

Dog Playing Poker

Pilot

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COLD OPEN

INT. THE POKER GAME - NIGHT

BROWNIE, FROYO, STAN AND DITKA are in their regular chairs at the poker table. Stan has just won the hand and is raking in the pot. Daphne's chair is EMPTY. PHOTOS of Brownie and Daphne are in the background: Brownie in mid-air catching a frisbee, Daphne and Brownie chasing squirrels together, playing tug of war with a stick at the beach.

FROYO
(re: Stan)
You kidding me?

DITKA
Odds are he's gonna win sometime.

FROYO
That's like saying odds are J Lo will find true love. Statistically possible, but history tells us otherwise.

STAN
That's the thing about life. You never know when you're gonna get hot.

FROYO
J Lo was born hot.

Ditka scratches himself.

BROWNIE
Oh my God, you should have seen the catch I made today.

Nobody wants to hear about it, but they indulge him.

BROWNIE (CONT'D)
I was by the stump in the park, the one with the yellow jackets.

A FLASHBACK of the catch as Brownie tells the story.

BROWNIE (V.O.)
Daphne whips it, like fifty yards. I fly across the meadow--outrun the yellow jackets--run halfway up the oak tree.

As Brownie runs up the oak tree, THREE SQUIRRELS scatter,

BROWNIE (V.O. CONT'D)

I launch off the tree trunk, some
real Jackie Chan shit--fly over the
pond and come down right between
those two swans.

END FLASHBACK

STAN

I heard swans mate for life.

DITKA

Hissin' at each other til the end
of time. No thank you.

BROWNIE

That's cause you never found your
soulmate.

DITKA

More like cellmate.

BROWNIE

Lots of cool animals are
monogamous: Grey Wolves, marmosets,
Bald Eagles.

DITKA

All boring. Lions, elephants,
bears. All exciting, all single.

Brownie is distracted by Daphne's EMPTY CHAIR. Froyo's eyes
twinkle with an idea. He grabs the top CUSHION from the three
on his chair, hops down and walks to the other side of the
table.

FROYO

Deal me over here.

He starts to climb Daphne's chair. The others look on with
shock.

FROYO (CONT'D)

What? Daphne's always got the hot
hand. It's gotta be the seat. YOLO.

STAN

Yolo!

BROWNIE

You know what else ya only do once?
Die. You're in the queen's throne.

FROYO

I thought this was your game.

BROWNIE

Yeah, until Daphne gets here.

DITKA

This may be your worst idea ever.

STAN

Worse than toilet paper for dogs.

FROYO

Come on, dude. That was a no-brainer. Totally untapped market.

Daphne BREEZES in. Froyo freezes halfway up the chair.

DAPHNE

You know, Chinese emperors used Pugs as hot water bottles.

FROYO

Just, uh, the leg was wobbly the last time. I was looking for a matchbook.

Froyo scatters. Daphne takes her seat. Froyo can't see above the table without the third cushion.

BROWNIE

Where were you?

DAPHNE

Busy day.

Daphne realizes she is sitting on Froyo's cushion, pulls it out from under her and hands it back to him. Brownie SNIFFS at Daphne. The others start SNIFFING in her direction.

BROWNIE

That's Gilly, isn't it?

DAPHNE

Yeah.

DITKA

And Louie. I guess it was a busy day.

DAPHNE SNIFFS Ditka

DAPHNE

Is that Annie?

She SNIFFS again.

 DAPHNE (CONT'D)
It is. And Kahleesi?

 DITKA
 (scratching)
Yeah. I think I may have picked up
more than her scent.

 DAPHNE
You've never been able to say no to
two different colored eyes, have
you?

Stan SNIFFS.

 STAN
I don't recognize that one.

 DITKA
Maybe it's Banksy.

Daphne laughs. Froyo SNIFFS.

 FROYO
 (to Daphne)
Steve? Interesting.

 BROWNIE
Come on! Really?

On Brownie's face: the look of a scorned man.

 STAN
Whaddya expect? Guy's got a
firehose.

CUT AWAY TO:

INT. FIRE HOUSE - DAY

STEVE THE BUSCEMI, the fire chief, stands in the firehouse. He looks exactly like a dog version of Steve Buscemi: long face and scraggly fur. A firefighter CALENDAR picturing Steve with a hose at crotch-level hangs on the wall behind him. The firehouse ALARM sounds, the garage DOOR goes up and THREE DALMATIANS wearing fire hats and gear, all incredibly dumb, run out and down the street. Steve runs after them, shouting. In the b.g. THE GOAT is rifling through the garbage in front of an apartment building.

STEVE
Hey, you forgot the truck again!
Idiots.

BACK TO:

INT. THE POKER GAME - NIGHT

The game has progressed. The FLOP shows: Eight of Diamonds, Five of Clubs, Ace of Hearts, Queen of Hearts, Eight of Spades.

BROWNIE
Steve! You serious?

DAPHNE
Relax, I'm here now.

She puts her paw on Brownie's. Ditka continues to scratch.

STAN
Raise fifty.

Brownie is looking at Daphne. She knows what's coming.

BROWNIE
I just wanna try monogamy, okay?

DAPHNE
Please, we've been through this. It just doesn't make sense. We're dogs, it's not natural.

DITKA
Monogamy. Pfft. Listen to me, Brownie. You start treating your seed like it's a limited edition WU TANG LP, cats will outnumber us in a year and a half, tops.

Stan looks at Ditka scratching. He makes his final bet and flips over his hole cards.

STAN
Aces over Eights.

FROYO
Oh, come on!

Daphne's phone CHIMES. She reads an alert. She's worried.

BROWNIE
What?

DAPHNE

On *Critter*, one of my students dug up an old post. Says I'm species-ist.

BROWNIE

Species-ist?

DAPHNE

Yeah, a joke I made years ago.

FROYO laughs at his phone. ON it is an old POST of Daphne's on the social media app, *Critter*. Daphne looks much younger in the profile picture, her fur is dyed blue on her head and the tip of her tail.

FROYO

Ha. You called someone a bird brain.

DAPHNE

I was a kid, in my two's. I said it to my friend Ellie, who IS a bird.

DITKA

A lot more bird than brain.

DAPHNE

What happened to free speech, context, the marketplace of ideas?

