

"Do it again, Flash!" Glitter giggled, clapping her paws.

Flash concentrated really hard. She focused all her energy on a dandelion growing along the side of the road. Her purple horn gleamed. The dandelion suddenly rose into the air, almost as if it were plucked from the ground by an invisible paw. It zoomed over to Glitter

and tucked itself behind her fluffy white ear.

"That was puptastic!" Glitter barked. "Bow wow, you're getting really good at using your shifting magic already, Flash."

Flash grinned proudly, holding her snout high. "Thanks! It's so much fun finally learning to use our powers, isn't it?"

The two pups lived on Puppypaw Island, a pawsome place filled with rolling meadows, winding dirt lanes, and golden beaches. Barking Bay, the town at the center of it all, was bright, bustling, and brimming with magic. That's because the pups who lived there weren't ordinary dogs at all. They were Cutiecorns! Each pup had a colorful unicorn horn on his or her head—and magical powers to go along with it.

"Thanks for waiting," came a voice from

behind them. Twinkle, their blue-horned Beagle friend, joined Flash and Glitter at the end of the lane.

"Twinkle!" Flash yipped, running circles around her pal. "Want me to use my magic to pick a dandelion for you?"

Twinkle rolled her eyes, smiling. "I would love that, but I think we need to get going. We shouldn't be late for school!"

The three friends trotted along toward school, barking up a storm as they went. They paused at a little brick house along the way to pick up Sparkle, a Golden Retriever with a shimmering horn to match her fur.

"What do you think we're going to learn today?" she asked, falling into step next to Flash.

"I don't know!" Flash said, giving a little

leap of excitement. "But whatever it is, I'm sure it will be ter-ruff-ic!"

So far, Cutiecorn Academy was even more pawfect than Flash had dreamed it would be. The teachers and other pups were furbulous, and Flash had never imagined all the different kinds of magic they'd get to learn. It was a pup's paradise!

As the pups crested Howl Hill, they could suddenly see all of Barking Bay spread out below. Off to one side, the water stretched all the way to the horizon. Small boats were docked in the cove at the bottom of Howl Hill, and Flash could see her dad's familiar blue boat tied to the dock. Cutiecorn Academy sat nestled in the hillside, gleaming white among the green grass and blooming flowers.

"Race you!" Flash yapped, taking off before her friends could even bark. She heard them laugh as their paws thundered along behind her. She may have been small, but Flash was fast!

Suddenly, she felt herself tumble snout over paws. She turned somersaults, finally rolling to a stop.

"Flash, are you okay?" Glitter appeared at her side, a look of concern on her snout. Sparkle and Twinkle were right behind her.

Flash grinned. "I'm fine—I must have just stumbled over my own four paws!"

Sparkle stepped forward. "No, you didn't." She held up the end of a long daisy chain, woven together with little white flowers, grass, and . . .

"Is that . . . seaweed?" Flash asked, poking the chain with her paw.



"It sure is," Sparkle said with a nod. "Strange! This chain was stretched across the hillside path."

Twinkle took a closer look. "It seems like someone was trying to trip up pups."

"What about the seaweed? Whoever made this chain must have come from down by the water," Glitter noted thoughtfully. Flash got to her paws and wrapped the daisy chain into a neat loop. "Well, they got me, but let's make sure no other pups become falling fur balls." She set the chain off to one side of the path. "Before my ter-ruff-ic tumble, I believe we were racing!"

Without another word, Flash took off as fast as her paws would carry her. She raced under the school archway with Glitter, Sparkle, and Twinkle right on her tail. They all tumbled into a heap on the grass in front of the building, panting and howling with laughter. They had barely caught their breath when a chime rang out. They had arrived just in time—school was starting! The four friends got to their paws and headed through the open doors to their classroom.



"Good morning, Cutiecorns!" Mrs. Horne, the head of Cutiecorn Academy, stood at the front of the room. She clapped her paws for attention and grinned around at the pups. "I hope you're all rested up and ready for your first magic lesson of the day, Feeling Your Magic!"

Flash glanced over at Sparkle and winked. Sparkle was especially good at feeling magic. Every pup had different strengths, but it was