persistent."

"I do love jumping with Flash," I said, "but really I did this for Molly. Oof—" I felt a push from behind and turned to see Bessie prodding me with her nose. "Okay, and for you too, Bessie!" I said, giggling.