STAN

Bezos controls it.

DAPHNE's phone continues to chime. She looks at the screen with increasing concern.

BROWNIE

Bezos?

STAN

Yeah, he controls all the marketplaces. Consumer goods, space rockets, and our thoughts.

Off Brownie's look, Stan points to his head.

STAN (CONT'D)

Get woke, Brownie. That Bill Gates microchip thing was a story planted by Bezos. And guess who controls Bezos? CATS!

ACT 1**INT. BROWNIE AND DAPHNE'S APARTMENT - LATER**

Brownie and Daphne are cleaning up.

BROWNIE

Stop worrying about it. You were a kid. When we were kids, we did all kinds of crazy shit. Remember our first date? I got sprayed by three skunks and stole a coyote's wallet just to impress you.

DAPHNE

If it's nothing, why did Maya call to say she needs to see me tomorrow? I could lose my job over this.

BROWNIE

Maya? Don't worry about it. I'll talk to her.

DAPHNE

Do not talk to Maya. She hates you.

BROWNIE

No she doesn't. We play frisbee football together.

DAPHNE

Says you're a frisbee hog.

BROWNIE

A frisbee hog who scored three touchdowns last week.

EXT. THISTLE HILL - ESTABLISHING - THE NEXT DAY

A sign reads: *Thistle Hill Population 18,212 (not including rabbits)*. The numbers tick up with each litter and down with each death. Pull back to REVEAL a town square with A STATUE of Balto in the center. This is a normal town, but everything is inhabited by animals. There is a DRY CLEANER filled with dog sweaters on racks, a busy GROOMING SALON, a DINER, A FIREHOUSE , A MOVIE THEATER.

CLOSE ON a nearly-completed MURAL on a wall. In it, TWO CATS hover above several other animals in a hot air balloon made of dollar bills.

A CAN OF SPRAY PAINT held by an anonymous paw or hoof comes into frame and FILLS in the last bit of GREEN in the balloon.

The camera moves past Main Street, across a busy park with a pond and a field TO:

EXT. THISTLE HILL DOG COLLEGE - DAY

A bustling college quad filled with student-looking dogs with backpacks and phones. They lounge on the lawn, study, and chase each other. A sign with a CREST of a bone and a book reads *Thistle Hill Dog College* and the Latin *Canos Vero Semper* (Dog Truth Always).

A mangy, shifty GOAT, walks among the students. The students instinctively cover up what they are looking at, as The Goat approaches.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

Daphne speaks to TWENTY DOGS seated in raised, lecture-hall style seating. On a SMARTBOARD behind her are the letters CCT, with *Critical Canine Theory* written underneath. IMAGES of nine different Lassies appear on screen.

DAPHNE

Lassie was a bitch.

Giggles from the students.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

A gendered female. Yet the character was played by eleven male dogs, and not a single female.

More IMAGES on the smartboard: Balto the famous Siberian Husky, the statue of Balto in the center of town, a smaller husky, Bella.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

We all learn about Balto the hero, every town has a statue of him BUT what is the truth about Balto?

Two dog students, DINA, an Australian Cattle Dog mix and SWEENEY, a fluffy Maltese, whisper to each other.

DINA

Better question, what's the truth about her bias?

SWEENEY

I can't even. She's only interested
in haters who aren't her.

INT. MAYA'S OFFICE - DAY

Brownie talks to MAYA, a twitchy Weimaraner, the Dean of Canine Academics. Her office walls are filled with ACADEMIC AWARDS, FRISBEE TROPHIES, and a series of iconic William Wegman PHOTOS that all feature Maya.

MAYA

What was so urgent?

BROWNIE

I heard you think I'm a frisbee
hog.

MAYA

That's why you needed to see me?

BROWNIE

No. I wanted to make sure you knew
this thing with Daphne is not a big
deal.

MAYA

I'm not talking to you about a
personnel matter.

BROWNIE

Come on Maya, it shouldn't affect
her job. You know she was a kid
when she posted that. You know
she's your best teacher, works
harder than anybody and it's not my
fault I get open more than you.

Maya shakes her head.

MAYA

Okay, Brownie. Time for you to
leave.

BROWNIE

Sure, I will and then you know
what'll happen?

MAYA

My day will get Brownie-percent
less annoying?

BROWNIE
No, I'll be open.

MAYA
I'm calling security.

BROWNIE
Those clowns can't cover me.

MAYA
Out. NOW!

The Goat eavesdrops through Maya's open office window.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Daphne continues her lecture.

DAPHNE
Balto's sister, Bella, was the real
hero who delivered the serum.

As Daphne talks, she notices Brownie walk past in the hallway.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)
Excuse me, one second.

She rushes out of the classroom.

DINA
You know her fridge is filled with
Israeli Hummus and she legit loves
JK Rowling.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Daphne has Brownie cornered in the hall. He's busted.

DAPHNE
You talked to Maya, didn't you?

BROWNIE
Yeah, I did.

He SNIFFS Daphne.

BROWNIE (CONT'D)
Is that Steve from yesterday or--

DAPHNE

This morning. I'm under a lot of stress, okay.

BROWNIE

You gotta be kidding me!

DAPHNE

It's how I cope.

A chirpy voice from down the hall.

ELLIE (O.S.)

What's up, you salty bitch?

DAPHNE

Hey, Ellie.

ELLIE, an energetic sparrow, FLIES down the hall, SLAMS into the window on the classroom door and comes to rest between Brownie and Daphne.

ELLIE

(Re: the window)

That was a bit. Haha. I knew it was there.

DAPHNE

You okay?

ELLIE

Yeah. Sorry I'm late. Hungover as fuck right now.

BROWNIE

What is she doing here?

DAPHNE

Ellie's gonna help me set the record straight. Told you I don't need your help.

INT. STAN AND DITKA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ditka scratches himself on a threadbare couch. It's like the apartment in *The Odd Couple*, if two Oscar Madisons lived there. Stan is on the phone, eating a fried egg out of the frying pan. Ditka looks at an EVICTION NOTICE: *Purrfect Properties*. The letterhead features a FAT CAT standing in front of a building.

STAN
(on the phone)
Yeah, gimme \$200 on The Cupcake-
Jester-Teenage Dream Exacta.

