

The Puppies of Blossom Meadow

By Catherine Coe

Book 1:
Fairy Friends

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Blossom Meadow



The Great Hedge

Primrose Pond

Buttercup Bridge

Bluebell Grove

Sunflower Square

Lupin Lane
Blossom Brook

Violet Green

Badger Burrows

Daisy Heath

Poppy Place

Honeysuckle Hill

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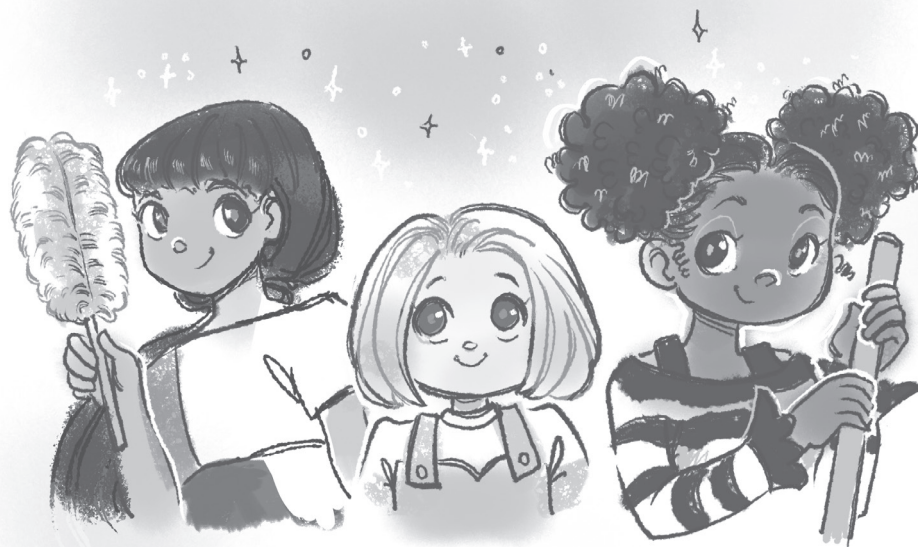
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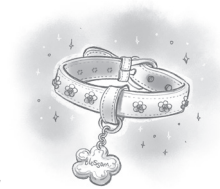
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Chapter 1

Doggy Delight

“This is nothing like I thought it’d be!”
Erin said, as she, Amber and Kayla stepped
through the front door of a red-brick
Victorian house.

Kayla nodded. “It’s just like a home,
right? Not like a dog kennels at all. I mean,
apart from all the dog toys, dog collars and
dog baskets!” Kayla joked. They stepped

into the main room, where dogs of all shapes and sizes were sitting in dog baskets and on covered sofas.

A sausage dog scampered up to Amber, and she knelt down to stroke its sleek, brown fur. “Hello, Matt,” she said, reading the dog’s name tag. “Aren’t you friendly? But I’ve never heard of a dog called Matt before!”

Kayla’s dad stepped into the room behind them. “Oh, we get all sorts of dog names here,” he said. “The biggest problem is remembering them all!” Kayla’s dad worked at Doggy Delight, and she’d visited before, but this was the first time Kayla had been allowed to bring along her two best friends. She’d pleaded with her dad for ages to let the three of them help out at the kennels, and at last he had decided they were old enough. They were SO excited



at the thought of spending the whole day surrounded by cute dogs.

“This one’s my favourite,” said Kayla, stroking a German Shepherd with a very pink and waggly tongue. “Poppy comes here every day while her owners are at work. Can we take her out for a walk, Dad?”

“Not yet,” Kayla’s dad replied. “But the three of you can come out with me later, when it’s time for the mid-morning walks.”

Amber hopped from foot to foot with excitement, while Erin punched the air, shouting, “Awesome!”

The three friends lived in the same tower block, twenty minutes’ walk from the kennels, and they weren’t allowed any pets in their flats. But Erin had loved animals ever since she was a baby and had spent summers on her grandparents’ farm in



Sweden, helping to look after the sheep and hens. She knew she wanted to work with animals one day, and now she was getting the chance to try it out!

“First,” Kayla’s dad said, “please could the three of you clean out the storeroom? It’s been ages since it was tidied.”

Amber, Erin and Kayla looked at each other. Cleaning wasn’t exactly what they thought they’d be doing today!

