

DOGGIE-STYLE

Written by
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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. BENJI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

BENJI (28) a handsome man, who looks like any other guy, but identifies as a dog, is on a dating app.

He sees a profile picture of a gorgeous woman, JASMINE (26) who peeks over the head of an adorable cat.

Benji swipes left.

The next profile picture is, SAMANTHA (28) with her long hair in two bunches, like dog ears. And she is walking along a beach. This looks like a potential match until he scrolls down and sees "Dog allergy" at the bottom of her profile.

Benji swipes left, looking disappointed.

The next profile picture is CARLEY (25), who has a Dog Filter on her photo, and claims to "LOVES DOGS!!!".

Benji admires her profile, and swipes right. They've matched!

PING! A private message arrives from Carley, "ARE YOU AWAKE?"

Benji's smile is illuminated by the blue light.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Benji enters the coffee shop and looks around.

CARLEY (25), his beautiful date, wearing a beautiful navy summer dress, red cardigan, and heels, stands to greet him.

CARLEY

Hi, Benji?

His ears pick up, full attention given. They hug, and Benji takes a few quick SNIFFS of her hair.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

A little forward, are we?

BENJI

I just love meeting new people.

CARLEY

O-kay.

Carley sits, but Benji nervously circles his chair.

CARLEY (CONT'D)
What are you doing?
(beat)
Just sit down. Benji? Sit.

Benji circles the chair some more, and people start to stare.

CARLEY (CONT'D)
Sit.
(beat)
SIT!

Benji obeys and quickly sits on the chair, his back extended, and his paws stretched out, his paws resting on the chair between his legs, obediently facing Carley.

Carley looks at Benji as if this behavior is strange... which it totally is.

CARLEY (CONT'D)
(subject change)
Are you getting a coffee?

BENJI
I don't really drink coffee. Just a bowl of water for me

CARLEY
You mean a glass?

BENJI
Yes, a glass of water.
(laughs nervously)
Silly me.

CARLEY
Here, have mine. I haven't touched it. I always have a glass of water whenever I drink coffee. One-for-one.

BENJI
Smart.

Carley slides a small glass of water across the table towards Benji.

BENJI (CONT'D)
Thanks.
(beat)
So, your profile says you like dogs?

CARLEY

Mmm-hmm.

BENJI

I just love dogs.

Carley and Benji smile, they look like the perfect couple.

BENJI (CONT'D)

Do you have any dogs?

CARLEY

No. I live with my roommate, and she has a couple of cats--

BENJI

(looks around erratically)
Cats? Where? Where? Where?

CARLEY

What? Nowhere. They're at home, probably dropping little cat hairs all over our new sofa.

BENJI

(distain)
Really? Ugh. That's so like cats to do something like that.

CARLEY

Tell me about it. I'm always running the vacuum, picking up after those two.

BENJI

Oh man, I hate that thing.

CARLEY

The vacuum?

BENJI

Yeah, worst invention ever made. How do you stand that incessant noise, the way it charges around the rooms like it owns the place? Such an invasion of space.

CARLEY

(confused)
Right.

BENJI

I never vacuum.

CARLEY

Never?

BENJI

Never!

CARLEY

But dust mites, bed bugs, bacteria,
and mould. You just let the dust
pile up?

BENJI

What doesn't kill you makes you
stronger, is what I always so.

CARLEY

You can die from all those things!

BENJI

Puh-lease, I've had my place for
eight years, and I've never
vacuumed. I'm as healthy as a
horse. You should try it.

CARLEY

I'm good thanks.

Benji noisily LAPS up his glass of water, which grabs Carley's attention, and the attention of a couple of nearby PATRONS.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

So, what do you do for fun?

BENJI

I like digging in the garden--

CARLEY

You like gardening?

BENJI

I guess you could say that.

CARLEY

That's awesome. I've just taken up
gardening. I planted a flowerbed
for the first-time last spring.

