



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.*

Playing in the posies and plopping this way and that, scattering petals everywhere, the little floppy-eared puppy was reminded of another good reason for making his way past the tall tree towering above the green grassy ground. Doodle Dog's tummy suddenly growled really REALLY loud! He didn't want to stop what he was doing and interrupt the flowery fun, but again came the grumbling sound. Rawr! If he didn't know better, Doodle Dog might have thought there was some wild animal stalking him from the woods, but he had no doubt the scary noise was in his own stomach!

Even though he didn't want to leave, Doodle Dog had an idea and quickly pattered his paws across the soft meadow, down the sidewalk made of concrete and across the pavement of the street until he made it to the office, his tummy growling louder with every step! Running into his room, Doodle Dog grabbed his blanket from his bed, spread it out on the sturdy floor, then nabbed a few doggie snacks from the shelf by the door. Doodle Dog carefully nudged the corners of the fabric and folded them over the biscuits, and soon the crunchy treats tucked tight in a neat little blanket bundle, all wrapped up to fit just right in the little floppy-eared puppy's mouth. He gently picked up one of the folded corners with his teeth and scampered back across the street, up the sidewalk and onto the squishy blades of grass making up the meadow. Once there, Doodle Dog dropped the pouch onto the slightly unkempt lawn and watched as it spread open by itself, each soft corner unfolding and stretching out flat on the spongy soil now covered in both its original blades of grass and the

brilliant shades of the curious puppy's blanket.

Another ferocious rumble came from Doodle Dog's tummy – this one the loudest of all! – so he quickly nibbled one of the snacks sitting on top of the pile. That should keep the mini monster quiet for a moment! His tummy rumbling temporarily satisfied, he then arranged the rest of the bits and bites in small bunches around the flat fabric table, making neat clusters here and there all around the cloth. Doodle Dog didn't necessarily want to munch alone, so when one of his bundles caught the eye of a bird swooping by, way up in the clear blue sky, the little floppy-eared puppy sat very, very still so not to scare the winged creature as it came in for a landing and picked up a crunchy morsel in its beak. But it didn't stay very long at all as it immediately climbed an invisible ladder upward toward the clouds again in one smooth motion, never breaking its flight! Slightly disappointed that the bird hadn't stayed around to chat for a while, Doodle Dog nonetheless enjoyed watching the colors of its wings shimmering in the sun as it spread them even wider to fly over the land, and listened to its grateful chirping call echoing back to the earth.

While the little floppy-eared puppy enjoyed the song of the bird making the most of the summery day, another sound suddenly interrupted the calm chorus. His tummy let out a very loud roar indeed! The nearest mound of yummys disappeared as Doodle Dog quickly gulped them down too. Mmmmm! As he nibbled on a stray piece of kibble that had rolled away from that pile, Doodle Dog wondered what other creatures might come to visit him on his blanket if he sat very, very still. He always spent quite a bit of time exploring their habitats, pattering through the forest area or around the meadow, but it was nice to be able to stay in one place and have THEM come say hello to HIM! Doodle Dog didn't have to wait long as within a few moments the squirrel

from the tall, tall tree started scooting down the bark. Sitting as still as a statue, Doodle Dog watched out of the corner of his eye as the furry critter scampered on the grass but then slowed down as it reached the edge of the bright blanket. Crawling barely faster than a snail would slide, the squirrel inched on the path past the floppy-eared puppy, snatched a treat in its mouth, and darted off just as fast as the bird had flown, chattering in gratitude as it scurried back home.

Doodle Dog only had a few treats left and it didn't appear that any other creature was going to visit him to share his snacks – well, any other creature except whatever it was rumbling in his tummy! – so he ate the rest of the munchies himself and sent that critter on its way too, wherever it had come from! With his blanket empty and his tummy full of yummy biscuits, Doodle Dog wondered where HE could zip off to just like his lunch munch companions! Inspired by the vibrant bird now spending its afternoon flitting through the air and the adventurous squirrel now leaping through the trees, Doodle Dog thought for a moment, gently grabbed up two of the corners of his blanket, and tossed it over his shoulders. The ends held firmly in his teeth, the little floppy-eared puppy ran as fast as he could up the nearby knoll and leapt from its edge, his colorful cape flitting like a fuzzy flag behind him as he soared for just a few seconds through the air before landing on the cushiony grass. The knoll next to the first was even lumpier so Doodle Dog dashed up it to get a running start and leapt again from the tippy top. Superhero Doodle Dog continued to leap from knoll to knoll until the sun started dipping behind them and the floppy-eared puppy decided his blanket turned picnic table turned cape would now turn perfectly into a soft place to take a nap!