

"A DOG AND HIS BOY" - Scene 2

By Rob Biesenbach

CAST

Stewart - 30s, painfully shy, introverted, lost

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

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

Pookie - a Pekingesese, insufferably yappy

(STEWART and KAREN, sitting together on a bench on one part of the stage, DOG and POOKIE on another part of stage. At lights up, Stewart and Karen are having a long, awkward pause.)

KAREN

So ... have you been to any good restaurants lately?

STEWART

Me? No. We don't go out much. I mean, not too many places allow dogs.

KAREN

Oh, right ... that's the good thing about this place.

STEWART

Yeah, it's nice they let the dogs in ...

KAREN

(Pause) Look at them - they seem to be having a good time.

(Focus shifts to DOG and POOKIE.)

DOG

So they say interest rates are on the way up again. I'm a little worried about my T-bills.

POOKIE

(Mindlessly) YAP!

DOG

Of course, with the way things are going in the Mideast, that's certainly a drag on the markets ...

POOKIE

YAP!

DOG

(Struggling) Um ... nice ... weather we're having, isn't it?

POOKIE

YAP!

DOG

Oh, very well ... (big sigh) ... "woof."

POOKIE

(Enthusiastically) YAP! YAP-YAP!! YAP-YAP-YAP-YAP-YAP-YAP! YAP! YAP-YAP-YAP ...

(Back to STEWART and KAREN.)

KAREN

(Still struggling) So ... have you seen any good movies recently?

STEWART

Movies? No.

KAREN

(Pause) I like to travel - do you travel much?

(Stewart shakes head.)

Okaaaaay ... what do you like to do? Do you have any ... hobbies?

STEWART

Um, I don't know ... I like geology.

KAREN

(Encouraging) Geology? You mean like rocks and things?

STEWART

Well, yes, but it's about more than rocks. It's ... the whole planet, you know? Continents, oceans ...

KAREN

That's interesting.

STEWART

I really like glaciers.

KAREN

Glaciers?

STEWART

Oh, yes, they're actually quite amazing ... for instance, did you know this whole area right here was covered in glaciers, miles thick, just 10,000 years ago? (Pause) And, in fact, the ground underneath us is still recovering from the weight of the glaciers. It's actually springing back upwards ... at a microscopically imperceptible rate, of course ...

KAREN

Well, that's fascinating ... have you ever been to see a glacier?

STEWART

Me? No. They're all a long way from here now.

(Focus shifts to DOG and POOKIE.)

POOKIE

YAP-YAP! YAP-YAP-YAP-YAP! YAP-YAP -

DOG

You don't ever shut up do you?

POOKIE

YAP-YAP! YAP-YAP-YAP-

DOG

For the love of all that is holy, would you please just stop?

POOKIE

YAP-YAP! YAP-YAP-YAP-YAP! YAP-YAP -

DOG

(Sigh) Dear God, kill me now ...

(Back to STEWART and KAREN.)

STEWART

You see, glaciers are just snow is all ... but it's been compacted over time. In fact the ice at the bottom of a glacier is so compact and so dense, well it's harder than diamonds.

KAREN

Stewart, I think you should go see the glaciers.

STEWART

The best one - outside the Arctic Circle, of course is up in Canada. You can take a tour and actually go out there and stand on the glacier. Can you imagine that? Standing on ice that was formed by snow that fell 400 years ago?

KAREN

(Pause) Stewart, you should go.

STEWART

No, I couldn't.

KAREN

Why not?

STEWART

I couldn't leave Rags. He's a very ... special dog. He needs me.

KAREN

Right, I can see that. (Pause, light bulb goes off) I could take care of him!

STEWART

I don't think so ...

KAREN

Sure I could! It wouldn't be any trouble at all.

STEWART

No!

KAREN

Just for a week and you can go away! Pookie could use a companion - it would be fun!

STEWART

NO!! (Recovering) Look ... you're a very nice lady and I appreciate it, but ... it's just not possible, okay?

KAREN

(Pause) Okay, Stewart. Well, um, I think Pookie and I will be running along. Maybe we'll see you another time? Come on, Pookie!

DOG

Ah, deliverance is mine!

POOKIE

YAP-YAP! YAP-YAP-YAP-

DOG

Toodle-oo ... (with disdain) Pookie ...

(Karen and Pookie depart.)

DOG

Well, how did you manage to blow that?

STEWART

She wasn't right for us.

DOG

Us? Whatever, that was excruciating.

STEWART

I'm sorry.

STEWART/DOG

Take me home now.

(Lights out.)