Unimpressed and uncomfortable, CARLEY looks at her bare wrist, and realizes she's not wearing a watch.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

You know what... I really don't
think this is going to work out.

BENJI

Was it something I said?

Carley stands.

CARLEY

(weirded out)

It was really nice to meet you.

She offers her hand, in a handshake, to Benji, who returns his hand shaped like a paw.

The weirdest handshake known to man takes place.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

What are you doing? This is just weird.

BENJI

Weird? I don't get what the problem is...

CARLEY

Really, you don't get it?

BENJI

(confused)

No.

Carley picks up her spoon and tosses it across the room.

CARLEY

Fetch!

The spoon hits a MAN in his head...

MAN

Hey, what the heck?

CARLEY

(to Man)

Sorry.

Carley sits back down nervously.

CARLEY (CONT'D)

(to Benji)

Sorry, I thought you were going to run after it. You kinda reminded me of a dog for a minute.

Carley LAUGHS nervously.

CARLEY (CONT'D)
Pretty silly, I know.

BENJI
Not really. I do identify as a dog.
(beat)
I just don't chase cutlery.

CARLEY
What do you chase?

BENJI
Sticks, balls... the usual.

A CAT walks RIGHT along the window cill outside of the coffee shop. Benji notices and loses his mind...

BENJI (CONT'D)
WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!

EVERYONE in the coffee shop is still, and all eyes are on Benji.

Benji comically runs out of the coffee shop, BARKING, and chasing the cat off-screen, leaving behind his jacket on the back of his chair.

CARLEY
(to herself)
And cats, apparently.

Everyone watches Benji from their position, as the BARKS get quieter...

BENJI
WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!...

With Benji out of sight, everyone in the restaurant shifts their gaze to Carley, all at once. She LAUGHS nervously.

CARLEY
(nervously)
Just a little role-play we are doing. He has an audition for 'DOGS'... it's the sequel to 'CATS'.

Carley slides her handbag onto her shoulder, grabs Benji's jacket and scurries out of the door.

Carley glances RIGHT, her intended direction, but heads LEFT, in the opposite direction of Benji and the cat.

DOGGIE-STYLE

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END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. BENJI'S KITCHEN - DAY

Benji stands in the kitchen, eating a dog bowl full of dried dog food with milk, which resembles a bowl of cereal.

His roommate, FREDDIE (26) a handsome and well-built man, wearing running gear, enters...

Freddie ruffles Benji's hair, which Benji enjoys and leans into.

FREDDIE

You're home early. The date didn't go so well?

BENJI

She didn't like how I drank my water. It was pretty bad.

FREDDIE

That doesn't mean it was a bad date.

Freddie grabs a bottle of water from the fridge, as Benji looks up from his bowl.

BENJI

It was very...
(beat)
Short.

FREDDIE

Short? How short?

BENJI

Maybe, a couple of minutes.

FREDDIE

Wow, that's got to be a new record for you.

BENJI

Yea. At least I didn't lick her face this time.

FREDDIE

Were you tempted?

BENJI

Oh yeah, I could smell her mascara
from across the table. You know how
crazy I get when I can smell
mascara.

OFF BENJI: deep in thought...

INT. COAT CLOSET - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Benji (13) and REBECCA (13), a pretty girl from his high school, are in darkness, surrounded by coats. The Space is tight, and they are up close and personal.

REBECCA

Thank you for coming to my party,
Ben. I've liked you for a while
now.

Benji smiles nervously, as both he and Rebecca are confined together.

FREDDIE (O.S.)

(through the door)

You have sixty seconds in Heaven,
starting now.

Rebecca leans in to kiss Benji, both kids with their eyes closed. They move closer, when Benji LICKS her eye.

Rebecca SCREAMS and runs out of the closet, her mascara smeared up her forehead.

REBECCA

He licked my eye!