He hangs up.

DITKA
Are you kidding, horses now?

STAN
No, The Masked Singer. The Goat
gave me a tip. He's got a cousin
who eats Rupert Murdoch's yacht
waste.

DITKA shakes his head with disgust, holds up the eviction
notice.

DITKA
Is The Goat's cousin gonna pay the
four months rent you owe? Four
grand by Friday or we're out on our
asses.

STAN
Friday? Is it even legal to evict
someone before the Sunday games?

DITKA
You know you got a disease.

STAN
If optimism is a disease then I
guess my days are numbered.

DITKA
Like I said, you got five days to
live.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - LATER

Ellie stands at the front of the class. Brownie watches
through the window of the classroom door, which now has an
IMPRINT where Ellie hit it.

ELLIE
Bird Brain, come on. I thought it
was funny, also a commentary about
how commonplace CTE and brain
injuries are in birds. Real talk.
(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)

You have a tail feather, you might
as well be the offensive line of
the Chicago Bears, except we're in
the trenches 365 days a year
getting hammered--

She points a wing to her head.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Right in the jelly jar.

ON Daphne: *This was a bad idea.*

ELLIE (CONT'D)

And I'm one of the lucky ones, a
sparrow. I wake up every day
thankful I'm not a Blue Jay.
They're born stupid. Or a
Hummingbird. Every single one of
those needle-beaked tweakers would
stab you in your sleep for a bump
of nectar.

DAPHNE

Okay, that's great. Thanks, Ellie.
Thanks for sharing your
perspective.

Ellie ignores Daphne. She's on a roll.

ELLIE

Or a goose. Born assholes. Nothing
but garbage swans. You know what I
would do if I was born a goose?

SWEENEY

Be less problematic?

The other students laugh. The Goat is recording the whole
thing through the open window. Daphne frantically signals to
Ellie to stop.

ELLIE (CONT)

You know what THIS is? This whole
thing is a bitch hunt. That's
right.

DAPHNE

--Okay, thanks again, Ellie.

ELLIE

Nothing more than a bunch of ferret
dicks on the internet trying to
take out this beautiful badass
bitch because they're jealous.

INSTANTLY, all of the dogs' ears perk up, heads snap around,
including Daphne's. They HEAR a bell in the form of a SILENT
DOG WHISTLE.

DAPHNE

(relieved)

Okay, that's all the time we have.

The dogs pack up their notebooks and backpacks and stampede
out on all fours. Daphne shouts to be heard over the
commotion.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Remember, personal essays on your
Pavlovian responses are due
Tuesday. No extensions if you eat
your homework.

ELLIE

Anyone wants any Molly or Oxy, I'll
be in the diseased oak tree out
front.

EXT. CLASSROOM BUILDING - DAY

The Goat whispers into his phone. In the b.g., on the wall,
is another Banksy PAINTING: A HAWK'S wings are being clipped
by OVERSIZED SHEARS. One blade says "Pesticides", the second
blade says "Unrealistic Audubon beauty standards."

*

THE GOAT

You would not believe who she
brought into the classroom. Yeah, I
got the video. Heard the school
launched an investigation.

INT. OFFICE - SAME

FERNANDO FERRARO, a smarmy Chihuahua-looking dog with slicked-
back fur hangs up the phone.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY - LATER

Brownie and Froyo walk past the Balto statue which is pelted
by BIRD TURDS from above.

BROWNIE

This thing with Daphne's blowing up. It's bad. I gotta do something.

FROYO

Listen to me, dude. You try to do this offline, you're DOA. You wanna fix this, you gotta surf the woke wave.

BROWNIE

I don't know what's more annoying the things you say or the words you use to say them.

The Goat appears out of nowhere.

THE GOAT

Brownie, Gelato. What's good?

BROWNIE

Not you.

THE GOAT

Sorry to hear about Daphne getting suspended.

BROWNIE

You got no idea what you're talking about. She's not suspended.

Brownie's phone DINGS. On his phone, a text from Daphne: *They just suspended me. TOTAL Nightmare.*

BROWNIE (CONT'D)

(reading his phone)

Daphne just got suspended. How did you know before she did?

THE GOAT

I am The G.O.A.T. The greatest of all time.

BROWNIE

No, you're a GOAT, not The G.O.A.T.

THE GOAT

Really? Would a goat know Daphne is about to be the subject of Fernando Ferraro's latest

(rolling the r in report)

report about hate speech on campus? No, but The G.O.A.T. does. I know it all. I might even be Banksy.

BROWNIE

No chance.

THE GOAT

How do you know?

BROWNIE

Cause Banksy has something to say.

The Goat SHOOTs out a fusillade of poop PELLETS. Froyo jumps out of the way, just in time.

FROYO

Come on, man.

THE GOAT

You wish you had my metabolism,
soft serve.

INT. DINER DAY

Stan and Ditka are in a booth drinking coffee. Ditka scratches.

STAN

You know, I think that scratching
is good luck.

DITKA

Ain't nothin' lucky about this.

Ditka scratches more. Stan grabs some LOTTERY SCRATCHERS and sticks them in Ditka's fur. They ALL come out winners: rows of FOUR CHERRIES, FOUR ACES, A baseball-themed scratcher with a GRAND SLAM.

STAN

See?

ZOOM IN, INSIDE DITKA'S fur. Four fleas, PETER, FRAN, DEL, AND MARY, sit at a poker table in Ditka's fur. DEL looks at his cards.

DEL

Check.

Scratcher DEBRIS RAINS on the flea poker game, covering the fleas in ash. They cough and brush the flakes off.

PETER

Disgusting, is that dandruff?

Fran looks at the black particles and shakes her head.

FRAN

Nah, Black hail. These extreme weather events are happening more and more.

MARY

Who knows if the planet will even be here for our great-great-great-great-grandchildren to inherit. In two weeks.

The fleas all shake their heads, concerned for the future.

BACK TO:

INT. DINER - DAY

Ditka takes the winning scratchers from Stan.

DITKA

That's twenty bucks. We just need the rest of the four thousand.

STAN

Don't worry, it's coming. This streak's got legs. I can feel it. Whatever you do, no baths.

