

WALTER THE FARTING DOG
by
Eric Champnella

Based on the book
by
William Kotzwinkle
&
Glenn Murray

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FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET -- DAY

An animal control truck rumbles down the road. But it's no ordinary city truck. This one is personalized. On the side is its airbrushed name: *The Critter Catcher*.

INT. CRITTER CATCHER -- SAME TIME

This doesn't look like the average city truck on the inside either. It's tricked out -- new stereo, killer speakers, GPS navigational system, the works. It's somebody's baby.

Behind the wheel, an animal control worker whose nametag identifies him as KARL scans the neighborhood. Head on a swivel as he searches for any strays.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET -- CONTINUOUS

As the truck passes various houses, even dogs that are standing in their own front yard dart behind a tree or the nearest covering to hide. Can never be too careful when Karl and the Critter Catcher are in the neighborhood.

INT. CRITTER CATCHER -- CONTINUOUS

As Karl keeps glancing from side to side, in the passenger seat next to him, his dimwitted co-worker, LARRY, chows down on a burrito and slurps on a Big Gulp.

LARRY

Man, I hate cats.

KARL

Yeah, well, never lead with your head looking under a porch.

Larry nods and turns to take another bite of his burrito revealing...a big paw scrape down the side of his face.

KARL (CONT'D)

That's animal control 101, Lar--

PPFFFT! Somebody farts. Bad. Karl grabs his nose and reaches for his window handle, rolling it down just as fast as he can.

KARL (CONT'D)

Dude, if you're gonna do that, you gotta give a courtesy warning!

LARRY

What are you talking about? I didn't--
Sweet mother of God!

Larry starts gagging and lurches for his own window, quickly rolling it down and sticking his head outside asap.

EXT. CRITTER CATCHER -- CONTINUOUS

The truck swerves back and forth as it snakes down the road.

Karl and Larry both have their heads jutting out of the windows, gasping for air like they were just maced.

Oncoming cars honk and dodge out of the way, barely missing being hit by the out-of-control truck.

Even the animals who were hiding moments before, peek out to watch the wild ride.

INT. CRITTER CATCHER -- CONTINUOUS

Inside the truck, things aren't any better. The burrito is now part of the windshield, the Big Gulp is now part of Karl's shirt.

As Karl and Larry veer down the road, heads still out the window, they suddenly SCREAM.

The guys whip their heads back inside at the last possible moment as their vehicle barely squeezes between two oncoming semis, instantly sheering off the side mirrors on each door.

The terror of that near-miss causes Karl to take his eyes off the road for just a moment. But it's enough as the truck jumps the nearest curb causing Scream, Part II...

KARL/LARRY

Aaaarrrrrrrgggggghhhhhhhhhhh!

Out the windshield reveal the truck barreling toward a used car dealership.

EXT. USED CAR LOT -- CONTINUOUS

Customers and employees dive out of the way as the animal control truck races toward the cars and certain disaster.

But somehow Karl manages to fishtail the truck to a screeching halt before it can hit any cars, barely tapping into the base of the dealership's large "Atlas Motors" sign -- An old car propped up vertically on its back bumper with a giant metal globe atop its front bumper.

The car wobbles - once, twice - but doesn't fall. Whew! However, Karl and Larry's relief is short-lived.

INT. CRITTER CATCHER -- CONTINUOUS

PFFFT! Another fart causes Karl to accidentally hit the gas. The truck lurches forward, SMACKING into the sign once more. They each look up just in time to see the giant globe teeter...before rolling off the car and...

BLAM! Smashing down on the hood of the Critter Catcher, leaving a huge crater as a giant crack spiderwebs up the center of the windshield.

Karl's eyes go wide in horror before he starts pounding the steering wheel in frustration, his once-beautiful truck now ruined. Moving through the mesh wire separating Karl and Larry from the caged animals in the back of the truck find...

A stray, collarless dog -- plump mutt really -- sitting off in the corner. Alone. All the other dogs trying to stay as far away as possible from him.

The matting of the dog's fur suggests it's been on its own for quite some time. And while the animal's coat appears to be gray, the poor thing is so dirty, it could actually be somewhat white after a good bath (or two or three).

As the dog we will come to know as Walter farts yet again...

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET -- SAME TIME

A MOVING VAN sits in the street, tired movers unload chairs, clothes, exercise equipment, you name it, and hustle them to the house as fast as their weary arms and legs will allow.

INSIDE THE MOVING VAN, TOM, a workaholic in his late 30s/40, and his overworked homemaker wife, ARLENE, late 30s/40, survey the items still to be hauled to their new house. Pointing at an antler hat rack...

ARLENE

You did not keep that thing.

TOM

(points)

You kept the yard gnome.

ARLENE

That's different. That's a decoration.

TOM

Yeah, if we lived in a trailer park.

BETTY (O.S.)

Mom! Dad!

Tom and Arlene look to see their 10 year old daughter, BETTY, being chased out the front door by her 10 year old fraternal twin brother, BILLY, who's shooting at her with a SUPER SOAKER WATER GUN.

TOM

Billy!

BILLY

She took the bigger room!

BETTY

It has a built-in desk. Like he knows how to study!

SQUIRT!SQUIRT!SQUIRT! He blasts her again.

ARLENE

Knock it off before somebody loses an eye!

Billy looks down at his Super Soaker. From a squirt gun?

Tom hands Billy a box marked "Billy's Room" then gives Betty one with "Betty's Room" written on it. The kids wheel around and march toward the house. As they trudge up the steps...

BETTY

Creep.

BILLY

Jerk.

NEAR THE VAN, Tom turns to his wife...

TOM

And you wanted three?

ARLENE

Just give me my yard gnome.

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- LATER

Boxes are stacked everywhere. Furniture haphazardly sits in whatever room it was placed when the movers gave up.

Tom and Arlene enter trying to navigate through the foyer with a large box, the yard gnome on top. Just then, the Blackberry on Tom's belt buzzes. He pauses to try to answer it while still maneuvering with the box.

ARLENE

Hurry, it's heavy. I--Watch out for that--

CRASH! Tom knocks over a vase, breaking it.

ARLENE (CONT'D)

Tom! I said watch out!

TOM

After I was already stepping! That's a pretty useless warning, Arlene.

ARLENE

Maybe if you didn't answer your Blackberry while we're moving.

TOM

Bigger job, more responsibility.

SMASH! The box they were carrying slips out of Arlene's hands and crashes to the ground.

TOM (CONT'D)

What'd you do that for?

ARLENE

Oh, like I did it on purpose, Tom. It slipped.

TOM

Maybe we should just break everything.

Just then, Billy marches back down the steps. Overhearing...

BILLY

If it means we don't have to move anymore, I'm all for it.

TOM

Tell you what, when you bring home the paycheck, you can choose where we live, deal?

BILLY

Whatever.

TOM

How 'bout the size of that yard? Going to have a lot of fun exploring out there.

BILLY

That's what you said at our place last year.

TOM

Look, I know it's not easy being the new kids.

BILLY

Again.

ARLENE

It's hard, we understand, honey.

BILLY

How many times did you move growing up, mom?

Arlene doesn't answer. Which is her answer.

BETTY

(coming down the steps)
I calculated we'll go to 6.8 schools before we graduate from high school.

BILLY

Yeah, and then what about college?!

BETTY

College doesn't work like that, Billy.

BILLY

How would you know? You're 10.

BETTY

Because I'm smarter than you.

BILLY

Yeah, in a dumb way. You're--

TOM

Hey, hey, hey! Guys. Think of all the new friends you're going to meet at your new school.

And as Billy just shakes his head...

INT. SCHOOL BUS -- MORNING

A sea of unfriendly faces stare forward. Reveal...

Billy and Betty having just gotten on. The kids keep staring, Billy and Betty just stand there. Until...

BUS DRIVER

New kids?

Billy gives him a subtle nod.

BUS DRIVER (CONT'D)

I was a new kid.

Suddenly, the bus driver starts reliving a memory from his own private hell.

BUS DRIVER (CONT'D)

No! Not the locker! Not the locker!
 (snapping back, grips
 the steering wheel)
 You'll be fine. Just keep your head
 down. Don't call attention to
 yourself.

Billy and Betty slowly start making their way down the aisle. Everyone staring at these two oddities. No one offering up any seats.

Suddenly, a loud, massive fart rips through the bus, timed perfectly to make it seem like Billy or Betty did it. Everyone on the bus starts giggling at "The New Kids."

In a nearby seat, Billy glances over at a big husky kid he will unfortunately come to know as GREG SWAN. Greg was "held back a year for sporting reasons" by his father in first grade. And at 11, he already has the hint of a mustache.

Billy notices Greg trying to conceal a whoopee cushion in his hands.

BILLY

Hey! We didn't--

But before he can finish his sentence, Greg gives another giant squeeze to the whoopee cushion...

THHHFFFFT!

The fart sound and ensuing laughter drown out Billy's response. And just when it can't get any worse, it does...

ARLENE (O.S.)

Wait! Wait!

Arlene, still in her robe, runs to the bus. Climbing on...

ARLENE (CONT'D)

You forgot your lunches.

She gives them to her kids, kisses them on the cheeks then starts to leave...but not before licking her fingers to smoothe Billy's hair, the dreaded mom comb-your-hair-with-spit routine. And as the laughter starts up again...

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- LATER

Two rows of animal cages line a narrow corridor, dogs barking on either side.

Find Karl coming down the aisle with a younger, overweight
METER MAID who's walking a little dog.

METER MAID

...So this old lady with a walker
comes out as I'm writing the ticket.
Says somebody took all the handicapped
spots and she didn't have any change
for the meter. Like that's my fault,
right? Boo hoo.

Karl stops and stares at this woman. Did he hear her right?
But he's not appalled. Quite the contrary. He might've
just found his soulmate.

KARL

I like your style.

METER MAID

Just doing my job.

Yep, she's the one.

His cohort, Larry, passes with some golf clubs and a blender.

LARRY

Got three offers for the golf clubs
on eBay so far. Nothing on the
blender yet.

Karl nods but turns his attention right back to the Meter
Maid. Larry gives his co-worker a subtle thumbs up.

METER MAID

Don't know what I would've done if
anything happened to Snickers here.
He's my baby. Got him five months
ago to replace the dog I used to be
married to.

Karl gives her joke a courtesy laugh. All part of their
white trash mating ritual.

KARL

Yeah, well, just glad to be of
service. Lucky I caught her
yesterday. And I think she enjoyed
her brief stay here.

Unseen by the Meter Maid, Snickers snarls at Karl. And when
the Meter Maid's not looking, Karl snarls right back.

METER MAID

So did you catch all these dogs
yourself?

KARL

Most of 'em.

METER MAID

Wow.

KARL

Know 'em like I know my own kids.

If I had kids. Or liked kids.

(points)

See that Doberman? Tear your arm off. But give him a Sausage and a scratch behind the right ear? You got total control.

Karl points at a particularly mean looking German Shepherd barking away. Karl pulls a treat out of his pocket.

KARL (CONT'D)

Thunder, door!

Karl claps and holds up the treat. Thunder immediately stops barking, jumps up and opens the unlocked latch on her cage. Karl smiles at the Meter Maid having proven his mastery as he leads Thunder back into her cage.

METER MAID

You train the pound dogs, too?

KARL

My little gift to the community.

METER MAID

Impressive.

KARL

Just doing my job.

METER MAID

You're like Noah. But without a boat.

KARL

Yeah. I've heard that.

They stop near the end of the corridor in front of Karl's office. It's as decked out as his truck - great stereo, new TV, even an Xbox.

METER MAID

Wow. Nice office.

KARL

Work hard to play hard.

She smiles.

KARL (CONT'D)

You know, if you have any questions about...controlling your animal, we could get together after work and I could share my professional insights.

She smiles. Coy.

KARL (CONT'D)

I could come over and, you know, train your pet for ya.

Hearing that, Snickers runs behind the Meter Maid's legs.

KARL (CONT'D)

Show you how I...

But just when Karl leans in to make his move...

PPFFFFT!

A fart rips through the shelter behind him. The Meter Maid starts coughing. The silence - and mood - is further shattered when the other dogs begin barking, howling in protest.

METER MAID

Uh, I better get going.

KARL

That wasn't--

METER MAID

(plugging her nose)

It's been swell. But my shift farts soon-- starts soon.

The Meter Maid turns and scampers off down the hall, her dog in tow, as the barking becomes even louder.

Pissed, Karl turns to see...Walter staring at him through his cage. He wags his tail. Karl pulls out a dog whistle and blows, silencing the pound.

KARL

Because of that little stunt, there will be no snacks this morning! This...mutt down here ruined it for everybody!

The barking starts up again as if the animals can understand. Karl turns back to Walter...

KARL (CONT'D)

First my ride, then my lady friend? Now it's personal.

Karl makes a "you're gonna get it" sound along with a slashing motion across his neck.

KARL (CONT'D)

(winks)

Have a good day.

And off Walter's terrified look...

INT. CLASSROOM -- LATER

Billy and Betty stand in front of the blackboard, their twenty-something teacher, MS. SCHEMBRI, nearby at her desk. It's obvious they want to be anywhere but in front of everybody.

MS. SCHEMBRI

Ok, class, I want you to welcome our new students, Betty and Billy Coleman.

But much like the bus, the other students just stare at them. Except for AMY, the class brown-nose with glasses, sitting in the front row.

AMY

Hi, Betty! Hi, Billy!

MS. SCHEMBRI

Thank you, Amy. Class!

CLASS

(in monotone unison)

Hi, Betty. Hi, Billy.

Ms. Schembri smiles, like she just brought peace to the Middle East. Betty moves to sit down but Ms. Schembri isn't done.

MS. SCHEMBRI

Hold on, hold on.

(to the class)

Billy and Betty are fraternal twins.
Does anybody know what that means?

Silence.

But Amy's arm shoots into the air. And from Ms. Schembri's look, it's obvious that happens every question. She purposely keeps scanning the room as Amy furiously waves her hand.

AMY

Ooh, ooh, ooh! I think I know! I think I know!

MS. SCHEMBRI

Anybody else besides Amy for a change?

Amy looks crushed. But she glances around. Surely no one but her knows. Until, near the back of the room, Greg Swan raises his hand.

MS. SCHEMBRI (CONT'D)

Yes, Greg?

GREG

Does it mean...

(points at Billy)

...He's kind of a girl, too?

The class giggles.

MS. SCHEMBRI

Greg! No, that's not what it means.

Sensing an opening, Amy's hand shoots back in the air.

MS. SCHEMBRI (CONT'D)

All right, Amy, what--

But before she can answer and continue the humiliation, Betty launches right in...

BETTY

Fraternal twins are siblings who have shared a common uterine environment. Also known as dizygotic twins, they can be of the same sex, such as two boys or two girls, or they can be different genders like my brother and I.

The class and Ms. Schembri just stare at this little brainiac. Amy slowly lowers her arm. She wasn't even going to sniff an answer like this. But Betty's not done. Not even close. Because when she gets nervous, she talks.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Fraternal twins are created after fertilization of two different female ova by different male sperm. Sperm, or spermatozoa, which is the long fertilizing gamete of a male, is produced when the male p--

MS. SCHEMBRI

Uh, thank you, Betty. I think we...get it. As you...obviously do. You, uh, can finish your explanation some other time. Like in 9th grade.

Billy shakes his head. This won't endear them to the class.

BILLY
Can we sit down now?

MS. SCHEMBRI
Yes. Please. Sit. Everybody sit.
Just...sit.

Billy and Betty shuffle to find empty seats. Passing Greg...

GREG
Freaks.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- SAME TIME

Instead of the noisy chaos, it's surprisingly quiet. But not due to Karl's dog whistle. All the dogs are on their best behavior because...

KARL (O.S.)
Got all kinds of pets here...

Reveal Karl leading a YUPPIE FAMILY down the aisle as they search for a pet.

KARL (CONT'D)
...Big ones. Small ones. Dogs.
Cats. Even some hamsters over in
Rodent Rescue. Comes with one of
those treadmill cage thingies, too.
Totally free.

YUPPIE FATHER
Our Samantha has her heart set on a
dog.

As the father, mother and their daughter walk past all the doggie stalls, each dog does something "adorable" in its cage as if to say, "Pick me!"

One jumps up and down like it has springs in its paws. His neighbor rolls over and plays dead...then hops back up. The next dog stands on its hind legs...and takes a few steps.

In fact, it seems that at each cage, the things the dogs are doing get more and more complex.

Yet even with all these skills on display, Samantha and her parents are non-committal. They carefully size each one of the dogs up until coming to...

WALTER'S CAGE.

Since all the other dogs used up all the wacky pet tricks, Walter decides to go old school, sitting in his cage, tongue out, being a normal ol' dog.

SAMANTHA

Hello, puppy.

Walter barks in reply as if to say "Hello" back.

The family stops. Looks at him. He waves his paw. Smart dog. He's definitely not the cutest dog in the pound. But there's...something about him. Sensing he's being sized up, Walter barks again, his tail wagging.

Samantha approaches his cage.

Excited, Walter rushes forward for the pat on the head he's sure will come. But, in his excitement...

PFFFT! Walter lets out a small fart.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Ewwwwwwwww!

Samantha's father quickly grabs her hand, leading her back down toward the other dogs as Walter, realizing he screwed up again, slinks back to the corner of his cage. Heartbroken.

As the family leaves, Karl lingers just long enough to give Walter a disgusted shake of his head.

KARL

Nice going, mutt.

(taps his new watch)

Tick tock, tick tock. Time, she is a ticking.

Karl leaves, a big smirk on his face. And as Walter looks at his rumbling stomach, locked up in his cage...

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL -- LATER

That mass exodus at the end of the day. Children stream out and head for home via foot, bus or waiting parents.

Among the horde of students fleeing school for the day, find Billy. Looks like the day didn't get any better. Following him outside...

BETTY

Are you going to wait up?

BILLY

Why? So you can tell everybody we're the new dyslexic twins?

BETTY

Dizygotic.

BILLY

Whatever! Did you have to show off?
What good did that do?

BETTY

It wasn't showing off, it was helping
us sit down faster. So we didn't
have to just stand there. And you
know when I get nervous, I talk and--

BILLY

Exactly. We talked about this. So
just be quiet! I...

He trails off, stopped in his tracks.

BETTY

What?

She glances up to see her brother staring at the dreaded
yellow bus near the curb. Waiting for them.

Greg Swan piles on, pushing a smaller kid out of the way in
order to board first. As he disappears inside...

GREG

Where's that twin freak?

And on Billy's look of fear...

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- MOMENTS LATER

The school bus rumbles past at the end of the street. But...
Reveal Billy and Betty a couple blocks away. Walking home.

BETTY

This is stupid. It's almost two
miles.

BILLY

So? Mom said Grandpa used to walk
20 miles each way to school. In the
snow.

BETTY

That's just an expression.

BILLY

Like "common uterine environment"?

BETTY

I should've taken the bus.

BILLY

I didn't ask you not to.
 (mocking)
 "Hi, everyone. I'm Betty Coleman.
 This bus weighs 6.8 tons and--"

BETTY

Maybe if you listened to Dad and
 tried--

BILLY

Dad?! What does he know? If his
 first day of work was like school,
 then maybe he'd understand.

SMASH CUT TO FANTASY SEQUENCE:

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- MORNING

Tom waits out front of their house in his suit when...

SCREEEEEECH! A bus rumbles to a halt right in front of him.
 Its door ominously swings open. Tom hesitates before
 cautiously stepping on the bus to find...

INT. BUS -- CONTINUOUS

...A bus full of business execs all reading the Wall Street
 Journal. In unison, they each lower their papers and stare
 at Tom who doesn't move. Terrified.

The same bus driver the kids had (who now wears a suit and
 tie) turns to him...

BUS DRIVER

First day on the job?
 (off Tom's nod)
 I remember my first day...
 (remembering)
 No! I don't want to come in Saturdays!
 I don't want to work weekends!
 (snapping back)
 You'll be fine. Just don't leave
 the paper tray empty after using the
 copier. And refill the coffee pot
 if you take the last cup. That's a
 biggie.

Tom nods and starts to step down the aisle when...

BILLY (O.S.)

Dad! Wait!

Tom turns to see his son racing from their house toward the
 bus. He hurries up the steps.

BILLY (CONT'D)
You forgot your briefcase.

Before leaving, he licks his fingers to wipe a speck of dirt off his dad's face. And as all the other execs laugh...

END FANTASY SEQUENCE AND CUT BACK TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- AFTERNOON

Where Billy and Betty continue on their trek home.

BETTY
 Just because you didn't stand up for yourself--

If this were a cartoon, this is the part that the steam would come out of the character's head because...

BILLY
 You want to know what the real definition of fraternal twins is? It means I'm stuck with you forever!

And as Billy marches off the other way, leaving his sister...

EXT. TOM'S CAR -- LATER

Tom drives home, but his work's not done. Or safe because...

INT. TOM'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Tom has his cellphone cradled against his neck, typing away on his Blackberry in his left hand in addition to checking a spreadsheet on his laptop with his right hand. All while balancing a large coffee tucked between his legs.

TOM
 (into phone)
 Yes, I got the email.
 (working the Blackberry)
 I'm looking at it right now.
 (typing on the laptop)
 No, those aren't the figures I have.

Still holding the Blackberry, Tom makes a bold grab for his coffee while attempting to steer with his knee. Success!

TOM (CONT'D)
 (takes a sip)
 Here's what I'm working off of.

But setting the coffee back between his legs, the lid pops off. Attempting to put it back on...his cellphone slips off his shoulder and -- plop! -- lands right in the coffee cup.

TOM (CONT'D)

Son of a--!

Attempting to fish it out, the glow of a police siren as he turns on his street immediately puts his focus back on the road. Three police cars sit in front of a house.

He rolls down his window and slows next to an OFFICER standing near his squad car.

TOM (CONT'D)

What happened?

INT. TOM AND ARLENE'S BEDROOM -- LATER

Arlene - on her back, feet in the air - works out with that resistance tubing folks like Suzanne Sommers sell on latenight TV as...

ARLENE

Fourth break-in this month?
(stops in mid-exercise)
Oh, that's just perfect. Here?

TOM

They even tied up the old man who lived there while they cleaned the place out.

ARLENE

Do the police have any leads?

TOM

Just one: it's somebody really good because after four break-ins, they don't have a clue.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- DAY

Walter looks through his cage to see an elderly couple excitedly taking the "hind legs walking" dog home. The ELDERLY WOMAN cradles him in her arms as they leave...

ELDERLY WOMAN

...And we have a big backyard for you to play in. And we're installing a doggie door for you. And we'll only feed you pure beef snacks, not processed treats. And we'll never use a leash. And...

As the woman goes on and on about the wonderful life "hind legs" is going to have...

THUNK!

...Karl slaps a big red tag on Walter's cage. Reveal it's...
A TAG FOR TERMINATION.

KARL

End of the line, sport.

As the other dogs whine in sympathy for one of their own...

EXT. BILLY AND BETTY'S NEIGHBORHOOD -- DAY

...A number of neighborhood kids zoom past on their bikes.

NEIGHBORHOOD KID

Hurry up, everybody's going to the
park!

The other kids pedal faster lest the park suddenly disappear
before they reach it. Reveal they race past...

Billy - on his bike exploring his new neighborhood - who
watches the kids go by, hoping for an invitation from his
classmates that never comes.

EXT. LOCAL PARK -- DAY

As the kids from above congregate off in a corner of the
park, hanging out and playing with their dogs, reveal...

Billy watching them through the fence when suddenly...

RAAA-RAAA-RAAAA! A snarling beast of a dog jumps at the
fence right in front of him causing Billy to tumble backwards,
tripping over his bike and falling to the ground.

As the dog continues barking at Billy, trying to gnaw its
way right through the fence to get him...

BOY'S VOICE (O.S.)

(laughs)

C'mon, Brutus. Don't pick on half-
girls.

Greg Swan yanks on the spiked collar of his Rottweiler,
struggling to control him as Billy pulls himself up.

But Brutus breaks free and lunges at the fence sending Billy
tumbling over once more. Greg laughs again and jerks up
hard on Brutus's collar causing the dog to choke but comply.

As they head toward the other kids, Billy watches Greg and
Brutus hold court. The other kids cautiously approach to
pet Brutus, peasants lining up to kiss the king's ring.

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- LATER

Arlene talks on the phone and puts things in the fridge as the Colemans finish dinner.

ARLENE

(on phone)

...Can't wait to see you and meet my little nephew, sis.

BETTY

...And I was reading how worms affect plant growth.

TOM

(checks his Blackberry)

That's great, sweetie.

ARLENE

(wrapping up her call)

Ok. Uh huh. You, too. Mmm hmm. Alrighty. Uh huh. Ok. Buh-bye.

(hanging up)

Kids, your Aunt Kaye says hello... and a bunch of other stuff.

(back to mom mode)

Betty, clean your plate. Billy, eat your carrots. Tom, put away the darn Blackberry.

He does...looking at it until the last possible second. But Billy keeps picking at his carrots. Finally...

BILLY

I think we should get a dog.

Everyone looks at Billy.

TOM

You do, huh?

Billy nods.

TOM (CONT'D)

They're a lot of work, you know. Somebody has to take care of them all the time.

BILLY

I don't mind. I could...go to the park with him.

Tom has no idea the true meaning behind what his son is saying. But before he can even inquire...

BETTY

Oooh! Or maybe we could get a cat.

Billy is horrified at the suggestion.

BILLY

A cat?! Cats are...dumb pets.

BETTY

A cat's brain is more similar to a man's brain than a dog's. Both cats and humans have identical areas in the brain responsible for emotion.

Advantage, Betty. Billy searches for a response. Finally...

BILLY

So? How do you even know such stupid stuff?

BETTY

Maybe if you watched the Discovery Channel sometime instead of just MT--

TOM

Guys, guys, guys. I don't think it's a good idea right now. But we'll talk about it some other time, ok?

Typical dad response. Billy grabs his plate and trudges off toward the kitchen.

INT. TOM AND ARLENE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Tom lays in bed working on his laptop as...

TOM

Last thing we need, eh?

ARLENE (O.S.)

First thing he's been excited about since we moved here.

TOM

Ar, please. All kids have a tough time at first. But I guarantee before you know, he'll have so many friends to go to the park with, he won't even remember they wanted a dog.

Ding! ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN, an email pops up in Tom's inbox under the headline: STOP WORKING!

Puzzled, he looks up to see his wife come out of their bathroom holding his Blackberry. She smiles. Seductive.

Tom smiles back when - Ding! - another email alert sounds. Unable to fight this addiction, Tom does the unthinkable and glances away from his wife and back down at his laptop. Arlene crawls into bed, angrily prepping her side as...

ARLENE

You know, Tom, it's hard being the new wife everytime we move, too.

(then)

And with all the recent break-ins in the neighborhood, I don't know why it's not a good idea to have a "doggie warning system".

And as this finally gets Tom to look up from his computer...

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- DAY

Billy and Betty run ahead of their dad down the corridor of dog cages, shelter worker, Larry, trailing along.

They are met by a lot of empty cages. Most of the dogs from before are gone, having already found homes.

As the kids continue down the aisle, Karl leads Walter out of his cage. Walter looks at the kids as he passes. Catching glances with the sad-eyed dog...

BETTY

Where are you taking that one?

KARL

He's going to that big dog pound in the sky.

BETTY

Why?

KARL

Nobody wants him.

BETTY

What's his name?

KARL

Doesn't even have a name. That's why he's here. Nobody liked him enough to give him one.

BETTY

(to Billy re: Walter)

What about that one?

Billy sizes up Walter.

BILLY
Where are all the...cool dogs?

LARRY
Had a big run lately.

Billy walks over to another cage where a lab mix sits.

BILLY
Can I see him?

LARRY
Sorry. Already taken. Family's
coming to pick him up later.

Karl starts leading Walter away. The dog tries fighting his fate, planting his paws but Karl simply pulls him along.

As Betty watches Walter, who keeps looking back toward them, she gets an idea...

BETTY
Where do you keep the cats?

Billy's eyes go wide.

LARRY
Right this way.
(rubs his facial scrape)
Got a bunch a'them vicious beasts.

As Larry points them toward the cat corridor, Billy looks back at Walter.

Desperate and sensing this is his last chance, Walter fights the gas building in his stomach and tries to do all the doggie tricks the other dogs did. See, I'm like every other dog.

But, being a bit klutzy, he can't quite do the tricks right as Karl pulls him away. Billy's heart melts.

BILLY
Wait!

Karl and Walter stop. Both looking back.

BILLY (CONT'D)
That's my dog.

And as Betty smiles...

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- LATER

The kids and Walter race toward the front door as Tom gets out of their car.

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

As Billy, Betty and Walter run inside, that mom sensor sounds:

ARLENE (O.S.)
Don't run in the house!

BILLY
Mom, mom, mom! I got a dog!

BETTY
We got a dog.

Coming down the steps with a bucket of bathroom cleaning supplies...

ARLENE
That's great. Let me see what--

Spotting sad-looking, plump Walter, she's visibly startled.

ARLENE (CONT'D)
Oh, my! He's...cute.

Billy smiles as Arlene exchanges looks with Tom who's come up behind them. This is the dog you let them get? Tom shrugs. Nothing I could do. Arlene bends to pet him.

ARLENE (CONT'D)
He--
(covering her nose)
Smells awful.

BETTY
I don't smell anything.

BILLY
Me neither. It's probably just his natural scent.

Reveal Tom and Arlene's eyes both starting to water.

ARLENE
Why don't you go give him a natural bath.

BILLY
C'mon, boy.

Billy turns and leads the dog toward the upstairs bath when...

ARLENE
Whoa, whoa, whoa! Where are you going?

BILLY
Upstairs. To wash him in the tub.

ARLENE
The tub I just cleaned?
(shakes her head)
Unh uh. Basement. Utility sink.

As Billy and the dog head off followed by Betty, Arlene turns to Tom and holds up her hands. "Wanna explain that dog?"

TOM
Hey, you weren't there. That's all
I'm saying.

And as Arlene just shakes her head...

CUT TO:

BUBBLES. Lots of them. Reveal...

INT. BASEMENT -- LATER

...Where just a pair of dog eyes are the only thing visible of Walter in the utility sink. Yet, even still...

Glug, glug, glug! Billy pours more shampoo in the sink.

BILLY
Now don't let it get in your eyes.

Woof! Walter barks, wags his tail and leaps up to lick Billy but loses his balance and disappears underneath the bubbles only to pop up a second later, rubbing his soap-filled eyes with his paws.

BILLY (CONT'D)
I told ya, klutz. Stuff stings.

Betty comes down the steps and watches from the staircase.

BETTY
What are we going to name him?

BILLY
We? It was my idea to get a dog.

But Betty doesn't budge. Instead, she pulls a baby name book out from behind her back. Starts flipping through it.

BILLY (CONT'D)
What's that?

BETTY

Mom got it for Aunt Kaye but forgot to send it. And since he's gonna be more a friend than a dog, figure there's a good name in here for him.

BILLY

Baby names? There aren't any good dog names in there.

BETTY

How would you know?
(reads)
Alfredo... Archilbald... Arnoldo...

BILLY

Arnoldo?

BETTY

Better skip the A's.
(randomly flips to...)
Cooper?

No response from Walter or Billy so, turning the page again...

BETTY (CONT'D)

Gavin?
(testing it out)
"Here, Gavin. C'mon, Gavin."

Walter just stares at her. Billy shakes his head.

BETTY (CONT'D)

Norris?

Walter sinks his head under the bubbles...and comes up a moment later, rubbing his watering eyes.

BILLY

Yeah, he loves that one. Guess all your ideas aren't good ones, huh?

Billy grabs the book out of his sister's hand. Looking at some of the names, he just shakes his head. How dumb.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(mocking)
Wadsworth...Waldo...Walter...W--

Woof! Woof! Woof! The kids look over at Walter who's barking and furiously wagging his tail.

BETTY

Walter? You like Walter?

Woof! Woof! Woof!

BILLY

Walter?

WOOF!

BILLY (CONT'D)

Not something cooler? Like...Brutus?

Walter flicks his tail sending a batch of bubbles at Billy. That's what he thinks of Brutus.

BILLY (CONT'D)

But...Walter?

WOOF!

BILLY (CONT'D)

(mulling it over)

Walter.

And as the tail wags so much it starts spewing bubbles all over Billy...

CUT TO:

SLOW MOTION of Walter shaking all the water off him, spraying Billy and Betty. But far from getting mad, they laugh.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Do it again.

Billy pours more water on the dog who again does the wet doggie shimmy, giving the now-soaked kids giggle fits once more. Just then, Arlene comes down the steps to retrieve some gardening gear.

BETTY

Mom, meet Walter.

She sees the dog's soaking wet. Knows he just got a bath. And yet...

ARLENE

Walter still stinks.

CUT TO:

Billy once again filling up the utility sink with water. Just as it gets to the point where it's covering up Walter's body, "bubbles" rise from below the water's surface.

Knowing what caused them, Billy and Betty giggle. Until...

More, bigger fart bubbles float up, actually popping upon reaching the surface. POP! POP! POP!

Now Betty and Billy's eyes go wide. This isn't good.

BETTY

Uh oh. That can't be normal.

BILLY

I think we're gonna need stronger soap.

Billy scans the basement when a rattling noise above causes Walter to look up.

BILLY (CONT'D)

That's just the laundry chute.

Suddenly, some clothes drop from above and land next to the LAUNDRY DETERGENT. And on Billy's forming smile...

CUT TO:

Detergent being poured in the running washing machine.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(to Walter)

I won't stick you all the way in, ok? I'll hold onto you and just stick...your bottom part in.

BETTY

I don't know if that is a good idea.

BILLY

Why? Because it wasn't yours?

Betty turns and stomps back up the steps as Billy pours some detergent in. Thinks. Adds a little more. Then a little more. What the heck, he puts the entire box in.

And as the wash machine churns and chugs away, bubbles starting to form...

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- LATER

Arlene's head keeps bouncing into frame. Reveal her pulling weeds along the house when a rising wall of bubbles starts to seep out of the basement window.

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Tom and Arlene throw open the door to the basement...and are met by a wall of white bubbles spilling into the kitchen.

ARLENE

Billy?!

No answer. Finally, next to them...

BETTY

Billy used too much laundry detergent.

From the basement...

BILLY (O.S.)

It was an accident.

(then)

Tattle-tale.

Tom and Arlene eye the mess gurgling out of their basement.
Yeah, just a little too much.

TOM

Get up here right now!

No answer again.

ARLENE

William Tyler Coleman! Did you hear
your father?!

BILLY (O.S.)

Heard him. I just can't find my way
out.

Tom exchanges looks with Arlene...before plunging into the
wall of white.

INT. BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS

It's bubble city, baby! Tom flails his way around as...

TOM

Billy?

BILLY (O.S.)

I'm over here.

Tom looks around at white in every direction. That doesn't
narrow it down at all.

TOM

Ok, just keep talking and that will
lead me to--

PFFFFFT! Walter lets out a giant fart.

TOM (CONT'D)

Nevermind.

Using the fart as a beacon, Tom walks right up to Billy.

BILLY
You found me!

TOM
(holding his nose)
It was easy.

INT. KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

Arlene eyes Billy and Tom who are covered in bubbles. Shakes her head.

Woof! She glances down at Walter after his "don't forget me" bark. He looks like he's wearing a big "bubble hat."

ARLENE
Yes, you're in trouble, too.

Walter wags his tail then, try as he might not to, he farts.

TOM
I hope that's just a phase he's going through or it's going to be a problem.

BILLY
Tail wagging?

BETTY
Farting, idiot.

Billy looks down at Walter - was picking this dog a mistake?

Knowing his issue and sensing what's going on, Walter fights the building urge to fart again. But it ain't easy. He tries to hold back yet it's a losing battle.

He races for the doggie door, bolts outside where...

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The family watches as Walter quickly digs a shallow hole, puts his butt in it and -- PFFFFT! -- farts.

The ground seems to swell. Ants rush out of a nearby ant hill. Even a gopher pops out of a hole in the backyard and staggers off.

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

As the family stares wide-eyed...

TOM
Correction -- big problem.

Thus begins our FART MONTAGE (Yes, fart montage!)

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- DAY

Arlene cooks over a hot stove when an awful smell catches her attention...then sets off the smoke detector. She dumps the dinner she was making in the trash but only then...

Spots Walter under the table. Bending down to sniff near Walter, she instantly realizes the stench wasn't her food.

INT. PET STORE -- DAY

Billy loads up -- doggie bed, giant doggie bone (which is probably too big for Walter), new dog dish, the works.

Next to him, Walter stands up on his hind legs to grab a box of snacks he wants. But ever the klutz, he farts and knocks over the entire display. Billy's look and shake of the head says it all -- what did I get into with this dog?

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Billy, Walter in tow, heads down to the park in search of the kids from school.

INT. COLEMAN CAR/EXT. CARWASH -- DAY

Tom, the kids and Walter are in the middle of going through the car wash when --- PFFFFT! Walter farts. Tom reaches for his window...then realizes where they are. Trapped!

Moments later, the car emerges from the wash, Tom's window down. The interior and Tom soaked to the bone!

EXT. PARK -- DAY

In a continuation of the park scene above, Billy - tossing the oversized bone and playing "fetch" with Walter - spots Greg Swan (along with his Rottweiler, Brutus) and his posse buying ice cream from a vendor.

Getting an idea on how to work his way into the group, Billy tosses the bone near the vending cart for Walter to fetch. And as Walter bolts after it...

INT. BILLY'S ROOM -- MORNING

Walter snoozes at the foot of Billy's bed in his doggie bed when...a giant spider lowers itself toward him on a web from above. That is until Walter farts in his sleep.

The curtains move as the spider sways, hanging on for dear life...before rising back up to its web as fast as it can.

EXT. PARK -- DAY

Walter races toward the bone Billy threw in the park scene above. Picking it up, he farts...melting the just-purchased ice cream cones of Greg Swan and his posse.

After covering his nose, when Greg looks up to see who did it, Billy hides behind a nearby tree. And with all the dogs in the park, Greg is unable to figure out the culprit.

EXT. BACKYARD -- DAY

Arlene readies her camera to take a picture of Walter and the kids when Walter farts knocking over the yard gnome and breaking its nose. FLASH!

END MONTAGE

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- DAY

Tom races around getting ready for something as Arlene furiously rearranges the room as she cleans.

TOM

Honey, this isn't Trading Spaces.

ARLENE

First time I've met a lot of our neighbors.

(pointed)

This batch of them. Just want the place to look its best.

TOM

People are going to be here soon.

ARLENE

(nods, glances outside)

I think it's more than a phase.

TOM

What is?

ARLENE

Walter and his...condition.

TOM

What sealed it for you? For me it was when he blew the napkins off the table last night.

Arlene points outside where Billy and Betty rake leaves. But each time they get them in a pile, try as he might not to, Walter farts and blows them all over the yard again.

Getting fed up, Billy puts the rake down and points Walter's behind at leaves on the back patio. PFFFT! His fart clears them off instantly.

TOM (CONT'D)

Billy, don't use the dog as a leaf blower!

BILLY

Sorry, dad.

TOM

And finish setting those tables. People are going to be here in less than an hour.

He closes the window.

ARLENE

I don't get it.

TOM

What?

ARLENE

I don't get how the kids--

TOM

How the smell doesn't bother them?

ARLENE

Yes! I can barely breathe around him when he...toots.

TOM

Toots? No. Toots is what a baby does. This dog farts. Massive, help-me-Lord-I-can't-breathe farts.

Just then, the doorbell rings downstairs.

ARLENE

Oh, that's probably my Uncle Irv.

TOM

Early? He came early?

ARLENE

You be nice. It's almost an hour drive for him and he came all this way. Besides, he's the only family I even have in this area.

TOM

Hon, I invited my boss who's been trying to close a deal with Alan, down the street. And I was hoping that would be helped at a low-key housewarming party not an...Amway pitch.

ARLENE

Irv's not selling Amway anymore.

TOM

Just...don't let him ruin anything. This is important for me.

ARLENE

He's not going to ruin anything.

TOM

Or embarrass me. He farts more than the dog.

ARLENE

He's not going to embarrass you. And it's good that he came. The kids haven't seen him in a long time.

TOM

Oh, I'm sure they'll be thrilled.
(opens the window)
Kids, I think your mom's Uncle Irv is here!
(beat, then)
Hey, hey, hey! Don't hide under there. Go around front and say hello!
(lowering the window)
Well, they're simply ecstatic.

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Billy and Betty trudge around the house to find UNCLE IRV, mid 50s, that crazy whirlwind of a relative all kids dread. The one who still attempts to "twist off his thumb" way past the age when they've figured it out.

UNCLE IRV

There they are!

He rushes over, grabs Betty's nose and "steals it"...

UNCLE IRV (CONT'D)

(thumb in his fingers)
Look what I got?

BETTY

Your thumb?

UNCLE IRV

(laughs)

You stinker.

Uncle Irv turns his attention to Billy and starts rubbing his knuckles across Billy's head, messing up his hair as...

BILLY

Ow-ow-ow!

EXT. BACKYARD -- MOMENTS LATER

Uncle Irv follows Tom around the backyard as Tom gets ready for the party. Walter sits nearby in the shade.

UNCLE IRV

So, pulling in the big cash-ola with the new job now?

TOM

Uh...we're doing all right.

UNCLE IRV

How much you makin'?

TOM

I, uh, I'd rather not--

Just then, Irv - not Walter - leans over and lets one rip.

TOM (CONT'D)

Walter.

Realizing the dog just got blamed for his fart, Uncle Irv smiles at Walter...who gets up and moves away from him.

UNCLE IRV

You know, if you'd like to invest a little extra of your doe-ray-me, I might have an excellent opportunity for you and my niece to get in on the ground floor of these self-storage timeshares I'm selling--

TOM

Self-storge...timeshares?

Uncle Irv grimaces. He obviously has to fart again so...he walks over near Walter as he talks...

UNCLE IRV

Exactly. As I was saying...

PPFFFFFT! Uncle Irv lets it rip again.

TOM

WALTER. I'm warning you.

Uncle Irv smiles.

But Walter's pissed. He farts enough that he doesn't need to be getting blamed for other people's farts. He gives Uncle Irv a little growl then heads back near one of the tables set up for the party.

UNCLE IRV

You know how sometimes you don't have enough space...

Uncle Irv's face says it all - here comes another one. He walks near Walter...who scurries away. But, explaining his "get rich quick" plan the whole way, Uncle Irv follows.

So Walter trots back across the backyard...and so does Irv. Until finally Irv has him corned.

PPFFFFFT! Uncle Irv saves his biggest fart for last.

TOM

WALTER! I'm telling you for the last time - stay away from Uncle Irv before he craps all over you!

As Arlene comes out of the house carrying a bunch of food...

TOM (CONT'D)

(heading inside)

Save me.

LATER

The housewarming party is in full swing. From the looks of it and sounds of laughter, everybody is having a good time. Moving through the shindig find...

Tom standing among a group of folks.

TOM (CONT'D)

...Roy, I think you've met my neighbor Alan. Alan, my boss, Roy Huggins.

ROY HUGGINS, a balding bear of a man in his 60s, nods and shakes hands with the Coleman's neighbor, ALAN MANDELL, DDS.

A FEW FEET AWAY, hearing the words, "my boss," Uncle Irv makes a beeline for Tom and Roy but, luckily, Arlene's nearby to steer him away.

ARLENE

Uncle Irv, I want you to meet some
of my new neighbors.

Disaster averted. Seeing what his wife just did, Tom mouths
"thank you" to her. Arlene winks at him. You're welcome.

BACK NEAR TOM, he keeps conversation flowing...

TOM

Roy was just saying they broke into
his place last month.

ALAN

You're kidding?

MR. HUGGINS

Most of it's covered but they took
this old watch my father gave me
when I was a kid. He got it from
his dad. I swear, if I ever find
those SOB's...I'm just sayin'.

TOM

After the break-in on his street,
Alan went right to the pound and got
a dog.

MR. HUGGINS

Hell, already had me a pound dog.
Still got me. Whole town's getting
dogs. Gonna start me a pooper scooper
business and retire a rich man.

Laughs all around, Tom a bit harder than needed at his boss's
joke.

EXT. BACKYARD -- LATER

Everybody's chowing down at one of the four tables. Reveal...

Uncle Irv sits at the mini-kiddie table with Billy and Betty.

UNCLE IRV

...And now that you live closer, I
can visit much more often.

Betty's eyes go wide as Uncle Irv grabs Betty's cheek in
that way kids hate. Attempting to avoid it, Billy grabs a
scrap of food off his plate and looks under the table for...

BILLY

Walter?

But he's not there.

AT TOM'S TABLE,

Tom, Alan and Roy are engrossed in conversation.

MR. HUGGINS

(between bites)

...So if you're looking to replace the imaging equipment at all five dental offices you're a partner in, I can personally talk to the head of our healthcare division.

Alan smiles...as does Tom. So far, so good. Mr. Huggins digs into his food again. But, he's one of those people who, when they eat, if it hits his mouth, fine, if not, so what because there's always another bite coming.

Follow a morsel of food as it drops...

UNDER THE TABLE where Walter happily eats it up. In fact, he's getting about as much to eat as Mr. Huggins. But his stomach is starting to churn. As Walter's eyes begin to water, trying all his might to hold back...

BACK ABOVE, Tom's boss continues talking to Alan...

MR. HUGGINS (CONT'D)

(still chowing away)

And I think I can smell a deal. I smell...

PPFFFT! A fart rips out. Mr. Huggins coughs as does everyone else around the table. Bad.

Of course Tom starts looking behind him to instantly blame...

TOM

Irv!

But from way across the yard...

UNCLE IRV

Yeah?

With a dawning realization, Tom turns back and pulls up the table cloth to spot Walter...

PPFFFTT! Who farts again. Big time.

Mr. Huggins clutches his throat, pointing at it, choking on his food.

Suddenly, Mr. Huggins topples over, his feet hitting the table sending a bowl of corn rocketing toward...

THUNK!...Alan who gets hit in the head and stumbles backwards into one of the support poles holding up the outdoor tent.

And as the pole wavers...then breaks free, there's a giant scream just as the whole tent collapses over the party.

EXT. CITY STREETS -- MOMENTS LATER

AN AMBULANCE races through the city toward the Coleman house.

EXT. BACKYARD -- MOMENTS LATER

Looks like a hurricane just blew through. The tent is on the ground. Folks have food all over them. Arlene holds an icepack to the lump Alan's head. Suddenly...

A stretcher holding Mr. Huggins, an oxygen mask over his face, pops up into frame, bracketed by two other PARAMEDICS.

TOM

Is he going to be ok?

PARAMEDIC

He should be fine.

PARAMEDIC #2

Whoever performed the Heimlich on him probably saved his life.

Behind them...

UNCLE IRV

Awww, it was nothing. Used to sell family first aid kits door-to-door for a spell.

The Paramedics begin wheeling the stretcher toward the ambulance, Tom following along...

TOM

I'm so sorry, Roy. As soon as you get out of the hospital, maybe you can finish telling Alan about that deal you were smelling. His concussion isn't that serious.

But the angry look on Mr. Huggins face tells Tom that won't be his first conversation. And as they load Mr. Huggins in the ambulance, Tom jumping in beside him...

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- LATER

Billy, Betty and Arlene sit in the living room. Nobody talking. Through the window, find Walter tied up outside.

Tom enters. And he doesn't look happy. The silence is deafening. Finally...

ARLENE

Well? How is he?

TOM

How is he? He's very, very, very upset as you might imagine after having to be rushed to the emergency room because he choked on his food and knocked out a potential client due to a farting dog!

(then)

Now take that...stinking dog...to the vet and find out what his problem is or he's going back to the pound.

And as Walter perks up his ears after hearing that...

CUT TO:

A BIG EYEBALL. Pull back to reveal...

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC -- DAY

...Where the vet, DR. READING, examines Walter, looking in his ears through a magnifying glass.

DR. READING

Hmmm. So far, so good. Let's take his temperature to see if he's sick.

He takes out the doggie thermometer and just as he's about to stick it in Walter's backside...

BILLY

Won't that plug him up?

DR. READING

Don't worry. That's just where we put the thermometers in animals.

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC (WAITING ROOM) -- CONTINUOUS

A handful of people wait with their pets in the small lobby when, from inside Dr. Reading's office, there's a loud FART. Suddenly...

WHOOOOOSH! The thermometer rockets past and...

THUNGGGGGGG! Sticks in the opposite wall.

A guy waiting in the lobby holds up his paper, staring through a just-made hole in the story he was reading.

DR. READING (O.S.)
Karen, I'm going to need another
thermometer.

And as the receptionist gets up from her desk...

INT. VET EXAMINATION ROOM -- LATER

Dr. Reading removes his surgical gloves, shakes his head.

DR. READING
Well, Walter here definitely has a
severe case of rectal flatulence.

BILLY
How long does he have?

DR. READING
No, no, no. I'm sorry, that's just
the fancy medical term for farting.

BILLY
Oh.

Betty shakes her head at her brother. Duh.

DR. READING
Good news is, he's got plenty of
time. Healthy as I've seen. Bad
news, I don't have a cure for you.
Least not a case this...intense.

Billy's look says it all -- now what?

DR. READING (CONT'D)
But I know someone who might.

He goes over to a drawer, reaches in and pulls out a card.
Hands it to Betty.

INSERT CARD - Professor Compressor, Doctor of Fartology

BETTY (O.S.)
Professor Compressor, Doctor of...
Fartology?

DR. READING
Fart doctor. One of the best.
Graduated with honors from Michigan
State. He might be able to help.

BILLY
Thanks, Dr. Reading. C'mon, Walter.

BETTY
And sorry about the thermometers.

Woof! Me, too.

The kids and Walter head out of the examining room and exit through...

INT. VETERINARY CLINIC (WAITING ROOM) -- CONTINUOUS

...Where they pass five thermometers, all stuck in the wall.

EXT. RUNDOWN PART OF TOWN -- LATER

The kids and Walter approach a nondescript storefront office.

BILLY
Is this--?

SHHHHWUNK! A peephole slides open above them and two eyes peer down at the kids.

PROF. COMPRESSOR
Who sent you?

BILLY
Uh, Dr. Reading. For my dog.

BETTY
Our dog.

The peephole slides shut. Then...

SHHHHWUNK! Another peephole at "dog level" slides open as the eyes now study Walter.

PROF. COMPRESSOR
Is this the canine in question?

Betty nods as Professor Compressor eyes Walter...

PROF. COMPRESSOR (CONT'D)
Hmmm. Mmm hmmm.

Billy and Betty exchange looks as...

PFFFT! Walter farts. The eyes go wide. Disappear for a second then are replaced with what look like dark welding goggles.

PROF. COMPRESSOR (CONT'D)
Fuggledibbits!

BETTY
Fuggledibbits?

PROF. COMPRESSOR
It's a fart term. Medically speaking.
Type, consistency, odiferousness.

BETTY
Odiferousness?

PROF. COMPRESSOR
Are you questioning my medicality?

BETTY
No, sir.

BILLY
Can you fix him?

PROF. COMPRESSOR
Fix? And tamper with a dog so
exceptionally unbroken? He's one in
a million. Mathematically speaking.

Billy eyes Walter. Are we talking about the same dog?

BILLY
But he's ruining...everything.

BETTY
And we won't be able to keep him if
we don't cure him.

Clank, clunk, klink! The door is unlocked and swings open revealing PROFESSOR COMPRESSOR, a white-haired eccentric in his late 50s, sporting a lab coat. Eyes them. Deciding whether to help. Finally...

PROF. COMPRESSOR
Let me see what I can do. Come along,
come along.

INT. PROF. COMPRESSOR'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

Professor Compressor leads the kids through his laboratory which is adorned with "fart charts" telling how much humans and other animals fart, a "History of Farting" poster and other "fart related" items.

PROF. COMPRESSOR
...Flatus or flatulence, more commonly
farts, from the Old English word
feortan, are produced by intestinal
gas formed by the air we breath,
chemical reactions inside our insides,
gas oozing into our innards from our
blood, and bacteria living in our
entrails.

BILLY
That's disgusting.

PROF. COMPRESSOR
No, no, no! Don't fear the fart!
Did you know Emperor Claudius once
passed a law legalizing farting at
banquets for health reasons?

BILLY
No.

PROF. COMPRESSOR
Of course you didn't. Or you would
be the doctor and I would be the
you. Do you see?

They approach a special "rear-end" contraption with various
hoses, fans and vents chugging away, mounted to Walter's
back side.

BETTY
What's this?

PROF. COMPRESSOR
The logical first question. It's my
gastro-intestinal-spectra-reverse-
flatchio-gramometer-thingamadoodle.

BILLY
A what?

PROF. COMPRESSOR
It's a fart machine. Or rather, an
un-fart machine. A defartifier.

Behind them, Walter farts. PFFFFT!

PROF. COMPRESSOR (CONT'D)
Ooooh!

A whistle on the machine sounds. A bulge in the tubing lets
us follow the fart down and around until it reaches the guts
of the machine where a spinner starts going off, lights begin
to flash until finally...

Something is expelled into an expanding balloon. Bigger
and bigger and BIGGER.

The kids plug their ears waiting for the pop that's sure to
come but suddenly the balloon deflates and the process
reverses - the lights flash, the spinner goes off - before
the fart races back down the tubing toward Walter where...

THWUNG! Walter blows up like the balloon.

PROF. COMPRESSOR (CONT'D)

Voila!

BILLY

What just happened?

PROF. COMPRESSOR

I captured Walter's fart...sent it through my gastro-intestinal-spectra, uh, fla-gram, um, meter, uh...

BETTY

The fart machine.

PROF. COMPRESSOR

Precisely! Then, at sub-sonic speed, minus the sub-sonic part, I re-attached the fart to the fartee.

Billy and Betty stare at him.

PROF. COMPRESSOR (CONT'D)

I put it back in the dog!

They stare at Walter who looks like he's going to burst.

BETTY

And that...works?

PROF. COMPRESSOR

Smell anything?

BILLY

No, but--

PROF. COMPRESSOR

No, butts! Exactly!
(snaps his fingers)
That will be my company slogan!
(to Billy)
Ever thought about a career in marketing?

BILLY

No, but--

PROF. COMPRESSOR

I like it! A man with passion about his ideas.
(waves his hand)
Please, I'm already sold. And when I make the portable model for humans, I'll give you a cut of the profits to be determined by me, some nameless attorneys and--

PFFFFFFFT!

Walter farts. A huge fart. The tube instantly expands - along with Prof. Compressor's eyes - as the fart races for the machine and - boom! - fries the machine, blowing the whistle clean off as it does.

PROF. COMPRESSOR (CONT'D)

Plan D. Better skip right past B and C.

CUT TO:

Walter standing on an examining table under a bluish light.

PROF. COMPRESSOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Now, a human produces almost a half liter of flatus gas each day resulting in fart index of 14. Your our dog has an index of 86.

BETTY (O.S.)

What does that mean?

PROF. COMPRESSOR (O.S.)

He farts a lot.

Suddenly, as if on cue, Walter farts. PFFFFFF! But this time we can actually see it! Like a small cloud coming out of him and rising up in the room.

BILLY/BETTY

Wow!

Reveal Billy, Betty and Prof. Compressor all wear the welding-type goggles the good doctor had on earlier.

PROF. COMPRESSOR

They're my specially designed gastrointestinal-spectra-flatchio-specs.

BETTY

Fart goggles?

PROF. COMPRESSOR

I'm impressed by your scientific continuity.

Betty smiles.

PROF. COMPRESSOR (CONT'D)

Using these goggles, you can see the size, scope and shape - and even sometimes the chemical contents - of Walter's farts.

BETTY
Contents? Ewwwww!

PROF. COMPRESSOR
Hey, I didn't invent farting, I just study it.

BILLY
So what good do these do us?

PROF. COMPRESSOR
Questions without answers. Until I speak. Very sly, indeed.
(then)
What was the question?

Billy holds up the goggles.

PROF. COMPRESSOR (CONT'D)
Oh, right. By experimenting with the changes in diet I have prescribed...

He whips out a loooooong piece of paper.

PROF. COMPRESSOR (CONT'D)
...You'll be able to figure out which foods make him fart the least. Then, mix and match until voila, presto, cardiggaleedunf...
(snaps his fingers)
No more farting!

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- LATER

The kids walk home, Walter at their side. Billy stares at the "fart goggles" Prof. Compressor gave them.

BETTY
Think it'll cure him?

Billy shrugs as he puts the "fart goggles" on.

BETTY (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

BILLY
I want to see if they work on people.

FART GOGGLE POV - Billy scans the area. Glances over at...

THE BUS STOP where a bunch of folks wait to get on. As the bus pulls up and people enter and exit, "clouds" fill the air all around them. From the punk rocker kid to the fat lady to even the little toddler getting off with her mother.

Billy's jaw drops.

BETTY

Well?

BILLY

I'm never taking the bus again.

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE (BASEMENT) -- LATER

A bunch of foods, beverages and Arlene's spices are lined up on the ironing board along with measuring cups, mixing bowls and other "scientific" gear.

Nearby, Billy reads off the piece of paper Professor Compressor gave them as...

BILLY

...one Rice Krispy Treat...

Next to him, Betty - dressed like a mini-scientist - makes the concoction, adding Rice Krispies to a container that already has something in it.

At their feet, Walter barks. Rice Krispy Treat? I like it! He stands on his hind legs and nudges the box back toward Billy.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Nice try. One Rice Krispy Treat.
(reads again)
...two teaspoons root beer...and
a...smidge of garlic.

Walter covers his face. Uck!

BETTY

Garlic? Are you sure?

BILLY

(holds up the list)
Are you Professor Compressor?

Betty shrugs and adds it.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Shake and serve.

Betty shakes the container then pours the contents of Prof. Compressor's recommended potion into a bowl.

BETTY

Here, Walter.

Walter trudges over and tries the anti-fart elixir. Billy goggles up as Walter finishes the food. They wait then...

PFFFFFFT! Walter lets out a massive fart.

FART GOGGLE POV - as a cloud fills the basement. From the laundry chute above...

ARLENE (O.S.)

(coughs)

Good God!

BETTY

Uh, what's next on the list?

Billy looks over Prof. Compressor's list and...

BEGIN MONTAGE

As the kids try all these different potions. With increasingly crazier and crazier foods, spices and beverages.

After making each one, Betty slides the bowl in front of an increasingly reluctant Walter as Billy puts on the goggles and waits. But, after each time...Walter farts. However...

The farts seem to be getting smaller until finally Walter eats and...nothing. No farts!

Betty and goggled-Billy exchange looks. Billy glances again at Walter's rear end. He turns back to his sister and shakes his head. It's clear.

END MONTAGE as...

BETTY (CONT'D)

That's it!

BILLY

(reading ingredients)

Onion, eggplant, paprika and coffee.

BETTY

Isn't this great, Walter!?

And as Betty runs up the steps shouting...

BETTY (CONT'D)

Mom! Dad! Walter's cured!

...Find Walter who, with a new diet of onion, eggplant, paprika and coffee, doesn't exactly look thrilled.

BILLY

Now we're ready to hit the town.

EXT. PARK -- LATER

A series of loud bangs emanate from behind a nearby tree.

POP!POP!POP!POP!POP!

Find Greg Swan and his crew lighting off firecrackers.

Watching behind the fence is Billy and - sporting a spike collar just like Brutus - Walter, looking more like he's fighting to control himself than looking cured.

Suddenly, Greg Swan looks up and spots Billy.

GREG

What do you want, fraternal freak?

At first, Billy doesn't say anything. Greg approaches.

GREG (CONT'D)

Well?

Again, no answer.

GREG (CONT'D)

Maybe your dog can speak for you.

The others laugh. Finally...

BILLY

This is...

(trying to make it
sound scary)

Walter. I rescued him from the dog
pound.

(then, for effect)

Where he was just about to be killed.

Now Billy has their attention. Even Greg's head perks up.

BILLY (CONT'D)

He was on death row.

GREG'S FRIEND

Why were they gonna kill him?

BILLY

Because he was the meanest, most
vicious dog they'd ever seen at the
pound.

Greg looks at Walter. This dog? Mean?

Billy tugs on Walter's leash. Show them. Walter growls...then
chokes on something. Gags. Almost pukes...then growls again.

BILLY (CONT'D)
(taps his head)
Crazy mean.

Billy seems to be connecting with them. But as Greg sizes up Walter and Billy, Betty wanders into the park wearing...the fart goggles! Billy is horrified.

BETTY
Billy! Billy!

She approaches.

BETTY (CONT'D)
You're not going to believe what I saw with these. You gotta check out that couple over there...

FART GOGGLE POV - where a guy and a girl are on a date. The girl looks pained. Each time the guy turns around, a small cloud pops up behind her.

BETTY (CONT'D)
...Every time the guy--

GREG
Ain't it a little early for ski season?

BETTY
They're not ski goggles, they're fart goggles.

GREG
Fart goggles?

Uh oh, Betty's getting nervous. Billy shoots her a look. Please don't. But she can't help it. She starts talking...

BETTY
Farts are produced by intestinal gas formed by the air we breath, chemical reactions in our intestines, gas seeping from our bloodstream into our intestines, and bacteria living in our intestines. And these goggles--

Billy's dying. She's gonna ruin everything. So...

BILLY
What are you talking about, fraternal freak?

Greg and his friends laugh. Betty's stunned.

BETTY

Billy--?

BILLY

Go on. Scram. And take your farting
ski goggles with you.

Betty's crushed. She turns and heads for the fence. For
home. Billy turns back to Greg...

BILLY (CONT'D)

Sisters. What a pain.

Beat.

GREG

Wanna light some firecrackers with
us?

The moment he's been waiting for. Billy nods and heads toward
them. But Walter digs in his heels. Billy looks back to see
why: Walter's staring at Betty, who's trudging off, all alone.

Billy's momentarily torn. Then...

BILLY

C'mon, Walter.

MOMENTS LATER

POP!POP!POP!POP!

Greg lights off a string of little firecrackers which, to 10
and 11 year old boys, is pure magic.

Lighting another match, Greg gets ready to set off another
string of Black Cats on the ground. Bending down...

GREG

(to Billy)

You want to try some?

Billy nods. Acceptance is here!

GREG (CONT'D)

Ok. Next batch, you can--

He doesn't even finish the sentence because...

PEFFFFFEET! Walter lets out a massive fart, one that had
been building since the kids thought they cured him. And
it's directed right at Greg and the lit match.

WHOOOOSH! Hitting the flame, a giant fireball shoots out at
Greg Swan. And on his scream...

INT. POLICE STATION HALLWAY -- LATER

Billy and Walter wait as, behind a closed door...

ARLENE (O.S.)
...Is he going to be ok?

POLICE OFFICER (O.S.)
The paramedics assured me his eyebrows
would grow back.

Billy's eyes go wide.

ARLENE (O.S.)
Please let his family know how sorry
we are about the accident.

Arlene walks out of the office. She's not happy.

ARLENE (CONT'D)
Let's go. Now.

BILLY
But mom, we were just playing and--

ARLENE
Playing with firecrackers?! And see
what happened!? It's always fun
until somebody loses an eye...brow.
You can explain it to your father
when he gets home.

And on that most dreaded of motherly threats...

INT. BILLY'S ROOM -- LATER

Billy eyes the clock like a prisoner on death row when the
sound of a car pulling in the driveway grabs his attention.

As Walter covers his face with his paws...

INT. FOYER -- CONTINUOUS

Arlene enters to see a dejected Tom come in the door.

ARLENE
What's wrong?

TOM
My boss is sending me out of town on
this...stupid assignment in Indiana.
Career Siberia. He blames me for
costing the company Alan's account.
So now I have to fly to the plant in
Indiana on Friday. Then--

ARLENE

This weekend?! I'm supposed to go to St. Louis and visit my sister this weekend! She's due on Friday!

TOM

Oh, Chr--What do you want me to do? Quit my job? Pack us up and move again?

ARLENE

Isn't that just what's going to happen anyway at some point?

TOM

That is not fair and you know it!

As Tom starts to storm past her...

ARLENE

Well, I guess now wouldn't be the best time to tell you what happened at the park today with Billy.

INT. BILLY'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Billy tries to listen to his folks' "conversation." When he can't hear, he goes over to the laundry chute and sticks his head inside to see if that helps. Walter just watches when...

TOM (O.S.)

Billy! Get down here!

INT. KITCHEN -- LATER

Billy sits at the table with Arlene as Tom stands nearby. Betty watches it all from the doorway.

TOM

I thought he was cured?!

BILLY

So did I.

TOM

Well, obviously he's not.

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Sitting under the kitchen window listening, Walter's head drops.

INT. KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

BILLY

Dad, it was an accident. I--

TOM

That accident singed the eyebrows
off that poor little boy!

BILLY

But Walter--

Hearing Walter's name, Arlene loses it...

ARLENE

Don't get me started about that
stinking dog! I cook and I clean
and I move. And I do all three a
hell of a lot. Yes, your mom said
hell. And there's more where that
came from. Because the one time I
get a chance to get away - to see my
sister - that dog almost blows it!
So I don't want to hear it. I don't
care. Dog? What dog? Not listening.

They all stare at her, June Cleaver gone mad. Finally...

TOM

What your...obviously stressed out
mother is trying to say is, I have
to go out of town for work for a few
days and your mom's going to visit
Aunt Kaye. And while we're gone, her
Uncle Irv is going to stay with you.

In the doorway, Betty's eyes go wide. Not mom's Uncle Irv!

TOM (CONT'D)

But when we get back we'll...I think
we should take Walter back.

BETTY

Dad!

TOM

I'm sorry. But he has to go.

Tom and Arlene exit the kitchen.

BILLY

Maybe you were right.

BETTY

About what?

BILLY

Maybe we should've gotten a cat
instead of a dumb dog after all.
He's been nothing but a disaster
since we got him.

Hearing something, the kids glance outside to see...Walter,
head down, trudging away from the window. He heard it all.

Betty just shakes her head at her brother...before leaving
him all alone in the kitchen.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- MORNING

Two taxis sit out front, one for Tom, one for Arlene.

TOM

Have fun. Relax. Read a book.

He hugs her before they climb into their respective rides to
the airport. As the cab doors shut...

INT. BILLY'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

...Billy's eyes flutter open. Getting out of bed, he glances
around the room. Looks down at the doggie bed: empty.

INT. HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

Billy trudges toward the bathroom, stopping first at...

INT. BETTY'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Not the typical little girl's room. Instead of stuffed
animals and posters of boy bands, this room is decorated
with the periodic table, a poster of Albert Einstein and the
only "toy" - a Lego replica of the Capitol Building.

Billy peers in. But no sign of Walter. Hmm. That's strange.

INT. KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

Billy enters the kitchen and notices Walter's untouched food
dish when...

UNCLE IRV (O.S.)

There he is!

Before Billy can even defend himself, Uncle Irv is messing
up his hair and rubbing his skull with his knuckles.

UNCLE IRV (CONT'D)

Who's your favorite relative?

He keeps grinding his knuckles on Billy's noggin. Messing up his hair even more. Answering like a POW who'd do anything to stop the torture...

BILLY
You are, Uncle Irv.

UNCLE IRV
Atta, boy.

Uncle Irv finishes off his morning "hello" with a pinch to the cheek. As Billy rubs his face...

BILLY
Have you seen Walter?

UNCLE IRV
(like a Mexican
gunfighter)
No, senor. I have not seen El Stinko.

And as Uncle Irv pulls his "finger guns" out of two invisible holsters and "shoots" Billy...

INT. BASEMENT -- MOMENTS LATER

Billy stands at the bottom of the steps and...

BILLY
Walter?

Nothing.

EXT. BACKYARD -- MOMENTS LATER

Starting to get worried, Billy exits the house, searching for the dog.

BILLY
Walter! C'mere, boy!

But Walter doesn't come running.

Noticing something at the rear of the backyard, Billy rushes over to discover...

A SMALL HOLE dug under the fence.

INT. HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

Betty trudges toward the bathroom when Billy comes racing up the steps. Out of breath and totally frazzled.

BILLY
Walter ran away!

EXT. HIGHWAY -- SAME TIME

Cars whiz past in both directions. And there, near the side of the road is...

WALTER who trudges along, head down, something clutched in his jaw. Moving closer reveal he's carrying the picture of the kids and himself. And as he continues on his way...

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- LATER

Billy, Betty nearby, pleads with seemingly nobody in front of Karl's destroyed-but-under-repair animal control truck.

BILLY

...And when I got up this morning,
he was gone! He dug under the fence.

Suddenly, Karl rolls out from under the Critter Catcher. Furrows his brow, very understanding.

KARL

Oh no, your little doggie ran away?

Billy nods.

KARL (CONT'D)

Well, don't you two worry about it.
I'll make sure we get him back. Ok?

Billy nods and Karl gives them the biggest it's-gonna-be-ok look imaginable. Behind him, Larry has approached and nods in sympathetic agreement.

Billy shuffles off and disappears with Betty around the corner. Karl looks at his battered truck then turns to Larry and smiles...

KARL (CONT'D)

Payback time.

SMASH CUT TO:

Karl addressing the other dog catchers...

KARL (CONT'D)

All right, listen up, people. Our fugitive has been on the run for ninety minutes. Average paw speed over uneven ground barring injuries, scratching himself and chasing his tail is four miles per hour. That gives us a radius of six miles.

(MORE)

KARL (CONT'D)

What I want from each and every one of you is a hard-target search of every gas station, residence, warehouse, farmhouse, henhouse, outhouse and doghouse in that area.

(then)

Especially doghouses. For obvious reasons.

(beat)

Your fugitive's name is Walter the farting dog. Go get him.

And on their roar...

EXT. STREET CORNER -- LATER

Walter, picture still in his mouth, stands in an alley doorway near the corner, unsure where to go. As people pass, but not knowing where the smell is coming from...

WOMAN

Ewwwwgh!

MAN

What's that smell?

Hearing them, Walter slinks off into the shadows.

EXT. CITY DUMP -- LATER

Piles and piles of smelly waste. A couple stray cats in the distance. Moving past the mounds of trash find...

Walter, who's finally found a place where nobody will notice his smell. Flies buzz all around him. That is until...

PPFFFT! Walter farts and the flies drop right out of the sky.

Walter lowers his head. Ashamed and feeling lower than ever.

Suddenly, the sound of scratching catches his attention. Walter glances around but doesn't see anything. Yet...

Thhhhh. Thhhhh. Thhhhh. The scratching sound continues.

Walter trots toward a pile of debris where he thinks it's coming from.

THHHHHH! THHHHHH! THHHHHH!

The sound getting louder indicates he's right. He starts sniffing the ground near a large piece of pipe. He glances in the pipe to see...

TWO EYES staring back at him.

Walter jumps back, startled...and crashes into some cans. Picking himself up, he slowly approaches the pipe again.

Peers inside to see a pair of eyes just as scared as he is.

THHHHH! THHHHH! THHHHH! The trapped animal claws away. Help!

Getting an idea, Walter goes around to the back of the pipe to see...

A small piece of the animal's tail sticking out. Walter sets down the picture of the kids and himself that's he's carrying then barks as if to warn the animal inside what he's about to do.

THHHHH! THHHHH! THHHHH! comes the reply. Got it.

Walter latches onto a bit of tail and yanks. Nothing. He yanks again. Still nothing. Finally, he gives it one last mighty tug and...

POP! Walter goes tumbling backwards as does the animal he just freed:

A SKUNK.

EXT. ALLEYWAY -- LATER

A couple of stray dogs dig through a trash can when...

Karl's banged up animal control truck appears at the end of the alley.

The dogs look up.

INT. CRITTER CATCHER -- SAME TIME

Karl eyes his prey through his still-cracked windshield. In the passenger seat next to him, Larry buckles his seatbelt. Tight.

EXT. ALLEYWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Like old gunfighters, Karl and the dogs stare at each other from opposite ends of the long alleyway.

The dogs emit a low growl. Karl guns the engine.

Each waits for the other to make the first move as a newspaper blows across the alley like a modern-day tumble weed.

Suddenly...the dogs dart off in different directions.

INT. CRITTER CATCHER -- CONTINUOUS

Karl smiles.

KARL

It's go time.

As he stomps down on the accelerator...

EXT. ALLEYWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Smoke pours out where tires meet pavement, searching for traction until finally...

Screeeeeeeech!

...The truck lurches forward and shoots down the alleyway.

The chase is on!

EXT. CITY DUMP -- SAME TIME

Walter begins walking away. Behind him, the skunk starts making "skunk noises" as if to thank Walter.

Walter nods, picks up the picture of the kids and keeps walking.

The skunk runs after him, following alongside Walter on a piece of pipe. Trying to hang out with his new buddy.

Walter doesn't stop but the skunk won't give up. He continues along on the pipe, chattering away: Eek-eek-eek-e--!

Before the skunk can even finish...

PFFFFFT! Walter farts, staggering the skunk who tumbles over, falling off the pipe.

Walter stops and stares at the skunk. Hangs his head - I did it again. To a skunk even!

The skunk pulls himself up. Starts chattering away again as if to say, "I'm ok, I'm ok."

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET -- SAME TIME

Billy, wearing the fart goggles, and Betty cruise up the streets on their bikes as...

BILLY

Here Walter!

BETTY

C'mere boy!

Suddenly, via the goggle POV, Billy spots a giant fart cloud come over a nearby fence.

BILLY

Walter?!

Billy races over and peeks over the fence to see...his teacher, Ms. Schembri, the cloud still all around her.

MS. SCHEMBRI

Hello, Billy. What are you doing here?

EXT. CRITTER CATCHER -- LATER

Larry watches the master at work: Karl addressing a couple of just-captured dogs and a cat, caged in the back of his truck. Among them are the dogs from the alleyway.

KARL

Thought you could get away? Was that it? Gonna run...free. Go a little crazy?

(shakes his head)

Well not on my streets. Un uh.

(to the dogs)

Isn't the word out yet in...

Doggieville? Huh? That I always get my mutt?

(to the cat)

What about you...

(checking its nametag)

...Mister Cuddles, didn't they send out the memo in Kittytown that you can't outsmart the Karl-ossus, the Karlanator, the...

(then, out of fancy names)

Me. Can't outsmart me.

He eyes each of the animals, like a warden staring down his prisoners. Having sufficiently established who's boss...

KARL (CONT'D)

But today, today just might be somebody's lucky day. Because I need a little information.

(then)

I'm looking for a dog.

(shows Walter's picture)

This dog. This...farting machine of a dog. Anybody seen him?

Nothing but blank stares. He moves the picture in front of each of them.

KARL (CONT'D)
You sure? Nobody?

More blank stares from the animals.

KARL (CONT'D)
That how it's gonna be? Because,
things can happen in my custody.
For instance, just because you have
a tag, they have a way of...
(he reaches in and
yanks the tag off
one of the dogs)
...Falling off. Then, since I can't
contact anybody, well, I'm not always
able to make a happy reunification
between owner and pet if you know
what I mean.

He pauses, letting his words sink in. Then...

KARL (CONT'D)
So, who wants to go home and who
wants to go to the pound? Huh?
It's a very simple choice. Just
need a little information.

The cat starts to pace in its cage. Sensing blood in the
water...

KARL (CONT'D)
What about you, Mister Cuddles? You
wanna go home or you wanna go to the
pound?

Beat.

The cat meows.

And as Karl smiles...

EXT. CITY DUMP -- LATER

As Walter and the skunk sit atop a trash pile looking out
over the city below, the skunk nudges him - What's that
picture in your mouth?

Walter sets it down and shows him.

The skunk looks at the picture, at Walter. Starts making
noises. I get it. Soooooo sorry.

Walter hangs his head. Woof. Thanks.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- SAME TIME

Riding past some homes in the neighborhood that aren't as well kept up, the kids continue their search for Walter.

BETTY

Well, least we know who's been cutting the cheese in class, now.

As they pass one house with crap all over the front yard and an engine block hanging from the tree. Suddenly...

RAAAA! RAAAAA! RAAAAA! A giant Rottweiler rushes at them, jaws flashing!

Billy swerves and nearly falls off his bike as he jolts to a stop. And here comes that dog. Right for Billy. It's gonna be ugly when...

CLUNG! The beast reaches the end of its thick metal chain just before devouring Billy, but that still doesn't quiet him.

RAAAA! RAAAAA! RAAAAA!

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Shut up, you stupid dog!

RAAAA! RAAAAA! RAAAAA!

MALE VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Brutus! Shut up!

Hearing the dog's name, Billy takes off the goggles, his eyes wide, which go even wider when out of the house steps...

GREG SWAN who looks ridiculous with a bandage over each eyebrow and singed bangs. Seeing Billy and Betty...

GREG

(to Billy)

You looking for me?

Billy doesn't answer. Swallows hard.

BETTY

We're looking for our dog.

GREG

Did I ask you?

BILLY

I'm sorry about what happened...to your face. It wasn't on purpose.

Greg takes a step toward Billy who swallows hard when...

GREG'S MOTHER looks through the screen door.

GREG'S MOTHER
Greg, honey, dinner's ready.

GREG
(sweet as punch)
Just a minute, mom. I'm talking to
some friends from school.

GREG'S MOTHER
Well, why don't you invite them in
for dinner?

Billy's face goes white.

GREG
They can't.
(whispers to Billy)
Next time I see you, you're dead.
D-E-D, dead.

And as Greg turns to walk inside...

BETTY
D-E-D? Dead isn't spelled that way.
It's d--

Billy grabs Betty's arm to quiet her and starts to ride off.
Betty quickly pedals after him.

BILLY
What are you doing back there?

BETTY
He spelled it wrong.

BILLY
So what?! He wants to beat me up,
not win a spelling bee!

And as Billy shakes his head and pedals on...

EXT. CITY DUMP -- SAME TIME

The animal control truck pulls into the dump.

INT. CRITTER CATCHER -- CONTINUOUS

Like the Terminator cruising the streets for Sarah Connor,
Karl, behind his cheap sunglasses, scans the area for his
prey while he drives.

EXT. CITY DUMP -- CONTINUOUS

The damaged Critter Catcher weaves its way through mounds of trash. But no sign of Walter.

The truck heads toward the last pile of trash. The one Walter and his skunk friend were sitting atop.

The truck pulls up to it but...they're gone. Walter's no longer at the dump.

INT. ANIMAL CONTROL TRUCK -- CONTINUOUS

Karl turns to the mesh wire separating him from the caged animals in the back of the truck.

KARL
(to the cat)
So much for going free today, Mr.
Cuddles.

Meeeeooooow!

KARL (CONT'D)
Oh, meow-meow-meow. Daddy don't pay
for coulda, shoulda, woulda.

Just then, the truck's radio crackles to life.

DISPATCH (V.O.)
Unit 3, we got a 10-42 at the park.
This is not a drill.

And as Karl punches the gas...

EXT. PARK -- SAME TIME

A beautiful, idyllic day at the park. People ride bikes. Families have picnics. A Latino family has a children's birthday party, complete with pinata. Lovers sit against trees, wooing each other.

Suddenly, a murmur races through the tranquil setting. People begin coughing and grabbing their noses. Then eyes widen and people start to scream as...

The folks at the park begin fleeing like residents of Tokyo in a Godzilla flick. To heighten this effect...

LATINO CHILD
(pointing off, plugging
his nose)
Mofeta! Mofeta!

Subtitles: Skunk! Skunk!

As everyone continues running off in different directions, even leaving the birthday boy still swinging away at the pinata, reveal...

Walter (the picture safely tucked in his collar) and his new skunk friend cutting through the park.

Seeing what he's caused all around him, Walter hangs his head, makes a sound as if to say, "Sorry."

The skunk snorts in reply. No big deal. Heck, he's so used to it, he decides to have a little fun with the situation.

Suddenly, the skunk stands on its hind legs and starts making as much noise as his little body can muster. As he does, add GODZILLA SFX! Cross cut with people fleeing.

Then, just as quickly, the skunk drops back down and starts walking again. His fun for the day over.

Walter and the skunk head over to a deserted picnic and start eating some of the food left behind. After chowing down for a moment, Walter glances around. There's nothing to drink.

Spotting a water fountain about 20 yards away, Walter goes to quench his thirst. After he disappears, suddenly...

SHOW THE PARK BEING SCANNED THROUGH BINOCULARS. It rakes back and forth before - Aha! - settling on...

THE SKUNK, centered in the cross hairs. Reveal...

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PARK, where Karl spies on the skunk with binoculars as Larry keeps the other park visitors watching the unfolding drama at a safe distance behind him.

LARRY

Never fear, Karl is...arrived.

KARL

(snaps his fingers)

Snare pole.

Whoosh! Larry throws it to him.

KARL (CONT'D)

Watch and learn, folks. This is what we train for.

And as Karl heads toward the unsuspecting skunk...

NEAR THE WATER FOUNTAIN, Walter finishes getting a drink when he looks up to see...

Karl sneaking up on the skunk as he readies his snare pole.

No time to lose. Walter darts off.

KARL starts extending the snare pole toward the still-eating skunk.

WALTER races for his friend.

THE NOOSE of the snare pole is just large enough to fit around the skunk's head, now only inches away.

WALTER might not make it so...Woof!...he barks.

The skunk looks up just as the snare pole closes down but...

Walter leaps, knocking the skunk out of the way as...

WHOOOSH! The snare pole clutches shut around Walter's neck. Captured!

Unsure what to do at first, the skunk just stands there. But, clearing that up quickly, Walter barks. Woof! Run!

And the skunk does, right for the nearby tree line. But Karl doesn't even make an attempt to go after him because...

KARL (CONT'D)

Well, well, well. We meet again.

From the trees, the skunk watches as Walter is dragged away, the picture of Billy and Betty falling out of his collar.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- LATER

CLANK! A cage door slams shut, Walter locked behind it.

INT. BILLY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Billy lays in bed staring up at the ceiling.

BILLY

It's all my fault. After what I said.
I--do you think he'll come back?

Across the hallway, INTERCUT AS NEEDED WITH...

INT. BETTY'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Betty stares up at her own ceiling.

BETTY

I don't know. But I have an idea.
And we'll go looking for him again
tomorrow. And again after that.

BILLY

Thanks.

BETTY

Why? He's my dog, too.

(beat, then)

Billy?

BILLY

Yeah?

BETTY

I would have never done that to you.

What you did to me at the park.

Turning on me to be...liked by a
bunch of jerks.

Billy doesn't answer.

BETTY (CONT'D)

I just want you to know that.

INT. BILLY'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Not knowing what to say, Billy looks out the window. And as he stares out at the full moon...

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- SAME TIME

Walter, locked in a cage, also looks out at the moon.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. RUNDOWN PART OF TOWN -- MORNING

Billy and Betty plead with Professor Compressor who peers at them through the peephole of his storefront office.

BETTY

...And we've looked everywhere.

BILLY

(holds up fart goggles)

Even using these. Still nothing.

PROF. COMPRESSOR

An obviously redundant revelation.
Those are simply to study the farts
not find the farter. To market them
as such would be quite contradictory.
Theoretically speaking, of course.

BETTY

Can you help us find him?

PROF. COMPRESSOR

After I already informed you of his unique faculty for flatulence only to have said insight ignored? Ergo, ie, zidbit - why should I help you this time?

BILLY

(starting to tear up)

Please. I...don't want to lose him.

PROF. COMPRESSOR

(beat, then...)

Come along, come along.

And on the sound of door being unlocked...

INT. PROF. COMPRESSOR'S OFFICE -- LATER

A device, slightly larger than an iPod with a wire running to a mic-sized sensor attached to it, sits on a table as...

PROF. COMPRESSOR

...It's my specially designed gastrointestinal-spectra-flatchio-meter.

BETTY

A fart-o-meter?

PROF. COMPRESSOR

Oh no no no. This time your stab at probable pronounceability is mistaken. It's a far-tometer.

BETTY

Isn't that the same thing?

PROF. COMPRESSOR

You say tomato, I say far-tometer.

EXT. CITY STREETS -- LATER

VARIOUS SHOTS of the city as the kids ride through town. Passing their SCHOOL, riding by the PARK, everywhere. Billy sweeping each area with the fartometer as we hear...

PROF. COMPRESSOR (V.O.)

Using a fart sample from Walter's last visit, this device will detect minute traces of his flatulence in the area while filtering out OPFs.

BETTY (V.O.)

OPFs?

PROF. COMPRESSOR (V.O.)
 Other People's Farts. And best of
 all, no visual verification is vital.
 Ergo, ie, zidbit - you don't have to
 be able to see the farts to find the
 farter!

Finally, as they bike past...

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- MOMENTS LATER

...ZZZzzz--Zzzzz--ZZZZZ! The fartometer squawks to life!

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- MOMENTS LATER

Billy and Betty talk to Karl who sits behind his desk picking
 his teeth and reading the latest issue of DOG CATCHER MONTHLY,
 Larry nearby.

BILLY
 ...I just wondered if anybody turned
 in my dog.

KARL
 Sorry. Can't say I heard nothing.
 (to Larry)
 You heard anything?

Larry shakes his head. Nope. Haven't heard anything. Karl
 shrugs. Sorry.

Billy and Betty turn to go when down the hall behind them...

Woof! Woof!

The kids stop. That bark sounds familiar.

BILLY
 Walter?

Woof, woof, woof!

BETTY
 You sure nobody found our dog?

Karl gets up from his desk. Walks around and starts showing
 the kids out.

KARL
 Positive. But if we hear anything--

Then, from somewhere down the hall...PFFFFT! A massive fart
 sounds. The other dogs start howling.

The needle on the fartometer spikes. ZZZZZZ--ZZZZ--ZZZZ!

BILLY

Walter!

Billy breaks free from Karl and runs down the hall toward the animal cages.

KARL

Hey, you can't go back there!

Too late.

NEAR THE ANIMAL CAGES, Billy races down the aisle as...

BILLY

Walter?

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Billy races up to find...Walter locked up in one of the cages. Seeing Billy, the dog goes nuts.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Walter, I knew we'd find you! I'm so sorry, boy. I'm sooooo sorry!

Billy sticks his hand inside the cage and Walter practically licks the skin off as Karl and Betty rush up behind him.

BETTY

Give us our dog back!

KARL

Ain't your dog. 'Cording to the papers on file, this here dog is owned by a Mr. Tom Coleman.

BILLY

That's our dad!

KARL

Well, I suggest you bring him down here then.

BETTY

But our parents are out of town until next week!

KARL

(exchanging looks
with Larry)

That so? Well, come talk to me when mommy and daddy get back in.

(then)

If it's not too late.

And on Karl's laugh...

CUT TO:

HOME-DRAWN DIAGRAMS of the dog pound complete with stick figures of a poorly drawn "Walter" locked in a cage and "Big Jerk" sporting a "Karl" nametag. Dotted lines show three potential escape routes.

On the sound of a keyboard clacking away, pull back to reveal...

INT. BETTY'S ROOM -- NIGHT

...Where Betty furiously works away on her computer, Billy anxiously looking over her shoulder.

BILLY

How are we going to get him out if that guy won't let him go?

BETTY

(still typing)
I'm working on it.

ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN,

Betty types in her query on the Google homepage - "Breaking your dog out of the pound if that guy won't let him go"

She clicks on the "Google Search" button. And after a brief moment, the first 10 of 162,458 web links appear.

BETTY (CONT'D)

I love the Internet.

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- LATER

Uncle Irv finishes locking up the house and turning the lights off for the night.

Heading up the stairs, he opens Betty's door. Seeing her sound asleep, he gently closes the door and checks on...

Billy, who's also zonked out. Uncle Irv quietly shuts Billy's door. Suddenly...Billy's eyes pop open. As he pulls off the sheets revealing he's still dressed...

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD -- SAME TIME

All is quiet in suburbia until...Betty and Billy, backpack slung over his shoulder, sneak past some houses when...

A dog barks off in the distance and the kids freeze. But, realizing it has nothing to do with them, they continue on.

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- LATER

From across the street, the kids case the animal shelter.

Near the front door, the only thing they see is a small animal of some sort jumping around outside. Billy points...

BILLY

First time I ever saw an animal trying to get in the animal shelter.

Betty nods. Takes another look around. Except for the critter outside, the coast is clear.

The kids sneak across the street. As they get closer, reveal the animal outside the door is none other than...Walter's skunk friend.

Since he's viewed the picture of the kids that Walter was carrying, upon seeing Billy and Betty, the little skunk goes nuts. Jumping up and down.

The skunk keeps trying to get their attention but the kids don't acknowledge him.

Finally, the skunk turns and runs off toward the tree line.

BETTY

Ok, let's do it.

Billy takes off his backpack and opens it pulling out...

A screwdriver, wire cutters, a hammer, pliers, kite string, two Tupperware bowls, and a bag of M&M's.

BETTY (CONT'D)

What are the M&M's for?

Billy smiles...and eats a handful.

BILLY

Snack.

BETTY

(shakes her head)

Ok, let me take a look.

Billy bends down and Betty climbs up on his shoulders. He moves her in front of a small window where...

She peers inside and sees the hamster cages, Karl's office and the animal cages but...

BETTY (CONT'D)

Oh no! No, no, no!

DOWN BELOW, struggling not to drop his sister...

BILLY

What?

BETTY

They moved his cage!

BILLY

Whose?

BETTY

Walter! He's all the way in the
back now! It won't work.

She jumps down. Grabs her diagrams and starts shaking them.

BETTY (CONT'D)

All the calculations were made for
his cage being where we saw it!

She tears up the diagrams and slumps against the wall.

Billy slides down the wall next to her.

BETTY (CONT'D)

He might not make it until mom and
dad get back.

BILLY

Don't talk like that.

They both fall silent when...the skunk runs up, something in
his mouth. But the kids just ignore him until he walks over
and sets down the thing in his mouth right in front of them:

THE PICTURE OF WALTER, BILLY AND BETTY.

The kids' eyes go wide.

BETTY

(to the skunk)
Where'd you get this?

Eeee eeee eeeeeek!

BILLY

Maybe he knows Walter.

Eee eeee eeeeeek!

The skunk jumps against Billy's leg. Yes, I do!

Betty stares at the skunk. Looks back at the building. At
a GARDEN HOSE sitting in a heap outside the shelter.

BETTY
I've got it.

BILLY
What?

BETTY
Pick me up again.

Billy hoists her back up on his shoulder. She looks in the window again. Eyes the dog cages. The hamster cages next to Karl's office. Checks out the air duct running above it all. She hops back down. Looks around and spots...

A 7-11 across the street.

BETTY (CONT'D)
Ok, here's what I need you to do.

INT. 7-11 -- MOMENTS LATER

Billy buys something at the counter as...

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- SAME TIME

Betty makes some quick calculations in a notebook. From the looks of it, she puts Will Hunting to shame.

CUT TO:

Billy ties a bandanna with something in it around the skunk's neck then holds out the hose. The skunk clamps down on it with its teeth. Got it!

Next, Billy squats down, Betty picks up the skunk and climbs on his shoulder. Hands pressed against the wall for balance, Billy slowly makes his way over to the left.

BETTY
Got me?

Billy nods. Barely.

BETTY (CONT'D)
(to the skunk)
Good luck.

Eeee eeee eek!

She lifts the skunk above her head and places him inside the AIR DUCT.

And as Betty jumps down, both she and her brother stare up at the opening above. Hoping.

INT. AIR DUCT -- SAME TIME

The skunk scurries down the chute, pulling the hose along with him.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- SAME TIME

Caged animals look up as the sound of the skunk overhead echoes from the air duct. Among those looking up is...

WALTER.

But the skunk scurries right past him.

INT. AIR DUCT -- CONTINUOUS

The skunk keeps on his mission until he reaches an opening above...

THE HAMSTER CAGES.

The skunk then begins lowering the hose down toward them. When its right outside their cage, the skunk stops and scampers back down the air duct.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- MOMENTS LATER

Hearing something above his cage, Walter looks up to see the skunk's eyes staring back at him.

Woof!

Eee eee eek!

Walter's tail starts wagging as...

The skunk lowers himself to within inches of Walter's cage ala Tom Cruise in MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. He then slides the other end of the hose inside toward his pal.

Next, the skunk slips the bandanna off his neck and opens it up revealing it's filled with...

Rice Krispy Treats!

The skunk takes one and holds it out over Walter's cage before letting go...

...Where the contents fall into Walter's cage. As the skunk rises back up the hose, Walter just stares at the food dropped into his cage until...

THROUGH THE GLASS DOORS, the kids scream something at him from outside. Walter tilts his head. What?

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- SAME TIME

The kids yell away...

BILLY/BETTY

Eat! Eat the treats! Remember?
Rice Krispies, root beer and garlic?
They make you fart!

And as they start miming away...

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- SAME TIME

Walter watches the kids mime stuffing food in their mouths... then act out farting. Massive farting. Into the hose.

Ahhhh, now Walter gets it. He begins chowing away on the treats. And chowing. And chowing. Until, moments later...

PFFFFFF! He farts.

INT. AIR DUCT -- CONTINUOUS

The skunk watches as a giant fart bubble races up the hose, past him and toward...

INT. HAMSTER CAGES -- CONTINUOUS

...Where the hamsters sleep. Peacefully. That is until...

PFFFFFF!

A giant fart bursts out of the hose, waking them instantly. The little critters cough and rub their eyes. But before they can even get their bearings...

PFFFFFF!

Another fart explodes from the hose. The hamsters are wide awake now.

As a third fart blasts through their cage, attempting to get away from the god-awful smell, the hamsters all start running like hell on their little hamster wheels creating a wind current which begins blowing papers on Karl's desk before...

Knocking over the almost-empty Coke can which...

Rolls off and knocks over a broom which...

Tips over and smacks into an iPod which tumbles off the shelf continuing the Rube Goldberg-esque sequence which ultimately causes the coat stand to tumble into the key ring hanging on a hook which...

Whoooosh! Ends up shooting the keys out into the hall where...
The skunk retrieves them and...

EXT/INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- MOMENTS LATER

...Slips out of the building, dropping them at the feet of the kids!

Billy immediately gets to work testing the keys in the lock. No, no, no, n-- click! Bingo!

The kids slip inside and head for...

BILLY/BETTY

Walter!

Woof! Woof! Woof!

Next to the kids, the skunk goes nuts as well...

Eeee eeee eeeek!

The kids quickly free Walter and head for the doors, the other caged animals going crazy all around them, including Mr. Cuddles and some of the others we've seen before.

The kids stop. Glance around at these animals. Exchange looks with each other. And on their "Are you thinking the same thing I'm thinking" look...

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- MOMENTS LATER

All the recently freed animals run like hell from the building. Passing Billy, Betty, Walter and the skunk, Mr. Cuddles the cat stops for a brief moment...

Meeeeooooow! Before bolting off into the night.

BILLY

Think we're in trouble?

BETTY

If we get caught? Most definitely.

BILLY

Better get going then. C'mon, Walter.

Nearby, the skunk looks around and...finds the picture of Walter and the kids. He picks it up and brings it to Walter, setting it in front of him.

Walter looks up at the kids. Back at the skunk. Realizing what Walter's asking...

EXT. PARK -- MOMENTS LATER

The kids and their saved dog cut through the park on the way home. Reveal...the skunk next to them.

BETTY
You're explaining this one to mom
and dad. Not me.

BILLY
He can stay in the woods behind the
house. I think--

GREG (O.S.)
I think somebody's gonna get it.

The kids look up to see Greg Swan, his dog Brutus and Greg's minions hanging out in the park.

And as for Greg, he looks totally silly now with two huge eyebrows where his normal ones used to be. Put it this way, Michael Dukakais' eyebrows weren't this pronounced.

Greg looks at Billy, Betty, Walter and the skunk.

GREG (CONT'D)
Would you look at this? Stink,
stank, stunk and their friend the
skunk.

His minions laugh, but Billy is transfixed, staring at Greg's enormous new eyebrows.

GREG (CONT'D)
What are you looking at!?

BILLY
N-n-nothing.

GREG
(points at his eyebrows)
You think it's funny! Having to get
an eyebrow transplant!

Greg spins around revealing two missing strips of hair near his neckline. Spinning back...

GREG (CONT'D)
No, it's not! And you're gonna pay.
(then)
Brutus watch this dog. And if he
moves, bite him. And if he farts,
bite him harder.

GRRRRRRRRRRFFFF! With pleasure.

Greg's posse circles around.

GREG (CONT'D)
Just you and me now, Billy boy.

Greg pushes him. Billy doesn't respond.

GREG (CONT'D)
That's what I thought. Too much of
a sissy to defend yourself.

Greg pushes him again. Billy's shoulder goes flying back
from the impact. But still no response.

GREG (CONT'D)
C'mon, I'll even give you the first
punch.

Greg puts up his fists for a fight but nothing comes his
way. Greg starts laughing as do his friends.

GREG (CONT'D)
Maybe his sister hits harder.

BETTY
Leave him alone!

GREG
Shut up, freak.

Greg pushes Betty backwards, sending her to the ground.
Greg and his crew laugh.

On the ground, Betty catches glances with her brother. And
something inside him snaps. Billy's fist clenches shut.

BILLY
Don't you ever touch my sister.

GREG
Why? What are you--?

Greg starts to turn back...and Billy swings. All the anger
and emotion inside of him packed into this one punch...

CRACK! Dropping Greg Swan like a deer. David has just felled
Goliath.

Billy stares at his fist. Did I do that?

Greg's friends, mouths agape, look on in awe as Billy stands
over their fallen leader until...Billy offers his hand to
Greg who, still rubbing his jaw, ignores it before dragging
himself off the ground.

An uneasy beat of silence as everyone simply stands there, not knowing what to do next. This is unfamiliar territory for everybody involved.

Attempting to regain the upper hand for his side, Brutus growls. Trying to be menacing. But it's too late. The tide has turned. Walter just farts in his face causing...

YIGH!YIGH!YIGH! Brutus to whimper and begin digging a hole toward China in an attempt to flee the smell.

Finally, Greg simply bolts off, Brutus next to him, as the posse disperses into the night.

Billy looks back down at his "magic hand." Like he'd never seen fingers before.

BETTY

How'd you do that?

Billy slowly shakes his head. I have no idea.

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- LATER

The kids, Walter and the skunk sneak back up to the house, try the door they left open and...it still is. Whew.

Billy turns to the skunk. Points...

BILLY

Check out those woods behind the house. So you can come visit Walter anytime, Mr. Skunk.

BETTY

But when he gets back, Dad said Walter--

BILLY

Don't say it. Because I'm not going to let that happen.

BETTY

How?

BILLY

I don't know yet.

Suddenly, Walter bolts inside the open door. Billy and Betty exchange looks.

Seconds later, Walter comes running back out of the house with something in mouth. And as Billy and Betty look at it and smile...

CUT TO:

THE BABY NAME BOOK as...

BETTY

...Jeff...Jeremy...Jesse...Jimmy...J--

The skunk starts jumping up and down. *Eek eek eek!*

BILLY

I guess it's Jimmy.

Eek eek eek! Woof!

BETTY

Oh, and one more thing...

CUT TO:

BETTY'S LEGO REPLICA OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING being set up just beyond the tree line.

BETTY (CONT'D)

So you have a nice place to stay.

Eek eek eek! And as the skunk scurries inside...

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

The kids creep down the hallway. Reaching their respective doorways, Betty turns to Billy...

BETTY

Thank you. For sticking up for me at the park.

BILLY

Impressive calculations back there at the pound, sis. Very impressive.

BETTY

Yeah?

(Billy nods)

I thought you thought I was a weirdo for being smart. Like everybody else.

BILLY

Actually I was the jerk for not seeing how cool it is. And someday, you're gonna be a great doctor or scientist and cure...cancer or something.

Woof! chimes in Walter.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Or farting.

Betty smiles. And as the kids disappear into their rooms, Walter following Billy...

INT. BILLY'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Billy crawls in bed, Walter hops in his doggie bed. Until Billy pats his mattress. C'mon up here. Walter jumps up.

BILLY

I won't let anybody take you. I promise. And if we have to, we'll just go somewhere. Together. Hey, I'm used to moving.

And as Walter curls up next to Billy...

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- LATER THAT NIGHT

The big house sits dark and quiet. All is finally good in the Coleman home.

INT. TOM AND ARLENE'S BEDROOM -- LATER

Uncle Irv still snores away. Louder than ever. As he does one of those snores that is so brutal he nearly chokes himself, his eyes pop open. Startled.

UNCLE IRV

Wha-the-who-the...?

He glances around trying to get his bearings. Pulls himself out of bed and heads to the bathroom. As he does...

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE (FAMILY ROOM) -- SAME TIME

Two pairs of legs carefully step through the house but, hearing someone walking around upstairs, they suddenly stop.

INT. TOM AND ARLENE'S BEDROOM -- SAME TIME

A toilet flushes offscreen and Uncle Irv trudges back toward his bed when...

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE (FAMILY ROOM) -- SAME TIME

One of the pair of legs takes a step...and lands on one of Walter's toys. SQUEEEEEAK.

INT. TOM AND ARLENE'S BEDROOM -- SAME TIME

Uncle Irv stops...and heads out into...

INT. HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

Uncle Irv emerges from the bedroom.

UNCLE IRV

Hello?

Hearing...something...coming from the living room, Uncle Irv starts down the steps.

UNCLE IRV (CONT'D)

Billy? Betty?

He walks downstairs...and spots someone hiding in the corner.

UNCLE IRV (CONT'D)

Wh-what are you doing?

And as he says it, Uncle Irv doesn't even notice the person sneaking up behind him.

INT. BETTY'S ROOM -- SAME TIME

Betty sleeps, a big ol' smile on her face.

INT. BILLY'S ROOM -- SAME TIME

Billy also sleeps, a huge smile on his face as well.

Next to him sleeps Walter. A huge gas bubble makes his stomach protrude and gurgle...but somehow Walter fights it off, his tail wrapped tightly between his legs. It's pure torture.

Suddenly, his eyes pops open. His head snaps up in that doggie, "I sense something" move.

Walter drags himself up, jumps out of the bed and heads to...

INT. HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Walter walks down the hall and starts down the stairs where...

EXT. STAIRCASE -- CONTINUOUS

He peers through the banister to see...

Uncle Irv tied to a chair in the living room, tape over his mouth. Uncle Irv spots Walter and tilts his head, drawing Walter's attention to...

TWO MASKED BURGLARS stuffing any valuable they can find into large duffel bags.

Before they can spot him, Walter quickly turns and runs back upstairs.

INT. BILLY'S ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Walter runs in, jumps on the bed and begins pawing Billy.

BILLY
(still sleeping)
Quit pushing me Greg or you're gonna
get it again. I'm warning you.

Since that's not working, Walter begins licking his face.

BILLY (CONT'D)
(still sleeping)
That's a really weird way to fight,
Greg.

Now even Walter shakes his head. So he leans in close to Billy's ear and makes a small barking noise.

Finally, Billy starts to come out of his slumber. Seeing Walter leaning over him...

BILLY (CONT'D)
What? You already went outside.

Walter attempts to pull him out of bed.

BILLY (CONT'D)
This better be important.

INT. STAIRCASE -- MOMENTS LATER

Billy and Walter watch from the landing as...

The two masked burglars continue quietly cleaning out the Coleman house.

And off Billy's look...

INT. BETTY'S ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Billy rustles his sister awake. Puts his finger over his mouth. Shhhh.

INT. STAIRCASE -- MOMENTS LATER

As Betty eyes what her brother just saw...

INT. BATHROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Betty puts down the cordless phone, whispers...

BETTY
Doesn't work. They must've done
something to the phones.

BILLY
So what should we--?

Feeling something on his leg, he looks down to see Walter clenching a SHAMPOO BOTTLE in his mouth. Walter sets the soap down and rubs his eyes. And as Billy smiles...

CUT TO:

The kids put soapy water - emphasis on soap - into Billy's...
SUPER SOAKER WATER GUN.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

As one of the burglars tries to jam a VCR into his bag, his partner stares at him.

BURGLAR #1
What are you doing?

BURGLAR #2
What does it look like I'm doing?
Taking the VCR.

BURGLAR #1
What for? Nobody watches tapes anymore. It's a dead format. Grab the DVD player.

BURGLAR #2
But all my soaps are on VHS.

Suddenly...

SQUIRT! SQUIRT! SQUIRT!

The burglars are drilled in the eyes with the soap water from the Super Soaker. They grab at their eyes as they spin around trying to fend off more soap to the face.

As they whirl through the living room, one of the burglars knocks over a lamp sending it crashing to the ground with a brief stop first on the foot of...

BURGLAR #1
Owww! OwOwOwOw!

BETTY
Hope you like jail!

She races to free Uncle Irv but...

The robbers are starting to get the soap out of their eyes.

BURGLAR #1
Why you little--!

Burglar #1 lunges for Betty who runs toward...

THE KITCHEN where...

THUNK!

...Walter opens the refrigerator door with his paw and Burglar #1 smacks into it on the dead run, sliding down it like a bad magnet.

IN THE LIVING ROOM,

Hearing the thud but not knowing who it came from...

BILLY
Betty!

He darts toward the kitchen but Burglar #2 cuts him off. Billy spins and dodges the other way but the Burglar follows.

Seeing Billy in trouble, Walter bolts over and grabs the power cord to the VCR in his mouth.

Suddenly, Billy races back past. Right behind him is the Burglar...until Walter clamps down on the cord and yanks causing...

The burglar to trip over the cord and go cartwheeling ass over teakettle...

CRASH!

...Right into the dining room table.

Just then, Betty scampers into the living room.

BETTY
Billy!

BILLY
I'm ok, I'm ok.

BETTY
We need to go get help.

Billy nods and the kids turn to run to the front door but...

Burglar #1 suddenly appears and steps in front of it.

BURGLAR #1
Party ain't over.

The kids, Walter at their heels, turn and bound for the steps, taking them in twos.

Burglar #2 staggers up behind his partner in crime.

BURGLAR #2

Where did the dog come from?

BURGLAR #1

I dunno. But they're all trapped upstairs.

(calling out)

Get down here right now! Make this easier on everybody.

Nothing.

BURGLAR #1 (CONT'D)

I'm gonna count to three and if you don't come down, we're coming up.

Nothing.

BURGLAR #1 (CONT'D)

Three. Ok, I warned you.

The Burglars take a first cautious step up the stairs.

BURGLAR #1 (CONT'D)

Here we come.

IN BILLY'S ROOM,

Walter glances around and - bingo! - spots his doggie bed, his bone lying in it.

ON THE STAIRCASE,

BURGLAR #1 (CONT'D)

You should've come down.

AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS,

Walter rushes out of Billy's bedroom -- clutching his doggie bed in his mouth -- as Billy and Betty hook Arlene's resistance tubing to the banister on one side, a doorknob on the other.

Setting down the doggie bed, Walter grabs his huge ol' bone out of it and rushes over to Billy. Billy places it in the tubing. Walter bites down and starts pulling back on his bone, stretching the tubing back. Tighter. Further.

ON THE STAIRCASE,

The two Burglars creep up when, spotting something at the top...

BURGLAR #2

What's--

He doesn't even finish the sentence when...

BILLY

Fire!

WHOOOOOOSH!

Walter lets go of the taut workout band sending his bone rocketing right for Burglar #1's groin.

THWACK!

And as Burglar #1 clutches himself and tumbles back down the stairs past his cohort...

BILLY/BETTY

Yeeee haaaaaaaaaaa!

Burglar #2 turns around just in time to see the kids and Walter hop in his doggie bed like members of the Olympic bobsled team.

Using the banister, the kids and Walter launch off the landing down the stairs and...

WOOF!WOOF!--CRASH!

...Pick up the "spare," nailing Burglar #2 and sending him falling backward where he lands with a thud atop his still-groggy partner.

The kids hustle out of the doggie bed and over to their Uncle Irv. They quickly pull the tape off his mouth...

UNCLE IRV

Good job.

...And begin to untie him when...

Woof! Walter barks. A warning.

The kids whip around just in time to see the Burglars charging at them.

Billy ducks under the clutches of Burglar #2 and scampers between his legs.

Burglar #2 spins around to see Billy on the other side of an end table holding a lamp in his hands.

Before the Burglar can even think, Billy tosses the lamp in the air towards him as...

BILLY

Catch!

Instinctively, Burglar #2 reaches out to seize the lamp...

Allowing Billy to ram the end table across the floor and...

THWACK! Directly into Burglar #2's shin...

BURGLAR #2

OWWWWWWWWWWWWWW!

...Which causes him to instantly reach for his now-throbbing leg. Bad move because...

THUNK! The lamp crashes down on the toe of his formerly good foot.

And as Burglar #2 lets out another yelp, Billy races away but is stopped in his tracks by...

WOOF! Walter trying to alert him to something.

Billy reels around to see...

Burglar #1 closing in on his sister who's trapped in the corner.

No time to lose, Billy quickly glances around. Eyes the chandelier in the center of the room. Spots Walter's leash. Bingo! Walter races over and grabs it. Sprints to Billy.

Moving quickly, Billy runs up the stairs and throws out the "hand loop" of the leash, lassoing a hook on the chandelier.

IN THE CORNER OF THE LIVING ROOM,

Burglar #1 closes in on Betty...

BURGLAR #1

I'll take trapped like a rat for a thousand, Alex.

He laughs a hearty burglar laugh and closes in on her when...

WHOOSH!

...Billy flies in from above, swinging on the leash hanging from the chandelier.

In one fell swoop, he snatches his sister just as Burglar #1 reaches for her and continues right on past, like a real-life Spiderman dropping out of the sky to save Mary Jane.

They swing on to the dining room where Billy lets go, dropping them safely to the ground.

IN THE LIVING ROOM, Burglar #1 helps Burglar #2 to his feet.

BURGLAR #2

Maybe we should just go rob another house. You know, one that's easier. With maybe like just an alarm system or armed guards.

BURGLAR #1

What?! You can't handle two little snot-nosed kids and their loser dog?

BURGLAR #2

(beat, thinks)

Me? Yes. I'm just not sure my shin, toes and...other places can.

(rubbing his leg)

Owwwww.

BURGLAR #1

Well, we ain't leaving.

(then, points)

Now you go that way, I'll go this way.

BURGLAR #2

No.

BURGLAR #1

No?

BURGLAR #2

Don't you ever watch those movies? The guy that "goes that way" always ends up getting it.

Burglar #2 makes a motion across his neck.

BURGLAR #1

They're two little kids and a mutt, not Freddy Krueger, Jason Voorhees and Cujo!

But his partner won't budge.

BURGLAR #1 (CONT'D)

Just...come with me.

The Burglars slowly sneak through the house, looking for Billy and Betty as...

BURGLAR #1 (CONT'D)

Come out, come out wherever you are.

IN A DARK CORNER,

Walter hides.

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE HOUSE,

Betty's hand plugs something in. Reveal it's...

An iron.

ACROSS FROM WALTER IN THE SHADOWS,

Billy holds up a bottle of cooking oil. Smiles and starts pouring it on something.

BILLY

(sotto to Walter)

You ready?

Walter nods. Ready.

Meanwhile...

THE BURGLARS continue searching through the house.

Burglar #1 points at a closet door. Burglar #2 nods.

Burglar #1 slowly reaches for the door and...

BURGLAR #1

Ah ha!

...Only to find nothing more than a bunch of household materials.

The Burglars tip toe out in the hallway and round a corner when...

Walter leaps out of the darkness.

Woof! Woof! Woof! Woof!

Walter may not be Cujo but damn if he doesn't scare the hell out of already-on-edge Burglar #2 who screams and tumbles back, knocking he and his partner both backwards where unseen to both of them...

Betty pops out, now-hot iron in hand. She holds it front of her and...

TSSSSS!

TSSSSS!

...Plants a nice triangle shaped "iron tattoo" on each of their rear-ends.

BURGLAR #1/#2
 AWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWW!

The two Burglars howl in agony as they hurl forward once more where...

BURGLAR #1/#2 (CONT'D)
 Whooooooooaaaaaa!

...They hit the cooking-oil-covered floor in the foyer.

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The two burglars rocket past the window...

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

...And keep right on sliding, their eyes going wide at the sight of...

DAD'S ANTLER HAT RACK sitting in the corner.

BURGLAR #1/#2
 Nooooooooooooo!

But their pleas don't do any good because...

THWICK!

And on their shrieks of impact...

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HOUSE,

BETTY
 Nice work, Walter.

Woof!

BILLY
 Nice work, my sister.

BETTY
 Nice work, my brother.

And as the kids high-five...

CUT TO:

THE BURGLARS pulling themselves up...an antler still sticking out of Burglar #1's shoulder. As he reaches to pull it out...

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

BURGLAR #1 (O.S.)

OWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWW!

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The Burglars look totally dazed now, the upper hand long gone for them when...

BETTY (O.S.)

Hurry! The basement. We can hide from them there!

BILLY (O.S.)

C'mon, Walter.

Woof!

On the sound of little feet scrambling down the steps, Burglar #1 pulls himself up.

BURGLAR #2

Now can we quit?

BURGLAR #1

(a man possessed)
Get up.

BURGLAR #2

But--

BURGLAR #1

(yanking him up)
Now.

Burglar #1 pulls Burglar #2 to the basement door, throws it open and shoves him forward as they both stomp down the steps. As they disappear out of view...

BURGLAR #1 (O.S.) (CONT'D)

No more Mr. Nice Guy, kids.

Suddenly, Walter rushes out of a hiding spot around the corner and pushes the door shut, Billy bolting the deadbolt and locking the robbers in the basement.

Sounds of confusion can be heard from the other side of the door followed by...

BURGLAR #2 (O.S.)

I think they tricked us.

BURGLAR #1 (O.S.)
You think so, huh?

SMACK!

BURGLAR #2 (O.S.)
OWWWW!

BURGLAR #1 (O.S.)
(then, calling out)
Open this door or else!

The Burglar starts pounding on the other side of the door.

BOOM!BOOM!BOOM!BOOM!

BURGLAR #1 (O.S.) (CONT'D)
OPEN THIS DOOR!

BETTY
Nope.

BILLY
Nah nah nah nah nah nuh.

Even Walter gloats. *Woof! Woof! Woof!*

BURGLAR #2 (O.S.)
Turn on the lights. And I can't
find my matches. I'm scared!

SMACK!

BURGLAR #2 (O.S.) (CONT'D)
OWWWWW!

BILLY
We're calling the police and you're
going to jail!

Just then...

BURGLAR #2 (O.S.)
Wait, I found the light switch!

And as light shoots out from under the door...

INT. BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS

The Burglars stand on the steps. Burglar #2 takes off his
mask and starts rubbing his jaw revealing...

LARRY
That hurt. On an emotional level,
too.

Burglar #1 removes his mask to reveal...

KARL

Don't be such a baby.

Suddenly, Karl bolts down the steps, disappearing into the utility room...

KARL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Ah ha!

REVEAL Karl looking at the utility closet found in every basement across America that houses all holiday ornaments and other forgotten crap that Ebay was invented for.

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

BETTY

Ok, you go untie Uncle Irv, I'll go next door and call the--

But she doesn't even finish the sentence.

KA-BAM! Something rams against the basement door from the other side.

KA-BAM!

INT. BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Karl gets ready to batter the door again with...

THE 3 FOOT YARD GNOME.

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The kids momentarily freeze...

KARL (O.S.)

Here we come! And if the yard gnome breaks, I'm moving on to the holiday ornaments! Either way, this door is coming down!

KA-BA-- SNAP!

KARL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Son of a--

(then, to Larry)

Go get me the donkey from the Nativity scene!

The sound of Larry rushing down the steps is quickly followed by...

LARRY (O.S.)
I found a hammer! You still want
the donkey though?

The sound of footsteps running down the basement stairs is quickly followed by...

SMACK! Another slap.

LARRY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
OWWWWWW!

Billy and Betty exchange looks.

BILLY
What do we do?!

But for once, Betty is out of ideas.

BETTY
I don't know! I don't know!

BAAAAAAM!

The hammer strikes the door. This isn't going to take long.

Suddenly, Walter starts barking...Woof! Woof! Woof!... before running up the staircase.

Betty and Billy race after him up the steps as another hammer blast echoes through the house.

BAAAAAAM!

INT. HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

Betty bounds up the steps and darts over to find Walter standing at...

THE LAUNDRY CHUTE, fart goggles in his jaws.

Woof! Woof! Woof! He claws at the laundry chute.

BETTY
(realizing)
Genius.

INT. BASEMENT -- SAME TIME

The hammer is now taking chunks out of the door as Karl swings away. Behind him, Larry rubs the fresh red spot on his face.

INT. HALLWAY -- SAME TIME

Betty grabs the fartometer out of her room as...

BILLY
(puts on the goggles)
Go get 'em, Walter!

Walter leaps up on the little table next to the laundry chute and sticks his behind in the opening where...

PPPPPPPPFFFT!

And as he wiggles his butt to let another rip!...

INT. BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS

...Another fart echoes down the laundry chute.

PPPPPPPPFFFT!

This one is so big and loud, it causes Karl to stop pounding.

KARL
What the--?

PPPPPPPPFFFT!

Yet another fart rattles the laundry chute. Suddenly, Larry starts to cough.

Karl covers his face and races over to where the laundry chute enters the basement and looks up just as...

PPPPPPPPFFFT!

The biggest fart yet staggers him and actually moves the laundry pile below the opening, creating a mini "dust storm" of laundry.

As the laundry swirls and Karl starts choking for air himself...

INT. HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Betty moves Walter aside as Billy, goggles on, peers into the chute.

GOGGLE POV as the good air fights for space with the, uh, not-so-good air.

BILLY
There's still a couple clean air
pockets down there.

Betty replaces Walter's rear over the opening.

BETTY
Hit them again!

And as Walter farts once more...

INT. BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Larry is almost passed out from the fumes. Karl staggers around in circles then, through the haze, spots the basement window. Goes over to it, hammer in hand and...

CRASH! Breaks it open. Gasps for air as...

PFFFFFFFT! Another fart fills the basement. No time to lose.

KARL

We have to get out! Move, move, move!

Still dazed, Larry staggers toward the window as Karl turns back and screams...

KARL (CONT'D)

We'll be back. Do you hear me?!
WE'LL BE BACK!

INT. HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

As the Burglar's words waffle up to them, Billy and Betty exchange looks. Betty lowers the detection "mic" of the fartometer into the laundry chute opening.

ZZZZZZZZZ--zzz--ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ! The fartometer needle rockets past the red and - SNAP! - breaks in two.

BETTY

It's off the charts! Hurry!

Billy races off, around the corner to...

THE FUSE BOX

Finding the one labeled "basement," he quickly turns it "off."

INT. BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS

The lights go out and the basement becomes pitch dark.

LARRY (V.O.)

Enhhhhh! It's dark again!

KARL (V.O.)

Follow my voice! We have to go!

LARRY (V.O.)

Wait, I found my matches.

KARL (V.O.)

Noooooooo!

Too late. On the sound of the match being lit...

WHOOOOOSH!

INT. HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

A flame comes racing back up the laundry chute ala the elevator shaft in DIE HARD. Billy arrives back just in time to throw his arms around his sister and Walter...

BILLY

Duck!

And as the kids - and Walter - each cover their faces...

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

...A bright orange flash illuminates the basement just before...

BOOOOOOOOOOM! The basement windows are blown out!

INT. HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

The kids cautiously rise up and peek out a window to see debris - including the yard gnome head - raining down from the sky when...

BILLY

Yes!

BETTY

Oh no!

Billy follows his sister's outstretched arm to find the source of her concern: the two burglars staggering off.

BETTY (CONT'D)

They're getting away!

Suddenly, Walter bolts off...

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

...And comes racing out of the house through a broken window. Looks around and spots the burglars down the street.

Their clothes and masks in tatters, the two burglars stumble off when...Walter races up to them.

Grrrrr-- Suddenly Walter stops in mid-growl.

That's because, with their masks off, he can finally see the faces of the two burglars:

KARL and his cohort Larry.

KARL
You. YOU! How--? You have farted
for the last time.

Karl takes a pained step toward Walter. Walter doesn't move, still too stunned. Karl nears but suddenly...Walter sidesteps his reach and begins to howl at the top of his lungs.

ARRRRROOOOOOOO! ARRRRROOOOOOOOO!

KARL (CONT'D)
It ain't gonna help. Not this time.

ARRRRROOOOOOO! ARRRRROOOOOOOOO!

Suddenly, from every corner of the street, dogs and cats begin to appear. First a few. Then more. And more. One after another. Until the animals arrive in numbers that would make Noah proud.

And not just any dogs and cats. No, most of these are the ones that were freed from the pound earlier that night.

ARRRRROOOOOO! ARRRRROOOOOOO!

Still they come. All the animals wronged by Karl. There's hind legs dog. Thunder. Mr. Cuddles. Even Brutus shows up. To get there, some, like Thunder, simply unlatch their gates -- just like Karl trained them at the pound.

And at the head of the pack: Jimmy.

Karl and Larry's eyes go wide.

LARRY
Maybe we should just leave.

But that's not going to happen. The animals close in. And as - RRRRRENHHHHHH! - Mr. Cuddles lunges at Karl...

CUT TO:

FLASHING LIGHTS. Reveal...

A number of police cars now out front of the Coleman house in addition to every neighbor within a two block radius. Amongst it all find...

Billy, Betty and Walter, flanked by their now-freed Uncle Irv, giving statements to OFFICER HARRIS.

UNCLE IRV
...What about their parents?

OFFICER HARRIS
They've already been notified and
are heading home.

UNCLE IRV
What about your nose?

Uncle Irv pulls the ol' stealing the nose trick on Officer
Harris as OFFICER NADER approaches.

OFFICER NADER
Found their truck around the corner.
It's them. Filled with stuff from
the other robberies in the
neighborhood.

Just then, the suspects are led to the waiting patrol cars.
With their masks now removed, Billy and Betty see who the
criminals are for the first time. The kid's eyes go wide.

OFFICER NADER (CONT'D)
Guess that's why neighborhood dogs
weren't effective. He knew so many
of them from the pound and how to
disarm them. Or had even trained
them.

BILLY
Not our dog.

As Karl -- sporting a fresh scrape mark down the side of his
face courtesy of Mr. Cuddles -- is shoved into the rear of
the squad car, he glances back at Betty and Billy...who thumbs
his nose at the soon-to-be imprisoned dog catcher.

Even Walter throws in his two cents worth. *Woof!*

INT. SQUAD CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Karl keeps glaring at the kids when...

Eee eee eeek!

He looks down at his feet to see...

JIMMY THE SKUNK who lifts his tail, filling the enclosed
rear area of the car with as much stink as he can muster.

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

And as the cop car pulls away, Karl and Larry clawing at the back window trying to escape...

CUT TO:

A LARGE SIGN reading "75th ANNUAL CITY FAIR!" which has been crossed out to now state: WALTER'S WONDERPARK. Pull back to reveal...

EXT. CITY FAIR -- DAY

One of those events held each summer in Everytown, USA, which the whole city turns out for. Complete with food, games and carnival rides.

Among all the folks in attendance are just about every one of Billy and Betty's classmates along with their parents...

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

...And it is my great pleasure...

...Who are all staring up at...

A STAGE

...Where the portly MAYOR stands next to the entire Coleman family...and Walter. Billy wears the fart goggles as he scans the crowd.

MAYOR

...To introduce to you two heroes of our fine community--

Woof!

MAYOR (CONT'D)

--Excuse me, three, three heroes of our fine community, Billy and Betty Coleman and their dog Walter!

A huge burst of applause races through the crowd. Even...

FEMALE CLASSMATE OF BILLY

We love you, Billy!

Other girls nearby nod and giggle in agreement.

Billy, goggles still on, shoots them a thumbs up then...

BILLY

Ewww.

BETTY

What?

BILLY

You don't want to know.

IN THE CROWD, everyone is going nuts for the city heroes.
Except for...

GREG SWAN who stands alone, no longer Joe Cool, glaring at
the kids on stage. Next to him, sporting his own goggles
and clapping away...

PROF. COMPRESSOR

How gulldipidous!

GREG

Gulldipidous?

PROF. COMPRESSOR

It's a fart term. Practically
speaking.

BACK ON THE STAGE...

MAYOR

Thus, it is my distinct privilege to
award both of them--

Woof!

MAYOR (CONT'D)

--Make that all three of them a key
to the city!

As the crowd applauds again, among them is Tom's boss, Mr.
Huggins, who shoots Tom a "You da man!" gesture -- a gold
watch clearly visible on his wrist.

ARLENE

What was that about?

TOM

He was so thrilled to get his stuff
back, he, uh, said he'd recommend me
for a position in the company,
anywhere I wanted to go.

Arlene and the kids freeze and stare at Tom.

TOM (CONT'D)

But I told him I wanted to stay here.
For a long time.

And as Arlene gives him a big hug...

BILLY
What about Walter, does he get to
stay, too?

TOM
(smiles)
Wouldn't trade him for the world.

ARLENE
Me, neither.

BETTY
I dunno, I saw some cool cats...

She winks at her brother.

BILLY
(hugs Walter)
Cool is how you think of yourself.

The Mayor hands a key to Billy and one to Betty. And as he
turns to grab a third key on a string to place around Walter's
neck, the kids notice Walter..."struggling." Uh oh.

BETTY
Do you really have to?

Walter can barely nod he's got to fart so bad. The kids
shrug.

BILLY
Gotta do whatcha gotta do, Walter.

Unable to hold it anymore, Walter farts.

PFFFFFFT!

And as he knocks the Mayor clean off the podium, sending the
key to the city rocketing toward Greg Swan's noggin...

FADE OUT:

THE END