BENJI'S POV: SEVERAL KIDS, around 13 years old, all stare at Benji, including a young Freddie. The girls glare with disappointment, as Rebecca is comforted by her girl friends, and a few boys LAUGH and point fingers at him.

Rebecca turns and looks at Benji, and it is clear that she is crying, her mascara even more smudged.

INT. BENJI'S KITCHEN - DAY

RETURN TO BENJI.

FREDDIE

Yeah, that was a bad day to be you.

(beat)

(MORE)

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

How about that time that you when you humped Melissa's leg?

BENJI

That was one time... And Melissa was totally into it. I'm going to have to stop sharing things with you.

Freddie visibly shivers.

FREDDIE

I think you're right. I still have nightmares of you dropping a dead bird at my sister's feet? That was weird.

BENJI

Hey, don't be like that. I was six. And I didn't kill that bird, I just found it and gave it to Sherry as a gift.

FREDDIE

Ever heard of picking her flowers?

BENJI

Well, if you want to go down the obvious route.

FREDDIE

And that, my friend, is why you're single.

BENJI

Got it, no licking, humping, or dead birds.

FREDDIE

Seriously, though... I'm sorry about your date. It's her loss, really.

(beat)

You're such a good guy--

BENJI

--A good boy?

FREDDIE

Sure, why not.

BENJI

Nice.

Benji is so thrilled by this, he wags his butt.

FREDDIE

You coming for a run? Might help you feel better.

BENJI

I've got work in a bit anyway.
(jokily)
I've got just enough time for a tummy rub.

Freddie smirks at the comment, then gulps his water in a long I-don't-think-so kinda way.

FREDDIE

You're really not my type.

BENJI

Please... I'm everyone's type. Who doesn't like dogs?

FREDDIE

Cat people.

BENJI

Cat people don't count.

FREDDIE

Maybe it's a bit too soon to be yourself around these girls.

BENJI

What do you mean?

FREDDIE

We've been friends since we were kids--

BENJI

Since I was a pup.

FREDDIE

--So, when you came out as a dog, we were already best friends, so it was easier to accept. Maybe let her get to know your human personality a bit before you drop the bombshell that you identify as a dog.

Benji looks sad, so Freddie wants to be there for his friend. He gives Benji a little scratch behind his ear.

They smile at one another.

EXT. PUB - NIGHT

Freddie and Benji sit outside a pub, it is cold night, and no one else is around.

FREDDIE

Are you sure we can't go inside,
just this once?

BENJI

No... I'm not welcome here.

Benji points to a sign, "NO DOGS ALLOWED".

BENJI (CONT'D)

At least you've got a jacket. I
left mine at the coffee shop and
that girl, Carley, made off with
it.

Freddie LAUGHS.

FREDDIE

Call her.

BENJI

Oh, yeah, right.

A couple of women walk up the path, one right by Benji, and he takes a quick SNIFF of her butt as she moves by him.

The woman turns around and looks at Freddie, who smiles nervously. She holds her gaze for a moment, before she enters the pub.

FREDDIE

Hey! You're gonna get me barred
from this place!

BENJI

Sorry. She's in heat.

FREDDIE

That's disgusting! Too much
information.

Benji SIGHS.

BENJI

I just want to find somewhere, and
someone, that I can be myself
around.

FREDDIE

Don't we all?

(beat)

It took me seven years to meet
Alison. Don't worry, pal. The right
girl is just around the corner,
you'll see.

Freddie pulls out a portable, plastic dog bowl from his
backpack and places it on the table.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

One thing great about identifying
as a dog... is that you still have
a human liver.

He pours some of his beer in the bowl, then CLINKS the bowl
with his beer glass.

Benji smiles before LAPPING it up.

A COUPLE OF GUYS walk past and watch Benji curiously.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

(offensively)

Haven't you ever seen a grown man-
dog drinking beer from a dog bowl
before?!

They leave, and Benji smiles at Freddie.