DITKA

Don't have to worry 'bout that. The last bath I took was when I was a puppy. Put my head under, when I came up my mother was gone.

Stan considers this.

STAN

Interesting. So your theory is bathtubs could be portals to a parallel timeline?

DITKA

All I know is nothing good ever happened in a tub.

STAN

(nodding)

Judy Garland, Whitney Houston, Jim Morrison, all killed by bathtubs.

Ditka's face grows sad.

DITKA

And my mom.

Brownie and Froyo walk through the diner.

FROYO

Here's what we do: I go online as you, attack everybody who attacked Daph, that'll draw their fire to you.

They take seats next to Stan and Ditka.

FROYO (CONT'D)

And then Chillhound calls for you to be canceled.

BROWNIE

Chillhound?

Froyo puts on wraparound SUNGLASSES. *"Good For You"* by Olivia Rodrigo plays

FROYO

I am Chillhound.

Froyo holds up his phone with a PROFILE PICTURE of a cool-looking Rottweiler wearing sunglasses. The profile description reads: *Always Authentic, Defund Douches, Hate is not our Fate*. Chillhound has 10,012 followers.

FROYO (CONT'D)

That's me online. I've got over ten thousand followers.

DITKA

Ten thousand followers. You?

FROYO

No. Chillhound. Chillhound cracked the code.

STAN

Yeah, right. You always struck me as our very own Neo.

FROYO

I see the Matrix, I do. I just get offended by whatever everybody else is upset about. The key is to do it seconds before everyone else does. That way I trend.

BROWNIE

You trend?

FROYO

Chillhound does, making him the hottest virtue signal this side of Dax Shepard. Love his podcast.

BROWNIE

Let me see if I get this: You're just gonna use those stupid glasses and --

FROYO

--And make you, Brownie, the outrage of the day. Everyone forgets about Daphne, she gets her life back. Brownie saves the day. Just a simple Chillhound-Brownie collab and everything will be Gucci.

STAN

Brownie you can't be serious.

BROWNIE

I know, I know. I don't know what else to do.

FROYO

Come on dude, trust the process.

DITKA

What you shouldn't do is trust someone who talks like he manages a boy band.

They all look at Froyo. He lowers his SHADES.

INT. SCREENSHOTS - VARIOUS

Good For You plays. Froyo taps on his phone and POSTS from @Brownie appear:

@Brownie *If you can't take a joke, you are a #birdbrain #BackoffDaph.*

@Brownie **BLUE JAYS CREATED THE BIRD FLU.**

@Brownie **COME AT ME, FERRET DICKS #Un-cancelable.**

@Brownie (A Gif of Brownie making an amazing Jim Brown-like run in frisbee football. No dog lays a paw on him.) It says ***Can't Touch Me! Brownie 56 Cancel Police 0.***

Almost instantly, RESPONSES from @Chillhound POP on screen.

@Brownie is ANTI-FEATHER.

#CancelBrownie

The anti-Brownie POSTS layer on. This happens QUICKLY. All don't need to be read, just appear on screen to give the sense that the online mob is seizing on the Brownie cancelation. (Many of these lines will play as Easter eggs.)

@Jackthesparrow ***DESTROY ANTI-FE.***

@FATCAT ***Cancel Brownie faster than a Peacock Premium Free Trial.***

@ActualDina ***If it's Brown, flush him down.***

@Maya ***@Brownie good luck dicksplaining your way out of this.***

@THEG.O.A.T. ***I'm the Greatest of All Time, Brownie's the #Hatest.***

@CHILLHOUND ***I stand with Anti-Anti-Fe.***

Froyo gleefully watches his followers TICK UP past 16,000.

INT. BROWNIE AND DAPHNE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A television news report plays. FOOTAGE of a diverse crowd of animals with signs reading *Cancel Brownie, End the Hate.*

CROWD CHANT
DOWN WITH BROWNIE, DOWN WITH
BROWNIE.

Reporter Fernando Ferraro speaks to camera.

FERNANDO FERRARO
In what is undeniably an important
step in the swift march toward
progress for Thistle Hill, local
dog, Brownie, has been canceled.

Daphne turns off the television. Brownie acts wounded and stoic. Daphne is falling for it.

DAPHNE
This is so terrible.

BROWNIE
(stoically)
I did what I had to.

Daphne's phone DINGS with a text. Her face lights up,

DAPHNE
Maya says they dropped the
investigation. I can come back to
work.

She hugs Brownie with joy. Brownie limply hugs Daphne back.

BROWNIE
That's great. I'm happy I could
take the heat off of you, babe.

Brownie milks the moment fishing for sympathy. Daphne falls
for it.

DAPHNE
Listen, I've been thinking, you
really stuck your neck out for me.
I want to make a sacrifice for you.

BROWNIE
Really?

DAPHNE
Yeah. We can try it.

BROWNIE
It? US? Exclusive. Monogamy!?

She smiles and nods. Brownie hugs her.

DAPHNE
On Tuesdays.

BROWNIE
What? Monogamy once a week?

Daphne nods.

DAPHNE
Tuesday or nothing. Take it or
leave it.

ACT 2

TITLES OVER BLACK: The next day...Monogamy Tuesday

EXT. POND - DAY

It is a beautiful day. Rowboats dot the pond. Puppies play in the water. Jaunty, cheerful MUSIC plays. Brownie walks, carefree, tossing a frisbee to himself. He spots something in the distance. It is Daphne in a boat. Brownie smiles and starts waving to her.

BROWNIE

Hey Daph, Daph.

She doesn't hear him. The boat gets closer to Brownie and the frisbee falls out of his mouth. Widen out from Daphne rowing to REVEAL A GERMAN SHEPHERD thrusting into Daphne from behind. Each time the dog thrusts, he pushes Daphne and the oars forward. Daphne then pulls the oars back through the water into the dog, who thrusts into her again, propelling another oar stroke.

BROWNIE (CONT'D)

(shouting)

What are you doing?

Daphne sees Brownie, then looks at the CALENDAR on her phone, while still having sex.

DAPHNE

Oh my God. I am so sorry. I totally forgot today is Tuesday.

