

The Beast

“Heel”

a pilot script

Written by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. VET'S OFFICE - TWENTY YEARS AGO

WE OPEN ON LITTLE HANDS FINISHING A DRAWING OF A SMILING BOY WATCHING A MAN DELIVER PUPPIES. PULL BACK TO REVEAL EIGHT YEAR OLD TYLER TROOP. HE RUNS OVER TO HIS FATHER, WHO IS DELIVERING PUPPIES. TY'S MOM, DORIS, IS ASSISTING.

YOUNG TY

Hey, Dad, look at my drawing!

FATHER

Tyler, I just whelped a dog with an inert uterus. Feel this abnormal pelvic canal! Feel it!

DORIS

Sweetheart, let's not get amniotic fluid on your nice drawing.

DORIS SHEPHERDS HIM AWAY. FATHER PICKS UP A CAMERA.

FATHER

Hey, Doris, get a family photo.

TY TURNS BACK HOPEFULLY, BUT HIS FATHER CRADLES A FEW PUPS.

DORIS

(WITH CAMERA, CHEERY) Okay, say woof!

FATHER

(THRU SMILE) Take the picture, Doris.

DORIS

Say woof!

FATHER

Take the picture.

DORIS

Say w--

FATHER

Woof!

FLASH! -- AND WE SEE...

THE PHOTO: FATHER HOLDING PUPPIES, SMILING TIGHTLY. IN THE BACKGROUND IS LITTLE TY, STARING SOURLY AT THE PUPPIES. WE PULL BACK FROM THE PHOTO THAT'S NOW HANGING IN...

INT. RECEPTION AREA - VET'S OFFICE - MORNING - PRESENT DAY

...AND MOVE THROUGH THE WAITING ROOM, WHICH IS FILLING WITH OWNERS AND PETS, PAST A RECEPTION DESK, WHERE DORIS, NOW 55, IS ON THE PHONE, TO AN OFFICE DOOR WHERE HANDSOME 28 YEAR OLD TYLER TROOP LEANS IN, STARING SOURLY AT THE PETS.

TY

Great. More sick animals.

DORIS

(INTO PHONE) Troop Veterinary Clinic.

May I ask who's calling?... Molly?

TY SPINS DORIS AROUND IN HER SWIVEL CHAIR TO FACE HIM.

TY

(SOTTO) No no! Not here! Not here!

DORIS DOESN'T LIKE LYING. TY GIVES HER A PLEADING LOOK.

DORIS

Tyler's not in. He's...

TY STICKS OUT HIS TONGUE AND HOLDS HIS BELLY.

DORIS (CONT'D)

...dead.

TY

(SOTTO) Sick!

DORIS

I'm joking. He's not dead. He's just out sick... No, it's not the best joke, no... I'll tell him you called. (HANGS UP) Tyler. You know I can't lie like that. I get nervous and flush and now I feel like I'm getting hives.

SHE SCRATCHES AT HER NECK.

TY

I'm sorry, Mom. I would've talked to her, but I've got this coffee, and you were already holding the phone...

DORIS

What's wrong with this one?

TY

I just think she wants more from the relationship than I do.

DORIS

What makes you say that?

TY

She called.

RON LITTLE, 35, A PORTLY AFRICAN AMERICAN, ENTERS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR. HE GREETES EACH PET AS HE CROSSES.

RON

Hey, Kensey! Zoobie, my man! Ohh,
look out, it's Mr. Whiskers!

A LADY CROSSES UP TO RON HOLDING A TINY DOG.

OWNER #1

Dr. Ron, look, I have this new photo
of Lola. You think it's good enough
for the Buddy Board?

RON

Oh, Mrs. Kim, not every photo is
worthy of such an honor. Let me see.

HE CROSSES TO "RON'S BUDDY BOARD" - A BULLETIN BOARD COVERED
WITH PET PHOTOS. HE DELIBERATES, BUILDING THE TENSION, THEN
TACKS THE PHOTO UP. THE LADY SIGHS WITH RELIEF, THEN GIVES
THE OTHER OWNERS A LITTLE SUPERIOR LOOK AND SITS. RON AND TY
AD LIB FRIENDLY GOOD MORNINGS. A CUTE WOMAN CROSSES TO THE
DESK TO SIGN IN. SHE SMILES AT TY. HE SMILES BACK.

RON (CONT'D)

Something tells me your Buddy Board
would be hotter than mine.

TY TURNS. FRANK HOPPER, 20, AN ASSISTANT, IS RIGHT THERE.

TY

(STARTLED) Gah! Frank!

FRANK

Sorry, thought you heard me breathing.

TY

I'm gonna have to put a little bell on
your collar. So? Did you talk to
that girl at Banana Republic?

FRANK

No, 'cause... okay, when did everybody
start putting nipples on mannequins?

TY INDICATES THAT FRANK'S GONNA HAVE TO KEEP TALKING.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I was getting ready to talk to Erin,
pretending to look at the high end
leather jackets like you said. Then I
saw this mannequin. And her blouse
was all... thin. I guess I was
staring 'cause when I looked back Erin
was making this face (DISGUSTED FACE).
You're the master. There's no way I'm
misinterpreting that look, right?

TY

Do it again?

FRANK DOES THE DISGUSTED FACE AGAIN.

TY (CONT'D)

Probably not. Maybe stomach flu.
Hey, also, it'd be better if you
didn't refer to a mannequin as "her."

FRANK NODS AND CROSSES AWAY. (THERE WILL BE A FEW OTHER TECH
ASSISTANTS IN THE BACKGROUND IN THIS AND SUBSEQUENT SCENES.)

TY (CONT'D)

Mom, how's that computer I got you?

DORIS

Oh. Yes. I'm ab-so-lutely loving it.

TY

Yeah? I haven't seen you use it.

DORIS

Oh, I've been going computer crazy.

(SCRATCHES NECK) I'm still figuring it out, but so far, so good. (SCRATCH) So great! (SCRATCH) Thank you again.