INT. BENJI'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Freddie holds up a drunk Benji, who stumbles around the
apartment towards his bedroom.

BENJI

The room is spinning.

FREDDIE

Not the room, Buddy.

BENJI

Am I chasing my tail?

Freddie LAUGHS.

INT. BENJI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Freddie opens the bedroom door and both he and Benji stumble
inside.

FREDDIE

For a dog, you're pretty heavy.

Freddie lays Benji down atop his doggie-print bed spread.

FREDDIE (CONT'D)

Goodnight, Benji, you good boy.

Freddie tousles Benji's hair.

BENJI

(mumbles)

Thanks for not being embarrassed of me.

Freddie smiles, then leaves.

EXT. DOG TRAINING CENTRE - DAY

Bleachers overlook an outdoor training centre for police dogs, which consists of an obstacle course.

Three POLICE OFFICERS and their DOGS; CHRISTINE and ROVER, AJ and CHIP, and MANNY and FLASH, stand behind a line, their dogs on leashes, sat by their side.

Benji arrives holding a stopwatch.

BENJI

Good morning, and welcome to day one of the K-9 academy.

Benji paces in front of the officers, teaching the class.

BENJI (CONT'D)

To participate in these classes, for the next four weeks, all candidates must complete the obstacle course behind me, as guided by their handler. Any volunteers to go first?

No one volunteers, so Benji selects one at random.

BENJI (CONT'D)

(to Manny and Flash)

How about you?

MANNY

(nervously)

Yes, sure.

(to dog)

Are you ready Flash?

Manny unclips Flash's leash, and he immediately runs around, avoiding all of the obstacles. Manny begins to chase him, and it looks like a shit-show.

Flash, now leashed and under Manny's control, arrive back at the line.

BENJI

So, that's exactly how you don't want to do things. But luckily, I'm very forgiving, as this is day one. How about you all just watch me?

(beat)

The obstacle course must be completed accordingly... And GO!

Benji presses the stopwatch and runs through the obstacle course; over a ramp, across a rope bridge, through a tunnel, over the see-saw tilt, and finally through a vertical hoop, which he clips the bottom of, and lands on his stomach, at Carley's feet.

CARLEY

You left your jacket at the cafe when you chased that cat.

She dangles Benji's jacket out in front of him, and smiles at him amused.

Benji jumps up and brushes himself off.

BENJI

(to the officers)

Take five everyone.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Benji and Carley sit in the bleachers, Benji now clutching his jacket.

BENJI

Thanks for returning my jacket.

CARLEY

No problem, really. I tried it on, and it didn't fit me.

BENJI

If you want to stick around for thirty minutes, I can show you around.

CARLEY

What did you just eat? That
smell...

BENJI

Nothing, I've not had my lunch yet.

CARLEY

You haven't? Oh, boy.

(beat)

As tempting as it is to watch a
grown man do a doggie obstacle
course, again... I don't think that
would be a good idea to lead you
on.

BENJI

Lead me on?

CARLEY

I think you're really cool, and I
had fun--

BENJI

You did? That means a lot to me.

CARLEY

Not really. I'm lying.

(beat)

That was officially my worst date
ever.

BENJI

Why did you say that you had fun?

CARLEY

I was just trying to make you feel
better.

BENJI

Well, you definitely suck at that.

CARLEY

I've got room in my life for a
friend, if you're interested.

BENJI

Sure, why not.

(beat)

Only if you promise not to throw
cutlery around the place in public.

CARLEY

Only if you promise to never run
out of the coffee shop and leave me
sitting by myself.

They smile at one another, then shake hands.

BENJI

Deal.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. BENJI'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The sun shines through into Benji's bedroom, which shows Benji's deep obsession with dogs. The room full of over-the-top dog decor; a metal dog balloon animal, a dog painting in the style of Andy Warhol's Marilyn Monroe, and a cheesy plaque saying "Live, Love, Bark".

