



Puppy Tails

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*As the moon goes to bed,
the sun comes up
And here we meet a sleepy pup,
Who was walking through
G-ville one bright sunny day,
Then saw The Villager
and decided to stay.*

Is that the sunshine? Is it REALLY the sunshine? Doodle Dog excitedly bounded out the office door and down the sidewalk, keeping his eye on that giant yellow ball floating in the light blue sky above him. Yep! That must really be the sunshine come out to play today! Drifting past that giant yellow ball were the lazy white clouds Doodle Dog loves to watch, but today, as the golden light from the sun mixed with the pale sapphire shades of the sky backdrop, the usually pure colorless marshmallow clouds seemed to be tinted a slight green around their fluffy edges. Odd, Doodle Dog thought. He wondered if he was seeing things or if perhaps all the little creatures that lived in the sky were playing a trick on him!

Doodle Dog continued on his way, paying no mind to the possibly greenish, possibly not, clouds above him. As he put his nose to the ground and focused on what was right in front of him, something else caught Doodle Dog's attention out of the corner of his eye. There was something small, something squat and round, something that went SQUISH SQUISH as it hopped along right next to the floppy-eared puppy. In fact, this something was not only small, squat and round, and went SQUISH SQUISH, but this something was colored just like the edges of the clouds where the yellow sun and the blue sky melted together. This something..... was quite very GREEN!

Doodle Dog turned to look at this small, squat, green something as it squish, squished along the sidewalk. Doodle Dog had never seen one of these things in real life before, but it looked just like one of the pictures in his favorite storybooks. It looked very much like the squat little frog that the beautiful princess holds just before she meets her very handsome prince! Doodle Dog wondered if this frog would turn into a prince at a moment's kiss, but he wasn't THAT curious to try it. Instead, the floppy-eared puppy followed the frog, curiously watching it as it continued to squish down the sidewalk. It didn't seem to notice Doodle Dog beside it, or if it did, it didn't seem to mind that it now had company, continuing to squish, squish right along. Doodle Dog tried to bend his back legs like the frog was doing, wondering if he would make a squishing sound when he landed. But what Doodle Dog sounded like as he leapt along on four furry paws was more of a THUMP THUMP. So there they went, little frog and little dog down the sidewalk, squish, squishing and thump, thumping along until they came to the side of the pond and the little frog leapt into a thicket of cattails and all that was left was the SPLASH where the frog leapt in.

Doodle Dog continued on his way, paying no mind to the greenish algae water that had splashed on his paws. As he put his nose to the patches of grass and focused on what was right in front of him, something else caught Doodle Dog's attention out of the corner of

his eye. There was something not-quite-as-small, something thin and long, something that went CLICK CLICK as it leapt along right next to the floppy-eared puppy. In fact, this something was not only not-quite-as-small, thin and long, and went CLICK CLICK, but this something was colored just like the edges of the clouds where the yellow sun and the blue sky melted together and just like the thick, rubbery skin of the frog-that-wasn't-a-prince. This something..... was quite very GREEN too!

Doodle Dog turned to look at this not-quite-as-small, long, green something as it click, clicked along the sidewalk. Doodle Dog had only seen one of these things in real life once before, but he knew it well from one of the pictures in his favorite storybooks. It looked very much like the thin little cricket that gave the wooden puppet boy advice! Doodle Dog wondered if this grasshopper could talk, but he didn't want to bother it. Instead, the floppy-eared puppy followed the grasshopper, curiously watching it as it continued to click down the sidewalk. It didn't seem to notice Doodle Dog beside it, or if it did, it didn't seem to mind, continuing to click, click right along. Doodle Dog tried to extend his back legs like the grasshopper was doing, wondering if he would make a clicking sound when he landed. But what Doodle Dog sounded like as he jumped along on his still-furry paws was still more of a THUMP THUMP. So there they went, little grasshopper and little dog down the sidewalk, click, clicking and thump, thumping along until they came to the side of the forest and the little grasshopper jumped into a thush of weeds and all that was left was the SWISH where the grasshopper jumped in.