TY

(WATCHES SCRATCHING, THEN) Ma?

DORIS

I don't love it! I don't even like it a great deal! I've done things my way for so long. It's all I know. And from what I've heard a computer is just a (SOTTO) a porn machine.

FRANK

It's not just a porn machine.

THEY LOOK AT FRANK. HE GROANS A LITTLE AND CROSSES AWAY.

TY

Listen, would you just try it for me?

If you don't like it, it's gone.

Okay? I just want you to be happy.

DORIS

Such a good son. I already feel better about it. (SCRATCHES) Ohh.

FRANK CROSSES BACK TO TY, HOLDING A DOG.

FRANK

This is Brick, your first appointment.

TY

Okay. What's he here for?

FRANK

The owner thinks he has an earache.

TY

(TAKING DOG) Alright...

FRANK

Oh, and crazy diarrhea.

TY IMMEDIATELY HOLDS THE DOG OUT AT ARMS LENGTH.

TY

You can go ahead and start with that from now on. (CROSSES TO RON) "Ohh, Won. My tummy is wumbly."

RON

I've got a busy schedule, Ty.

TY

"Who's Ty? I'm Bwick. Wook into my eyes, Won. Wook into my eyes."

RON DOES AND MELTS. HE TAKES THE DOG.

RON

C'mere, you little tailwagger!

RON CROSSES AWAY WITH THE DOG.

TY

"God bless you, Won! God bless you!"

TY TURNS AND MAKES A B-LINE TO THE CUTE WOMAN WHO SMILED AT HIM AND HER PUPPY.

TY (CONT'D)

Good morning. What brings this cute little snuggle muffin in today?

CUTE WOMAN

Just a check up.

TY

I was talking to the dog. I'm kidding. Vet humor. I'm Dr. Troop.

CUTE WOMAN

Jody. (THEN) Watch out, he might bite.

TY

No problem.

CUTE WOMAN

I was talking to the dog.

TY

Uh oh, look out...

HE SMILES, SHE SMILES, AND WE:

SMASH CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS

ACT ONE

A

INT. EXAM ROOM/RECEPTION - LATER THAT DAY

TY HELPS AN OLD WOMAN GET HER DOG DRESSED AFTER IT'S EXAM.

WOMAN

Mind his cufflinks. (THEN) I haven't
been in in forever. How's your dad?

TY

Good. Well, he's dead. But heaven's
supposed to be really nice, so...

WOMAN

Oh, I'm sorry. But he has plenty of
friends up there. You know they say
all dogs go to heaven.

TY

Oh, god, you think?

THE WOMAN EXITS AS RON ENTERS HOLDING A HAMSTER.

RON

Ty, can you help me with this little
guy? I can't figure out the
inflammation under his eye.

TY TAKES THE HAMSTER AND EXAMINES IT.

TY

Could be an abscessed upper fourth premolar. Hey, did you meet Molly?

RON

She the one with the skirt that...
(HOW TO DESCRIBE) I was so fond of?

TY

No, that was Holly.

RON

Right. I liked Holly.

TY IMMEDIATELY FORGETS HE'S HOLDING A HAMSTER. IT'S JUST A THING TO PASS ABSENTMINDEDLY FROM HAND TO HAND AS HE TALKS.

TY

You met Molly at the coffee shop.
Long red hair, glasses? We went out twice, nothing serious. But she's been leaving messages on my cell all day. "I'm sorry you're sick, call me. Hope you're feeling better, call me. Can I bring you some soup...?"

RON

Call me. You told her you were sick and she believed you? That bitch.

TY ANIMATEDLY GESTURES WITH THE HAMSTER.

TY

Hey, I always make it clear I'm not looking for a long term thing.

(MORE)

TY (CONT'D)

They say they're okay with that but then get upset when I see other women. Like I'm some outta touch caveman. (SIGHS) Broads.

RON

Ty, my wife yells at me for stuff I did in her dreams. Not even bad stuff. Knowing how to fly when she can't. I'd cut off my damn feet to have your problems. (GRABS HAMSTER) Now gimme that.

TY

Oh. Hey, his eyes are all googly.

RON

Listen, I know you don't like the idea of sharing the office, but I think we need to revisit our talk about bringing in a new partner.

TY

What? Ron, whoa -- we don't got a good thing going here?

RON

No, we do. You're my man. But it's a lot of work with just the two of us now. And with you handing off patients to me...

TY

Because I thought you had a heart big
enough for all of God's creatures.

RON

Ty, when your Pop died you said if
things got too busy we could bring
someone new in.

TY

Oh, Ron, please. We both know I was
just putting you off. (THEN) I won't
pass patients to you anymore, okay?
Now I know the size of your heart.
Just big enough for one.

DORIS STICKS HER HEAD IN.

DORIS

You're going to want to see this.

TY AND RON FOLLOW HER INTO RECEPTION. A FRANTIC COUPLE ARE
HOLDING TWO SMALL DOGS WHO ARE STUCK REAR TO REAR.

FRANTIC WOMAN

Thank god! Our neighbor's dog, this,
this beast, he dug under our fence --

FRANTIC MAN

Then he did his filthiness to our poor
Licorice and and and --

FRANTIC WOMAN

He flipped around and they won't come
apart! It's been an hour! Help us!

TY

This does happen. It's easier on the female, not having to support the weight of both dogs. Generally not a lot of spooning in Dogville.

HE CHUCKLES. THEY DO NOT.

FRANTIC WOMAN

We want them apart! This is a crime --

FRANTIC MAN

A sex crime! We're suing our neighbor!

TY AND RON LOOK AT THE HYPERVENTILATING COUPLE A BEAT.

TY

So, Mom... who's in line for this?

TY NODS HIS HEAD SIDEWAYS TOWARD RON A FEW TIMES.

DORIS

Sorry, sweetheart.