“OK, Dad,” Kayla said. “As long as you promise we can take the dogs out for walks once we’re done?” She gave him a wide, pleading smile.

He laughed. “Sure thing,” he said. “The storeroom’s in the shed at the end of the garden. Here’s the key.”

The three best friends made their way through the house to the back door, stroking the dogs they passed as they went.



Outside, the narrow garden was full of dog obstacles and toys. Amber skipped over a series of agility bars laid out on the grass, while Kayla and Erin walked along the stone path.

“I didn’t know dogs did the hurdles too!” Amber said, panting. The hurdles was her favourite race at sports club.

She was about to try squeezing through a training tunnel when Erin called out, “Come on, Amber! The quicker we can get the storeroom cleaned, the quicker we can get back to the dogs.”

Amber skipped over to her friends as they reached the storeroom. Kayla unlocked the padlock on the door and they stepped into the room. The air inside danced with specks of dust that sparkled in the sunshine coming through the window.

“ACHOO!” Kayla sneezed.



Erin looked around at the shelves crowded with dog accessories and the piles of cardboard boxes on the floor. “Your dad wasn’t joking when he said it hadn’t been tidied for a while!” she said to Kayla.

“I thought it’d only take a few minutes,” said Kayla, sighing. She retied the two topknots that kept her black curly hair in place and offered an extra hairband to Amber. Her friend smiled gratefully and pulled back her long, brown hair into a ponytail.

Erin tucked her bobbed blonde hair behind her ears and knelt down to start on the first shelf. She began tidying the bags of dry dog food and cleaning up the spilled pellets with a dustpan and brush.

“Ooh, look, a cuddly chicken!” Amber cried, pulling down a soft toy from the top shelf. As she grabbed it, the chicken made

a giggling sound. “Is it supposed to make dogs laugh?” she wondered.

Erin shook her head as she kept on cleaning. “It’s for puppies to chew on, I think. It stops them from chewing on furniture.”

Kayla jumped up to reach the shelf and grabbed a chicken in each hand. She shook them like maracas and started singing, “Chick, chick, chicken! Ch-ch-ch-chick, chick, chicken!” Her friends laughed as she sprang around the storeroom.

“What’s this?” Amber asked, after Kayla had stopped dancing.

Erin looked up at the short green rope in Amber’s hand. “That’s a tug toy. My uncle’s Labrador loves playing with those.”

Kayla grabbed a broom and started sweeping the floor, swishing it around as if she was dancing the waltz with it.



Erin finished sorting the dog-food shelf and moved on to the next one above it. Behind her, Amber opened a cupboard filled with dog-grooming supplies. As she moved some brushes to the top of the cupboard so she could clean the shelf, she felt something up there, and tiptoed to grab it.

“Look!” Amber said, spinning around to her friends.

“What is it now, Amber?” Erin said. “We’ll never get this done if you keep stopping to look at stuff!”

Kayla swept over to Amber to take a look. “It’s just an old collar.”

“Maybe . . .” Amber said. “But it looks different.” She blew the dust off the collar and the purple fabric sparkled.

Erin came over to see it too. “Blossom,” she said, reading the name tag. “That’s a lovely name for a dog.”



Kayla frowned. “Dad’s never mentioned a dog named Blossom being here. And he tells me about *all* the dogs that come to stay.”

The shiny silver name tag spun around on its chain, and Erin and Kayla reached out at the same time to hold it still again.

“Did you feel that?” Amber asked, looking down at their hands on the collar. It was suddenly tingling and warm, as if

it were alive. The next moment, white sparkles started bouncing out from the collar and whirling around in the air, like they were surrounded by a beautiful spinning firework.

Erin let out a shriek as her feet lifted, and she saw Amber and Kayla were rising up too. The three friends stared at each other as they were whisked upwards, their eyes wide and amazed. Soon they were surrounded by so many sparkles that they couldn’t see the storeroom any more!

“What’s happening?” Kayla yelled as she gripped the trembling collar.

“I don’t know!” Erin gasped. “But hold on tight!”



Chapter 2

Welcome to Blossom Meadow

Amber couldn't help but hold her breath as she was spun around and around. And then, as quickly as it had started, the sparkles surrounding them disappeared, and Amber realized her feet were on the ground again. "What just happened?" she whispered, finally breathing once more.