The Dog Who Wouldn’t Leave Her Puppies

Mary Graham Bonner

A mother dog once had five tiny black-and-white puppies, and she was very proud of them. Her master was moving to a village ten miles away over rough roads, and a new man had bought his house. The new man seemed kind, and he took an instant liking to the puppies and their mother. So the master decided that the trip would be too hard on them, and he left the dogs behind.

Dogs are loyal to the first person who loves them, and they are seldom happy with another master. The master pretended he was just going for a walk and said good-bye as usual, or tried to. But the dog knew he was sad, and she had noticed the stranger about the place. As soon as her master left, she let out a pathetic wail.



The next evening, as the master sat in his new house, he heard a whimper he knew well. He opened the door, and there stood his dog, tired and worn. She was too exhausted to jump up as she usually did, but she nestled against him. After a moment, she gave the signals that meant *follow me.* Outside, under a vine on the stoop, were all five little puppies. She hadn’t been able to leave them behind.

“You poor, loyal, tired doggie,” said her master. “You and your precious puppies will never be left again.”

Just then the telephone rang. It was the other man. The night before, he explained, the dog had set off after her master, and she had made the journey one puppy at a time, carrying each in turn. People along the road had watched from their windows and hadn’t known what to make of it, until the man explained that she must have gone back to her master.

The master was more touched than ever, and he told the man that he would keep his dogs after all.

ririro.com offers 3,000+ free stories — fairy tales, fables, bedtime stories, myths and more — for every age, in 13 languages, with free printable PDFs and often audio. Reading should be a right, not a privilege. Share ririro.com and spread the joy of reading.
Instagram: @ririro_reading · Pinterest: pinterest.com/ririrocom