TY GROANS. RON SMILES AND TURNS AWAY FROM THE COUPLE.

RON

Well, buddy, you can hand it off to me if -- ohh, you're not doing that anymore. Looks like you got yourself a pair of genitals to ice down.

THE FRANTIC MAN STEPS UP AND HANDS TY A CAMERA.

FRANTIC MAN

We need photos for the lawsuit against the bad man and his hound!

BEAT.

TY

(TO RON) We can interview people.

RON

(SMILES) Right this way, folks.

RON ESCORTS THE COUPLE AND THE DOGS TO AN EXAM ROOM.

TY

Mom, what does this means?

HE DOES THE SIDEWAYS NOD AGAIN.

DORIS

I'm sorry dear, I can't lie anymore
today. My neck is torn to shreds.

FRANK RUNS IN, EXCITED.

FRANK

I heard there were stuck dogs!

FRANK RUNS INTO THE EXAM ROOM. BEAT. HE COMES BACK OUT.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(LITTLE BOY) I didn't think they'd be
all twisty. I need to lie down.

HE CROSSES OUT, AND WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

B

INT. RECEPTION - THE NEXT DAY

FRANK IS SITTING WITH DORIS, SHOWING HER THE COMPUTER.

FRANK

Good. Okay, now double click.

DORIS MAKES A CLICKING SOUND WITH HER TONGUE.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Want to take a break?

TY ENTERS FROM THE BACK, HOLDING THE STUCK MALE DOG.

DORIS

Molly called. She's worried because you hadn't called back. (POINTS TO RED NECK) I had to lie again.

TY

Sorry, I'll call her. Although it's a little selfish of her to expect me to call when I'm feeling as bad as I'm pretending to feel. (THEN) Did we hear from the owner of Stuckdog?

DORIS

I left a message.

TY

Poor guy was just out looking for fun,
met a girl, they hook up, then wham,
he's being dragged around by his...

FRANK

Surprisingly bendy genitals.

TY

He felt trapped. I know the feeling.

TY IMITATES THE DOG'S FORLORN, DROOPY FACE.

FRANK

I got the same problem living with my
mom. (THEN) Not the genital part.

RON CROSSES UP BEHIND TY.

RON

Ty, I just had an interview and I'd
really like you guys to meet.

TY

(GROANS) Already...

TY TURNS AND REALIZES IT'S A WOMAN. A VERY PRETTY WOMAN.

TY (CONT'D)

...to meet her. Hi, Tyler Troop.

WITHOUT LOOKING, HE HANDS THE DOG TO FRANK BEHIND HIM.

PJ

Nice to meet you. PJ Wickwire.

TY

Great name. Is it short for --

PJ

(FRIENDLY) Please don't say pajamas.

TY

No, no. I was gonna say... Polly
Jon....athan...a.

PJ

Polly Jonathana. Wow, you're good.

TY

It's a gift. Right Ron...ald?

RON

(MOVING ON) PJ just graduated first in
her class at Penn Veterinary.

TY

Wow, great. Hey, why don't we talk
across the street, get some coffee?
It smells like animals in here.

THEY HEAD TO THE DOOR. RON FOLLOWS. TY WAVES HIM OFF.

TY (CONT'D)

It's so hard to get a table for three.

(OPENS DOOR) After you.

PJ EXITS, FOLLOWED BY TY.

FRANK

(TO DOG) He's awesome.

AND WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

C

INT. COFFEE SHOP - TEN MINUTES LATER

TY AND PJ ARE TALKING OVER COFFEE.

PJ

So it was volunteering at the shelter that did it. I just loved the animals so much. How about you?

TY

My father was a vet so the decision was sorta made for me. (BEAT) And that "love" thing you said.

PJ

Yeah, that animal shelter changed my life. Made me a vegetarian, too.

TY

What kind of animals were you eating before that?

SHE LAUGHS. TY SMILES -- EVEN HER LAUGH IS HOT. A WOMAN ENTERS BEHIND TY AND GETS IN THE LINE THAT GOES RIGHT BY THEIR TABLE.

BARISTA

(CALLING) Hey, Molly.

TY'S EYES WIDEN. HE VERY SLOWLY TURNS HIS HEAD JUST ENOUGH TO SEE THAT IT IS INDEED "HIS" MOLLY. HE IS PANICKED.

PJ

I know there are doctors out there
with far more experience than me...

TY

(DISTRACTED) What? Oh. Yeah...

MOLLY MOVES A CUSTOMER CLOSER. AS PJ TALKS, TY HAS TO SHIFT
IN HIS SEAT TO KEEP HIS BACK TO HER.

PJ

But I'm willing to work at a lower
profit scale. I'll take all the grunt
cases you don't want. And I don't
have any bad work habits yet. See,
there's a benefit to hiring someone
fresh, someone willing to learn, to be
molded by capable hands.

TY CAN'T RESPOND -- MOLLY'S NOW RIGHT NEXT TO THEIR TABLE,
EYES ON THE MENU BOARD, BUT CLOSE -- SO CLOSE SHE COULD REACH
OVER AND STAB HIM IS SHE WANTED. TY PRETENDS TO POLITELY
CLAP AS IF IMPRESSED BY PJ'S SPEECH. LONG BEAT.

PJ (CONT'D)

Do you have questions about my resume?

NOT WANTING TO CALL ATTENTION TO HIMSELF, TY PULLS HER RESUME
CLOSER WITH ONE FINGER, TILTS HIS HEAD SLIGHTLY TO LOOK AT
IT, THEN POINTS TO SOMETHING, MAKING A QUESTIONING FACE. AS
SHE RESPONDS, TY TRIES TO SNEAK A LOOK AT MOLLY.

PJ (CONT'D)

Yeah, I did a lot of surgical labwork.
I don't just care about the touchy
feely stuff. I wanted to learn
everything I can to help my patients.