Benji lays on top of the dog print bedding, his arms and legs running in his sleep, as dogs do.

Slobber pools from his mouth, and he begins to sniff... then lifts his head...

BENJI

Bacon!

Benji jumps up and darts out of the room.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Freddie's girl, ALISON (25), a kind and sweet curvy girl, cooks bacon and eggs for breakfast. She's wearing a shirt and has a sexy 'morning after' look.

BENJI

Good morning, you making breakfast?

ALISON

Freddie's gone to work, so I made extra for you.

Alison puts the bacon, on a plate and places it in front of Benji. Then she grabs her coffee, and plate of bacon and eggs and sits opposite him.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Now, be careful. It's hot.

Benji pants, making Alison smile.

BENJI

Thanks.

Benji looks at the bacon, then rests his chin on the table, looking miserable.

ALISON

What's wrong?

BENJI

I've been on so many bad dates
lately, I just feel so unlovable.

Alison moves from the opposite side of the table, to sit beside Benji. She strokes his back.

ALISON

Don't hang up your collar just yet,
I think I've got the perfect girl
for you.

Benji looks up at Alison with a half-smile.

ALISON (CONT'D)

What are you doing tonight?

BENJI

Nothing.

Alison hands Benji a phone number, written on a napkin.

ALISON

This is my friend Linda's number. I
think you're really going to like
her.

Benji goes to lick Alison's face, but she dodges him successfully. She knows him too well.

Alison takes a drink of her coffee.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Oh, I've been meaning to ask. Have
you seen my slipper? It looks like
this...

Alison shows Benji her slipper, who cowers.

BENJI

(whimpering)
Mmn-mmn-mmn-mmn.

ALISON

I'm not going to hit you with my
slipper, Benji. I would never.

Alison puts her slipper down on the table.

Benji licks his lips, and stares at the slipper.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Oh, Benji... You didn't.

Alison leaves the kitchen, and heads to Benji's bedroom in a hurry.

INT. BENJI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alison searches Benji's room, and finds little pieces of foam, dotted around the floor...

She looks under his bed, where she finds the rest of her chewed up slipper.

ALISON
Benji! Are you kidding me right
now?

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Benji grabs up his bacon in his teeth, grabs Alison's bacon from her plate, and heads out the front door.

The front door CLOSES, as Alison arrives, looking for Benji.

ALISON
Benji! I know what you did! You're
getting me a new pair!

In a moment of frustration, she tosses her slipper at the closed front door.

ALISON (CONT'D)
(to herself)
Damn, dog!

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The restaurant is romantic, string lights. A candle in the centre of the table.

LINDA (25), cute, prim, lady, is seated at a table, waiting for her blind date, as Benji arrives at the table.

Linda stands...

BENJI
Hi Linda, nice to meet you.

Benji PANTS like a dog.

LINDA
Are you okay? You seem out of
breath.

BENJI

Yeah, I'm fine. Just a little out of shape.

LINDA

O-kay.

BENJI

So, did you get here okay?

LINDA

Yea, it's just twenty minutes in the car.

BENJI

Wow, you got to ride in the car?
Lucky.

Two menus rest on the table beside a pitcher of water.

Linda lifts the menu up, as Benji pours a glass of water to the brim, and noisily LAPS it up. He stops just as Linda looks at him curiously.

BENJI (CONT'D)

I poured a little too much.

LINDA

So, you work with Freddie. You're a police officer?

BENJI

Yeah, I'm in Canine Unit.

LINDA

How long have you been working there?

BENJI

Five years... Although, it feels more like thirty-five.

(beat)

What do you do?

LINDA

I'm a psychiatrist.

BENJI

Really? That's fascinating. I often wonder why people behave the way they do.

LINDA

That's exactly how I got into the profession. My grandad was a grumpy old man, and he believed that when he was going to die, nobody would attend his funeral, so he hired professional mourners to attend his funeral.

BENJI

Put me down for a couple of those.