Doodle Dog continued on his way, paying no mind to the greenish weed clippings that had floated over his paws. As he put his nose to the trail of flower stems and focused on what was right in front of him, something else caught Doodle Dog's attention out of the corner of his eye. There was something not-so-small at all, something fat and furry, something that went THUD THUD as it jumped along right next to the floppy-eared puppy. In fact, this something was not only not-so-small at all, fat and furry, and went THUD THUD, but this something wasn't colored

just like the thick, rubbery skin of the frog-that-wasn't-a-prince or the smooth, hard shell of the grasshopper-that-might-not-talk. This something, with its pure white fur all fluffy around the edges, very much resembled the clouds drifting across the yellow sun and melting across the blue sky.

Doodle Dog turned to look at this not-so-small at all, fat, white something as it thud, thudded along the sidewalk. Doodle Dog sees these things in real life all the time, and it still reminds him of one of the pictures in his favorite storybooks. It looked very much like the fuzzy little bunny that slept the day away while a little green turtle won the race! Doodle Dog wondered if this bunny was good at taking naps, but it looked very busy at the moment. Besides, no bunny could be better at napping than Doodle Dog! Instead, the floppy-eared puppy followed the bunny, curiously watching it as it continued to thud down the sidewalk. It DID notice Doodle Dog beside it and began to hop in step with the floppy-eared puppy. Doodle Dog tried to hop on all four paws at once like the bunny was doing, wondering if he would make a thudding sound when he landed. Doodle Dog's furry paws still made more of a THUMP THUMP, but it was close enough. So there they went, little bunny and little dog down the sidewalk, thud, thudding and thump, thumping along until they came to the meadow and the little bunny hopped faster through the field of flowers until all that was left was a very fuzzy tail disappearing among the greenish clover. And, if Doodle Dog looked closely, he almost thought he could see a green tinge on just the outside of the bunny's fur.

Doodle Dog may not have been able to leap as high as the frog, jump as high as the grasshopper, or hop as high as the bunny, but at the end of the day, he certainly had a bit more spring in his step!

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Notes from the vineyard

AMANDA CONKOL

How many times have you walked down the aisle of the wine section and come to an abrupt stop because a label caught your eye? How many times did you buy that wine just because the label was unique or "too cute to pass up"? My guess is many of you are chuckling thinking I must have been following you at the grocery store last week. While I wasn't following, I do know you are not the only one that stops and buys something because the label seems to jump out at you.

For a winery, the label is the most important feature when selling wine at a retail store. Most of the people buying wine have not been to your winery and have no idea how good or in some cases how bad the wine is. Chances are though, if the label matches their personality, they are going to buy it. If you walk down the wine aisle you are going to see labels that meet a trendy personality, a comical personality, a sincere personality or even a dark personality.

Not only will you see labels for different personalities, but you may also see labels pertaining to different hobbies. For example, you can find wines with bicycles on it,

motorcycles, corvettes, gardening and one of my new favorite finds – a wine called White Ghost where the label is completely white. But above all of the labels in the wine aisle, one type of label stands out more than any others – animals.

I have started a quest to find labels with all of the animals imaginable. The easy ones of course are Little Penguin and Tall Horse (which is a giraffe). But I have found wine labels dedicated to cats, dogs, cows, a platypus, geese and even rhinoceroses. Granted, some of the wines I have selected have not been very good but seeing some of the labels has to make you laugh.

So next time you are in the wine aisle, take a minute to look at some the labels – if you see one that is just too good to pass up – buy it and give it a shot. Who knows, the wine with an octopus on it may be a winner.

Amanda is the Co-Owner of Candlelight Winery located at 11325 Center Street, Garrettsville. For more information on some of these events or wine lists from the winery, please visit www.candlelightwinery.com or call 330.527.4118.

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