BEAT. TY REALIZES PJ'S STOPPED TALKING. HE GIVES HER TWO THUMBS UP. MOLLY DIALS HER CELL PHONE. TY'S PHONE STARTS TO VIBRATE AROUND THE TABLE. HE JUST STARES AT IT.

PJ (CONT'D)

You can get that if you want.

TY CASUALLY SHAKES HIS HEAD.

MOLLY

(INTO PHONE) It's Molly, wondering if you're feeling better. Okay. I hope I'm not being a pest. Call when you get this message.

SHE TURNS AWAY TO ORDER HER COFFEE. TY'S PHONE BEEPS.

PJ

Uhp, you got a message.

TY "SHRUGS." MOLLY MOVES AGAIN AND TY IS NOW FACING HER AS SHE WAITS FOR HER COFFEE. HE PICKS UP THE RESUME AND HOLDS IT IN FRONT OF HIM AS IF PERUSING IT. MOLLY GETS HER COFFEE AND HEADS OUT. TY KEEPS THE RESUME UP, SWIVELING ON HIS BUTT. MOLLY EXITS. TY DROPS THE RESUME AND EXHALES.

PJ (CONT'D)

Not much there, I know. That's why I want to get out in the world and, okay, this'll sound lame, but I just want to make a difference. It's kinda like my personal mantra.

TY

Doesn't sound lame to me. In fact, it's kind of my personal mantra too. Only I call it a life code.

PJ SMILES. TY THINKS IT SHINES LIKE THE SUN.

TY (CONT'D)

Well Polly Jonathana, I like what you
have to say and I like how you say it.
So what do you say you come aboard as
a partner at Troop Veterinary?

PJ HAD BEEN TAKING A SIP OF COFFEE --

PJ

Wha-- (COUGH, COUGH, GAG, COUGH) I--
(COUGH, BARELY) Yesgreat-- (COUGH)

TY

Want to tell your new co-workers the
news or just go right to the hospital?

PJ

(COUGH, CROAKS) Co-workers-- (COUGH)

THEY CROSS TO THE DOOR. TY SUDDENLY STOPS AND SCANS OUTSIDE.

TY

(THEN, SMILING) Okay, let's go.

THEY HEAD OUT, AND WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

D

INT. RECEPTION AREA - THE NEXT DAY

TY AND DORIS ARE THERE. RON AND FRANK ARE WORKING NEARBY.

TY

It's officially over with Molly.

DORIS

Ohh. How'd she take it?

TY

She broke it off with me. Didn't even wait for me to get better.

PJ CROSSES OVER WITH A PUPPY, ACTING CASUAL.

PJ

Hey. This is Betsey. Just my first official patient, that's all.

THEY ALL REACT SUPPORTIVELY.

TY

What a moment. To see you start this journey. On behalf of everyone I'd like to officially welcome y--

PJ

(LOOKING PAST HIM) What's that?

SHE INDICATES DORIS' COMPUTER. THE OTHERS LOOK.

DORIS

Oh, yes. Frank put some photos on my computer for me. That's Ty when he was two. He'd take off his clothes, put on that mask --

TY

Oh, Mom no --

DORIS

...and fight crime. It's Nudie Boy!

THEY REACT.

DORIS (CONT'D)

Thank you, Ty. I'm really starting to like the computer now.

RON

Huh. It really is a porn machine.

DORIS

Oh, it's cute. He'd walk around like that all day, talking to his...self.
"What'll we do now, Silly Button?"

THE OTHERS LAUGH.

TY

Yeah, okay, it's not silly or a button anymore, just FYI.

PJ

Well thank you, Ty, for that welcome. I gotta get to work. As a vet. Yay!

TY

Wait, I need me some puppy time! Hand her over. (SNUGGLES) You got a great doctor, yes you do. Mm, good stuff.

PJ EXITS WITH THE DOG. TY TURNS. THE OTHERS ARE STARING.

TY (CONT'D)

What?

RON

"I need me some puppy time."

TY

That's just me being friendly.

DORIS

Oh, sweetheart, no it's not.

TY

Okay, so she's hot. Doesn't mean I'm attracted to her. But say I was attracted to her, and okay, yeah, I am attracted to her -- doesn't mean anything'll happen.

RON

If you're attracted to her, you'll go after her.

TY

No. No. Already, faulty premise.

RON

If you go after her, you'll get her.

TY

Get her? Ron, please. (BEAT) Okay, yeah, I'd get her. But I'm not going after her so moot point.

RON

If you get her, you'll break up. Then things'll get awkward here.

TY

Awkward like how?

RON

Awkward like the Fed Ex lady.

TY

Oh, well, she was crazy.

RON

And if things are awkward, it'll lead to more work for Ron. Everything leads to more work for Ron.

FRANK

It's okay. When it comes to the ladies, Ty's the man with the plan. What's the plan, my man?

TY

There is no plan!

DORIS

I don't know, Tyler, maybe she's someone to settle down with.

TY

Stop! You're getting all crazy! PJ's just a good looking girl! And yeah, sure, we connected, there was a cool thing happening between us -- what?

THE OTHERS ARE LOOKING BEHIND TY. PJ IS STANDING THERE.

TY (CONT'D)

Tell me you're looking at more Nudie Boy pics. (TURNS) Hey! New guy!

PJ

Is that why I got the job? Because you think I'm good looking?

TY

Wha-- no! I don't work like that. I hired Frank for godssake!

FRANK

I'm no Tom Brokaw.

PJ

(GETTING MAD) And we connected? Like there could be something between us?

TY

No! Right? Yeah, no! You? Uch!

PJ

I can't believe this. I should quit. There are more important things than a job. Than money. (SCOFFS) Money.

(MORE)

PJ (CONT'D)

(THEN) Oh, god, money. Crap. Okay,
I'm keeping the job. Because I want
to, not because it's what you want.
I'm a great vet! Not just a pretty
face! And I don't think I'm pretty,
that's just an expression!