LINDA

Oh, don't be silly. Alison had lots of nice things to say about you.

BENJI

Like what?

LINDA

That you're fiercely loyal.

(beat)

That you've got keen senses.

(beat)

And that you were very easy to train.

BENJI

Nice. She didn't tell you about her slipper?

LINDA

What about her slipper?

BENJI

Oh, nothing. It doesn't matter.

Benji feels uncomfortable in his attire, and tugs at his collar.

LINDA

You okay there?

BENJI

Just feel a little over-dressed... These clothes, they're kinda suffocating.

LINDA

Well, I think you look handsome.

Benji smiles at her. Their date seems to be going very well.

A JADE (25), wearing a black dress and a friendly smile, arrives to take their order.

JADE

Hi, I'm Jade. And I'll be your server today. Are you guys ready to order?

Linda peruses the menu.

LINDA

Yes, I'll take the garden salad, please.

JADE

And you?

BENJI

I don't know. I'm having a hard time trying to decide.

LINDA

(off Benji's confusion)
The broccoli soups pretty good...

BENJI

No, thanks.

JADE

Or, we have the grilled salmon.

Benji's face screams out a big doggy 'Hell no!'

JADE (CONT'D)

How about... a big, juicy rib-eye steak?

Now this grabs Benji's attention.

JADE (CONT'D)

Yeah, a steak? You want a delicious rib-eye?

BENJI

(nodding excitedly)
Yea, yea, yea!

JADE

How do you want it cooked?

Benji tilts his head, confused.

JADE (CONT'D)

Is medium, okay?

BENJI
 (emphatically)
 Yea, yeah, yea!

The waitress takes the menus.

JADE
 Okay, so that's, one medium rib-
 eye, and one garden salad, coming
 right up.

Jade heads to the kitchen.

Benji scratches himself, behind his ear, as Linda watches on,
 awkwardly. He sees Linda watching, and then stops,
 straightens himself up.

BENJI
 You look fetching today, Linda.

Linda is flattered, and she gently moves hair from her face,
 embarrassed.

LINDA
 Thanks, Benji. You're very handsome
 yourself.

Benji places his hand over Linda's atop the table.

(beat)
 I was thinking maybe we could go
 for a nice, romantic walk along the
 beach?

BENJI
 (really into it)
 I love going for walks. Maybe we
 can toss around a frisbee?

LINDA
 You play frisbee?

BENJI
 I love playing frisbee. It makes me
 wanna....
 (howls)
 Ow-ow-owwww!

LINDA
 Ri-ght...

BENJI
 I just love running in the open,
 the wind in my fur-- I mean hair.
 (MORE)

BENJI (CONT'D)
 (sniffs the air)
 Food's ready!

Jade places their meals are placed in front of them, first Linda's, then Benji's. Benji dives on his food like a soldier would dive on a grenade, eating face first from the plate.

JADE
 (awkwardly)
 Can I get you anything else? Maybe
 a fresh set of cutleries?

LINDA
 (to Jade)
 I am so sorry.
 (to Benji)
 Benji. Benji.

Steak juice drips everywhere, and he grabs the steak in his teeth and shakes it around playfully.

LINDA (CONT'D)
 (angry, yet hushed)
 What are you doing?

BENJI
 Oh, shoot... I got steak juice on
 my pants.

Benji lifts his leg onto the table and begins LICKING his crotch.

Linda stands, appalled...

LINDA
 This is so freaking weird, Benji. I
 don't want to finish this date
 anymore. People are looking!

BENJI
 So, what? Let them look.

Benji BARKS at people sat nearby.

BENJI (CONT'D)
 WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!
 (then GROWLS)
 GRRR!

The COUPLE closest to them hold hands and leave the restaurant abruptly.

LINDA
 Jeez, Benji. You're kind of a dog!

BENJI

Really? You think I'm a dog?
Thanks.

LINDA

That's not a good thing!