INT. DIPS AND DO'S SALON - DAY

Stan and Ditka are in a high-end dog spa: A ROW OF DOGS is getting clipped, FOUR DOGS soak in tubs. This is also a bookie joint, run by RITA, a sharky Lhasa Apse with one blue eye. Next to the list of spa services is a WHITEBOARD with betting lines posted. Next Species to be canceled: *Coyotes 6 to 5, Ferrets 2 to 1, Rabbits 18 to 2, Cats 20 to 1.*

Rita pays Stan out.

RITA

That's for Brownie being canceled.

DITKA

(to Stan)

Wonder how you saw that one coming.

RITA

Badger being canceled as a verb--
(shaking her head)
And for "Doggie Style."

Stan gleefully counts his money. RITA is in disbelief.

RITA (CONT'D)

Doggie Style, really? What are we
supposed to call the sex position
every species uses?

STAN

Dom-Sub.

Ditka takes Stan's winnings and counts out two thousand.

DITKA

Great. June and July. Now we just
need August and September.

Stan takes his winnings back.

STAN

Ditka, you wanna be a schmuck who
pays rent the rest of your life or
you wanna own the building? I'm
hot.

Stan lovingly scratches Ditka's back.

STAN (CONT'D)

All thanks to that magic carpet of
yours. Gotta take the ride, buddy.
Live the dream. Im telling ya, this
is the hand of fate punching in
God's ATM code.

DITKA

Maybe you're right.

STAN

Knew you'd come around. We do this
my way, you and me, we'll be living
in a penthouse this time next week.

Stan spreads his two front paws to emphasize his vision.

STAN (CONT'D)

Every wall an LED flatscreen,
indoor/outdoor ponds, wraparound
terrace stocked with squirrels.

Ditka starts to give this serious consideration. As the conversation happens, the DREAM APARTMENT COMES TO LIFE in animation above Stan and Ditka as they talk.

STAN (CONT'D)

We could have a cat butler, two cat butlers. Whatever you want.

DITKA

One of those sofas that reclines with footrests?

STAN

My man, we'll have so many footrests in our place, our footrests will have footrests. I'm talking some serious Dogton Abbey shit. But not frilly stuff, just kick-ass stuff.

In the fantasy sequence, a CAT BUTLER serves Ditka and Stan marrow bones as they watch cat fails on a giant LED screen.

DITKA

Possum steaks?

STAN

Kobe possum filets flown in from Tokyo, EVERY DAY. Trust me, we gotta punch this ticket.

DITKA is smiling, nodding. He is ON BOARD. Stan HIGH-FIVES him.

STAN (CONT'D)

I knew you'd come around.

Ditka smiles, then:

DITKA

Rent is due Friday, asshole.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

A variety of animals walk into a movie theater. The marquee reads *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof*. On the wall, another BANKSY: A rabbit, napkin around his neck, with fork and knife, cuts an OVERSIZED CARROT labeled "Biodiversity" into small pieces.

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - LATER

Daphne and Brownie are in their seats. They hold paws.

DAPHNE

Babe, so sorry about earlier. I'm totally dialed in now, like we talked about.

BROWNIE

Okay great.

DAPHNE

Completely present. ALL yours.

Daphne leans across her seat and snuggles into Brownie. Brownie finally has what he wants. The Goat sits three rows behind Brownie and Daphne. He munches on garbage in a POPCORN TUB.

On Screen: A CAT hops around on a hot TIN ROOF.

CAT (ON SCREEN)

OW! OW! OW!

The crowd loves it. TWO FAT CATS watch from balcony V.I.P, seats, munching caviar. They are disgusted by the movie.

FAT CAT 1

How do these Catsploitation movies still get made?

FAT CAT 2

We really need to do something about this.

The cats watch with anger. ON SCREEN, the cat dances faster when some tires on the hot roof catch on fire, making it even hotter. The FAT CATS can't help themselves from laughing at this.

FAT CAT

Ha, ha, ha.

FAT CAT 2

Hehehe, funny is funny. The roof is owning him.

INT. STAN AND DITKA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Froyo sits on the couch, smiling and newly emboldened. Stan and Ditka are both annoyed at how happy Froyo is.

FROYO

You guys need anything, any problems solved, you just let me know.

STAN

Well, our couch does have a giant lump of shit on it that we can't seem to get rid of.

Froyo's on his phone. He doesn't even hear this.

DITKA

What are you doing?

Froyo looks up from his phone.

FROYO

Glad you asked. @Brownie is gettin' into it with some vegan cat-tivists, and @Chillhound is on a rocket ship ride to fifty thousand followers. That's right, boys, club 50K.

DITKA

Can't you do that at your own place?

FROYO

I could, but I like to combine the dopamine hit of online likes with the rush of in-person validation.

Froyo's phone DINGS with likes.

FROYO (CONT'D)

A digital speedball.

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - LATER

Brownie walks back to his seat carrying POPCORN and SODAS. On SCREEN: The cat still can't get off the hot tin roof and goes to lick its front paws. When he sits down, he BURNS his BUTT on the roof. THE CROWD roars.

Daphne is not in her seat. Brownie looks around the theater. He can't find her. The Goat, eating the empty popcorn tub, gestures with a horn toward the CURTAINS on the side of the movie screen. Daphne's TAIL is sticking out. Six paws are on the ground, visible under the curtains. Daphne's two front paws are bracing against the wall. Brownie can't believe it.

EXT. STREET LATER

Brownie and Daphne stand on the street.

BROWNIE

One day, it was just ONE DAY! And
you couldn't do it. Instead,
everywhere I look, I see you doing
the "sundress challenge."

DAPHNE

I am sorry. I tried. I really did.
It's just not who I am.

THREE FRENCH BULLDOGS, BINOCHE, GODARD and BARDOT all with a
head of steam approach Brownie. Bardot holds up his phone
with a POST from @Brownie.

BARDOT

(French accent)

You kidding me? The only trick
French Bulldogs know is how to
surrender to the German Shepherds.
Haven't we moved on from that?

BROWNIE

What?

A BOXER approaches Brownie, teeth bared.

BOXER

Nice try, Brownie. I'm not giving
them a cent. #Puglife, my ass. I'll
show you puglife.

Brownie steps back, confused. From across the street TWO DEER
shout at Brownie.

DEER 1

Hey Brownie, guess what, we're not
going back to the woods. We're OUT
of the woods.

DEER 2

We're here. We're deer, get used to
it.

The deer stare vacantly.

BROWNIE

You done?

The Deer just stare.

BROWNIE (CONT'D)

So weird how they do that staring
thing where you think they're about
to say something else but they
never do.

The deer continue to stare. Daphne shoots daggers at Brownie.

ACT 3

EXT. STREET - DAY

Several MORE DEER have emerged from the trees and stare. One of them starts munching on some branches. Daphne is pissed.

DAPHNE

So, somehow, magically in the time
we were in a movie, your phone
posted all these things on its own,
calling French Bulldogs
capitulators and German Shepherds
fascists? Demanding Boxers pay
reparations to pugs, attacking
deer. You love deer.

BROWNE

Hackers, maybe. I don't know,
Russians?

Daphne's phone CHIMES. She holds it up.

DAPHNE

Oh, here's another one. Congrats
@Chillhound on 50K. SO lit. YOLO.
YOLO? You said YOLO? You don't say
YOLO.

INT. THE PARK - DAY

A stage has been erected in the park. PROTESTORS abound. A
DOWN-ON-HIS-LUCK DOG stands on a street corner holding a
cardboard SIGN:

Ask me how a CAT DESTROYED MY LIFE.

#Meowtoo #CancelCats #WakeupBezos

Reporter Fernando Ferraro stands in front of the stage
talking to camera.

FERNANDO FERRARO

The pace of change continues to quicken.

A several SNAKES stand behind Fernando holding signs: *Our blood has no thermostat, Stop Vilifying us in the Grass* and *We comply with TSA Regulations*.

FERNANDO FERRARO (CONT'D)

In a victory for the seasonal-skin-shedding community, all Old Testament Bibles will be reprinted to replace the serpent in the Book of Genesis with Kevin Spacey.

Behind Fernando, a GRAPHIC with logos of animal-themed sports teams appear with slashes through them (Lions, Tigers, Bears, Jaguars, Seahawks).

FERNANDO FERRARO (CONT'D)

And big news in the world of sports. All animal-themed sports teams will now be named after one of Nick Cannon's kids.

The report suddenly cuts back to the studio to a somber, square-jawed DOBERMAN NEWS ANCHOR at the desk. FULL FRAME.

DOBERMAN NEWS ANCHOR

We interrupt this report with breaking news.

INT. DIP AND DO'S SALON - SAME

Stan, Ditka and Rita watch the report on the salon's television. A PHOTO of Fernando from ten seconds earlier appears over the anchor's shoulder.

DOBERMAN NEWS ANCHOR

We have learned that reporter Fernando Ferraro is not 42% Chihuahua as he claimed on his resume. He is, in fact, 0% Chihuahua and just a light-skinned dachshund. He is no longer employed by this station.

STAN

I did not see that one coming.

Ditka scratches.

INT. INSIDE DITKA'S FUR - DAY - SAME

The flea poker game continues.

MARY

You believe what's going on with these cancelations?

PETER

Yeah BUT that emaciated Red Hot Chili Pepper can run around in his underwear playing bass, making millions, and somehow that's not cultural appropriation?

DEL

You wanna talk about social justice, you know what social justice would be, giving Flea some fleas.

BACK TO:

DOBERMAN NEWS ANCHOR

This information comes from a confidential source, whose identity and voice we agreed to disguise.

FOOTAGE of the DOBERMAN interviewing what is obviously The Goat in silhouette, horns prominently featured.

THE GOAT

(disguised voice)

I was just going through his mail and found his DNA report. Also, he orders an insane amount of freeze-dried bull penises online.

The Goat leans over out of silhouette to eat the DOBERMAN'S notebook.

IN THE SALON: Stan slides all his money over the counter to Rita. He bets it all on The Goat being canceled. Ditka scratches.

STAN

The Goat is due!

DITKA

I thought he was your friend?

STAN

I only need three friends in life buddy. You, intuition, and luck.

DITKA

Yeah, you forgot rent.

STAN

And so will you, cause we're never
renting again.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Daphne continues to lay into Brownie.

DAPHNE

You and Froyo. You threw gasoline
on this fire. The whole town is
tearing itself apart thanks to you.

BROWNIE

I did it for you.

DAPHNE

No, you didn't. Not for me.

BROWNIE

Daph, come on. I had no idea Froyo
was still posting as me.

Froyo turns a corner. He sees Brownie and Daphne arguing. He
tries to reverse course before Daphne sees him.

DAPHNE

Get back here, you little hashtag
shitbag.

INT. DIPS AND DO'S SALON - DAY

Ditka's skin is on fire. He looks at the bathtub and starts
to shake. In the background on one of the whiteboards, the
following NFL betting lines are posted:

Dallas Cowboys +3
Detroit Monroes. -3

Seattle Moroccan Scotts +10
Miami Zens -10

Buffalo Goldens +6
Chicago Zillion Heirs -6

Arizona Zion Mixolydians +4.5
Baltimore Powerful Queens -4.5

STAN

Stay outta that tub big guy.
There's nothin' for you in there.

Ditka starts to SLIDE into the bath. This is the scene in a movie where Stan would sprint across the room and dive in SLOMO, screaming to stop Ditka. BUT Stan RUNS three steps and GETS WINDED.

STAN (CONT'D)
Man, I am out of shape.

He just walks towards Ditka IN SLOMO, screaming:

STAN (CONT'D)
Nooooooooo!

DITKA
Ah.

STAN
This is exactly the kind of thing
that can kill a streak.

Ditka comes up blinking. He's in an altered state.

DITKA
Mom? Are you here?

He looks around.

DITKA (CONT'D)
Where's my binky?
(at the tub water)
Oh no, did I drop it in there? I
can't go under again. Can't do it,
can't do it.

He starts humming "*Somewhere Over The Rainbow*" to himself,
goes back under the water.

EXT. THE PARK - DAY

The protest has grown. Almost the entire town is here. There is a whole Cat VIP section now filled with cats drinking champagne, served by miserable-looking GREAT DANES.

A POODLE screams at a Labradoodle in the crowd.

POODLE
You appropriated our hypoallergenic
properties. Not cool. NOT okay.

EXT. EDGE OF THE PARK - DAY

Brownie and Froyo walk toward the crowd.

BROWNIE

Couldn't quit while you were ahead,
could you?

FROYO

So does this mean you don't owe me?

OFF Brownie's look.

FROYO (CONT'D)

I got an idea.

BROWNIE

So do I. I take your stupid flat
face, unflatten it, so I can
flatten it again.

Froyo taps his nose, feels his face. He laughs nervously.

FROYO

Ha, okay.

EXT. PARK - DAY

A WOKE CARDINAL is on stage with a MIC.

WOKE CARDINAL

Would I like to bark or meow or
communicate with sonar, like a bat?
Sure I would, but that would not be
right. Birds sing, it is how we
were born. Other species need to
stop taking that from us.

THE GOAT

(from the crowd)

What about whales?

WOKE CARDINAL

You call that singing?

In the crowd, Daphne's students, Dina and Sweeney nod
approval. Sweeney is sway dancing like she is at the Ultra
Music EDM festival.

SWEENEY

So brave.

Sweeney starts stroking Dina's fur.

DINA

Did you buy Molly from Ellie?

SWEENEY

Maybe. OR did I buy Ellie from Molly? I don't know girlfriend, don't know. I'm just vibin' with my truth.

Sweeney licks Dina's dog tags. Dina pulls away. The Goat takes the stage. A fire burns in a garbage can in the middle of the crowd as the Woke Cardinal speaks.

WOKE CARDINAL (O.S.)

And I don't wanna hear a word from any butt-hurt worms about getting got. We're birds. Deal with it.

THREE DALMATIANS rush in with a hose to put out the fire. They start drinking from the hose and forget about the fire. Steve grabs the hose, puts the fire out, then shouts.

STEVE

Cancel Dalmatians! They're too stupid to be part of our world.

THREE DALMATIANS start WHOOPING, excited by being name-checked. They BUMP chests.

DALMATIAN

We're gonna be famous!

ELLIE, nearby in the crowd.

ELLIE

What about glass? CANCEL GLASS. One whiney-ass dolphin writes a letter about those plastic six-pack rings and the world freaks out. But glass can do whatever it wants. Time's up, glass!

Daphne stands in the crowd, three rows in front of Brownie, Froyo, Ditka and Stan. Ditka, looks shell-shocked from the bath. Froyo sniffs him.

FROYO

You smell really good. Is that lavender blueberry?

DITKA

(monotone)

Things happened to me in there.

ON STAGE:

THE GOAT

Tom Brady is not The G.O.A.T. I AM
THE G.O.A.T.

A rumble of outrage in the crowd. The Goat ramps into the cadence of a revival preacher.

THE GOAT (CONT'D)

Tom Brady is a species
appropriator. And THOSE ARE HAIR
PLUGS.

FROYO

(shouting)

You take that back.

THE GOAT

(trying to start a chant)

Cancel Brady. Cancel Brady!

SILENCE. All the dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, and other animals look at one other. Then:

FROYO

KILL THE GOAT, KILL THE GOAT!

Stan smiles. Rubs his paws together. He's gonna hit his bet on The Goat.

RITA THE BOOKIE

Justice for Brady!

DALMATIAN

I lost twenty pounds on the TB
diet!

A chant starts.

CROWD

KILL THE GOAT KILL THE GOAT KILL
THE GOAT!

Stan turns to Ditka.

STAN

You hear that? That's the sound of
the SS Cha-ching. Our ship is
coming in, pal.

In the crowd, teeth are bared, sticks are brandished. The crowd moves toward the stage with menace. TERROR fills The Goat's face. He is about to die. In the b.g.

We see the FRENCH BULLDOGS move out of the way of a GERMAN SHEPHERD who means business. Daphne yells ACROSS the crowd to Steve, twenty feet away.

DAPHNE

Steve, you gotta do something.

Steve looks around.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Now! You're the Fire Chief.

From a few rows behind Daphne.

BROWNIE

I got this, honey.

Before Steve can act, Brownie bursts through the crowd. He dashes through the scrum of animals, hurdles two poodles, does a HANDSPRING off the back of a Doberman, grabs a branch in mid-air and launches himself in the air. He sticks the landing right in front of The Goat.

BROWNIE (CONT'D)

(windy)

Hold on. Hold on. We are better than this. We can make progress without murder.

STAN

(shouting to be heard)

You wanna make an omelette, ya gotta murder a few yokes!

BROWNIE

Is The Goat awful, arrogant and does he smell like ten kinds of ass?

CROWD

YES!

BROWNIE

Yes, he does. I know. Every one of us here has fantasized about killing THE GOAT. That fantasy is almost a bigger cliché than the sexy fireman who, let's face it, is nothing without that uniform.

A murmur of agreement. TWO HOT YOUNG FEMALE LABS are in the crowd.

RILEY THE LAB
I never really thought of that.

RICKY THE LAB
But he has that uniform. And it's
hot!

The labs make a beeline for Steve.

BROWNIE
Just because someone says something
stupid, doesn't make them
disposable like a Knicks first
round draft pick, or a Nineties
reboot on Peacock. These arbitrary
cancellations NEED TO STOP.

The mob is coming to its senses. Daphne smiles at Brownie.
His charisma is real. This reminds Daphne why they are
together.

ON STAGE:

BROWNIE (CONT'D)
Except for cats. Cats are the root
of all evil. Nine lives are nine
too many!

A cancel cats murmur shoots through the crowd.

CROWD
NINE LIVES ARE NINE TOO MANY!

STAN
Damn it. I knew I shoulda taken
cats. They were 20 to 1. The Goat
skates, and I'm busted.

CROWD (O.S.)
Nine lives are nine too many.
Cancel Cats. Cancel Cats. Cancel
Cats!

Suddenly the crowd is filled with SIGNS reading *9 Lives R 9
Too Many and Cancel Cats.*

In the cat VIP SECTION.

FAT CAT
How do they have those signs
already?

FAT CAT 2 shrugs. Three GREAT DANE waiters now hold SIGNS that say: *Really, the signs are the thing you're worried about?*

The crowd RUSHES the cats. The cats all look at each other. THIS IS IT. Then, the FAT CAT presses a BUTTON on his watch. OUT OF THE SKY, a Blue Origin ROCKET swoops down and sucks all the cats up. Then, just a beat too late, RICHARD BRANSON's plane-like rocket UNITY appears, followed by ELON MUSK flying erratically in a rocket that looks like the CYBER TRUCK, with Grimes SINGING in the flatbed. Bezos FLIES off.

