

The background is a light gray color with a sparkling, starburst effect. Scattered throughout are various musical instruments and notes, including a trumpet, a piano keyboard, a microphone, a treble clef, a guitar, and musical notes. The main title is centered and features a paw print in the 'o' of 'Love' and hearts in the 'i's of 'Puppies'.

# Love Puppies

WE'RE HERE  
TO HELP!

Changing Tunes

JaNay Brown-Wood

SCHOLASTIC INC.

*To Poursha, Denise, Myesha,  
and all of my many wonderful cousins.  
I love you all so very much!*

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ISBN 978-1-339-04216-9

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

24 25 26 27 28

Printed in the U.S.A. 40

First printing 2024

Book design by Omou Barry

Decorative design border art © Shutterstock.com



## **Chapter 1**

### **Unsung Plans**

“Did you hear that?” asked Noodles as her ears focused in on a sound from somewhere in the Love Puppy Doghouse. Or did it come from outside?

“I didn’t hear anything,” said Clyde. He was sprawled out on the carpet with a bowl of





doggie treats balanced on his Shar-Pei tummy.

“Me either,” responded Barkley. He and Rosie rolled a ball back and forth across the floor of the living room, where the Love Puppy team sat and waited.

“I’m sure I heard something,” said Noodles. “I’ll go check!”

Noodles jumped onto her feet, wagging her tail excitedly. She hurried out of the living room and down the hall to the big window beside the front door. Noodles placed both paws on the windowpane and peeked out.

“Is she here?” called Rosie, her voice carrying down the hallway.

Nope. Nobody was there.


Waiting was super hard. Especially when your very most favorite cousin was on her way for a visit.

Noodles dropped back down to all fours and padded back into the living room.

“No sign of Curlicue yet,” she said, answering Rosie’s question. A rain cloud was beginning to collect over her head. Even though the Love Puppies were a team of magical puppies, not even their magic could make Cousin Curli come any sooner.

“She’ll be here at any moment, pretty pup,” said Rosie, with a smile on her adorable golden retriever face. “No need to worry.”





Noodles's rain cloud grew a little bigger, as if filling up with raindrops ready to downpour on top of her little labradoodle head. This was Noodles's power—she could control elements of weather as easy as one, two, three. She could also detect strong emotions, which caused her nose to glow a beautiful orange. And that's just what her nose did at that very moment as the rain cloud above her head continued to grow.

Rosie eyed the expanding cloud and the tears welling up in Noodles's eyes.

“What's taking her so long?” Noodles howled, flopping down onto her belly.

“Why don't you tell us what you have planned for




her visit?” said Rosie. “That’ll take your mind off of the waiting.”

Rosie’s words caused a rainbow to burst through the rain cloud. Its shimmering colors made the room fill with lovely light, casting colors over the hanging banners that displayed animated versions of each of the Love Puppies. The banner-pups yipped and danced on their fabrics. They always kept the real Love Puppies company from their banners that hung from the ceiling in the living room.

And Noodles’s tail got to wagging happily, again. “So many things, Rosie-Posie!” said Noodles.

“Tell us!” said Clyde, now sitting up, his own tail flailing with enthusiasm.





“Well, first, we’re going to hit the pool for some fun in the sun. Curli *loves* a summertime dip, especially when she can tan her fur. Then maybe we can play a game of Pass the Beachball-Barkley . . .”

“Sounds like my kind of game!” said Barkley. His tiny dachshund body sparkled as he morphed from a puppy into a purple beachball with light and dark stripes. That was Barkley’s magic: He could change into just about anything, and even camouflage with the things around him, or disappear completely.

Beachball-Barkley bounced across the floor. Then it took to the air as Barkley morphed back into his puppy body and landed on his feet like a



graceful gymnast, with his tiny front legs stretched up above his head.


“That was a perfect ten,” said Rosie with a laugh. She tossed roses and rose petals into the air so they showered over Barkley as he bowed. Rosie had flower magic—she could grow plants and flowers with ease. The other pups clapped and cheered at Barkley’s perfect landing.

“What else, what else!” asked Clyde.

“Then I thought we’d watch the sunset and maybe you can cook up your tasty Sausage S’mores, Clydie. The ones with the dog biscuits and cheese and brown sugar bacon.”

“Paw-some idea!” said Clyde. He somersaulted





through the air and did a jig on the ceiling. Clyde had the power of flight, but he could also identify tastes in the air. And he was an excellent cook!

“This all sounds like so much fun,” said Rosie. “It’s going to be such a wonderful time!”

“If only she’d get here already, I can’t wait to—” A ringing doorbell stopped Noodles midsentence.

“She’s here! She’s here!” called all the puppies as they dashed from the living room to the front door.

Noodles opened the door and a white toy poodle burst through wearing star-shaped sunglasses, a bright scarf around her neck, and all her toenails painted a sparkly teal to match the glasses and scarf.

“I’m heeeeeerrrrreeeee!” sang the poodle,


holding the note. Her beautiful voice filled up the hallway, dazzling the puppies' eardrums. Her voice slid from a low note all the way up to a high note, which she continued to hold without taking a breath. "I. Am. Here!" she crooned. Then she took a bow.

"Bravo!" yelled Barkley.

"Beautiful," called Rosie as she clapped.

"Isn't she pup-tastic?!" Noodles said with a proud glow.

The pups charged Curlicue and covered her with puppy kisses. All the happiness and love filling up the front door hallway caused Noodles's nose to shine full blast, as well as Rosie's bright heart,



Clyde's tummy, and Barkley's whole body. The shining light from the Love Puppy team bounced off the walls and ceiling like a disco ball spinning in a dance hall.

Curlicue's eyes grew wide. "Wowzies!" she called. "I don't remember you all being able to do that."

"Yeah," said Noodles. "Our powers have gotten stronger since the last time we saw you." She and the pups had visited Curli many times, but this was Curli's first visit to the Doghouse.

Rosie took three deep breaths and then her shimmering heart dimmed. Clyde and Barkley did the same, dimming their own shining, too.

"That's simply amazing!" said Curli.


“No more amazing than your voice!” said Rosie.  
“I could listen to you sing all day!”

“Thank you, doll,” responded Curli. “But having magical powers must be the best thing ever!”

Noodles’s nose still glowed from the excitement in the room, even though she had already taken many deep breaths. “I’m still working on getting mine under control,” she said with her cheeks a little pink.

“Well, Noodly-Doodly, that’s faaaaaaancy,” Curli sang.

Noodles hugged Curli again. “I’ve missed you, cousin. Let’s get you all situated. You’re going to stay in my room. Come on!”



Each of the pups picked up one of Curli's four bags and followed Noodles to one of the back rooms.

"We have so many things planned," Noodles said, bouncing back and forth in her room. "Like Barkley Beachball and swimming and tanning and . . ."

Just then, a loud buzzing sound filled the air. Each of the pups sighed deeply.

"Do you all hear that?" Curli asked. "What's that sound?"

While the answer wasn't clear to Curli, it definitely was for the Love Puppies. That was the sound of ruined plans!