

Puppula

It was a dark and stormy night. The wind was howling... wait, that's not the wind. What could that be?

I got up from my cozy chair by the fireplace and went to the front door to investigate.

I slowly opened the door and to my surprise, a small black and white puppy was sitting on my doorstep like a proper lady!

She was completely soaked from the rain, poor baby! She was wearing a black and red cape, and a black necklace that looked a little too big for her. The pendant hanging from her collar only had one word written, 'Puppula'.

I tried to bring her into my home to dry off, but she wouldn't budge! She was stronger than she looked! "Please come inside, Puppula, you're going to catch a cold!" I begged.

To my surprise, she walked right in, scraping her paws on my floor mat before walking to the

fireplace. It's almost as if she was waiting to be
invited in!

I spent the night drying her off. She loved it when I
rubbed her down with a towel. It was almost like she
got more energy when I would show her love.

The next morning when I woke up, Puppula had
covered herself under the sheets. I tried everything
to wake her up: I asked her politely, I offered to take
her on a walk to the dog park, I even tried doggy
treats, but nothing would get her out from the

covers, so I let her sleep. She probably needed her
beauty rest, just like me.

While she slept, I passed out 'Puppula Found'
posters all over town. I went to the vet, the grocery
store, the dog park, and the hotel. I knew if I lost my
puppy, I would want someone to do the same thing
for me.

By the time I got back, Puppula was awake and
ready for playtime! A nocturnal puppy? She really is
special!

She really enjoyed it when I would pet her, and
when she got excited, her little stubby tail would
wiggle so fast, I thought she was going to fly away!

Just as I finished brushing my teeth, I heard a knock on my door. “It’s almost midnight! Who could it be at this hour?” I asked Puppula.

Puppula sat straight up and started sniffing at the air.

Her tail wiggled so fast, she started floating! She floated over to the front door, and I followed with my mouth hanging wide open!

I opened the door and found a very tall and very pale man standing on my stoop. He was dressed in a Hawaiian shirt, khaki shorts, long white socks, and a bucket hat. Hanging from his neck was the same

pendant Puppula wore on her necklace. He looked
like a tourist from out of town!

He had a worried look on his face and was holding
the poster I was handing out. He must be Puppula's
owner!

“I believe you have found my dog. May I enter your
lovely home?”, he said.

Wow, how polite! This must be where Puppula got
her manners from!

“Please, be my guest. Come in Mr.—” I said,
realizing I didn't introduce myself.

“Um, Alucard. Pleasure to meet you.” he said. So
charming!

The instant he entered my house, Puppula floated straight at him and Mr. Alucard gave her a big hug!

“Puppula! My baby! I missed you so much! But you remember our rule, no floating outside of the castle!”

Puppula slowly floated back to the floor and curled up at Mr. Alucard’s feet.

“Puppula was a wonderful guest, Mr. Alucard. You have a perfect little puppy. It must be exciting to live in a castle!”

“Thank you. She really is a little angel. I must repay you for your kindness. If you are ever in Transylvania, I would love to have you stay at my

castle. But be warned... Puppula and I love to burn
the midnight oil.”

Mr. Alucard gently picked up the sleepy puppy,
bowed, and left the house. I looked out my window
to wave goodbye, but he was nowhere to be seen.
In fact, I couldn't see anything, the entire street was
dark. I looked up at the bright moon and saw a bat
flying across the night sky.

I took my summer vacation to Transylvania. Mr.
Alucard and Puppula were great hosts and knew all
the cool places to hang out at night.