



Love Puppies

WE'RE HERE
TO HELP!

The Fast and the Furriest

JaNay Brown-Wood

SCHOLASTIC INC.

*To all the Small-But-Mighties out there.
Remember, you are POWERFUL!*

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Chapter 1

New to the Crew

“Two words!” shouted Noodles, Rosie, and Clyde all together as Barkley held up his two paws. Barkley nodded then lowered one.

“First word,” called Rosie.

Barkley nodded again and his paw pads



began to glow bright purple. He was magical! A dachshund with the power to transform into almost anything—and even disappear or camouflage, too. At that moment, his belly started to stretch so that it was as long and skinny as a string. Then he jiggled his tummy around and around.

“Jump rope! It’s a jump rope,” giggled Rosie.

Barkley shook his head, jiggling some more. Then he snapped his teeth at the air as if eating something.

“String cheese?” called Clyde, the Shar-Pei, floating up into the air to get a better look. Clyde was magical, too. The whole Love Puppy crew was!

Clyde's magic was the ability to fly. He could also taste things in the air from at least a mile away.

Barkley shook his head again.

"Oh, I know," called Noodles. "You're a noodle."

Barkley yipped with excitement, then held up his other paw. He shrank his body down, down, down to a Jar-Barkley.

"Gravy?" called Clyde.


"Noodle sauce?" said Noodles.

"I know! You're spaghetti sauce," shouted Rosie.

"You got it," said Barkley, morphing back into his puppy body.

"Woohoooo," said Rosie, tossing rose petals into





the air. She had flower magic, which allowed her to grow flowers and plants wherever she was.

“That was paw-some,” said Noodles, who sent a breeze through the Doghouse, their Love Puppy Headquarters, and caused Rosie’s flower petals to swirl around all her puppy teammates. Noodles could control elements of the weather. She was also *really* good at reading strong emotions in the room.

All their magical powers came in handy when they were on special Love Puppy missions to help human children! They had just completed their last mission and it was another great success!

So then and there in the Love Puppy living room, the puppy team played, yipped, and laughed. Even the banner-pups joined in on the fun. They were animated versions of the Love Puppies, but on a flag that matched each Love Puppy's signature color: pink for Rosie, orange for Noodles, purple for Barkley, and blue for Clyde.


Noodles looked toward the banner-pups and blew another happy breeze causing each banner to sway and flap.

"Who's up next?" asked Barkley.

"Me, me, meee," called Clyde, zooming to take Barkley's place at the front of the room.

Just then, a strange chiming melody began





to play. Somewhere in the room, loud chimes twinkled and twanged.

“What’s that noise?” asked Noodles, looking all around. None of the pups recognized it.

“Wait! It’s coming from the Crystal Bone,” said Barkley. “Look!”

Each of the pups turned their attention toward the large crystalline bone that stood in the corner. Usually, it buzzed and floated when there was a new mission for the pups to solve, flashing each of their signature colors. With Rosie’s touch, it would reveal what human the pups would need to help today.

But this time, the Bone was planted firmly on

the ground. The chiming melody played from it like a wind chime in a storm. It did flash, though, repeating the new pattern over and over again: pink, orange, purple, blue, gold. Pink, orange, purple, blue, gold.


“You’ve never played that song before, Bone,” Rosie said as she padded across the living room toward it. The other pups hurried to join her. “What is it? What are you trying to tell us?” she asked.

“Maybe Bone’s broken,” said Clyde “and it forgot how to tell us we have a mission.”

“I’m not sure this new song is for a mission at all,” said Rosie.

“Could it be for a mission we have to revisit?”





asked Noodles. “Like maybe we have to help a kid we’ve already helped!”

“Like Caleb or Eliana?” said Barkley.

“Or Jayden? Or maybe Magnolia?” said Clyde.

“Or what if it’s Jasmine and Meiko who need us again?” added Barkley. He and Clyde hugged each other, their tails wagging furiously with worry.

“Hold on, Pups,” said Rosie. “No need to fret just yet. I bet Bone will tell us everything we need to know. Let’s find out for sure.”

Rosie turned and faced the Crystal Bone and placed her paws on the slick, crystal surface. The Bone flashed three times and a video projected onto the ceiling.

“Hello, Love Puppies,” said a man’s voice in an English accent.

“Bone, you can speak?” said Barkley.

“Bone’s always been able to speak,” said Rosie.


“How do you think it would tell me about all the missions? Oh, I guess it was only me who could hear Bone before.”

“Yes, Pups,” continued the Bone. “I have exciting news to tell you, which is why I am addressing all of you instead of just Rosie.”

The Bone flashed again and a video of the pups helping on all their past missions played across the ceiling.

“You pups have done an amazing job helping





human children in need. Each and every one of the kids from your past missions is thriving and doing fantastically well,” said the Bone.

“Yip yip HOORAY!” called Rosie.

“Way to go, Pups,” called Noodles.

“That’s pup-tastic,” yipped Barkley with excitement as he and Clyde did a happy jig.

“As of today, your duties are going to grow,” continued the Bone.

“Doo-dees,” laughed Clyde.

“Focus, silly pup,” giggled Rosie.

“You pups will continue to help more humans in need. But now I have added a new element. Sometimes, I will also send you a new Love Puppy

pal who you will train to help others. You will show this new puppy what you do: how you help kids, how you solve your problems, and how you spread love and joy everywhere you go.”

“We can definitely do that,” yipped Noodles.

“No doggie-doubt about it!” added Clyde.

“Congratulations on being such a pup-tastic team!” said the Bone. Light then flashed across the room, like confetti falling from the ceiling. The banner-pups yipped and danced on their fabrics, and the Love Puppy team hugged and celebrated. It was nice to know that all their hard work was really paying off!

“Wait! Look at that!” said Barkley, pointing



toward the banners hanging from the ceiling.

“I didn’t even see that before,” said Clyde. He zoomed up so he was eye level with a golden banner that now hung beside the others. “A new banner. But it’s empty!”

Just then, a sound came from the front door.

The puppies shared excited looks before they dashed from the living room to the front door. The golden banner sparkled and shimmered as a brand-new puppy appeared.