BENJI

Of course, it is... You like dogs.

LINDA

I like pizza too, but I wouldn't
want to date one.

(beat)

What the--! What's wrong with you?!
You invite me here and embarrass me
like this?! I'm out of here.

Benji BARKS at Linda and chases her away.

Once Linda has gone, Benji sits upright, mighty proud of
himself, and tucks into his steak.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. PARK - DAY (TRAVELING)

Alison and Linda talk as they walk through the park.

ALISON

It can't have been that bad.

LINDA

He chased me out of the restaurant,
barking at me.

ALISON

I think he likes you.

LINDA

Really? Because to me, he seems
insane!

ALISON

Is that you're medical opinion?

LINDA

He really does think he's a dog,
doesn't he?

ALISON

Yes. But hear me out. You're a
psychologist... Aren't you even a
little curious about him?

LINDA

As a research subject, not a
boyfriend. What could you possibly
think we have in common?

ALISON

I've known Benji for years. He is
such a good guy. He's loyal,
reliable, affectionate... He's just
a little misunderstood.

LINDA

Misunderstood? He thinks he's a
dog!

ALISON

There are worse things in life,
than thinking you're a dog.

LINDA

Like what?!

ALISON

(thinking on the spot)

Like dating a man who... Acts like a baby. Sex with a baby-man has got to be illegal.

(beat)

Or a person who doesn't shower, ever. And they literally have fungus and mould growing on their body. There's this one guy who hasn't bathed in over sixty years. Imagine having sex with him.

LINDA

No, thank you.

ALISON

Or a serial killer.

LINDA

I would rather die alone.

ALISON

At this rate you might have no choice.

LINDA

I still think that you should have told me this little fact about Benji before you blind-sided me, don't you think?

ALISON

Would you have went out with him?

LINDA

Hell no.

ALISON

There you go then.

(beat)

Trust me, Linda. I think you could really like him.

LINDA

(hesitates)

Maybe I could give him another chance?

Alison is excited for Benji, and hugs Linda tightly.

ALISON
That's the spirit.

INT. BENJI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Benji is lying curled up on the sofa, watching a dog movie on the TV, perhaps 'Beethoven'. Beside him is a shoe box.

Freddie and Alison enter.

FREDDIE
Hey, buddy. What are you watching there?

BENJI
Beethoven.

FREDDIE
Nice. A classic.
(to Alison)
I'll go and put the kettle on.

Freddie stares at Alison, and gives a gentle nod in Benji's direction, hinting for her to talk to him.

Alison sits on the far end of the couch, still upset with Benji.

Benji, without looking at Alison, slides the shoebox across the sofa, and over to her.

BENJI
I bought you a present, to say that I'm sorry.

Alison picks it up and looks inside. A new pair of slippers identical to the ones he ripped up.

Alison smiles at him.

ALISON
Why did you do it in the first place?

BENJI
I don't know. I was just smelling them and wanted to see what would happen if I tossed one around a bit. You'd be surprised how easy those things fall apart.

Alison slides along the couch towards Benji, then hugs him tightly.

ALISON
I'll let you off, this time, just
don't do it again.

BENJI
Deal.

ALISON
Guess who I saw today?
(beat)
Linda.

BENJI
Oh no.

Benji covers his nose with his paw.

BENJI (CONT'D)
What did she say?

ALISON
She said that you barked at her.

Alison LAUGHS.

ALISON (CONT'D)
I've had a few bad dates in my
life... but no one has ever barked
at me.

BENJI
I don't know what went wrong.

ALISON
You barked at her.

BENJI
It was a little bark. It was
nothing.

ALISON
And what about licking your crotch?

BENJI
Oh, she told you that, did she?

ALISON
Yep.

BENJI
Wow, are there no such thing as
secrets anymore?

ALISON

Just be glad it's not all over the internet.

BENJI

I really liked her.

ALISON

I know.

(beat)

So, what are you doing this Saturday?