DITKA

(looks up, then to Stan)
You shoulda bet on Bezos.

ABOVE THE CROWD:

RICHARD BRANSON

God, that music's bloody awful.

ELON MUSK

Grimes says it's gonna sound way better on Mars.

Brownie is now in the empty area where the cats were. From the crowd, Maya screams.

MAYA

Brownie saved the cats. Kill Brownie!

The mob turns away from the stage, moves towards Brownie.

BROWNIE

Whoa whoa. Let's take a minute here.

Daphne jumps on stage and lets out a powerful SILENT DOG whistle. All heads in the mob turn back to the stage and look at Daphne. Brownie sneaks away from the mob.

DAPHNE

STOP. This isn't authentic, this isn't progress. This is hate. Hate is, hate is--

Daphne sees a construction crane in the distance.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Hate is a wrecking ball.

She thinks for a second. The crowd waits.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

*It will leave us crashing in a
blazing ball. All you are doing is
wrecking me and you. We can't live
a lie running for our life. Don't
let us burn and be ashes on the
ground.*

IN THE CROWD:

FROYO

I think she's just reciting Miley
Cyrus lyrics now. That's gonna cost
a fortune.

STAN

Don't worry. Fox has all that NFL
money.

Brownie has snuck away from the mob and is now at the front
of the stage, just below Daphne. Sweeney and several other
students from Daphne's class hug each other and suck on RING
POPS, lost in their Molly trip.

DAPHNE'S POV: in the crowd, she sees a BEAUTIFUL DOG she has
never seen before. He is a perfect, chiseled specimen,
flawless alabaster fur, rippling muscles, piercing blue eyes
to match hers. It's Jack seeing Rose in *Titanic*. Daphne gets
lost in BEAUTIFUL DOG's majesty. She's speechless. After a
long silence the mob grows restless.

ELLIE

(screaming)

What are you a freakin' deer? Say
something, bitch.

*

Daphne SHAKES her head, snaps out of it.

DAPHNE

Yes, yes I am a deer, I'm a dog,
I'm a snake, I'm a bird. We are all
these things.

Confused looks from dogs, snakes, birds and, of course, deer.
In the distance, Daphne sees LIGHT reflecting off of the top
of the Balto Statue.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

And this whole town was built on a
lie.

She motions in the distance to the BALTO STATUE.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Built around a statue that is a fraud. Balto was not the hero. A woman was! We need to tear down the lies that keep us from each other.

FROYO

To the statue!

The crowd stampedes off.

STAN

Classic sleight of hand misdirection. That mob didn't stand a chance.

BROWNIE

That's my girl.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

The mob attacks the Balto statue. On the base of the statue, another BANKSY. It says *All Animals Are Equal, All Cats Are More Equal*.

Several animals PULL on a rope to topple the statue, including The Woke Cardinal and Froyo.

WOKE CARDINAL

I'm tellin' ya, we finally get a bird statue, we can stop shitting on every other statue.

FROYO

That's what all that crapping on statues was about all this time, social commentary about representation?

WOKE CARDINAL

Yeah. Banksy gets ALL that credit for his brilliant subversive commentary. He does it on the ground, with spray paint. Do you know how hard it is to tag an object from twenty feet above, flying eighteen miles an hour into a headwind...with your ass?

EXT. PARK - SAME

Brownie and Daphne are in the now-abandoned park. It looks like the aftermath of Woodstock '99. The Goat is plowing through garbage. Stan and Ditka are off to the side by the upturned stage. Daphne looks across the field strewn with garbage. He's there, THE BEAUTIFUL DOG. Brownie's back is to him, unaware he is there.

BROWNIE

Look, Daph, I'm really sorry. For trying to control everything. I get it now. You need to be who you are, and that doesn't change who we are. I guess I just--

Daphne hugs Brownie so she can look at the Beautiful dog.

DAPHNE

Yeah, yeah, thanks for saying that, babe. See ya at home, okay?

She runs across the field. *Wrecking Ball* plays as Brownie watches.

MAYA (O.S.)

He was SO open.

REVEAL Maya is standing next to Brownie.

BROWNIE

Hilarious.

ACT 4**INT. POKER GAME - NIGHT**

Ditka and Stan betting and playing. Daphne and Brownie happy and flirty. Froyo a little nervous around Daphne. A THUD at the living room window. Ellie FALLS through the open window and onto the poker table. Everyone thinks she's dead.

BROWNIE

What the hell?

FROYO

I guess Ellie folded.

DAPHNE

She'll be fine.

FROYO

So, Daph, you're not mad at me anymore?

DAPHNE

No. Not at all. I'm thankful. This whole mess really worked out great for us. Right, Boo?

BROWNIE

Oh yeah. It made us realize we have a special bond that goes way beyond monogamy.

DAPHNE

Yup. No matter who we hook up with in the course of a day - we still come home to each other. Friends to the end. With benefits.

STAN

Just like me and Ditka.

DITKA

What? You go out all day and blow your cash on bad bets, then I always bail you out. How do I benefit from that?

STAN

Cause I'm never gonna leave ya, pal. I'll always be by your side.

He gives Ditka a loving pat on the back. Ditka grumbles.

DAPHNE

Who do you go home to, Froyo? Who's your anchor?

BROWNIE

I think it's the Martha Stewart throw pillow he's always humping.

FROYO

You wish you had a pillow that hot.

Ellie COMES TO, looks around and flies onto the rim of Brownie's WHISKEY GLASS.

BROWNIE

Who do you picture when you're nailing that pillow J Lo or Tom Brady?

Ellie SUCKS down the entire drink.

FROYO

Don't be so crass. I don't nail anything. It's consensual.

ELLIE

Consent, really? Every single one of those bird feathers inside that pillow said they wanted your tiny junk up in them?

Concern on Froyo's face.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I'm just fuckin' with you. So who is it, Froyo? Brady or J Lo.

STAN

My money's on Brady.

DITKA

You mean my money, asshole.