PJ STORMS BACK TO THE EXAM ROOM AND SLAMS THE DOOR. RON'S
BUDDY BOARD FALLS OFF THE WALL.

RON

Surprise surprise. More work for Ron.

AND WE:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

E

INT. SURGICAL ROOM/RECEPTION - SIXTEEN YEARS AGO

WE OPEN CLOSE ON A REPORT CARD, MOVING DOWN A COLUMN OF A, A, A, A, A... B. PULL BACK TO REVEAL THE REPORT CARD IN THE BLOODY, GLOVED HAND OF TY'S FATHER, WHO IS IN THE MIDDLE OF AN OPERATION. TWELVE YEAR OLD TY IS NEXT TO HIM, HOLDING A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT IN PLACE FOR HIS FATHER.

FATHER

How do you think our patient would
feel knowing the young man I've
entrusted to hold that clamp got a B?

TY

It's a B in English, so maybe the cat
wouldn't care? (PEEKING AT CAT) Unless
it's Garfield or something.

TY SMILE HOPEFULLY. HIS FATHER STARES. TY HANDS HIM THE CLAMP AND EXITS TO RECEPTION, CHASTENED.

RESET TO:

INT. RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

TY ENTERS. TWO CUTE GIRLS ARE NEARBY, PLAYING WITH A PUPPY.

GIRL #1

Did you know a dog's sense of smell is
like twice as strong as ours?

OFF TO THE SIDE, TY WORKS UP THE NERVE TO SAY:

TY

Forty times as strong. Humans have five million scent receptors, dogs have two hundred million, so... yeah.

GIRL #2

You know a lot about dogs.

TY

My dad's the vet, so I kinda help out.
(OFF THEIR IMPRESSED LOOKS, HUMBLE)
Yeah. I pretty much just saved a cat's life in there.

GIRL #1/GIRL #2

(IN AWE) Ohh. I'm Claire./I'm Brigid.

A LIGHT BULB LIGHTS. TY SMILES, AND WE:

FADE TO:

INT. RECEPTION/BULLPEN - PRESENT DAY (LATER THAT DAY)

FRANK IS WORKING AT THE COMPUTER. DORIS CROSSES OVER.

FRANK

Hey. Just making a scheduling change.

DORIS

(KINDLY) Oh. That's my job.

FRANK

That's the wicked thing about the computer. Anyone can do it now.

DORIS

That is wicked.

FRANK CROSSES INTO THE BULLPEN. DORIS TRIES NOT TO FREAK.

RESET TO:

INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

FRANK ENTERS. RON AND PJ ARE TALKING.

PJ

...And I thought we could set up an
animal health booth in the park in the
summer. It'd be good for the
community and maybe good for business.

RON

I like it. I can work on my tan.

THEY LAUGH. (REMEMBER, RON'S BLACK.) TY ENTERS FROM THE
BACK DOOR WITH THE STUCK DOG, CURSING, TANGLED IN THE LEASH.

TY

Ron, when the owner picks Stuckdog up,
you gotta talk to him about neutering.
The damn thing is leg crazy!

TY GETS THE DOG IN A CAGE, THEN NOTICES PJ. THERE'S TENSION.

TY (CONT'D)

How's your first day going? Lately?

PJ

It's fine.

TY

Doesn't sound like it.

PJ

It's fine.

TY

That's better. (CROSSING OUT, SOTTO,
TO HIS...SELF) Way to go, idiot.

TY EXITS TO RECEPTION.

FRANK

He's not as bad as you think.

PJ

He's not a preening egotist who thinks
the world revolves around him?

RON AND FRANK TAKE A BEAT. MOVING ON.

RON

Have you tried to figure out our
filing system yet? Doris set it up in
a way only her brain understands.
Others tried to crack it. They all
went crazy and killed themselves.

DORIS CROSSES IN FROM RECEPTION. RON GIVES PJ A LITTLE LOOK.

RON (CONT'D)

Hey, Doris, PJ needs the Bronstein
file. That's under B, right?

DORIS

(ABSURD) B? (GOES INTO FILES) Jan
Bronstein was one of our first
clients... and she has a poodle...
named Cocoa Bean.

BASED ON THIS INFO DORIS LOCATES THE FILE AND HANDS IT TO PJ.

FRANK

Hey, with the computer we can organize the files so everyone can access them.

DORIS

Oh, I bet you'd all like that. Well I'm not in the ground yet.

SHE EXITS. PJ LOOKS TO THE GUYS, CONFUSED.

RON

Doris is an angel, but she's a few fleas short of a circus.

PJ

What does the "88" on this file mean?

RON

Crazy eights. Owner is insane.

PJ

Oh, geez, are there many 88's?

RON JUST LAUGHS AND LAUGHS AND EXITS BACK TO RECEPTION.

FRANK

Jan Bronstein insisted we keep a pair of her underpants with her dog at all times. Said it reminds the dog of home, which makes me kinda want to see her house. But also kinda not.

PJ

Did you agree to do it?

FRANK

I'm not that desperate to touch a
woman's underpants.

PJ LAUGHS. FRANK LIKES THIS. PJ MOVES ON TO SOME PAPERWORK.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Actually, I did go along with it. I
guess I just like making people happy.

PJ

You're very sweet.

SHE INNOCENTLY TOUCHES HIS ARM. HE STARES AT IT, TRANSFIXED,
THEN LOOKS UP TO SAY SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT:

FRANK

I'm getting my own place soon.

PJ

Oh. That's great, Frank.

PJ SMILES AND EXITS. FRANK WATCHES HER GO.

RESET TO:

INT. RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

PJ CROSSES IN. TWO WOMEN IN THEIR TWENTIES GREET HER.

PJ

(HAPPY) Hey, what are you doing here?

ELIZABETH

We thought we'd visit you on your
first day, Dr. Wickwire!

AILEEN

You look so cute in your white jacket!

PJ

You guys. Hey, I'll be right back.

PJ EXITS BACK TO THE BULLPEN. THEY LOOK AROUND.

ELIZABETH

So, I wonder where this Ty is? Can he
be as cute as PJ said?

BEHIND THEM, FRANK ENTERS.

AILEEN

An office romance for our little Peej.

ELIZABETH

It's so unlike her to be so drooly.

But it's good. She needs some lovin'.

FRANK EXITS OUT THE FRONT DOOR, TAKING DEEP BREATHS.

FRANK

Be cool... don't be uncool...

RESET TO:

INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

TY ENTERS FROM AN EXAM ROOM WITH A PRETTY LADY AND HER VERY
FAT CAT. PJ AND RON ARE NEARBY. PJ HAS A KITTEN.

TY

...So no more snacks, okay? You can't
be an enabler to his piggishness.

PRETTY LADY

You're very spiritual.

TY

You seem very in touch with your
essence as well.

PJ SNORTS DERISIVELY. TY LOOKS AT HER.

PJ

Sorry. Please, go back to trying to touch her essence.

TY

(BACK TO LADY, SOTTO) She's on a visit from a "hospital." The animals calm her. (TO PJ) Don't pet too hard.

THE WOMAN EXITS, A LITTLE WEIRDED OUT. TY TURNS ON PJ.

TY (CONT'D)

Hey, look, I'm sorry I was - was - attracted to you. By the way, most women don't have a problem with that.

PJ

What kind of women fall for your crap?

TY

All kinds, sister!

DORIS ENTERS WITH A TRAVEL CAGE AND HANDS IT TO TY.

DORIS

Here's your next appointment, Tyler.

SHE EXITS. THE CAGE JOLTS AND SHAKES IN TY'S HAND.

TY

(DREAD) Cookie. (THEN, TO RON) "Wait, is that Ron? Oh, happy days!"

RON

Just give her here. Come on, Cook.

TY HANDS RON THE CAGE. IT JOLTS CRAZILY AGAIN.

PJ

Wait, Ron, what are you doing?

RON

It's okay. This is how we work. Ty doesn't like certain animals.

PJ

You don't like animals? Was everything at our interview a lie? Do you even have a life code?

RON JUST CHUCKLES.

TY

I like animals. I just don't "like them" like them.

PJ

(TO RON) You can't let him use your goodness against you.

TY

Don't you worry what I do to him. (TO RON) I don't do that to you.

PJ

You wouldn't be turning the dog down, you'd be turning Ty down.

RON

I do like the idea of less work for Ron. (THEN) "Is that my friend Ty?"

HE HANDS THE CAGE BACK TO TY.

TY

(TURNS ON PJ) We got a system here!
You're upsetting our system!

PJ

Yeah, well... I won't be an enabler to
your piggishness!

TY

(BEAT, ASIDE TO RON) Eighty-eight.

PJ

Oh, just you wait and see how eighty-
eight I can be!

SHE STORMS BACK INTO AN EXAM ROOM.

TY

Told her about the eighty-eights, huh?

THE CAGE JUMPS IN TY'S HANDS HE GROANS.

RON

You got that stuck dog face again.

TY

I gotta go get a muzzle for Cookie.

AS TY EXITS HE PRETENDS TO PUNCH HIS CROTCH.

RESET TO:

INT. RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

TY ENTERS AND GETS A MUZZLE. PJ'S FRIENDS WHISPER AND SNEAK
GLANCES AT HIM. TY NOTICES. HE CROSSES OVER.

ELIZABETH

Hi. We're friends of PJ's.

TY

Oh. Well, any friends of PJ's are...
surprising.

PJ ENTERS AND SEES THEM TOGETHER -- SHE HAULS ASS OVER.

PJ

Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey!

TY

What?! God, I wasn't touching 'em!

TY LOOKS AT THE MUZZLE, LOOKS AT PJ, THEN BACK AT THE MUZZLE.
HE CROSSES AWAY. PJ TURNS TO THEM, ALARMED.

PJ

Did you say I thought he was cute?

AILEEN

You didn't give us a chance.

PJ

(RELIEVED) Good, 'cause he's not.

ELIZABETH/AILEEN

Oh, you're quite wrong./Honey, please.

PJ

Can we do this later? Come by my
place tonight. Bring as much wine as
you can fit in your Honda.

THEY AD LIB GOOD-BYES AND EXIT. PJ EXHALES.

PJ (CONT'D)

Dodged that bullet.

NEARBY, OUT OF EARSHOT, IS FRANK. HE IS ENCHANTED. AND WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

H

INT. RECEPTION/BULLPEN - THE NEXT DAY

DORIS ENTERS. TY IS AT HER DESK. SHE AD LIBS GOOD MORNING.

TY

Your computer's all screwy.

DORIS

I know. It's very undependable. I think I'm just going back to the way it was before. That's it.

TY PUTS HIS COFFEE DOWN AND EXAMINES THE COMPUTER.

DORIS (CONT'D)

It's no use, Tyler. Just leave it --

TY

Something's -- (YANKS OUT) There was a flea powder sampler jammed in there.

DORIS

("GASP") A client's kid was playing with it earlier. Little bastard.

TY

(SHOCKED) Mom!

DORIS

I'm sorry, I'm just very flamboozled.

TY

Well, it's back on... Yep, there's my penis, you're all set. (NOTICES COFFEE) Oh, don't spill anything on it. That'll really flamboozle it.

DORIS

Good to know... not to do that.

TY CROSSES AWAY. DORIS NARROWS HER GAZE AT THE COMPUTER.

RESET TO:

INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

PJ'S THERE BY HERSELF. FRANK ENTERS, HIS HAIR NICELY COMBED.

FRANK

Morning!

PJ

(STARTLED) Oh! Frank, hey.

FRANK

"Heyyy." Fonz. (STANDS THERE, THEN)
Saw your friends here yesterday.

PJ SMILES AND KEEPS WORKING. DORIS ENTERS, INTENTLY.