BENJI

I don't know, why?

ALISON

Linda was wondering if you want to go play frisbee.

Benji drops to his knees and chases his imaginary tail, then he stops for a second.

BENJI

She really likes me?

ALISON

I guess so.

BENJI

I knew she liked me! I think this one could be the one!

Benji grabs a rope toy from a nearby basket and tosses it around energetically with his teeth.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Linda and Benji play frisbee on the beach, near the water. They toss it back and forth silently, it looks intense.

Linda feels compelled to break the silence as they continue the frisbee toss momentum...

LINDA

Are there others like you?

BENJI

Crossbreeds?

LINDA

Uh-huh.

BENJI

I don't think so. Or, at least, I haven't found any.

LINDA

Listen, Benji. I think you're really nice--

Linda fails to catch the frisbee. A gust of wind snatches the frisbee, and it flies into the water.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Oh no, I'm so sorry.

BENJI

Don't worry, I'll get it.

Benji takes off his t-shirt revealing a sexy, tight body, then runs and jumps off a nearby jetty, into the water. SPLASH!

A couple of women sit on a bench nearby; ZARA and JENNY (late 20s). They GIGGLE to each other.

ZARA

(to Jenny)

Woo, he is fine.

Benji slowly walks up the beach towards Linda, as water runs off his muscular body like a sexy Daniel Craig moment, from Casino Royal.

JENNY

(to Zara)

I wish I was coming home to that.

Benji hands Linda the frisbee, and she hands him his white t-shirt, which he slides on, and it clings to him.

BENJI

(to Linda)

Sorry about that before. What were you saying?

She looks up the beach and sees an ice-cream parlor.

LINDA

Let's get some ice-cream.

EXT. ICE-CREAM PARLOR - DAY (TRAVELING)

Benji and Linda leave the store with a couple of ice-creams, walking side by side, each one giving a flirty look.

BENJI

What made you want to do this again?

LINDA

Go on a date with you?

(beat)

If you saw what kind of single guys that are out there, in the dating world, you wouldn't be asking that. Besides, I always wanted a dog.

BENJI

(flirty)

Is that right?

Benji slowly licks his ice-cream, unaware how sexy it looks.

LINDA

You do use the toilet, don't you?

Benji LAUGHS.

BENJI

Yes, but nothing beats going in the great outdoors.

LINDA

A little risky, don't you think?

BENJI

I've had a couple of citations for urination in public.

They both LAUGH.

LINDA

So, you said you work in the canine unit. Are you a...

(strained)

Police dog?

BENJI

Awww, so kind of you to say. Nah, I'm just a dog trainer.

LINDA

(flirty)

That's pretty heroic though.

BENJI

Not really, I don't get to chase down criminals, or sniff out drugs. They're the real heroes.

They share a sweet, yet flirty, smile, and there's a glimmer of hope that this date is going well.

An attractive WOMAN with a FEMALE DOG (an actual dog) on a leash walk by. Benji can't help but look, although it's not clear who exactly he's looking at.

LINDA

Did you just check her out?

BENJI

Who?

(nervous laugh)

That woman?

LINDA

No, the dog.

BENJI

(embarrassed, and lying)

Nah. That would be silly, right?

LINDA

Right.

There is tension in the air.

BENJI

Ya know, there are benefits to dating a dog.

LINDA

Really? Like what?

BENJI

Well, dogs are loyal, affectionate, and like to lick things...

Benji slowly licks his ice-cream.

BENJI (CONT'D)

(suggestively)

If you know what I mean.

LINDA

Like popsicles and lollypops... And envelopes?

BENJI

Nobody likes licking envelopes.

Linda realizes what Benji is insinuating, and gets embarrassed

LINDA

Oh, you mean licking...

BENJI

And it's not just the licking too.

LINDA

(intrigued)

Oh yeah? Better than licking?

BENJI

Well, they don't call it doggie-
style for nothing.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW