

Animal Kingdom

by

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**COLD OPEN**

INT. MANHATTAN HIGH RISE APARTMENT - DAY

A beautiful view of Manhattan. We reverse to find we are in the POV of a...

CAT who's perched on the ledge of a PATIO some 25 stories above the city. This is GIGGLES. Giggles is DEEP IN THOUGHT.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)  
Giggles, sweetie, where are you?!

Giggles looks inside the apartment where he sees his LONELY OWNER (30s), on her couch, glancing around for her cat.

LONELY OWNER  
Giggles, *the Wendy Williams Show* is starting, where are you?!

Giggles looks DOWN at the steep drop to the pavement below, his face betraying an EXISTENTIAL CRISIS... Giggles looks back at his Lonely Owner who's just spotted him outside.

LONELY OWNER (CONT'D)  
Giggles, hurry! Wendy's on. She's interviewing Al Roker today.

Giggles looks at his Lonely Owner for a beat. Then he JUMPS.

LONELY OWNER (CONT'D)  
GIGGLES, NO!!!

SMASH CUT:

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - LATER

Through the glass of "EMERGENCY ROOM" DOORS we see Giggles on a GURNEY, he looks like he's okay. The doors open to reveal: DR. GEORGE COLEMAN (30s) a debonair veterinarian and NURSE JUANITA (40s) - think Selma Hayak's cousin.

JUANITA  
Owner's names are Trudy and Roger Watts, their cat, Giggles, has been a patient for a year...

George looks in the CONSULTATION ROOM where Trudy (the Lonely Owner) fights tears. George sizes up her DOWDY DEMEANOR.

GEORGE  
No wedding ring. Bathrobe from *Target*. I'm guessing Roger is no longer in the picture...

INT. CONSULTATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

George enters alone and smiles at Trudy.

GEORGE

Good news, Ms. Watts, Giggles suffered a few bruises but your cat is going to be just fine.

TRUDY WATTS

It must be a miracle...

GEORGE

It's actually just nature. Specifically, a phenomenon called "High-Rise Syndrome". See, cats that fall greater than 2 stories twist their bodies into what's referred to as a "righting reflex."

TRUDY WATTS

That's amazing...

GEORGE

Does Giggles spend a lot of time on the balcony, Ms. Watts?

TRUDY WATTS

Yes, often I have to drag him back inside, just to hang out with me.

GEORGE

Ms. Watts, have you considered that maybe what Giggles did was a cry for help?

TRUDY WATTS

Are you saying Giggles *jumped*? That my cat tried to... Kill himself?

GEORGE

Your cat jumped, because he was trying to tell you something.

TRUDY WATTS

Like what? Giggles is a very happy cat. I take great care of him!

GEORGE

Yes, but sometimes a cat needs more out of life. Like adventure. Sometimes a cat needs to go out at night, throw caution to the wind, let out its wild side.

TRUDY WATTS

What if the cat doesn't have a wild side? What if it's an indoor cat?

GEORGE

All cats have wild sides. They all want to claw and scratch and bite and make some bad decisions.

TRUDY WATTS

Maybe the cat's scared. Maybe the cat's been hurt.

GEORGE

All the more reason why the cat needs to get out and meet someone.

TRUDY WATTS

And then that very someone leaves the cat for the cat's best friend. On the cat's birthday. Via text!

GEORGE

Then the cat needs to go out again and again, until the cat gets it right.

TRUDY WATTS

How's the cat supposed to know when it's right?

GEORGE

Because the cat will feel it. The cat's legs will be shaking with such pleasure that the earth will move from below and every part of the cat will be blanketed with nothing but physical contentment.

TRUDY WATTS

Oh, my...

Trudy straightens her posture confidently, revealing her potential beauty and sex appeal.

TRUDY WATTS (CONT'D)

What did you say your name was?

GEORGE

My name is Dr. George Coleman. And I get off at six.

**END COLD OPEN**

**ACT ONE**

EXT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL - DAY

GEORGE and a group of VETS, NURSES and HANDLERS are all HUDDLED around a TELEVISION watching a HORSE RACE.

GEORGE  
Come on, Lucky Seven, come on!

LARS, a rotund, neer-do-well handler is frustrated.

LARS  
He's in last place. You're supposed to be a great Vet, you just lost me a hundred bucks.

GEORGE  
Race isn't over... Look at that sheen, look at that gallop, I'm telling you, Lucky Seven is just warming up.

DR. KIM, a skittish vet, sweats bullets.

DR. KIM  
Are you sure you know what you're doing, George?

GEORGE  
How do you think I paid my way through Veterinary School?

JAUNITA (O.S.)  
Has anyone seen Dr. Coleman?!

George looks over, though the window, he spots Juanita searching for him in the hall.

GEORGE  
Dr. Kim, get the blinds.

Dr. Kim lowers the blinds to the window hiding them.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
Dr. Zaius, get the door!

DR. ZAIUS, who happens TO BE A CHIMPANZEE, wearing a LAB COAT and a TINTED VISOR, throws his full weight against the door.

LARS  
Holy cow! Lucky Seven is coming up the rear! Look at that horse move!

The guys are getting more and more excited. Sure enough Lucky Seven wins the race. Everyone CHEERS. Dr. Zaius cheers the loudest, throwing his VISOR in the air. The door SLAMS OPEN.

JUANITA

Okay, everyone back to work. This is an Animal Hospital, not an OTB.

Everyone, shamefaced, exits under Juanita's glare.

JUANITA (CONT'D)

And you, Dr. Coleman, are supposed to be in charge around here.

Juanita exits. George turns to Dr. Zaius.

GEORGE

Way to keep an eye on that door, Dr. Zaius. You just lost your ipad privileges.

INT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

George tries to catch up to Juanita.

GEORGE

Tell you what, Juanita, why don't I give you some of my winnings and we'll call it even.

JUANITA

What I want is for you to make a dent in that waiting room. We're backed up. Oh, and there's a woman out there who wants to see you.

GEORGE

A woman?

A HIPSTER, eating FUNYUNS and walking his DOG, steps up.

HIPSTER

Doc, you gotta help me. There's something wrong with my girlfriend's dog. She went out of town and left her with me, now she's been sluggish and tired and acting all weird.

George survey's the situation.

GEORGE

There's nothing wrong with the dog. The dog is just fine.

(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
 (to Juanita)  
 What woman?

JAUNITA  
 Never saw her before, but she's  
 your type. Tall, blonde, full of  
 self-loathing. She asked  
 specifically for you.

HIPSTER  
 Doc, I'm telling you. The dog's not  
 the same since my girlfriend left.

GEORGE  
 Your girlfriend doesn't like it  
 that you smoke pot, does she?

HIPSTER  
 What--? I don't smoke pot, man--

GEORGE  
 Your eyes are red, you smell like a  
 skunk and you're eating Funyuns.

HIPSTER  
 What does this have to do with the  
 dog?

GEORGE  
 Because, you think that it's  
 hilarious to blow pot smoke in the  
 dog's face. You're getting the dog  
 high and that's why it's sluggish.  
 So quit it.

JUANITA  
 Or at least, get some better weed.

GEORGE  
 (to Juanita)  
 Where is she?

Juanita POINTS TOWARDS THE FRONT WAITING ROOM.

JUANITA  
 She's been waiting for a half hour.

George SPOTS a WOMAN with her back to him. George only sees  
 the back of her, but what he sees, he likes.

INT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - DAY

George exits the examining room and is immediately THROGGED  
 by OWNERS, George side steps and heads for the woman.

GEORGE

People, I'll be with you all in a second, I believe this young woman has been here for a while--

The woman turns REVEALING, DOROTHY RUTLEDGE. She has an easy and disarming beauty, yet her eyes speak of a sharp intelligence. George stops in his tracks.

DOROTHY

Hello, George, it's nice to see you again. Do you have a minute?

George is stunned into silence.

INT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL - GEORGE'S OFFICE - DAY

George enters followed by Dorothy. His office is filled with PICTURES of George and FAMOUS ANIMALS: The President's dog, Slash's snake, the Chihuahua from the Taco Bell commercials. George's GOLDEN RETRIEVER named DWAYNE, sleeps in the corner.

GEORGE

You're going to have to make it quick, Dorothy, I'm backed up out there--

Dwayne wakes, spots Dorothy, gets excited and rushes to her, barking and licking her face.

DOROTHY

Hello, Dwyane, good boy, did you miss me? Did you miss me?

GEORGE

Okay, Dwayne, that's enough...

George drags Dwayne out of his office by the collar.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

(to Dwayne)

Thanks a lot, Judas.

George shuts the door and turns back to Dorothy.

DOROTHY

I heard you saved the Mayor's dog.

GEORGE

From fleas. I prescribed him shampoo.

DOROTHY

Well, it made the papers.

GEORGE

Two years ago I leave to go pick us up some Thai food, when I got back you were gone. No phone call, no email, no text, no explanation and now two years later you've come back to congratulate me on helping the Mayor's dog? Thank you.

DOROTHY

Do you remember what I said to you, George, before you went to pick up that Thai food.

GEORGE

It was two years ago.

DOROTHY

I said I loved you and do you remember what you said in return?

GEORGE

Two years, Dorothy.

DOROTHY

You said, "Awesome." I say, "I love you." You say, "Awesome."

GEORGE

What did you want me to say?

DOROTHY

Gee, George, how about, "I love you too, Dorothy."

GEORGE

You know, people throw that word around a lot. People love spaghetti. They love their sweatpants. They love Sunday night television. I got a cousin who looves the smell of his own feet--

DOROTHY

Okay, George--

GEORGE

I didn't say it because it would've cheapened what I felt for you.

DOROTHY

And what did you feel for me?

GEORGE

I was attracted to you. I'm talking a strong animal magnetism. When I was near you, I wanted to rip off your clothes.

(beat)

I still do.

DOROTHY

George, I'm getting married.

GEORGE

(he takes this in)

So, you came here to tell me this? You could've just sent me a *save the date*, Dorothy.

DOROTHY

No, I came here because as of tomorrow morning I've been tapped to be the new Director of this Hospital. My father suggested it and the Board approved it unanimously.

George is PISSED.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

George, livid, walks down the hall. Dorothy is close behind.

DOROTHY

The hospital is a mess. There have been complaints, George. Owners are not happy.

GEORGE

We treat animals. Who cares about the owners?!

DOROTHY

I do.

GEORGE

You won't last. You don't have what it takes to run this hospital.

DOROTHY

My father thinks differently.

GEORGE

You hate your father. It was your contempt for him that let me get you into bed so quickly.

DOROTHY

I know that me being here is going to bump up against one of your animal philosophies about territory or domination, but, I need to know that you can work under me.

GEORGE

Of course I can, that happens to be my second favorite position.

DOROTHY

If you don't like it, leave.

GEORGE

Leave?

DOROTHY

Sure. Start your own practice. I hear the rent in Queens is quite reasonable.

GEORGE

I'm the best vet here. I saved the Mayor's dog.

DOROTHY

From fleas, remember? You prescribed shampoo.

GEORGE

I was being modest.

DOROTHY

You're incapable of modesty.

GEORGE

Look out there, Dorothy. There's a jammed waiting room with people coming to see me.

DOROTHY

Exactly. It's jammed. This hospital needs to be organized, because right now, if you'll pardon the expression, it's a zoo.

As if on cue, Dr. Kim and Dr. Zaius walk by in the middle of a JUGGLING CONTEST.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

Scratch that. It's a circus.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - X-RAY ROOM - DAY

George stands with DR. DOUG JACKSON (30s), a big, doughy, sweet natured Vet, as they inspect X-rays.

GEORGE

Of all the Animal Hospitals in this world why does she have to walk into this one?

DOUG

Well, because her family owns it. Her great-grandmother founded it.

GEORGE

Yeah, I know, Doug. It was a joke.

DOUG

Can I confide in you, George?

GEORGE

Of course, I'm your best friend.

DOUG

Thanks, George, but you're not exactly my *best* friend. My best friend is Frankie Buchner, I've known him since the second grade.

GEORGE

Fine, I'm your best *work* friend.

DOUG

Mmmm, no, actually Dr. Kim is my best work friend. We eat lunch every day together. I'm godfather to his son.

GEORGE

Well, where exactly do I rank?

DOUG

George, my girlfriend left me for another guy.

GEORGE

Obviously. What did you expect, Doug? You don't exactly groom yourself. You're a big shaggy mess.

DOUG

This is why you rank really low in the friend department, George.

GEORGE

All I'm saying is, it's only natural for a peacock to search for brighter tail feathers.

DOUG

This is not about tail feathers! This is my life! I thought she was the one. We were talking marriage.

GEORGE

Marriage is unnatural. Of all the species on this planet only twenty mate for life. You know who mates for life? Termites. Are you a termite, Doug?

DOUG

That depends. Do termites still love their girlfriends even after they find out that they're banging some other guy?

George feels bad for him.

GEORGE

Establish dominance.

DOUG

Establish what?

GEORGE

Establish dominance. What do you think Harvey would do?

George points to an ANGRY PIT BULL, presumably Harvey, who sits in a cage GROWLING DANGEROUSLY.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

You want your girlfriend back? Find the guy who's banging her and rip out his jugular.

George grabs an X-Ray and leaves the room.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - CONSULTATION ROOM - DAY

ALAN WAXMAN (40s) a big man eats a SANDWICH. He sits with his daughter LILY (8) who cradles her dog, HONEY. George enters.

GEORGE

Mr. Waxman, Lily, good news, Honey is going to be okay.

LILY

Really?! Thank you, Doctor Coleman!

GEORGE

Honey's going to have to stay here for a few days, Lily, so give her a kiss goodbye. I need to speak with your dad for a sec.

LILY

I love you, Honey, see you soon.

George takes Honey. When Lily leaves, he turns to Waxman and shows him the X-RAY with an OVAL SHAPE in Honey's STOMACH.

GEORGE

Honey ate something, we're not sure what exactly, except that it's indigestible and must be removed.

WAXMAN

Of course, that's all it does is eat my stuff. It ate my car keys, my watch, my cell phone. Do me a favor, put the dog to sleep.

GEORGE

Look, if it's about the money for surgery, we can always help--

WAXMAN

I'm a partner at Meyers and Meyers, trust me, money is of no object. I hate that dog. It's got something against me. It only eats stuff that belongs to me. Put the slob down.

GEORGE

Mr. Waxman, often our pets take on the traits of their owners.

WAXMAN

(mouth full of food)

Did you just compare me to a dog?

GEORGE

Look, don't punish a dog because he reminds you of your own issues.

WAXMAN

Who the hell do you think you are?

GEORGE

Just think about it.

WAXMAN

Hey, we're not finished, get back here!

George quickly exits with Honey.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

George exits, passing a PARROT.

GEORGE

What a douche bag...

Waxman follows George out into the hallway.

WAXMAN

What did you call me?!

PARROT

*Squack! What a douche bag! Squack!  
What a douche bag!*

WAXMAN

Are you insane?! You do realize I'm a partner at a law firm, right?!

GEORGE

Dr. Zaius, run some interference, run some interference!

Dr. Zaius WAVES HIS ARMS WILDLY AND HOLLERS, blocking Waxman.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I think you should take 24 hours to reconsider, Mr. Waxman!

Dorothy RUSHES up to George.

DOROTHY

What was that all about?

GEORGE

Nothing, everything is hunky-dory.

PARROT

*Squack! Everything is hunky-dory!*

Dorothy watches George slip past her. She SNEEZES.

**END ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - MORNING

George steps in and stops. Everything has changed. What was once an unruly waiting room jammed packed with owners and pets, now is a serene oasis, with just two people waiting.

George notices Liza Minelli wafting from the speakers.

GEORGE

What is that noise?

HARRY, a FLAMBOYANT HIPPIE HANDLER, walks by.

HARRY

Isn't it great? Ms. Rutledge told the staff to rotate our favorite music so that the owners feel like they're getting to know the staff on a more human level.

ANGELA, the CLUELESS, YET HOT RECEPTIONIST perks up.

ANGELA

Next up, anything by Michael Buble!

Juanita STEPS UP and HANDS George a CLIPBOARD.

GEORGE

What this?

JUANITA

That's your schedule. It includes today's patients, as well as who's on deck for tomorrow. It's all cross-referenced with their case histories, billing information--

GEORGE

How'd you do all this?

JUANITA

I didn't. Dorothy Rutledge is streamlining the office. It's all done to help you stay on track.

GEORGE

I'll decide how to stay on track. This is ridiculous.

(He stands on a table)

Everybody! Please gather around now!

Handlers, vets and nurses stop what they're doing and listen.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I don't want to alarm anybody, but there is a wolf in our midst. A wolf in sheep's clothing. Sure, she may be pleasant and harmless looking, and maybe she does smell really, really good, but don't be fooled. This woman will be the ruin of us and we all know who I'm talking about. The new Director, Dorothy Rutledge. We have to band together folks, stand up to this tyrant in a skirt...

George notices that some of the people in the back are distracted and have started to wander off...

GEORGE (CONT'D)

This is serious. She's going to take away the very essence of our nature...

More and more people are leaving George and heading off...

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Where's everyone going?!

George follows them out.

INT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL - CAFETERIA - MORNING

Everyone crowds into the CAFETERIA to find Dorothy taking freshly baked cookies out of the oven.

DOROTHY

Hello, everyone, help yourselves. I just wanted to introduce myself. I'm Dorothy Rutledge and I'm the new Director. I so look forward to getting to know everyone and please be aware that my door is always, always open...

LARS

These cookies are the bomb.

DOROTHY

It's a family recipe.

George watches as everyone indulges in the cookies, annoyed.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)  
 Ah, George! Just the person I was  
 looking for. Walk with me.

INT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

George follows Dorothy down the hall.

GEORGE  
 Nice touch with the cookies.  
 Treat animals like people and  
 people like animals.

DOROTHY  
 I was just treating people like  
 people. Did you insult an owner and  
 then refuse to put his dog to  
 sleep?

GEORGE  
 Yeah, so?

DOROTHY  
 He wants an apology.

She SNEEZES. George hands her a Kleenex.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)  
 This is just perfect. My first week  
 on the job and I get sick.

GEORGE  
 You shouldn't be here if you're  
 sick. You could infect the animals.

DOROTHY  
 Wait...? Really? Is that true?

GEORGE  
 No. I just said that as a way of  
 illustrating how woefully  
 unqualified you are for this job.  
 Can I show you something?

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - CAGE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE ON: Honey. The terrier is lying on its back looking  
 cute as can be. Dorothy's heart melts a bit despite herself.

GEORGE  
 This is Honey. Honey is a terrier,  
 one of the truly noble breeds of  
 canines. Her ancestors used to hunt  
 side by side with Kings.

(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Now this jerk wants to put her down because it's easier than going on a diet.

DOROTHY

It's what the owner wants. You're going to have to do it.

GEORGE

No, you are.

George takes out a SHEET OF PAPER and hands it to her.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I can't perform that operation without the approval of the Director. I'm going to need you to sign Honey's death warrant.

DOROTHY

You're kidding...

She looks at the sheet of paper. Then back at Honey.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

Maybe there's a way to save this dog. Instead of insulting the owner, you could have tried reasoning with him.

GEORGE

People like to think they reason, but all they really do is respond to force and humiliation.

DOROTHY

I'm going to prove you wrong.

GEORGE

You give people too much credit.

DOROTHY

And you don't give them enough.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - O.R. - LATER

George steps in and spots Doug giving himself stitches.

GEORGE

What happened to you?

DOUG

I did what you said. I tried to establish dominance.

(MORE)

DOUG (CONT'D)  
But, it turns out that dominance  
was established on me.

George takes over the stitching.

DOUG (CONT'D)  
George, what should I do?

GEORGE  
If you can't establish dominance  
then you have to spread your seed.

DOUG  
Spread my seed?

GEORGE  
You need to get laid. Preferably to  
a woman who resembles your ex.

DOUG  
What are you doing tonight?

GEORGE  
I'm doing what I always do on  
Friday night. I have a steak  
dinner, then I hit a downtown club.

DOUG  
I never thought of you as a guy who  
goes clubbing.

GEORGE  
If you want to bag a gazelle you  
have to go to the local watering  
hole.

Dr. Kim enters excited and points to SPEAKERS.

DR. KIM  
Wait for it...

Rebecca Black's *Friday* begins to play.

GEORGE  
This your choice, Dr. Kim?

DR. KIM  
Yeah, get it? Because it's--

GEORGE  
Friday. Yes. We get it.

Dr. Kim exits, pleased.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

This place is turning into my own personal hell.

DOUG

Take me with you to the club. Let me be your wingman.

GEORGE

I'm more of a lone wolf, Doug. Sorry.

DOUG

Please. You know what I do after work? I go across the street to O'Mally's where I listen to drunks talk to me about their gall bladder.

George looks out in the hallway and spots Dorothy talking with Dr. Kim. Angela walks up to her.

ANGELA

Ms. Rutledge, your fiance is on the phone, he wants to know if dinner is still at eight.

DOROTHY

Tell him to push it back an hour, I'm going to be here late.

At the mention of this, George PULLS a little TOO hard on the stitch causing Doug to YELP in pain.

DOUG

George, watch it!

GEORGE

You know what, Doug? You're right. We should go out tonight. Let's get a little wild.

EXT./INT. CLUB LIT - NIGHT

The club is in full swing as George and Doug enter. Doug, clearly excited, bobs his head to the music. George glares at him and Doug stops. Doug takes out NOTE CARDS.

DOUG

Okay, so I Googled some pick up lines. Which ones do you like? *Was that an earthquake or did you just rock my world?*

(MORE)

DOUG (CONT'D)

Oh, this one's really good: *Are you Jamaican? Cuz Jamaican me crazy--*

George snatches the note cards away.

GEORGE

Take a look at the bar and zero in on women who are playing with their hair. It signifies that they are sexually frustrated, or that they just did a ton of cocaine in the bathroom, either way, they'll be susceptible to being picked up.

Doug POINTS TO TWO HOT GIRLS PLAYING WITH THEIR HAIR.

DOUG

Those girls are totally on coke.

GEORGE

Good eye. Now follow my lead.

George and Doug walk up to the hot girls.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Ladies, what are you drinking?

HOT GIRL # 1

Dark and Stormy's.

GEORGE

Sounds great.

(to bartender)

Two Dark and Stormy's for these two beautiful women.

HOT GIRL # 2

Are you guys not drinking?

GEORGE

We would, but we're on call right now. I may have to operate later tonight.

HOT GIRL # 1

So, you guys are doctors?

GEORGE

We're doctors for animals.

HOT GIRL # 2

Awwwww, I love animals.

GEORGE

Well, then let me show you a picture of my latest patient...

George takes out his IPHONE and SHOWS THEM A PICTURE OF THE CUTEST PUPPY EVER.

HOT GIRL # 1

Oh, my God! He's sooooo cute.

HOT GIRL # 2

I can't even stand it. He's adorable!

DOUG

Here's who I'm working on.

Doug takes out his IPHONE and shows them a PICTURE.

HOT GIRL # 1

Ewwwww!

HOT GIRL # 2

Gross! What is that?!

DOUG

I was lancing a boil on an old cat. The green stuff is puss, the rest is just blood and mucus.

HOT GIRL # 1

That's disgusting. I'm gonna be sick.

HOT GIRL # 2

Let me take you to the bathroom.

The two Hot Girls walk away.

GEORGE

What is your problem?!

DOUG

You told me to follow your lead!

GEORGE

Women like to see pictures of puppies and kittens and bunnies, because it taps into their maternal instinct and arouses in them a desire to procreate. Do you know how we procreate, Doug?

DOUG  
By having sex?

GEORGE  
By having sex. Exactly. Puppies are  
Mother Nature's aphrodisiac.

DOUG  
I'm sorry. I should go.

GEORGE  
You're just going to give up?

DOUG  
Who am I kidding, George? Nobody  
wants to be with me. It's just  
natural selection, I guess...

George watches as Doug glumly retreats out of the club.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - DOROTHY'S OFFICE - DAY

Dorothy tries to reason with Mr. Waxman.

DOROTHY  
... the thing to know about Honey  
is she's a Terrier, and Terrier's  
are a noble breed. Her ancestors  
once hunted along side Kings--

WAXMAN  
That's all great, but I can't stand  
it. I hate this dog.

DOROTHY  
Okay. We won't charge you for the  
surgery. You wouldn't put your  
daughter's dog to sleep, when we're  
willing to forgo the fee. I'm sure  
you can be reasonable about this.

Waxman thinks as Dorothy's smile and charm sets in.

WAXMAN  
Fine, I guess...

DOROTHY  
That's wonderful, Mr. Waxman!

WAXMAN  
... Under one condition. I want  
some respect. If that Dr. Coleman  
character apologizes, I'll okay the  
operation.

DOROTHY

I'm sure... That won't be a problem  
at all.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - EXAMINING ROOM - DAY

George walks in to spot Dr. Kim wrestling with a PYTHON.

DR. KIM

Oh, good, George, a little help--

GEORGE

Yup, in a second...

George takes out his IPHONE and starts FILMING.

DR. KIM

George...?

GEORGE

Just a second. I'm gonna upload  
this to youtube. Can you imagine  
the hits we'll get?

Dorothy walks in.

DOROTHY

What's going on here? You know  
what? I don't want to know. George,  
a word?

GEORGE

Yeah, okay, I got a minute.

DR. KIM

George?!

Dr. Kim goes down.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - LATER

George walks the hallway with Dorothy.

DOROTHY

He was totally reasonable. All he  
asks is that you apologize.

GEORGE

Great. Except I'm not going to  
apologize to that miscreant. He  
started it.

DOROTHY

*He started it? You've got a PHD in veterinary science and you're resorting to the sixth grade? What's next? Your mother jokes?*

GEORGE

What are you so upset about?

DOROTHY

That dog is going to be put to sleep because you won't swallow your pride and apologize.

GEORGE

Animals get put to sleep, Dorothy, it's part of what we do. I don't think you can handle it and I don't think this is the job for you.

DOROTHY

This has nothing to do with the job. This has to do with the fact that you can't stand working under me.

GEORGE

Of course I can, that happens to be my--

DOROTHY

*Second favorite position.* Yeah. So, now we're back in the 6th grade. It must be exhausting to be so glib. I don't know how you do it.

GEORGE

Practice.

She takes out a piece of paper and SIGNS it.

DOROTHY

Here's the approval to put the dog to sleep. Congratulations. You made your point.

**END ACT II**

**ACT THREE**

INT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL - DOROTHY'S OFFICE - DAY

Dorothy is at her desk when Angela steps in.

ANGELA

Ms. Rutledge, your dad's here and also, he's with a really cute guy.

DOROTHY

That's my fiance Spencer.

ANGELA

Oh, so it's serious?

DOROTHY

Pretty serious, yes, Angela.

ANGELA

Oh, well, will you let me know if it doesn't work out?

DOROTHY

You'll be the first person I call.

INT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Dorothy enters and spots SPENCER, attractive and patronizing, along with BERTRAND RUTLEDGE, an old money, antiquated snob.

SPENCER

There she is. Your father and I thought we'd surprise you.

DOROTHY

Well, isn't this nice? Let me give you guys a tour.

INT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

Dorothy leads them through the hospital.

DOROTHY

All our examining rooms are to our right, and our OR is right up here.

SPENCER

Wow, this is just like a *real* hospital. I should work here because some of my patients are total animals.

They pass George's office, where they spot him PLAYING CARDS with DR. ZAIUS.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Is that man playing cards with a chimpanzee?

George SLAPS his cards angrily on the table.

GEORGE

Dammit, Dr. Zaius! You're cheating!

SPENCER

And he seems to be losing.

BERTRAND

How is George Coleman, still hard at work at not living up to his potential?

DOROTHY

He's fine, dad.

BERTRAND

George threw away a promising career in medicine. He was at Harvard Medical before he quit so that he could spend his days taking the temperature of cats.

DOROTHY

He just realized he was always more interested in animals than people. For your information, there are only twenty eight veterinary colleges in the country? It's more competitive than medical school--

BERTRAND

We're not here to discuss George Coleman.

SPENCER

Dorothy, this is an intervention.

BERTRAND

You've been engaged for six months and you refuse to set a date.

DOROTHY

I don't refuse. You put me in charge of this hospital and--

BERTRAND

*Animal* hospital. It's an Animal Hospital. How much work could it be? Dorothy, I put you in charge of this place so you could have ample time to plan your wedding.

DOROTHY

And here I was thinking that it was a stepping stone to something bigger.

SPENCER

What dad is saying--

DOROTHY

He's not your dad, yet, Spencer.

BERTRAND

Sweetheart, if you want to work, do what the other women in our family do. Philanthropy.

DOROTHY

I have an MBA from Wharton, I have eight years experience working for two sperate fortune five hundred companies, I've been awarded numerous citations by Manhattans' Chamber of Commerce and in my entire career I have never taken a personal day. You promised if I turned this place around it would lead to something bigger and better. So, I need to know, dad, are you a man of your word?

BERTRAND

Begrudgingly.

SPENCER

Dorothy, let's finish the tour.

DOROTHY

The tour's over.

Dorothy leaves.

INT. ANIMAL HOSPITAL - DOROTHY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Dorothy is working at her desk when she decides to call it a night. She collects her stuff.

## WAITING ROOM

Dorothy is on her way out, when she spots Juanita.

DOROTHY

Go home, Juanita, it's late.

JUANITA

I'm just staying until Dr. Coleman finishes up. In case he needs me.

DOROTHY

Finishes up?

JUANITA

He's taking care of the Waxman dog.

Dorothy's face goes white.

## OPERATING ROOM

Dorothy rushes into the room but it's too late. Honey is on the operating table not moving.

DOROTHY

Oh, no...

George steps in the room, surprised to see her.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

You actually did it... You put her to sleep...

(getting emotional)

I always understood that you were narcissistic and egotistical and full of pride, but I never thought it would get in the way of your respect for animals. All you had to do was apologize and this dog would still be alive.

Dorothy is upset as she tries to hold back tears, when...  
WOOF! Dorothy JUMPS, startled, as she spots HONEY RISING.  
Dorothy let's out a small SCREAM.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

You didn't put her down?

GEORGE

Of course not. I removed what she had ingested. I wasn't going to put an animal that could be saved to sleep. That's something only a human would do.

DOROTHY

Why do you have such little respect for people, George? All the time we were together it's the one thing I always wanted to ask you.

GEORGE

Why didn't you?

DOROTHY

I was afraid of the answer.

GEORGE

When I was eight, my mother left our family for a vacuum salesman. I never saw her again. You'd never see a wolf leave her cub for a vacuum salesman.

Dorothy takes this in. She nods at the dog.

DOROTHY

What about her owner? You operated without his permission. You have to apologize.

GEORGE

Yeah, if I don't the hospital is liable and he could sue the pants off us. We'd both lose our jobs.

DOROTHY

So, you're going to apologize.

GEORGE

I'll do the right thing.

DOROTHY

Thank you, George.

George leaves. Dorothy thinks about it.

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

Wait! What does that mean?!

She rushes after him, but George is gone.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - EXAMINING ROOM - MORNING

George examines a TABBY CAT, when Doug dances in whistling, he takes a quick look at the cat.

DOUG

Judging by the lesions, I'm guessing Cat Scratch Fever. Would you concur?

GEORGE

I would concur.

DOUG

And here's another one for you. Symptoms, the patient has a spring in his step, his mood is brightened and oh yes, he is wearing the same clothes that he did yesterday signifying that he did not sleep in his apartment last night. Diagnosis?

GEORGE

I would diagnose the patient as having spread his seed the pervious evening. Would you concur?

DOUG

You bet your ass I concur. It was amazing. After work I go to O'Mally's for yet another depressing drink and in walks this woman. And she is gorgeous. We start talking and one thing leads to another and the next thing I know I'm doing the walk of shame this morning!

GEORGE

Congratulations, Doug. So, tell me, is it true what they say about redheads?

DOUG

I'm a gentleman, George, I don't kiss and tell. But yes, gingers are freaking crazy.

Doug exits the room. After a beat he comes right back in.

DOUG (CONT'D)

How did you know she was a redhead?

George has no answer.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Oh no. Oh my God. She was a hooker wasn't she?! You got me a hooker?!

GEORGE

No. The man your ex-girlfriend is sleeping with has an ex-girlfriend himself. Last night you slept with her.

DOUG

Really? You made that happen?

GEORGE

I called her up, told her who you were and let nature take it's course. As any Siberian Tiger will illustrate, revenge is a sub-human instinct. Siberian Tiger's will spend weeks hunting and killing anything that has harmed them. Revenge generates a neuro-chemical reaction that's far more satisfying than reconciliation. Human's call this an "anger bang"--

DOUG

Yes, I know what they called it.

GEORGE

Or a grudge fu--

DOUG

Yes, thank you. You know, you may actually be my best work friend.

GEORGE

I told you so.

They share a moment.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Dorothy confers with Mr. Waxman and Lily. There is BARKING. Lily spots Honey galloping towards her.

LILY

Honey!

Honey runs into her arms and Lily cradles her. George steps up to them. Mr. Waxman is irate.

WAXMAN

I see you did the surgery without my permission. You were supposed to apologize first. I'll have my law firm take this place down.

DOROTHY

That won't be necessary, Mr. Waxman. George was just about to apologize. *Right, George?*

GEORGE

Fine. I apologize. I apologize for giving Mr. Waxman too much credit.

WAXMAN

That is not an apology.

DOROTHY

George, that is not an apology.

GEORGE

Oh, and by the way, the operation was six thousand dollars and you're going to pay every penny.

WAXMAN

That's it. I'm suing! I'm suing you! I'm suing her! I'm suing the monkey--!

GEORGE whips out a DRINK COASTER that reads "DAZZLES".

GEORGE

This is what I removed from Honey's stomach last night. It's a coaster from a places called, *Dazzles*.

DOROTHY

*Dazzles?*

GEORGE

*Dazzles* is a Gentleman's Club.

DOROTHY

Gentlemen's Club?

GEORGE

A strip club, Dorothy. Mr. Waxman here has a rather expensive hobby.

WAXMAN

(clearly guilty)

I've never, uh, I've never seen that before in my life--

GEORGE

Here's what going to happen. Your little girl is going to grow up fast and pretty soon she's going to realize that her father who she trusted and loved actually killed her dog because he ate a coaster from a strip club. And this knowledge is going to fill her with such anger towards you, that ten years from now while frequenting *Dazzles*, you're going to look up on stage and find that swinging from a pole is none other than your little girl. And you know what name she's going to go by?

LILY (O.S.)

Honey!

Mr. Waxman looks over at Lily hugging Honey with love.

GEORGE

That's right. *Honey*.

FLOYD

Do you accept American Express?

Even Dorothy is impressed.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - DOROTHY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Dorothy finishes up for the day, grabs her jacket and exits.

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dorothy heads out...

DOROTHY

Good night, Angela.

ANGELA

Good night, Ms. Rutledge.

EXT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

As Dorothy exits she spots a CAB pulling away, she chases it.

DOROTHY

Taxi! Taxi!

But, it's gone. She stands on the street searching for another when George comes up behind her.

GEORGE

You notice there's never a cab when you need one?

DOROTHY

You did a good job today. You're a good vet, George.

GEORGE

I know.

She SNEEZES.

DOROTHY

Damn, I just can't shake this cold.

GEORGE

That's because you don't have a cold. You're allergic to animals. You're suffering from allergies.

DOROTHY

I've never had allergies before.

GEORGE

People develop different allergies as they get older. Sometimes they'll have an allergic reaction to the very things they once couldn't live without.

A TAXI stops in front of them.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Get some over the counter allergy medication, you'll be fine

DOROTHY

Thanks, George.

GEORGE

You're welcome. Good night.

George gets into the cab. Dorothy watches him leave, until...

DOROTHY

I can't believe he just stole my cab!

**END ACT THREE**

**TAG**

INT. RUTLEDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

Dorothy walks down the hall, passing Juanita...

DOROTHY

Where is everybody?!

Juanita just shrugs. Dorothy opens the door to...

EXAMINNG ROOM

Where she finds George, Doug, Dr. Kim, Lars, and Harry all quietly conferring on a SERIES OF X-RAYS. She surprises them.

DOROTHY

Oh, sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt.

GEORGE

You weren't interrupting, we're just inspecting a fractured femur of a St. Bernard that came in yesterday.

DOROTHY

Oh, well, I'll let you get back to it.

As soon as Dorothy leaves, Lars pulls back a curtain, revealing...

Dr. Zaius in his visor, clutching FISTFULS OF CASH. On the ground near him, are FIVE TURTLES all being ridden by KITTENS as they race to a FINISH LINE.

THE GROUP

Go! Go! Go!

One TURTLE finishes first. The Room goes NUTS.

**END TAG**