DORIS

Making coffee, anybody want coffee,
coffee time.

SHE PASSES BETWEEN THEM AND EXITS. A BEAT.

FRANK

So... I kinda heard them talking.
About you and your... likes.

PJ

(BEAT, REALIZING) Ohh... no.

FRANK

Hey, no, it's okay. I - this is hard -
I kinda feel the same way as you.

PJ IS SURPRISED BY THIS.

PJ

I didn't know you were gay. Although,
yeah, you do seem very into Ty.

FRANK OPENS HIS MOUTH, BUT ONLY A LITTLE SQUEAK COMES OUT.

PJ (CONT'D)

Yeah, okay, at first I thought Ty was
cute, but now that I've gotten to see
the real him, forget it.

FRANK STILL CAN'T MAKE WORDS COME OUT OF HIS MOUTH.

PJ (CONT'D)

You know what's killing me? During
our interview, I flirted. Like I was
back in ninth grade. "Ohh, cute boy."
Did my sunshine smile. Laughed like
(LAUGH) when I really laugh like
(OTHER LAUGH). "Accidentally" touched
his arm. "Ooh, muscles." It's
pathetic. Isn't it pathetic?

FRANK

(FINALLY MANAGES) I'm not gay.

PJ

Oh. Okay... Why did you say you felt
the same way as me about Ty?

FRANK

I... need to lie down. My mind hurts.

PJ

Okay. Hey, please don't tell Ty.

FRANK

Your secret's safe with me.

PJ

(SOTTO) And yours with me.

FRANK TRIES TO RESPOND. AGAIN, JUST A SQUEAK. HE EXITS. PJ
TURNS AS TY CROSSES BY -- SHE'S SURPRISED AND DEFENSIVE.

PJ (CONT'D)

What, were you spying?

TY

What? No. I happen to work here.

PJ

(CONSIDERS, THEN) No, seriously. What
were you doing?

TY CROSSES AWAY FROM HER TO RON, FUMING.

TY

This is a nightmare -- I gotta do
something. Hey, at the end of Carrie
was it pig's blood they dumped on her?

RON

(SIGHS) More work for Ron.

TY

Listening to a friend's problems is
work for you?

RON

It ain't like eating a big cookie.

DORIS CROSSES WITH A BIG CUP BRIMMING WITH STEAMING COFFEE.

DORIS

Hot coffee, look out, very full...

SHE STOPS JUST PAST TY AND RON, IN FRONT OF HER COMPUTER.

RON

This hostility you got going... I
think deep down you know she's good
for this place. She's just changing
things and it's freaking you out. But
don't take that out on her.

TY POUTS. DORIS LOOKS AT THE COFFEE, THEN AT THE COMPUTER.

RON (CONT'D)

You keep telling yourself she's a
threat, you'll always be threatened.
So move the hell on. 'Cause this,
wanting to dump god knows what on her,
this is crazy.

DORIS

(SNAPPING) Alright!

RON

(TURNS, STARTLED) You okay, Doris?

DORIS

No, my hands are blistering.

SHE EXITS WITH HER STEAMING COFFEE, PASSING PJ, WHO IS RETURNING FROM THE BULLPEN. RON LOOKS AT TY.

RON

What do you say, Silly Button?

TY

Alright! (THEN) A friend would've helped me with the pig's blood.

(CROSSES TO PJ) Hey can I talk to you?

PJ

I'm pretty busy.

TY

No, I know, me too. It's raining cats and dogs in here. Listen --

A GUY CROSSES UP TO TY AND PJ.

ANGRY OWNER

Hey, my pain in the ass neighbors brought my dog here?

TY

Oh. Stuckdog. (CALLING) Ron, owner!

RON CROSSES. PJ SHAKES HER HEAD AT TY PASSING THE BUCK.

TY (CONT'D)

Actually, Ron, I got it. (GIVES PJ A LOOK, THEN TO GUY) You know they brought your dog in because he was attached to their dog.

ANGRY OWNER

Hey, attaboy Cheech! Finally got her.

TY

What a nice moment for you. Listen,
your dog is hypersexual. (OFF HIS
LOOK) He's a drooly little leg warmer.

ANGRY OWNER

Heh heh. Takes after his old man.

TY

Wow, that's -- I think you need a
better thing to brag about.

DORIS ENTERS WITH THE STUCK DOG.

ANGRY OWNER

Hey, there he is! Come to Papa!

TY

I recommend having him neutered.
Really, really neutered.

ANGRY OWNER

I ain't messin' with nature. Get the
heebie jeebies just thinking about it.

PJ

(STEPS IN) Hello, I'm Dr. Wickwire.

TY

Hey, I'm handling this.

PJ

(IGNORES) It's a simple procedure --

ANGRY OWNER

Not for Cheech.

PJ

(INTERVIEW LAUGH) Great. (THEN) Aside from the overpopulation issues which I don't think you care much about...

(GUY SHAKES HEAD) right, it can also help with behavioral problems you might be having with Cheech.

ANGRY OWNER

Like what?

TY

No, don't listen to her --

PJ

Roaming. Mounting dogs, female or male. Urinating everywhere --

ANGRY OWNER

Whoa -- that gay dog thing, that's a thing?

PJ

Can be. (OFF HIS CONCERN) Why don't we go discuss it further?

THE GUYS LOOKS AT HIS DOG A BEAT, THEN STARTS TO FOLLOW PJ.

TY

No! Wait. You can't just let her barge in here and tell you what to do!

(MORE)

TY (CONT'D)

If you don't want to neuter your dog,
then don't do it! It's a huge thing --
the snip! The stitches! The heebies!
The jeebies!

PJ

Dr. Troop --

TY

Listen, man. She's gonna change his
life forever. Take away everything he
likes to do. He might look the same,
but it'll be the end of his happiness!
Don't let her take that away, man.
Please. Let him keep things the way
they are.

BEAT.

