

"A DOG AND HIS BOY" - Scene 1

By Rob Biesenbach

CAST

Stewart - 30s, painfully shy, introverted, lost, scared

The Dog - 63 (in dog years), a talking dog, ideally w/British accent

Mary - 20s/30s, super-perky, dog-lover

Kid - 8, a kid

Karen - 20s/30s, kind, helpful, caretaker type

(STEWART, sitting on a park bench, reading a newspaper. A DOG sits at his feet, staring forward. The dog scratches himself, as dogs do. Another moment passes. MARY enters.)

MARY

Ohhhhhhhh, your dog is so cute!

(Stewart looks up from paper, the dog suddenly becomes more animated, panting, sitting up, etc.)

STEWART

Um ... thank you.

(Mary kneels down, scratches dog behind ears, which the dog enjoys.)

MARY

(Baby talk) Oh, you are SO cute. Yes you are! Yes you are! I might just have to take you home! (To Stewart) So what kind is he?

STEWART

Oh, he's a (coughs) ... a mix.

MARY

Well, he's a very good dog. (Back to dog in baby talk.) Aren't you? Aren't you? Yes you are! Yes you are!

(She gets up to leave.)

Well I gotta go now! Goodbye!

STEWART

Bye.

DOG

(Arfs at her.)

(They both watch Mary exit. After a moment, Stewart holds up newspaper.)

STEWART

(Now more comfortable) All right, uh ... the Giants and the Cubs ...

DOG

(In perfect English) San Francisco.

STEWART

Really? I mean I don't know much about baseball, but the Cubs are hitting like -

DOG

Irrelevant when they're facing left-handed pitchers during daylight games at home.

STEWART

I don't know where you find the time for all this research ...

DOG

Unlike you, I don't just sit around all day scratching myself.

STEWART

(Pauses to consider) I don't know ... I don't like betting against the home team ...

DOG

Suit yourself.

(The dog pulls out a wad of cash.)

Hello, wad of money! (Licks wad.)

STEWART

Okay, okay, put away your bankroll! (Grudgingly) We'll go with the Giants. (Pause) And stop wagging so hard!

(From off stage, a child's voice yells.)

KID (O.S.)

Mommy, mommy, it's a doggie!

(Stewart quickly goes back to his paper and the dog goes back to dog-like behavior. Kid enters.)

KID

Hey, Mister! What's your dog's name?

STEWART

Uh ... Rags ...

KID

Hi, Rags! (Pets dog) Will he fetch a stick?

STEWART

(Hesitantly) Sure ...

(The dog gives Stewart an annoyed look.)

KID

Oh, boy! Here ya go, Rags! Nowwwww ... FETCH!

(Kid throws the stick and the dog watches it land, stays planted, looks at Stewart. Stewart signals for him to fetch. Reluctantly, the dog trots over, gets stick and returns.)

KID

Good, doggie! Okay, see you later, Mister! Goodbye, Rags!

(They both watch the kid leave, make sure he's gone, then the dog turns to Stewart and spits the stick out.)

DOG

(Disgusted) "Go fetch." My, God! Can you imagine where that stick has been?

STEWART

Take it easy, all right? You're the one who wanted to go to the park ...

DOG

I just thought it might be nice to get out for once, okay? You know, it wouldn't hurt you to meet some new people ... maybe even ... date?

STEWART

I don't think so.

DOG

No, really. You might want to try hanging out with ... your own kind.

STEWART

I'M NOT HAVING THIS CONVERSATION AGAIN!

DOG

Look, I'm not going to be around forever, you know.

STEWART

Shut up! You're only 9.

DOG

That's 63.

STEWART

(Fearful) I don't want to talk about it, okay? (Looks around) All right, hold it down, somebody's coming.

(Karen enters, and they both quickly assume their "normal" postures.)

KAREN

Oh, isn't he adorable? What's his name?

STEWART

Rags.

(Karen pets the dog and he responds.)

KAREN

Oh, he reminds me of my little Pookie! She's a Pekingese. We ought to meet up sometime - maybe she and Rags would get along!

STEWART

Maybe ...

KAREN

I'm Karen! What's your name?

STEWART

Stewart.

KAREN

Nice to meet you, Stewart. Look, they have a little Doggie Café over in the other end of the park. Pookie and I are there every Saturday morning - why don't we all meet up next week?

STEWART

Oh, I don't know ...

KAREN

Nonsense, we'll see you next Saturday at 10! It's a date! Goodbye, Stewart! Goodbye, Rags!

(She exits and they watch until she's safely gone.)

DOG

A double-date? With a Pekingese? The peripatetic morons of the dog world?

STEWART

I didn't mean to ... we can get out of it!

DOG

The hell you say! This may be just what the doctor ordered ... but you owe me!

(Lights out.)