

## **Canine Slumber**

My dog Jack likes to sleep  
exactly where I put my feet  
when I get out of bed.

I would not do such a thing.  
I would not sleep with the  
constant hazard of being  
stepped on by something  
much larger than myself.

I would not sleep in peril  
of being cursed at or  
being the target of a barefooted kick  
or an impatient shove.

I would not trust a bleary-eyed  
foggy-brained human who was  
awake only enough to know  
she needed to use the bathroom (again)  
to take the large first step over  
my slumbering form.

But I am not Jack.  
I sleep in a bed with  
a firm mattress, puffed pillows,  
and the snoring man I love  
right beside me.

Victoria Riley  
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