ANGRY OWNER

Is this guy really a vet?

PJ

Just barely. Come on, let's talk.

THE GUY AGAIN FOLLOWS PJ WITH HIS DOG.

TY

No! Wait -- she can't -- No!

TY GRABS THE DOG, TURNS AND HAULS ASS INTO THE BULLPEN.

RESET TO:

INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

TY RUNS IN AND HURRIES PAST RON TO THE BACK DOOR. HE THROWS
IT OPEN TO THE OUTSIDE AND PUTS THE DOG DOWN.

TY

Go Cheech! There's a huge park out
there! Lots of dogs, squirrels, lamp
posts -- whatever you're into!

THE DOG TROTS AWAY. BEAT. THE DOG TROTS BACK IN.

TY (CONT'D)

No! What are you --

THE DOG MOUNTS TY'S LEG. TY'S HEAD DROPS, DEFEATED. PJ
ENTERS. TY PEG-LEGS IT BACK PAST RON TO HER, THE DOG STILL
HOLDING ON. TY LIFTS HIS LEG AND PJ TAKES CHEECH OFF. SHE
EXITS. A BEAT AS TY JUST STANDS THERE, BEATEN.

RON

Hey, how'd it go with Stuckdog?

AND WE:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. RECEPTION/SURGICAL ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

TY AND DORIS ARE SITTING IN THE EMPTY WAITING ROOM IN FRONT OF THE PHOTO OF TY'S FATHER. TY LOOKS SHELL-SHOCKED.

DORIS

You could too have handled it worse.

(OFF HIS LOOK) Well, the dog would have had to have died.

TY

Totally misread PJ. (CHUCKLES WEARILY)

Women are the one thing I thought I was good at.

DORIS

The one thing? For goodness sake, why would you think that?

TY

(SHRUGS) I dunno...

HE RESTS HIS HEAD BACK AGAINST THE FATHER PHOTO. A MOMENT.
DORIS PICKS A PIECE OF PAPER UP FROM HER DESK.

DORIS

Oh, I found this at home when I was going through photos for the computer.

TY

Kinda bummed, not sure I need another
nude action shot right now.

SHE HANDS THE PAPER TO HIM..

DORIS

It's a drawing you did of your father
delivering puppies.

TY LOOKS AT IT A LONG MOMENT.

TY

Wow. (BEAT) It's terrible.

DORIS

You were eight. (THEN) Your father
saved it.

TY

He did?

DORIS

Uh huh. He saved lots of things of
yours. Report cards, papers...

TY

(LOOKS AT HER) Really?

DORIS NODS. AS TY LOOKS AT THE DRAWING, SHE IMMEDIATELY
SCRATCHES HER NECK. TY LOOKS BACK, ALMOST CATCHING HER.

DORIS

I know he wasn't so vocal in his...
happiness, but he was always telling
me how proud he was of you.

HE LOOKS AT HER A LONG MOMENT. SHE NEEDS TO SCRATCH.

DORIS (CONT'D)

Look at that drawing. Look at it.

HE DOES. DORIS QUICKLY SCRATCHES AGAIN, THEN STOPS JUST AS HE LOOKS BACK TO HER. HE SMILES.

TY

This almost makes up for Nudie Boy.

TY GIVES HER A KISS AND EXITS. DORIS LOOKS AT THE COMPUTER.

DORIS

Let's see you do that.

FRANK WANDERS BY. DORIS FOLDS UP TY'S DRAWING AND SIGHS.

DORIS (CONT'D)

Some lies are better than the truth.

FRANK

I like women!

RESET TO:

INT. SURGICAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

TY ENTERS AND FINDS PJ IN SURGERY. AN AWKWARD BEAT.

TY

How's Stuckdog?

PJ

Good. Very good. I just finished.

TY

Nice stitching. Might want to clip the ends a bit. (THEN) So... I can be kinda shallow. No, seriously. And when I'm around people that aren't, like you, I can look really not deep.

(MORE)

TY (CONT'D)

Focusing on a person's looks during a
job interview...

PJ SHAKES HER HEAD, AS IF IT'S PATHETIC.

TY (CONT'D)

Putting on an act to get you to like
me. Flirting, basically.

PJ SCOFFS, OFFENDED BY THE VERY IDEA OF IT.

TY (CONT'D)

I actually kept my biceps flexed in
case you happened to touch 'em.

PJ CAN HARDLY BELIEVE SUCH A THING.

TY (CONT'D)

At one point you did. Did you notice
they were -- right, doesn't matter.
(THEN) So, sorry for all the... me.

PJ

("SIGHS") As hard as it is for me to
comprehend what makes a person act the
way you do, I was raised to be
forgiving, so... I'll let it go.

TY

You're a better person than me.

PJ

Yeah.

TY

So, we're good? We can start over?

HE OFFERS HIS HAND TO SHAKE, BUT SHE'S STILL WEARING SURGICAL GLOVES. THEY BUMP ELBOWS INSTEAD. PJ TAKES A SIP OF WATER AS FRANK ENTERS.

TY (CONT'D)

Hey, dude. Good news here. PJ and I just got it all out in the open and now we're, uh, bumpin' elbows.

FRANK

(TO PJ) You told him? Great -- so he knows you think he's hot, you know he thinks you're hot, everybody's hot, everybody knows, I'm gonna go hit on a mannequin!

HE EXITS. PJ IS CHOKING ON HER WATER. TY PROCESSES THIS NEW INFORMATION, THEN TURNS TO PJ.

TY

(FLEXES) Wanna touch 'em again?

HE SMILES AND EXITS COCKILY.

PJ

(COUGH, COUGH) Damnit-- (COUGH)

SMASH CUT TO:

A PHOTO OF THREE YEAR OLD TY, NAKED, MASKED, HANDS ON HIPS, STARING CONFIDENTLY AT THE CAMERA AND, CHYRONED ACROSS HIS MID-SECTION: THE BEAST

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW