

Rajni Sekhri Sibal

**A DOG
WITH
NO
TAIL**

Illustration: Satyaraj Iyer



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One upon a time in faraway land lived a dog who had no tail.

He was blonde and handsome and had a coat that shone brightly in the sun.

-But he had no tail!



He was friendly and playful but he was still sad inside.

-For he had no tail!



He had a beautiful red collar with a tag that said his name "Diggy Doggy" in curly letters.



He would often dig all day long looking for his lost tail. All his friends called him Diggy Doggy.



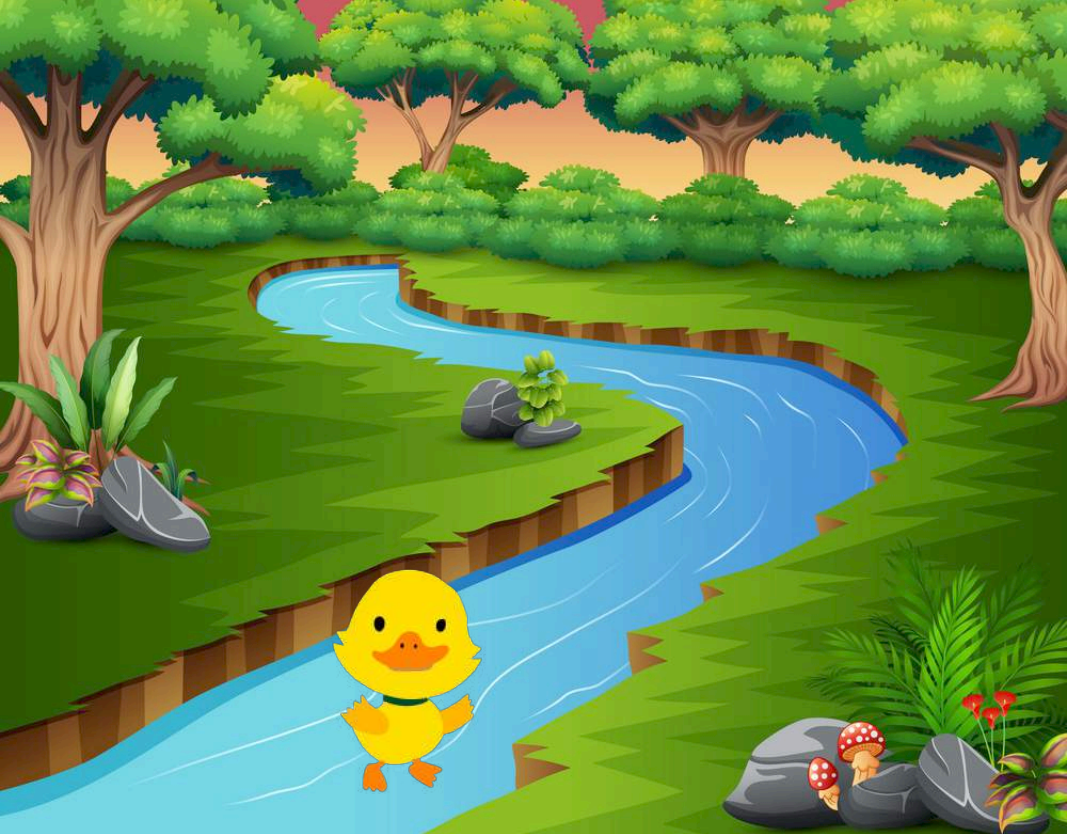
Diggy-Doggy had many friends who played with him and tried to make him forget that he had no tail: Coco the Crow



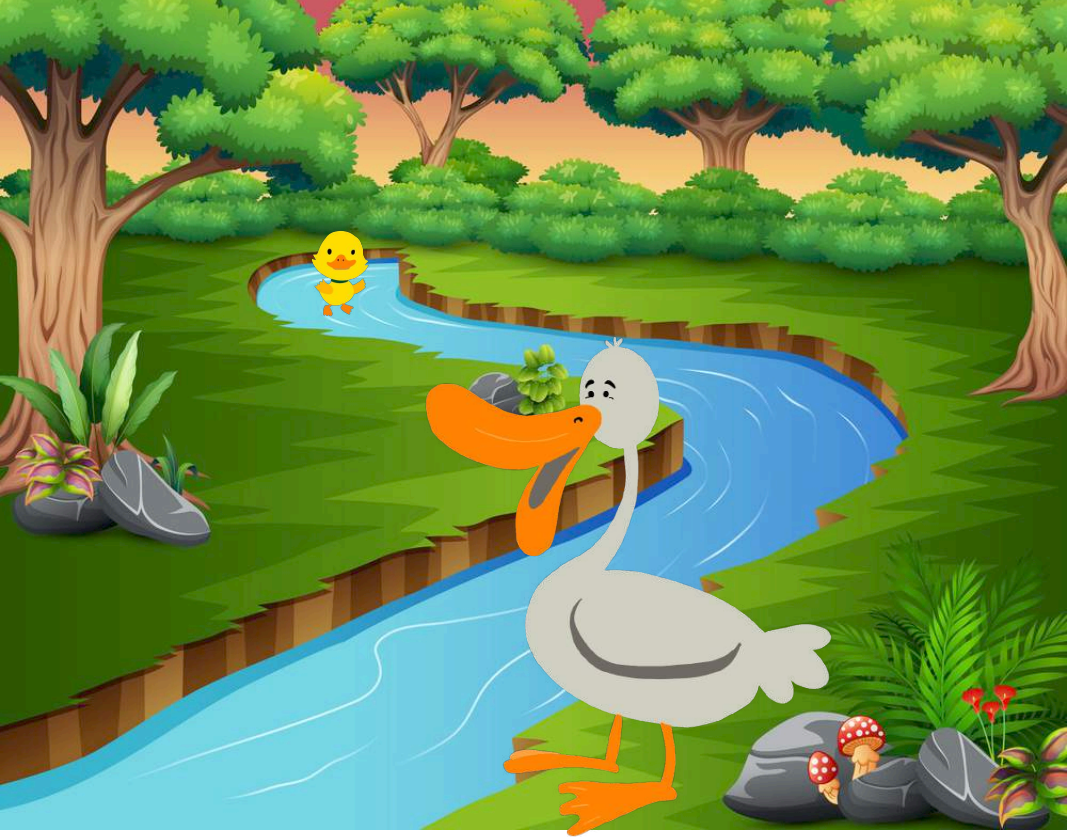
Bozo the Monkey



Penny the Hen



Luck the Duck,



and Booze the Goose.



Diggy-Doggy also loved all his friends but he could not wag his tail with joy at them.

How *could* he? You see - he had no tail!

All day long Diggy played with his friends and had a lot of fun. How much noise they made! Coco the Crow cawed, Bozo the Monkey chattered, Penny the Hen clucked, Luck the Duck quacked, Booze the Goose gobbled and Diggy-Doggy the Dog barked the loudest!



At the end of the day when the sun went down Diggy-Doggy became sad once again. When he passed the pond to go home each night, he saw who he really was – a blond and handsome dog with a beautiful red collar - but still a dog who had no tail!



How Diggy wished he had a long bushy tail. He would turn and swirl and wag it all day long. O how handsome he would look!



One day Diggy-Doggy saw some beautiful peacock feathers lying in the forest. He picked the feathers up and stuck them to his back to make a long blue tail.



Diggy-Doggy paraded his shiny new tail around the village. He felt proud for now he was a handsome dog with a beautiful red collar and a shiny blue tail.

‘How splendid I look!’ Diggy thought as he saw his new blue tail shining in the sun.



He barked at his friend, Coco the Crow, and wiggled his tail with his head held high — proud as a peacock!

Coco the Crow took one look at Diggy and cawed and cawed with laughter until he slipped off the tree!

Diggy-Doggy growled at Coco, then turned his back and walked away with his tail in the air.



He ignored Bozo the Monkey
who clapped with mirth and
chattered!

Diggy swirled and he turned
and he ran in circles.



Diggy-Doggy strutted past
Penny the Hen who clucked
to call him and then clucked
and chuckled away rolling
in the dust with laughter



He did not even stop to say hello to Luck the Duck swimming in the pond as Luck and his other Ducky friends quacked with laughter; while Booze the Goose gobbled up his laughter!

“I have no friends” Diggy barked.

“You are all jealous of my grand new tail”, barked Diggy-Doggy and ran into the forest in tears.



As the sun went down, Diggy-Doggy brushed his brand new tail until it shone brightly. Then he made himself a soft bed of leaves and used his tail as a pillow



Just as Diggy-Doggy was about to doze off he heard a shrill screechy sound. He opened his eyes to see an angry crowd of peacocks rushing to attack him. They pecked him and pinched him and tore his tail apart.



*“How can you wear our feathers? -
Give them back You Dog!”*

*A dog is a dog; he never was - and
never will be a peacock!!”*

They spat and they hissed and swirled
their beautiful tails in his face. They
danced around him and clawed and
pecked. Poor Diggy-Doggy whined in
pain.



*“How can you wear our
feathers? - Give them
back You Dog!*

*A dog is a dog; he never
was - and never will be a
peacock!!”*



Hearing Diggy-Doggy whining all his friends ran to the forest to help their friend – Coco the Crow, Bozo the Monkey, Penny the Hen, Luck the Duck and Booze the Goose gathered around poor Diggy-Doggy in a circle.



Coco the Crow cawed and tore at the peacocks, Bozo the Monkey chattered and smacked them, Penny the Hen clucked and pecked all their feathers off Luck the Duck quacked and bit peahens, Booze the Goose threatened to gobble whatever she saw around her. And together they scared the peacocks away.

The Peacocks ran with their long shiny tails behind them. They did not look so proud any more as they jostled each other and ran for their lives!



Then Coco the Crow cawed, Bozo the Monkey chattered, Penny the Hen clucked, Luck the Duck quacked, Booze the Goose gobbled and they all danced around Diggy-Doggy as they sang:-



“A dog is a dog: he never was and never will be a Peacock

Without a tail and just as you are we love you dearest Dog!”

Diggy-Doggy’s new tail lay torn on the forest floor strewn among the fallen leaves.

Diggy-Doggy laughed and hugged his friends as he danced with them and sang with the loudest bow-wow:-



*"I have no tail; I have no care, I'm
Diggy-the-friendly-Dog*

*A dog's a dog without a tail; who wants
to be a Peacock?!"*

*And all his friends laughed and made a
circle around Diggy Doggy and sang*

*"You have no tail; and we don't care,
we love you dearest Dog*

*Without your tail, we are your friends,
we love you dear Diggy Dog!"*



And then Diggy-Doggy-the-dog-with-no tail and all his dear friends – Coco the Crow, Bozo the Monkey, Penny the Hen, Luck the Duck, and Booze the Goose – lived happily ever after!



Rajni Sekhri Sibal

Rajni Sekhri Sibal is an Indian Administrative Officer of the Haryana cadre who has recently superannuated as Secretary, Government of India. She is of the 1986 Batch and is the first lady to have topped the All India Civil Service Examinations. She is the recipient of the Indian of the Year 2013 Award in the category 'Unsung Hero' for her courage and commitment.

In her last assignment with Government of India, Rajni was posted as the first Secretary of the recently created Ministry of Fisheries prior to which she worked as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. In a previous assignments Rajni worked as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Director Health Insurance Max India as well as in the Government of Haryana.

Rajni holds a Master's degree in Psychology as well as Economics and has authored several books: *'Tools for Monitoring'*; *'Clouds End and Beyond'*; an anthology of verses; *'Kamadhenu'*; *'Fragrant Words'* – an anthology; *'Are You Prepared for a Disaster?'* – a book on Disaster Risk Reduction; as well as *'The Haunting Himalayas'*.