

I'LL BE DOGGONE

Written by

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ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

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INT. CHIP'S BEDROOM, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

CECIL "CHIP" MURRAY (38) is fast asleep, sprawled out on his bed alone, snoring. ANDREA MURRAY (35) shakes him awake.

ANDREA

Chip. Wake up.

Torn from his slumber, Chip awkwardly falls out of bed. He rubs his eyes and tries to focus on his wife.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Someone sounding and pretending to be Mike Tyson has been calling your cell all morning.

(Beat)

He's asking about pumpkin pie.

(Beat)

What's this all about?

As if being dropped into an ice bath, Chip's muscles tighten. He's never been more awake. He snatches the phone and covers the microphone with his palm.

CHIP

(nonchalantly)

One of the fellas trying to get something for free again.

Andrea sizes Chip up suspiciously.

Chip hooks Andrea's arm and marches her out of the room.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Doctor-patient privilege.

(Beat)

You understand, honey.

He kisses Andrea on the cheek, then pushes her out and slams the door. He panics as he tries to gather his thoughts.

Mike Tyson's VOICE is barely audible, but RAPID FIRE.

Chip is pacing all over the room, as if trying to get away from the conversation.

MIKE TYSON (V.O.)

Hello? Are you there, little jockey man? How is Pumpkin Pie?

CHIP

Hi... Mike. How's it going?

EXT. BOXING GYM - SAME TIME

Mike Tyson is taking a break from training.

MIKE TYSON
How's Pumpkin Pie?

INTERCUT BETWEEN MIKE AND CHIP

CHIP
(Nervous rambling)
Pumpkin pie? No, I have nothing to
tell you. Everything is great!

Chip forces a shrill laugh.

MIKE TYSON
(Relieved)
That's my good girl. I must have
misjudged you.

CHIP
That's OK, I forgive you... 'Cause
we all have to be able to forgive.

MIKE TYSON
Let me speak to her.

Chip reacts.

CHIP
You want...
(Pause)
You want to speak to Pumpkin Pie?

MIKE TYSON
Put her on the phone. We're about
to start the training back up and I
don't have time to listen to your
brain and mouth battling it out.

CHIP
Let me find her.

Chip's eyes get big and he gasps air realizing that he was
telling on himself and could have chosen better words.

CUT TO:

INT. STAIRCASE, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Chip barrels down the stairs, leaping them in sets of three.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Chip leaps across a stretch of carpet and trips on the edge of the linoleum leading into the kitchen.

MIKE TYSON (V.O.)

Hurry up.

Chip slides, face down, across the floor. He comes to rest inches from Cash. The Labrador Retriever lifts his head and looks at Chip quizzically.

Chip rolls on his side and puts the phone to his ear.

CHIP

Hey Pumpkin Pie, I have a surprise for you. Here she is on the phone.

Chip puts the phone up to Cash's snout.

EXT. BOXING GYM - SAME TIME

Mike starts to talk to the phone with adorable "dog-talk."

MIKE TYSON (V.O.)

Pumpkin, how are you, little girl?

He gets a few looks from others in the gym.

INTERCUT BETWEEN MIKE AND CHIP

Meanwhile, Cash looks at Chip, cocks his head and resumes his sleeping position. The name Cash is clearly printed on his bed.

Chip reacts. He silently pleads with Cash, who is obviously not participating.

Chip gulps in dismay.

MIKE TYSON (V.O.)

But you're gonna win. I can see it already. The two of us -- our faces on Purina boxes. I can just feel it. Are you there, baby bear?

Out of options, Chip takes matters into his own hands. He raises the phone.

CHIP
Brrreea! Brreeaaa!

It's a sad and awkward affair.

MIKE TYSON
Is he taking good care of you? Does daddy need to come home?

Chip reacts.

CHIP
No, no, no. She's fine. It must be a bad connection.

MIKE TYSON
Is my Pumpkin Pie ok?

CHIP
She's fine. We're all good here. Actually, it's time for her walk. You just enjoy your trip and I'll see you on Monday.

Chip ends the call with a long sigh. He slides down the wall onto the floor in a sitting position.

CHIP (CONT'D)
I'm dead. I'm so dead.

FADE TO:

EXT. MURRAY HOUSE - DAY

SUPER IMPOSED: "2 MONTHS EARLIER..."

Thumping rap music rings out as a two-story suburban home comes into view.

CUT TO:

INT. TWIN'S BEDROOM, MURRAY HOUSE - DAY

Packed with pink hues and stuffed animals, twin sisters RACHEL and RALEAH MURRAY (10) wear matching plaid school uniforms as they simultaneously pop their heads into a large terrarium.

Rachel gently hands the lizard, LIZZIE, a small piece of kale.

RACHEL
We should introduce Lizzie to Bacon Bits. Lizards and iguanas are cousins, right?

CUT TO:

INT. MR EVANS' CLASSROOM - DAY

BACON BITS, the iguana, sits perfectly still on a log inside a steel-wired cage, just below a warning sign attached to the outside that reads, "CAUTION: DO NOT place lizards, small animals or insects inside the cage."

Bacon Bits turns his head, opens his mouth, and sticks his tongue out like he's hungry.

CUT TO:

INT. TWIN'S BEDROOM, MURRAY HOUSE - DAY

RACHEL
I bet they'd love to play together.

RALEAH
And Lizzie won't be lonely while we're at school!

RACHEL
We just have to hide her in something small to sneak her in Mom's car.

The girls giggle at the thought

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Mom would totally freak out.

RALEAH
Let's do it!

Raleah grabs a sock from the drawer to hide Lizzie in.

RACHEL
She'll never know. Good idea!

ANDREA (V.O.)
Girls! Breakfast!

Frozen in fear, the girls immediately look at each other for confirmation.

RACHEL/RALEAH

Bad idea!

The girls giggle and decide to abandon their scheme.

CUT TO:

INT. KARSTEN'S ROOM, MURRAY HOUSE - DAY

Surrounded by sports memorabilia and posters, KARSTEN MURRAY (15), rushes to put on his sweatpants.

Inside a birdcage, a macaw, CAPTAIN CRUNCH, cocks his head.

CAPTAIN CRUNCH

You're gonna be late! Go go go!

KARSTEN

Shut up, Captain Crunch!

Karsten leaves his shirt untucked, grabs his bag and rushes to the door. He stops and turns to Captain Crunch.

KARSTEN (CONT'D)

And hey, no repeating any of the lyrics from that song I was listening to, okay?

CAPTAIN CRUNCH

Ok.

KARSTEN

Ok, cool. Good bird.

Karsten slings his backpack over his shoulder and exits.

Captain Crunch cocks his head a few times...

CAPTAIN CRUNCH

I like big bu--

SNAP TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MURRAY HOUSE - DAY

Andrea, high school teacher and dressed accordingly, spreads jam on two pieces of perfectly toasted bread.

Rachel and Raleah sit at the table.

RACHEL
Mommy, when we're in high school,
can we be in your class?

RALEAH
Yeah, that way we can see you all
day, every day!

ANDREA
High school isn't like that, girls.

Rachel and Raleah look at ANDREA with pleading eyes. Beat.
Andrea sighs.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
If you were in my class, which
wouldn't be a good idea, it would
only be for an hour a day.

Chip bursts into the kitchen. He is dressed semi-casually,
carrying a briefcase. He kisses Andrea on the cheek and looks
at the toast.

CHIP
Oooh, that for me?

Chip goes for one of the toasts when Andrea playfully slaps
his hand away.

ANDREA
No, it's for your daughters.

Andrea hands the toast to the girls. Chip, still with his
back to the girls, makes a confused face.

CHIP
Daughters? We only have one
daughter.

Rachel and Raleah giggle.

Chip spins around, looking shocked in an overly dramatic
fashion.

CHIP (CONT'D)
What? Two of you? How did that
happen?

The girls continue to crack up.

RACHEL
Daddy!

His eyes wide, Chip isn't ready to let the spectacle fizzle out. He points at Rachel.

CHIP
You're Rachel, right?

RACHEL
Dad!

Chip points at Raleah.

CHIP
Then who the heck are you?

RALEAH
Raleah!

CHIP
(Looks at Rachel)
What happened? Did you multiply overnight? Like a worm?

The girls giggle. Chip doubles down.

CHIP (CONT'D)
Ya know, the stork tried to put five girls in Mommy's tummy, but could only fit in two.

The girls continue to giggle while eating their toast.

CHIP (CONT'D)
(In his Elvis voice)
So, we had to "Return to sender".
"Return to sender!"

Andrea finally cracks a smile, laughing at his Elvis voice impersonation.

Karsten bursts into the kitchen, shirt still untucked. He sits and starts eating his cereal in a hurry.

Andrea looks at him, disappointed.

ANDREA
Did I hear the TV on late last night?

KARSTEN
(Lies)
Naw, Mom.

ANDREA

Well, I heard something last night.
It sounded like it was coming from
your room.

Karsten looks at Chip, who is now signaling him behind
Andrea's back, pointing at the neighbor's house. Karsten
picks up on his hint.

KARSTEN

Must've been the neighbors again.

Andrea turns to Chip, who suddenly snaps into an innocent
smile. Andrea looks between Karsten and Chip, who are now
both smiling.

ANDREA

(Unconvinced)

Alright.

(Beat)

Kids, time for school.

Andrea grabs her car keys.

Rachel and Raleah rush for the door. Karsten finishes his
cereal and places the bowl in the sink.

KARSTEN

(Quietly)

Thanks, Dad.

CHIP

My boy

Chip and Karsten do a secret handshake.

CHIP (CONT'D)

And hey, no headphones in class.
You're in school to learn, not rot
your brain with rap music.

KARSTEN

Got it, Dad. Say hi to the furballs
at work.

CHIP

Son, don't speak of Aunt Tanya and
Aunt Dawn that way!

A photo of Andrea with her sisters comes into view. Taken ten
years prior, it shows the sisters framed by a majestic
sunset. Both Tanya and Dawn sport thick, bushy unibrows.

Karsten laughs as he heads for the door. Andrea pounds her closed fist into Chip's chest.

CHIP (CONT'D)

(In pain)

Hey!

(Holding hands up in
surrender)

It was a joke. Just a joke.

ANDREA

Not a funny one.

CHIP

Honey, I know funny, and that was
funny.

Andrea shoots Chip a look.

CHIP (CONT'D)

(Changing tactic)

But I suppose it wasn't really that
funny.

Andrea softens.

ANDREA

Have a great day at work.

Andrea and Chip kiss quickly, then Andrea follows the kids out.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

Chip parks his SUV in front of a nondescript building, pocked with chipped brick and peeling paint. He gets out of the car, whistling to himself. He pauses in the parking lot while facing the 1970s architecture.

CHIP

Hey, you sweet sticky thing.
Daddy's home.

This building is more than just a structure of brick and wood. It's his dream. It's his livelihood. He smiles.

CHIP (CONT'D)

(Singing Stevie Wonder
lyrics)

"Hey, isn't she lovely. Hey, isn't
she wonderful!"

The CLANGING of metal-on-metal wakes Chip from his moment of serenity. He turns around.

HARD CUT TO:

Across the street--

EXT. 4 PAWS WE CARE - CONTINUOUS

--shimmering in the sunlight, like a diamond surrounded by turds, is a brand-new building. It's like it was built overnight. Repurposed wooden beams. Huge panoramic windows. Even the ample parking spaces are visible.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - CONTINUOUS

CHIP

Damn!

CUT TO:

EXT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - CONTINUOUS

The HUMMING sound blasts from a crane manned by a team of workers barking orders at each other.

A massive sign which reads 4 PAWS WE CARE - VETERINARY CLINIC is slowly lowered on top of the roof. It is everything Chip's business isn't. Chip reacts.

In the window of the new vet clinic is a sign which reads ALL APPOINTMENTS \$59.99. Each "L" in "ALL" is a stylized dog tail.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - CONTINUOUS

CHIP

You have got to be dog shittin' me!

INT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

At the front desk sits JESSICA (22), the receptionist wannabe fashion queen. Her desk showcases Chicago Bulls memorabilia, including a Chicago Bulls hat.

Through her fake designer glasses, Jessica stares blankly at customer HERMAN RAGLAND (42).

Herman is VENTING LOUDLY. Next to him is a large Labradoodle. Its coat is thickly covered with auburn curls.

HERMAN

All I wanted was something trendy
for his birthday. What the hell is
this?!

He dramatically gestures towards the side of the dog facing Jessica. Jessica stoically retrieves a piece of paper and slides it across the countertop.

JESSICA

Sir, your signature here grants the
staff of Chip's Vet and Grooming
total artistic freedom when
choosing and implementing
hairstyles and grooming procedures.

He looks at the paper for a moment and shakes his head. He swipes it off the countertop and heads for the door, stopping briefly to look back at Jessica.

The dog comes into view. It has the wild-looking dreadlocks of an afro from a once fluffy fur coat.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(Under her breath)
You asked for trendy, quick and
cheap.

Just then, Chip bursts through the door. He's on the brink of a panic attack.

Chip and Herman almost run into each other. With one hand on the door, Herman calls out.

HERMAN

That's it! From now on, I'm taking
Malcolm across the street!

Herman slams the door shut. Chip's eyes are wide open and not blinking.

CHIP

I'll be doggone... It's only a
matter of time before I'm forced to
do hard labor... Like teaching at a
public school.

JESSICA

Calm down. We didn't want that cheap ungrateful jerk to come back here anyways.

CHIP

Not him... The new vet clinic across the street. They're going to put us out of business.

TWO CUSTOMERS with their PETS sitting on grey and cracked plastic chairs in the lobby, look up.

Jessica smiles at them and leads Chip into the back.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S OFFICE, CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - CONTINUOUS

Chip and Jessica enter.

CHIP

This is it! We're done! Done!

JESSICA

Breathe

Chip takes a deep breath.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Exhale.

Chip exhales for a prolonged period of time.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Better?

CHIP

(Out of breath)

Better

JESSICA

Look, you have nothing to worry about. Dogs love you... Once you have the dog, you have the owner.

CHIP

You think?

JESSICA

You've only been bitten twice this month!

CHIP
 You're right!
 (Beat)
 What about our new neighbors?

JESSICA
 Ignore them! They'll last a month,
 tops.

HARD CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - LATER

It is raining. Chip and Jessica stand in the empty waiting room looking out the window.

Across the street, STAFF from 4 PAWS WE CARE stand underneath umbrellas signing up NEW CUSTOMER. The customers don't appear to notice or care about the rain, as they check in.

JESSICA
 Maybe two months

CHIP
 We're screwed.

The 4 PAWS WE CARE sign suddenly lights up, breaking the gloom outside.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 Definitely screwed.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MURRAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Murray family is eating dinner together. The kids are focusing on eating the macaroni and cheese on their plates, intentionally avoiding the broccoli.

Andrea walks in with a tray of meatloaf.

Their Labrador Retriever, CASH, sits obediently between the twins.

Chip is visibly bothered.

CHIP
 (To Andrea)
 I mean what does \$59.99 mean? He'll
 do everything for \$59.99? He'll
 neuter a dog for \$59.99?
 (MORE)

CHIP (CONT'D)

He'll give mouth-to-mouth to a hamster for \$59.99?

Andrea reacts.

ANDREA

Honey, now you know our dinner table rule, no talking about the well being of animals at the dinner

table.

CHIP

Why not? Animals are meant to be cared for or eaten.

(Under his breath)

Unless they grow up to be as big as your sisters.

Andrea serves the kids meatloaf from the tray. Karsten pokes at it with his fork.

KARSTEN

Not meatloaf again. Meatloaf sucks.

ANDREA

What did you say?

KARSTEN

(Showing dissatisfaction)

This is like eating a hamburger without the bread. This is white people's food, why can't we just have hamburgers?

Andrea reacts. Chip stabs his eyes at Karsten.

ANDREA

That's your dad's favorite meal.

CHIP

(Lying)

That's right... Mom's meatloaf is the best.

Chip looks down at the meatloaf with thoughts of a plan to avoid eating it.

CHIP (CONT'D)

The best.

He puts on a fake smile and looks at Andrea.

ANDREA
Thank you, honey.

Andrea turns and walks over to put the rest of the meatloaf back in the oven.

As she turns her back, Chip quickly drops his portion of the meatloaf on the floor where Cash quickly cleans it up.

Karsten grins. He looks at Chip as to say good idea, hoping to also give the dog his meatloaf, but Chip gives him a look to reject that idea.

KARSTEN
(whispers)
That's not fair... And you told Mom a lie... Why do we have to eat white people's hamburgers?

CHIP
Sometimes you need to tell a little "white" lie to keep Mom happy. Now eat your meatloaf.

KARSTEN
Why do we have to eat ours?

CHIP
Because Cash had his share already

Cash belches.

CHIP (CONT'D)
And Captain Crunch and Lizzie don't eat meatloaf.

KARSTEN
What if Mom accidentally finds out that you really don't like her meatloaf?

CHIP
And what if Mom accidentally finds out what you're really watching late at night?

Karsten reacts.

Raleah and Rachel giggle and eat their portion.

RACHEL
I like Mom's meatloaf.

RALEAH

Me too.

Karsten smirks.

KARSTEN

You two would eat anything.

Reluctantly, Karsten starts picking at his meatloaf with the fork just as Andrea returns. Chip grabs the fork and pretends to finish his portion.

CHIP

Hmm-hmm, that was so good!

ANDREA

You're done already?

CHIP

(Rubbing his belly)

Baby, you could teach Martha Stewart a thing or two about making meatloaf.

ANDREA

Well, there's more—

CHIP

(Cutting her off)

No, no, no. I'm full, honey. Besides, I've got some paperwork to take care of.

Chip gets up and kisses Andrea. He goes for the door while signaling Karsten to eat his portion behind Andrea's back.

Karsten sighs and takes a bite.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING. DAY

SUPER Imposed: "2 Months Later..."

Chip, dressed in a white doctor's coat, stares out of the window towards 4 PAWS WE CARE.

A long line of pet owners with dogs, cats, and crates of all sizes at their side, stretches from the door all the way around the curb.

Behind Chip, Jessica places an eraser on the top of an intricate eraser structure to which she has obviously dedicated considerable time.

CHIP
 Jessica! Look alive!
 (Moving towards Jessica)
 When's our next appointment?

Jessica leans over to the side to check the clinic's diary. She flips it open to a random page, revealing a coupon.

JESSICA
 Oh, that's where my two-for-one coupon went.

CHIP
 Never mind your coupons!
 Appointments? Appointments?!

JESSICA
 (Looking up)
 Chimichangas are my love language.

CHIP
 Well, we'll both be frying changas to pay bills if clients keep taking their pets across the street.
 (Beat)
 Next appointment?

Jessica flips a few more pages to the current day.

JESSICA
 Two o'clock.

CHIP
 (Sarcastically)
 Great! Because I can't afford to pay people to sit around and watch highlights of Chicago Bulls games.

JESSICA
 Hey!

CHIP
 Sorry, but the Bulls have never been the same since Jordon left.

JESSICA
 At least we have one customer for today.

CHIP
(Sarcastically)
Yeah, great! I'll retire early.

The phone RINGS. Jessica picks up.

JESSICA
Chip's Vet and Grooming. How can I
help you?

Chip eavesdrops.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Oh, okay. Thank you.

Jessica ends the call.

CHIP
(Excited)
Who was that?

JESSICA
Your two o'clock just cancelled.

Jessica reaches out for one of the erasers and removes the appointment.

Chip is about to lose it.

CHIP
And you didn't ask if they'd like
to reschedule?

JESSICA
Didn't even think of that.

CHIP
You've been working here for THREE
YEARS and you've never asked a
customer if they wanted to
reschedule?

JESSICA
I don't like to dwell in the past.
What's done is done. I try to live
in the now. Haven't you heard?
That's why they call it the
present, 'cuz it's a gift.

Chip fumes.

He walks to the door and glances out toward the long line of customers across the street...

CHIP

How can he be charging \$59.99 for everything?

Jessica is back to her eraser structure...

JESSICA

I dunno. Go and ask.

Chip reacts. He clearly just got an idea.

CUT TO:

INT. 4 PAWS WE CARE - DAY

Smartly decorated with minimalist flourishes and modern artwork in expensive frames. Sleek screens announce appointments and tips for pet owners along with motivational quotes. Everything is expertly branded. The RECEPTIONISTS are young and attractive.

A RAPPER enters with a LABRADOR RETRIEVER on a blinged-out leash. He has a big gold necklace, several rings, shades, and the Chicago Bulls hat he nabbed from Jessica's desk. His basketball shoes are much bigger than he should be wearing, and he's sporting an NBA sweatsuit with a matching shirt. His steps are calculated and a bit awkward, as he tries to walk in the oversized shoes. But something is off and we quickly recognize...

It's actually Chip and Cash. Chip inches towards the young RECEPTIONIST (20s).

The receptionist is taller than Chip. She is looking down reading something when he walks up to the counter. Chip clears his throat to get her attention. She looks up, above Chip's head.

RECEPTIONIST

Welcome...

She frowns in confusion, clearly expecting a taller man.

The receptionist looks down, locks eyes with Chip and starts again.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Welcome to 4 Paws We Care. How can I help you today?

Chip tries to keep his composure.

CHIP
 Does the, uh...
 (Cough, cough)
 \$59.99 special apply to everything?

RECEPTIONIST
 Yes, it does.

Chip's eyes narrow.

CHIP
 Shots?

RECEPTIONIST
 Yes sir.

CHIP
 Nail trim?

RECEPTIONIST
 Included.

CHIP
 (High pitch voice)
 Anal...
 (Back to rapper voice)
 ...gland expression?

Receptionist cocks her head suspiciously.

RECEPTIONIST
 I can assure you all basic
 appointments are \$59.99.
 (Beat)
 You can see all services included
 right over there.

She gestures towards a sleek screen listing dozens of
 clinical and preventative services. Chip eyes the screen with
 disbelief.

CHIP
 I'll take it all. My boy here was a
 street dog. He's had a hard life. I
 just want to give him some TLC.

Cash, the spitting image of perfect canine health, comes into
 view.

RECEPTIONIST
 Street dog, right?

CHIP

Yeah, well, he's from the streets
of Compton.

RECEPTIONIST

Yeah, sure, we can do that. Can I
get a name please?

CHIP

A name?

(Chip and the Receptionist
stare at each other)

Oh, yeah, a name! Of course!

CHIP looks around the lobby in a panic. He goes from one
picture hanging on the wall to another - from a doctor to a
waterfall to a golf ball on a tee.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Dr... LL Cool... Tee. Dr LL Cool
Tee!

RECEPTIONIST

Great, Dr. Tee. Have a seat over
there and Dr. Weddington will be
right with you.

The Receptionist stands up to direct him, and Chip can see
her name tag says "CHAMBERLAIN". She towers over him at 6'4.

CHIP

Oh my, you must be related to Wilt
Chamberlain?

RECEPTIONIST

(Clueless)

Who?

She slides a clipboard over to him with a pen and some forms
to complete. Chip can't help but stare at her enormous hands.

CHIP

Never mind.

(To himself)

Were those hands or baseball mitts?
Maybe the Chamberlain's are playing
the wrong sport...

Chip nods and settles into a swanky dark brown couch. He
looks down at his hands and compares them to the
Receptionists' subtly. The lobby is packed. With the leash in
one hand, he retrieves his cell phone from his pocket. Chip
pulls up the calculator feature on his phone.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 (To himself)
 Let's see. Nail trim. Shots. Anal
 gland expression.

An ELDERLY WOMAN with a tiny crate shakes her head at Chip,
 gets up and leaves.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 Have you ever heard of anal sac
 abscess! They're not pretty!

Chip looks down. He calculates everything that his business
 would charge for the same services.

INSERT SCREEN: \$130.17

CHIP
 Shut the front door! There's no
 way!
 (To himself)
 Something ain't right. You can't
 just move into my dog space and
 take over. You're not that dude.

CUT TO:

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM, 4 PAWS WE CARE - LATER

Chip sits on a trendy chair in the corner, anxious. He
 glances at his watch, then darts his eyes back to the door.

Beat.

He gets up and starts pacing back and forth.

The door opens and a VET ASSISTANT walks in with a freshly
 groomed Cash.

VET ASSISTANT
 Here we are, Dr. LL Cool Tee. Cash
 is all done.

CHIP
 (Stroking Cash)
 Look at you man!

VET ASSISTANT
 Dr. Weddington will be right in to
 go over any questions with you.

CHIP
 (Smiling)
 Okay, cool!

As soon as the Vet Assistant exits, Chip starts to go over Cash, checking his ears, paws and teeth.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 (Mumbling to himself)
 Nice job on the trim. Nails are a little short, but still acceptable...

As he leans over Cash, with his buttocks prominently pointed toward the door, the door opens and TRAVIS C. WEDDINGTON (61) enters, holding a chart.

TRAVIS C.
 Dr... LL Cool Tee, I assume...

Chip quickly stands up and turns toward him.

CHIP
 What?
 (Suddenly realizing)
 Oh yeah, that's my name.

TRAVIS C.
 (Looking at Chip with a light smirk)
 You about to drop an album or something?

CHIP
 (Gets the joke, light chuckle)
 Something like that.

TRAVIS C.
 (Laughing)
 You kind of remind me of a basketball player.

CHIP
 Yeah?

TRAVIS C.
 Yeah. Did someone steal your height?

CHIP
 (Under his breathe looking at Travis' receding hairline)
 (MORE)

CHIP (CONT'D)

Probably the same person who stole
your hairline.

TRAVIS C.

(Looking at Cash)
And this must be Cash.

Travis C. pets Cash and gives him a treat. He looks at the
chart he walked in with.

TRAVIS C. (CONT'D)

Well, let's see what's going on
with Cash.

CHIP

So you just opened up shop?

TRAVIS C.

That's right.

CHIP

Where were you before you set up
shop here?

TRAVIS C.

Oh, we have several locations all
over the west coast.

CHIP

(Disappointed)
Really?

TRAVIS C.

Yes. Seems like we're opening a new
office every few weeks.

CHIP

(Disappointedly)
Great.

TRAVIS C.

(Going back to the chart)
Well, looks like Cash got the basic
treatments... He seems to be in
excellent health. Says here you
feed him Purina brand...
(looks up)
...that's an expensive brand. You
clearly take good care of him.

CHIP

(Smiling vaguely)
Oh, you know. He's my road dog.

Travis C. reaches to get a fist bump. Chip reacts awkwardly.

CHIP (CONT'D)

So, with all these services, what's my total cost?

TRAVIS C.

\$59.99.

CHIP

Really?

TRAVIS C.

Oh, no wait, that's wrong.

CHIP

I knew it!

TRAVIS C stares at CHIP.

TRAVIS C.

Since this is your first appointment, you also get ten percent off.

CHIP

Oh.

TRAVIS C.

You're a valued customer. We want to be sure you're taken care of.

Chip forces a smile.

TRAVIS C. (CONT'D)

Here's my card. It has my personal cell on there. I'm available all hours of the day... Or night...

Chip takes the card with a forced smile.

CHIP

Lovely.

CUT TO:

EXT. 4 PAWS WE CARE - DAY

The doors swing open and Chip and Cash rush out of the building.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

Chip and Cash charge through the door.

Jessica, is focused on watching Bull's highlights.

CHIP
We're going down... They're too
legit to quit.

Chip shows Jessica the receipt.

JESSICA
(Still focused on the
game)
Uh-huh...

The Chicago Bulls NBA ANNOUNCER can be heard in the background.

CHIP
Only \$59.99 and I had them perform
every service in the book!

He crumples up the receipt with one hand and throws it towards the trash can, missing badly.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
And he missed the free throw!

CHIP
They're spreading like a bad rash,
and we can't even keep one
customer.

JESSICA
Huh... Uh...

CHIP
It just doesn't make any sense. How
can they be turning a profit with
these prices?!

The PHONE RINGS.

Chip groans loudly, yanking the glasses and hat off.

CHIP (CONT'D)
I'm going to the bank.

CUT TO:

EXT. BANK - DAY

Flanked by manicured bushes, a run-of-the-mill community bank branch comes into view. Chip's SUV pulls into an open spot near the main entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. BANK - MIKE'S OFFICE - DAY

MICHAEL MURRAY (35), sits behind his desk. A nameplate on the desk reads "MICHAEL MURRAY - BRANCH MANAGER." Chip sits across from him, as Michael types away at his computer.

MICHAEL

(Finishing typing)

Big bro! What's up? Wait... it's 3pm and you don't have any animals with you... what is it this time? Lose your debit card again?

CHIP

I need to borrow some money.

Michael stands up and pulls out his wallet.

MICHAEL

Sure, how much?

CHIP

Fifty thousand dollars.

MICHAEL

(Chuckling)

Oh, is that all? Let me get that right out of my sock for you.

CHIP

I'm serious, Michael. I really need fifty thousand.

MICHAEL

(Laughing)

And I want to marry Janet Jackson.

CHIP

Look man, I'm serious. It's for my business. With all these loans and back-fees, I'm struggling to stay afloat.

(Beat)

I ran the numbers.

(MORE)

CHIP (CONT'D)

Fifty thousand will allow me to stay open for at least sixty more days.

Michael rocks back in his chair with his hands behind his head.

MICHAEL

That's a tall order.

CHIP

Ha, Ha...very funny. Look, I'll give you free dog care forever.

MICHAEL

This is a bank not "let's-make-a-deal for doggy care." "Why don't you fire that overpaid Chicago Bulls loving receptionist?"

CHIP

I can't. Her uncle does my taxes for free.

MICHAEL

I don't know what to say.

CHIP

You owe me.

MICHAEL

For what?

CHIP

How about the time you and your second wife fed chocolate to your dog?

MICHAEL

I knew we should have stopped after the first bar.

CHIP

That dog was in a dark place. And I brought him back.

MICHAEL

Yeah, I mean I'm happy you could help...

CHIP

See!

MICHAEL
But not fifty thousand dollars
happy.

CHIP
What about the time you needed me
to cover for you with Michelle...

MICHAEL
Yeah, you saved my second marriage.

CHIP
(Pointing at him,
challengingly)
Ah!

MICHAEL
Still don't know if I should thank
you or hit you for that

CHIP
Come on man!

MICHAEL
Chip, you're asking me to be Jesus
and part the Red Sea for you.

CHIP
First of all it was Moses who
parted the Red Sea! But I'm asking
a favor from my little brother!

MICHAEL
(Sighing)
Let me pull up your profile.

Michael taps on his keyboard a couple of times. A series of charts and graphs pop up. Chip cranes his neck to get a peek.

Michael takes one last look at the computer and sighs.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Listen, Chip. If it was up to me,
I'd give you the money...

CHIP
Great!

MICHAEL
But it's not. I'm sorry bro. My
hands are tied.

FADE TO:

INT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

SUPER IMPOSED: "One Week Later..."

Through outdated blinds, Chip stares out the window at 4 Paws We Care that is as busy as always. Jessica sits behind the counter, eating Doritos.

CHIP

Listen, why don't you take off early today?

JESSICA

(Wiping Dorito dust off the desk)

Seriously?

CHIP

Yeah. There's no reason for us both to be here.

Jessica starts packing her stuff, rushing before Chip changes his mind.

JESSICA

I'm still getting paid my regular hours right?

CHIP

(Grimacing)

Of course.

Jessica grabs her backpack and heads for the door, while calling to make a nail appointment. Chip sighs, going back to looking out the window. Chip tries to kill one hour.

TIME-LAPSE:

Chip uses the desk light to make shadow animals.

CUT TO:

Chip finds an air duster under the computer. He sprays the keyboard.

CUT TO:

The clock reads: "2:15pm".

CUT TO:

In desperation Chip starts ringing his old customers.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Mister Peterson! We sure miss you here at Chip's Vet and Grooming and want to offer you an exclusive twenty-five percent discount.

(Listens)

...Your wife took the dog in the divorce. Well, if you think about getting another...

The customer hangs up on Chip.

CUT TO:

CHIP paces the room, while on the phone to another customer.

CHIP (CONT'D)

And how is Tucker doing nowadays?

(Listens)

Seriously?!

(Listens)

Well, my condolences.

CUT TO:

Chip is sat behind the reception desk, his head very close to its surface.

CHIP (CONT'D)

So when you say gone he's...?

(Listens)

Deceased. What both of them?

(Listens)

Alright, thank you.

END TIME LAPSE.

Chip hangs up the phone and then hits his head against the desk in frustration. The drawer to the desk opens. Chip looks down and spots a box staring up at him. On it reads "FIDO 3000 SHOCK COLLAR." He takes out the instructions, the device's remote and a 9-volt battery. Standing up, Chip puts the remote down on the chair. He placed the battery into the shock collar.

CHIP (CONT'D)

This little guy? These things can barely power a remote control. It probably doesn't even work.

Chip tries the shock collar on.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 (Laughing)
 Just as I thought, nothing.

Chip sits down, activating the remote.

ZZZZAAAAAPPPPP!

Chip passes out, falling off the chair and out of sight behind the counter. Everything goes black.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

DING! DING! DING!

A finger impatiently rings the reception bell. The finger belongs to a muscular, wealthy, no-nonsense patron. MIKE TYSON (48), impeccably dressed in leather and gold.

DING! DING! DING!

MIKE TYSON
 Hello! Anyone there?

Mike Tyson turns to his ASSISTANT (28).

MIKE TYSON (CONT'D)
 Who takes a damn lunch break during work hours.

ASSISTANT
 I know, right.

MIKE TYSON
 I knew this place was a waste of time. Amateurs! Let's go.

Mike turns and takes a few steps towards the door.

BZZZZ! A sudden buzz from the shock collar makes Mike stop in his tracks and turn back.

MIKE TYSON (CONT'D)
 (Turning to his Assistant)
 What the heck was that?

A head rises abruptly from behind the counter. It belongs to Chip. His eyes are bloodshot.

The shock collar is also still around his neck. Somehow it looks even tighter than before. He manages to startle Mike.

CHIP

Sorry to keep you waiting!

MIKE TYSON

Damn, dude. Who or what put you on the floor?

CHIP

(Still dazed)

How can I help?

MIKE TYSON

Dude! You good?

Chip snaps out of his daze and hastily tears off the collar as he realizes who the man in front of him is.

CHIP

Oh, my God. You're Mike Tyson. Iron Mike Tyson...

MIKE TYSON

Yeah. Well spotted...Everywhere else in this city has been fully booked for weeks, so...

CHIP

Well, we... Are not. I mean. We'll give you all our attention.

MIKE TYSON

You're a real vet, yeah?

CHIP

Of course!

MIKE TYSON

You look more like a jockey to me! My dog could ride you around on it's back!

CHIP

I'm definitely a real vet. And dogs seem to love me. I've only been bitten two times this month

Mike and his Assistant react.

CHIP (CONT'D)

And where is your...

Mike steps aside and points behind him where his Assistant holds a leash.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 (In shock and disbelief)
 Dog?

On the other end of the leash is the largest dog Chip has ever seen. This is PUMPKIN PIE. With a mane like a lion and a body like a grizzly, it dwarfs every human in the room.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 (Shocked)
 I'll be doggone, a Tibetan Mastiff... Shut the front door. He's friendly, right?

ASSISTANT
 She. And yes she is.

CHIP
 What seems to be wrong with her?

MIKE TYSON
 Pumpkin Pie hasn't been acting like herself lately.

CHIP
 Right

MIKE TYSON
 Ever since I told her about the Purina Dog Contest.

CUT TO:

INT. EXAM ROOM, CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

Chip listens to Pumpkin Pie's heartbeat using a stethoscope. Pumpkin Pie's chest is bigger than his head.

CHIP
 Her heart and lungs sound good. Tell me more about what's going on?

MIKE TYSON
 She's got no appetite. She usually eats five bowls for breakfast. It's barely two now. She's also not doing her..."...boom boom."

CHIP
 What?

Mike raises his eyebrows.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 Oh! You mean pooping!
 (Laughing awkwardly)
 Taking a Humpty Dumpty?

Mike scoffs.

MIKE TYSON
 Yeah. I just didn't want to use the
 word in front of a lady. What's
 wrong with you?

Mike nods toward his Assistant.

CHIP
 Oh! Understood.

Chip moves the stethoscope to Pumpkin Pies stomach.
 Meanwhile, Mikes Assistant's phone rings. She answers it.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 When was the last time she...
 umm...did her... boom boom?

MIKE TYSON
 Monday at 3pm.

CHIP
 Wow, that's oddly specific?

MIKE TYSON
 She's my baby. I keep detailed
 records.

CHIP
 Of course.

Chip listens to Pumpkin Pie's bowels for a few more beats.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 She does seem a little constipated.

MIKE TYSON
 Obviously!

CHIP
 Have you changed her diet lately?

MIKE TYSON
 Of course not. Purina is all she
 gets.

CHIP
That's a good brand.

MIKE TYSON
The best! Only the best for my
baby!

The Assistant joins them, holding her cell phone.

ASSISTANT
We've got a problem. Your dog
sitter just cancelled.

MIKE TYSON
What? Why?

ASSISTANT
He's saying something about being
bitten by a dog.

MIKE TYSON
Give me that.

Mike grabs the phone.

MIKE TYSON (CONT'D)
You can't cancel on me now. My
flight leaves in three hours.
(Listens)
It's only a dog bite, haven't you
ever been bit before... Well, when
I see you, I'm going to bite you
even harder.
(Listens)
So, you rather stay in the hospital
instead of getting paid ten grand?

Chip reacts.

MIKE TYSON (CONT'D)
(Angry)
Yeah, you too!

Mike ends the call and hands it to his Assistant.

MIKE TYSON (CONT'D)
He cancelled.

Assistant's face remains stoic.

ASSISTANT
Let me make a few phone calls.

Chip's face lights up. His posture straightens.

CHIP

Umm, I... I can watch your dog.
 (All eyes on him)
 I mean, I can watch Pumpkin Pie.

Mike Tyson hesitates for a moment.

MIKE TYSON

Oh, yeah? Do you have any dog
 sitting experience? This isn't just
 any dog. My Pumpkin Pie's a
 champion! I thought you just give
 out shots and medicine. This ain't
 no dog hotel.

CHIP

(Laughing)
 Dog hotel!

Mike Tyson stares at Chip.

CHIP (CONT'D)

I'm a vet. I take care of dogs for
 as long as needed, two hours, two
 days, hell I have dogs that I've
 cared for for years. That's what we
 do here.

Mike Tyson eyeballs Chip from head to toe, thinking.

ASSISTANT

He makes a good point.

CHIP

Of course I do! I'll give her my
 STD!

MIKE TYSON/ASSISTANT

Your what?!

CHIP

Don't worry, my STD will make her
 stronger, faster, better than she's
 ever been.

MIKE TYSON/ASSISTANT

WHAT!!

CHIP

Pumpkin Pie will be treated like my
 second wife and get my STD. I've
 never had a dog that didn't love my
 STD - my Special Treatment for
 Dogs.

Both Mike and his assistant look relieved. Mike's blood pressure appears to go back down. Mike contemplates for a few more beats. Then snaps his fingers. Immediately, his Assistant pulls a folder from her bag.

ASSISTANT

Here is her daily schedule. Four walks a day at 6am, noon, 5pm and then 9pm. She eats before her morning, noon, and evening walk. Plays fetch at 3pm. Gets brushed at 6pm.

CHIP

(Nodding furiously)
Yeah, of course.

MIKE TYSON

And don't forget her bedtime story.

Chip reacts.

CHIP

She needs a bedtime story?

Mike glares at Chip.

MIKE TYSON

Is that a problem?

CHIP

(Shaking his head
vigorously)
No, no, not at all, Iron Mike.

Mike backs off, and Chip is visibly relieved.

MIKE TYSON

Good. She likes the old fairy tales, none of this new age shit.

Chip nods.

CHIP

Got it!

Mike stares at Chip once again, then snaps his fingers. His assistant hands Chip a check for ten thousand dollars. Chip reacts. The Assistant hands Chip the leash. Mike locks eyes with Chip.

MIKE TYSON

If anything happens to Pumpkin Pie,
I'm coming out of retirement.
Understand?

Mike balls up his fist.

CHIP

(Laughing nervously)
You have nothing to worry about.
(Beat. Suddenly serious)
I'll take good care of Pumpkin Pie.

MIKE TYSON

Good. I'll see you when I get back.
Me and Pumpkin Pie have been
prepping for the Purina Dog Contest
for months.

Mike blows a kiss to Pumpkin Pie. She gives him a little RUFF
in return. Mike Tyson and his Assistant exit. As soon as
they're gone, Chip drops to his knees and kisses the check.

CHIP

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

On his knees, Chip looks about half the size of Pumpkin. She
towers over him.

CHIP (CONT'D)

(Looking up and noticing
Pumpkin)
Oh dear God!

CUT TO:

INT. SKIP'S APARTMENT - DAY

SKIP (37) sits on his couch. His phone rings and he answer
it.

INTERCUT BETWEEN CHIP AND SKIP

SKIP

Hello?

CHIP

(Now standing up)
Guess who in the doggy doo doo came
in and dropped off their dog for
dog sitting over the weekend?

SKIP
Santa Clause

CHIP
For real, be serious

SKIP
No idea.

CHIP
Alright, well here's a little hint
for you, they just got out of jail?

SKIP
Uhh, Martha Stewart?

There is a pause.

CHIP
No man, she got out in 2005. Mike
freakin' Tyson, Iron Mike

SKIP
What kind of dog does he have?

CHIP
A Tibetan Mastiff, fully grown.
It's the biggest dog ever. I need
to lock this thing up in my office
before it craps all over the floor.

SKIP
Your office, dude? You just make
sure nothing happens to his dog.

There is a sudden bang.

The back door to the clinic swings open and closed. Pumpkin
is gone. Chip stares in horror.

SKIP (CONT'D)
Everything alright?

CHIP
(In a tone that expresses
a degree of uncertainty)
Yeah, everything's fine.

SKIP
Well, make sure you have good doggy
insurance. You know old iron Mike
likes to go for the ears.

Chip is running around the clinic, checking to make sure Pumpkin isn't hiding anywhere.

SKIP (CONT'D)

Chip?

CHIP

I'll call you back

Chip hangs up the phone and stares at the back door to the clinic.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

Chip runs out of the clinic and moves down the alleyway.

CHIP

Pumpkin!

(Mimicking a dog whistle)

Pumpkin!

At the end of the alleyway, Chip spots an ELDERLY WOMAN (Early seventies) petting a dog that he recognizes as Pumpkin Pie.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Miss! Miss!

The elderly woman doesn't hear him and leads the dog away.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Goddamn it!

Chip runs down the alleyway.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Chip runs from the alleyway on to a residential street.

He sees the elderly woman tying the dog up in her yard. Chip runs towards her. The elderly woman finishes tying the dog up and goes inside her house.

CHIP

(Approaching the dog)

There you are.

(Untying the dog)

Let's get you out of here

The elderly woman comes out of her house, carrying a bowl of water.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Hey!

CHIP

(Looking up)

Thanks, I'll take her back now.

The elderly woman suddenly throws the bowl of water over Chip.

CHIP (CONT'D)

(Reacting in shock)

Hey!

ELDERLY WOMAN

Get your thieving hands off of my dog.

The elderly woman hits Chip with the now empty bowl, screaming and making a scene.

CHIP

Ms. are you crazy?!

ELDERLY WOMAN

I will pop a cap in your ass little boy

The elderly woman continues to hit Chip with the bowl.

CHIP

(Talking through the pain)

This isn't your dog. This isn't your dog. Lady this is not your dog!

Chip brings his arm up to defend himself, knocking the bowl out of the elderly woman's hand.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Ms., I'm a grown ass man, you can't bully me and just take this dog.

The elderly woman takes off her belt and begins to chase Chip, swiping at him.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Someone call 911! Someone call 911!

The dog seems entertained by this.

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - LATER

A cop car has turned up, its lights blaring.

TWO POLICE OFFICERS are standing with Chip. He is telling his side of the story.

CHIP

And that's when I asked Ms. Hong Kong Phooey over there to calm down.

OFFICER 1

Was that before or after she tried to spank you?

CHIP

After

OFFICER 2

So, you were trying to defend yourself against a little old lady

CHIP

Yes, yes, yes. You have no idea what she's capable of Officer.

ELDERLY WOMAN

He tried to steal my dog!

OFFICER 1

Thank you, madam. We told you to wait inside.

ELDERLY WOMAN

He was stealing my dog!

CHIP

She's my dog!

ELDERLY WOMAN

She?! It's a he!

CHIP

Oh yeah, like I don't know the gender of my own dog. Lady you're crazy!

(Addressing the Officers)
Officers, I'm a local vet.

(MORE)

CHIP (CONT'D)

I'm well respected within the
community, this woman is a liar...

During Chip's exclamation Pumpkin reappears from the alleyway. The elderly ladies dog can still be seen tied up in her front yard. Pumpkin sniffs Chip's hand. Chip finally notices her.

CHIP (CONT'D)

I got the wrong dog.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

Chip slams the door of his SUV, as he settles into the driving seat. Behind him, Pumpkin is already settled on the back seat.

CHIP

Great.

Officers 1 and 2 approach Chip's window from there parked police car.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Thank you, officers. Sorry about
that little misunderstanding.

OFFICER 1

Just be more careful, okay?

CHIP

I will. You can count on it.

OFFICER 1

We're having a lot of reports of
dogs being stolen recently.

CHIP

What is that? Dognap? Doggie theft?
I know transporting canine goods!

Chip laughs, but neither of the Officers find it funny. Chip's laughter dies out.

OFFICER 1

Just be careful.

CHIP

Yes sir.

Chip starts the SUV's engine.

OFFICER 2

And....I would stay in my fighting
weight class and height.

The Officers laugh. Chip joins in with a fake laugh.

CHIP

Alright! Thank you! Thank you!

Chip pulls the SUV away. As soon as he's out of sight, his
smile drops, and he glares at Pumpkin in the back seat.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Chip's SUV pulls into a gas station parking lot.

The car radio can be heard announcing the Purina Dog Contest
and discussing several high profile contestants.

A STRANGE-LOOKING MAN rides close to the car on his bike,
peering inside. He's taking great interest in Pumpkin Pie.

The large digital display under the sign reads: 92 F. Chip
parks in front of a pump.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

CHIP

This won't take long, then we'll be
home faster than a Mike Tyson knock
out.

Chip opens the door. He hesitates and looks back at Pumpkin
Pie.

CHIP (CONT'D)

You won't last a minute in this
heat.

(beat)

Especially wearing that Chewbacca
suit.

Chip rolls down all four windows, then gets out of the car.

He looks back in at Pumpkin Pie and squints his eyes.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Oh, no you don't.

He closes all of the windows until each one has only an inch left open.

Slowly putting up his hands, he measures Pumpkin Pie's head size against the last window gap. His hands get exaggeratedly further apart as he moves toward the window. The measurement is obviously wrong.

He opens the window a little wider and nods, satisfied with himself. Pumpkin Pie looks at him.

CHIP (CONT'D)
(To Pumpkin Pie)
Get down!

Pumpkin Pie stares at him.

CHIP (CONT'D)
(Motioning down)
Down!

Pumpkin Pie drops to the floor of the car.

CHIP (CONT'D)
There you go! Out of the heat and
out of sight.

He turns around and heads toward the gas station.

The Strange-looking man has parked his bike and is hovering in the area. He seems to be surreptitiously staring at Pumpkin Pie in the back seat.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Chip puts his credit card into the pump slot and coolly punches his pass code on the keypad.

A deep BEEP emanates from the pump. Chip squints his eyes as he leans towards the screen.

CHIP
What the...

The machine spits his card out.

INSERT SCREEN: ERROR. PLEASE SEE CASHIER

CHIP

You have got to be dog shittin' me.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

The face of the CASHIER (35) reveals that he's at the tail end of a double and his replacement can't come soon enough.

In front of him is a FEMALE CUSTOMER (52) holding a tiny colorful bottle in each hand. Chip walks in and GROANS.

FEMALE CUSTOMER

So, if I take two of these, does that mean I'll have regular strength energy for ten hours or double-strength energy for five?

CASHIER

Ma'am, you can try calling the customer service number on the bottle to find that out, I'm just the cashier here? (Beat) That'll be six-dollars-and-forty seven-cents...

Chip nervously swivels his view between the exchange at the counter and the car.

FEMALE CUSTOMER

I've got exact change!

The customer starts plucking random coins from the cracking purse and creating little stacks in front of the cashier.

FEMALE CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

Ten... Fifteen... Twenty...

Chip sinks his face into his hands.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION - LATER

After minutes of coin counting, the Female Customer finally gets the exact change. Chip checks his watch, then glances outside.

The Female Customer leaves, and Chip finally gets to the Cashier. The cashier looks up, over his head, expecting someone taller. Then looks down for eye contact. Chip hands his credit card to the cashier.

CHIP

Fill up, pump number five.

In the background, Pumpkin Pie climbs up onto the back seat. Her fur flattens as she effortlessly glides through the window and out of the car, her fur springing back to full thickness instantly. She trots around the back of the car. Out of sight.

Chip glances outside again. Quickly finishing his transaction, he moves to the door.

A DELIVERY PERSON is on the way in, carrying a stack of boxes of glass bottles on a trolley. The stack of boxes sways dangerously as Chip goes past, and the Delivery person grabs them with two hands.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Chip climbs into his SUV.

CHIP

(Not looking on the back
seat)

Right, let's get you home.

Chip pulls the SUV out of the gas station.

EXT. MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Chip pulls into his driveway and parks the car.

CHIP

(Still not looking on the
back seat)

Right, wait here, while I prepare
the family.

Chip exits the SUV.

CUT TO:

INT. MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Chip walks in.

Captain Crunch, the macaw, turns his head inquisitively from his white cage.

CHIP
Honey, I'm home!
(Beat)
Oh yeah, still at work.

He prances into the kitchen and pours himself a smoothie from the fridge. He opens it and takes a chug. Pleased with the taste and the 10k he received from Mike Tyson, he walks to the living room, taking off his shoes, belt and shirt, sits on the couch and turns on the TV.

Chip drinks his smoothie on the couch.

EXT. MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Karsten cruises down the sidewalk on his bike, cuts across the lawn and expertly hops off inches before reaching the side gate.

He opens the gate effortlessly, walks his bike through and leans it against the side of the garage. He slams the gate shut and walks towards the house.

CUT TO:

INT. MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Chip takes a drink of his smoothie on the couch, watching TV. Karsten rushes into the living room.

KARSTEN
Hey dad?

CHIP
I bet that bear in the SUV scared you?

KARSTEN
Dad, bears are illegal to own as a pet in California.

CHIP
See how you learn things when you put aside listening to rap music in school

KARSTEN
Sure dad, but I learned that from watching Crocodile Dundee

CHIP

Whatever, well that bear in the SUV, or to put it more accurately a Tibetan Mastiff. One of the largest dogs on the face of the earth, and one of the most expensive dogs on the open market. They're bred for fighting off packs of wolves

KARSTEN

Wolves?

CHIP

To protect sheep.

Chip takes a sip of his smoothie.

KARSTEN

Dad, what are you talking about? Anyway, didn't you..., didn't you promise Mom that you weren't going to bring home any more animals from work?

CHIP

It's no big deal. We'll just be watching it for a couple of days. She'll go home before Mom even realizes she's here.

KARSTEN

Huh?

CHIP

Huh, what?

KARSTEN

Just that you've promised that before. But somehow they all seem to stay...

CHIP

Whatever...

There is a pause.

KARSTEN

Dad, you know I'm right. That's how we ended up with Captain Crunch.

The white macaw comes into view. He's just a few feet away from the conversation, nibbling on birdseed.

CHIP

Captain Crunch was the only survivor in a house fire, and Captain Burtain needed me to get him healthy again!

KARSTEN

That was 3 years ago. What about Cash?

CHIP

I stopped by the house with him one day and realized we needed a watchdog.

KARSTEN

And Lizzie?

CHIP

(Hesitates)

The girls love Lizzie. They won her at the fair and she takes up very little space and eats the least.

KARSTEN

Not sure this will fly with Mom. You make all these small promises but seem to never keep them. You think this won't upset her?

CHIP

Anyways, this is different. Pumpkin Pie

KARSTEN

Pumpkin Pie?!

CHIP

It's her name.

KARSTEN

Who names their dog after a pie?

CHIP

When you're rich, you can name your dog anything you want. Anyway Pumpkin Pie belongs to...

Chip looks around to make sure that nobody is listening. He lowers his voice.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Mike Tyson.

KARSTEN
Mike Tyson?!

CHIP
Why you telling the whole
neighborhood?!

KARSTEN
Mike Tyson? The boxer guy? For
real?

CHIP
Yes!

Suddenly, Captain Crunch gets excited and paces around its
cage.

CAPTAIN CRUNCH
IRON MIKE! MIKE TYSON'S DYNAMITE!

Chip jumps up.

CHIP
Ssshhh! What's wrong with you all!?
We're keeping this on the low low.

He turns to Karsten.

CHIP (CONT'D)
It's just for the weekend. And
that's it!
(Beat)
I promise...

Karsten is unconvinced. He rolls his eyes.

KARSTEN
We'll see...

CHIP
Speaking of Pumpkin Pie, she's
gonna need a walk in half an hour.

KARSTEN
Lakers game starts in five minutes.

CHIP
That's why we'll walk her at
halftime.

KARSTEN
Right.

Karsten and Chip settle down in front of the TV.

Beat.

KARSTEN (CONT'D)
You know there's no dog out there
right?

CHIP
(Laughing)
Yeah, sure, because a huge Tibetan
Mastiff is really that hard to
miss!

Chip continues to laugh.

KARSTEN
Dad, I'm serious

Chip's laughter begins to die.

KARSTEN (CONT'D)
The SUV'S empty.

Chip has stopped laughing.

Beat.

Chip runs outside.

CUT TO:

EXT. MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Chip sprints to the gate, opens it all the way, looks behind
it, then runs around the house, scanning for Pumpkin Pie...

Nothing.

The wind softly blows, causing the gate to shut on its own.

Without looking back, Chip tries to sprint back through the
gate to the backyard... But he smacks the gate headfirst, and
flies to the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. MURRAY'S HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Chip comes in, panicking, rubbing his head. KARSTEN is seated
watching the TV.

CHIP
Oh shit, oh shit, oh shit!

KARSTEN
What's wrong?

CHIP
Dog gone.

KARSTEN
What?

CHIP
The dog's gone! Dog gone! Gone! No
more dog!

KARSTEN
(Standing)
Dad, calm down.

Chip grabs Karsten.

CHIP
PUMPKIN PIE'S GONE!

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Chip and Karsten run out of the house, looking in all directions. As we know Chip has removed his belt, shoes and shirt, so he's running, holding up his pants, in his socks while wearing a t-shirt.

His next-door neighbor, STAN (42) waters his garden.

CHIP
Hey, Stan!

Stan ignores him.

CHIP (CONT'D)
STAN!

Stan turns off the water and looks up.

CHIP (CONT'D)
Have you seen a dog?

STAN
Dog?

CHIP
Yeah! A huge dog that looks like
Clifford... But brown... So, like
Clifford the big brown dog?

Stan is only barely paying attention.

STAN

A dog that looks like what?

Chip reacts. He doesn't have time for this.

CHIP

A dog. A huge dog. Mountain of fur.

STAN

What dog?

Chip lets out a cry of frustration, and runs further down the street followed by Karsten.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Chip and Karsten arrive at the main road where it splits in two directions.

CHIP

(Points in one direction)

You check that way, I'll take this street. Call me if you find her.

KARSTEN

(Shaking his head)

Right

They split ways.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - MOMENTS LATER

Chip runs down the street.

CHIP

Pumpkin Pie! Pumpkin Pie!

Chip rounds the corner, now covered in sweat.

Panting, he stops in front of a house where a FATHER (39) and SON (7) are playing catch in the front yard.

Father and Son look at Chip, holding his pants and running.

SON

What's wrong with that man, Daddy?

FATHER

He should be locked up with
animals.

Chip runs off, continuing down the second street, then he suddenly stops. We can see the gas station in the distance.

By some miracle, Pumpkin Pie is sniffing around at the bottom of a mailbox. BEAT.

CHIP

Hey, there...

Pumpkin Pie looks up and gets still.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Pumpkin Pie... Let's go back...
Come on... I'll get you a treat,
anything you want...

Pumpkin Pie tilts head slightly.

CHIP (CONT'D)

You like that? Want a treat?

Pumpkin Pie tilts her head the other way.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Just stay right there...

Chip steps closer, finally able to grab the leash.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Now, I'm just gonna check, and make
sure your mine.

Chip goes to make sure that Pumpkin Pie is a girl, when a cat on a nearby porch runs down the stairs and to the rear of the house. The cat catches the attention of Pumpkin Pie and the chase begins.

Chip holds on for as long as he can. Slipping in the mud on the grass and being dragged until he finally lets go of the dog leash.

When Chip stands, Chip is covered in mud from head to toe, his once white socks are now covered in mud. The dog is heard barking and chasing the cat.

The Father and Son from before are staring at Chip in disbelief from a distance. The Father shakes his head in disappointment and leads his Son into their house.

Chip is distraught, running in the same direction Pumpkin Pie went, but she's long gone now.

He turns to his cell phone and dials, looking homeless and far from a dog vet.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

A modest but well-maintained church comes into view.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH - OFFICE - DAY

RING. RING. RING.

A phone rings near LESTER MURRAY (40). One of Chip's two brothers who became a minister for a church.

RING. RING. RING.

Lester ignores the ringing phone. His attention is fully on the box of mini cakes that he's snacking on.

He licks his fingers, closes his eyes and savors each one.

LESTER

I tell ya what, if they made these
in Sour Cream & Onion, oh lord,
that's what I'd call a miracle.

RING. RING. RING.

The ringing is getting under Lester's skin.

LESTER

(To himself)

May the wrath of God be mighty for
those who disturb the snacking of a
man of the cloth.

He answers the phone reluctantly.

LESTER (CONT'D)

One Love Shepherd Church.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Chip is stomping down the street, scanning every nook and cranny for Pumpkin Pie.

CHIP
(On the phone)
Lester, it's me.

INTERCUT BETWEEN LESTER AND CHIP

Lester smiles broadly.

LESTER
Little bro! What's good?

CHIP (O.S.)
Nothing's good! She's gone! The
doggone girl is gone!

Lester's expression changes from joy to deep concern.

Lester pics up a picture of Chip and Andrea from his desk. He takes a look and shakes his head.

He begins to pray.

CHIP (CONT'D)
Where could she have gone? I mean,
she's huge and hairy. She almost
belongs in a zoo!

Lester stops praying and looks at the picture again.

LESTER
I mean, she's always had that
little peach fuzz, but a zoo?

CHIP
What?

LESTER
Look, bro. You always were punching
a little above your weight with
Andrea. We always knew this day was
coming. Maybe you should have spent
more time trying to find yourself
before you married her.

Chip is looking at the phone in disbelief.

CHIP
I'm talking about a dog!

LESTER

A dog?

CHIP

Yes, a great big hairy dog!

(Beat)

And I need you to help me find her!

Lester's demeanor has swung drastically as he's fixated on a Newton's Cradle on his desk.

He gently lifts one ball and lets it go, mesmerized, he watches as the five metal balls transfer energy from one end to the other.

LESTER

Love to help, but I'm all tied up for the next four hours. I have a couple coming in for a counseling session.

(Beat)

Falling in love is easy, but honesty and staying in love is work.

(Beat)

Oh, gotta run, they just walked in. Good luck bro.

CLICK. DIAL TONE.

Lester glances at the phone.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Meanwhile, Chip yells in agony.

CHIP

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

He takes a deep breath, closes his eyes, and tries to gather himself. But when he opens his eyes.

CHIP (CONT'D)

DOGGONNIT!

Just then, a NEIGHBOR walking her small dog stops, scared by Chip. She picks up the dog and starts rushing in the opposite direction.

Chip's phone RINGS.

Glancing at the caller ID, he sees that it's Mike Tyson.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Oh no!

(Answering with fake
excitement)

Mike! How's it going champ?

MIKE TYSON (V.O.)

How's my baby?

CHIP

Sorry?

MIKE TYSON (V.O.)

Pumpkin pie.

CHIP

Oh! She's great! Better than great!

MIKE TYSON (V.O.)

Let me speak to her.

CHIP

Oh...you know what, I just put her
down for a nap. Probably best we
don't disturb her.

MIKE TYSON (V.O.)

But it's not her nap time...

CHIP

Oh! Is that the time?! Gotta run!

Chip hangs up the call and panics.

CHIP (CONT'D)

What I am gonna do!?

Chip gathers himself.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Alright. Calm down...Just...go to
your happy place.

(Takes a deep breath)

Find your Zen.

Chip manages to relax. He opens his eyes.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Skip! He'll help.

Chip dials again.

CUT TO:

INT. SKIP'S APARTMENT - DAY

Chip's best friend Skip, sits, Buddha-like, in an ornate bathtub drowning in bubbles.

Exotic ZEN MUSIC plays in the background.

Skip's foot emerges from the bubbles. He deftly clips his toenail.

RING. RING. RING.

SKIP
(Answering his phone)
Yes?

CHIP (O.S.)
She's gone. She left me. I don't
know what I'm going to do.

Skip remains as cool as a cucumber.

SKIP
We'll get through this, my man.
(Beat)
Remember when Michelle left you for
that basketball player, and you
stop taking showers for a week?
(Beat)
We got through that, and we'll get
through this too. Andrea wasn't
right for you anyways.

INTERCUT BETWEEN CHIP AND SKIP

CHIP
(Snapping)
I'm talking about Mike Tyson's dog!
Pumpkin Pie! And this is way worse
than having your girlfriend stolen
by a dumb 6'11" basketball jock who
was drafted into the NBA!

SKIP
Don't stress anymore, but... you
better move fast bro.
(MORE)

SKIP (CONT'D)

I heard people have been sending stolen dogs to China. And you know what they do with dogs in China?

Chip starts pacing back and forth.

CHIP

Oh great! Great! That's all I need!

SKIP

A dog the size of a Tibetan Mastiff could feed about five families.

CHIP

Yeah, because that's really helping Skip!

SKIP

You did get dog insurance, right?!

CHIP

(Beat)

Dog insurance... I'm going to need life insurance.

Skip reacts. He thinks about it for a moment, then...

SKIP

I'm on my way.

CUT TO:

INT. MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Chip enters, head hanging, defeated. We can see he has cleaned up from the mud.

Rachel, Raleah and Karsten meet him at the door.

KARSTEN

Any luck?

CHIP

No. Wait? What are you doing back here? You were supposed to be looking for her?

KARSTEN

I did. First, I had to use the bathroom, then I got hungry.

He takes a bite of a sandwich. The twins are more sympathetic.

RACHEL/RALEAH
 Karsten told us everything. We
 wanna help you, Daddy.

Chip looks at his watch.

CHIP
 Thank you, sweethearts, but I don't
 think there is much you can do.
 Your mom will be home any minute.

RACHEL
 Great, then she can help.

Chip stops. He turns and looks at each kid between every
 word...

CHIP
 (To Rachel)
 Not...
 (To Raleah)
 A word...
 (To Karsten)
 To your mother!

For a moment, the kids stay silent, glancing at each other.

KARSTEN
 It sounds like you really need us
 right now.

RACHEL
 But...

RALEAH
 We have demands....

CHIP
 This is no time for blackmail
 (Beat)
 AND I WILL NOT NEGOTIATE!

All four hear Andrea's car outside. All three kids smile
 broadly in unison.

RALEAH/RACHEL
 Moms home!

Chip realizes that they hold the cards.

CHIP
 Alrighty, ok! What do you want?!

RALEAH

Can I skip piano lessons this week
so I can go to Jennifer's birthday
party?

CHIP

You know there is no way your
mother will go for that.

The CHIRP CHIRP of Andrea's car unlocking is heard. Raleah's
eyes narrow.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Ok, no piano lessons this week so
you can party like a rock star.

Arms folded; Rachel readies herself to make her own demand.

RACHEL

Bring home a brother and sister for
Lizzy.

Chip's eyes grow wide.

CHIP

No way! Next wish?

Rachel's face is a canvas of stoicism.

CHIP (CONT'D)

I would have to keep your mom from
seeing them both at the same time,
there's no way I could get away
with that! Houdini wouldn't be able
to pull that off.

The CLINKING of Andrea's house keys fills the room.

CHIP (CONT'D)

OK! ALRIGHT! DEAL!

(Beat)

But she finds out, then you're
taking the blame.

Chip turns to Karsten. Karsten eyes his father intently.

KARSTEN

A pair of the new Air Jordans

CHIP

Right.

KARSTEN

And a Kobe Bryant signed jersey?

CHIP

What?!

Karsten folds his arms and smiles victoriously at Chip.

CHIP (CONT'D)

(Laughing)

I'm sure we can negotiate.

Karsten continues to stare at Chip.

CHIP (CONT'D)

You want me to pick between fixing the AC at the office or buying you new Air Jordans and a signed Kobe Bryant jersey?

KARSTEN

You're asking me to become an accessory to a crime. We both could go down, if...

CHIP

(Cutting him off)

Alright! Alright! Air Jordans and a signed Kobe Bryant Jersey... But this covers birthday presents for the next 5 years.

KARSTEN

Deal! Thanks Dad!

Pause.

KARSTEN (CONT'D)

I still want you to tell Mom...

CHIP

Do you not want a dad anymore?!

KARSTEN

Not now... After all this.

CHIP

Man, come on...

KARSTEN

You need to stop breaking promises, dad! After we fix all this, you tell her what happened.

Chip shakes his head, debating.

KARSTEN (CONT'D)
Either that or we tell her now.

RACHEL/RALEAH
Yeah dad. We'll tell her now!

We hear Andrea's keys jiggling. Chip yanks his head toward the door then back to his kids.

CHIP
OKAY! Fine!

The door slowly CREAKS open.

KARSTEN
Okay, what?

CHIP
I'll tell your mother everything after we fix things, but if she murders me...it's your fault.

Finally, Andrea steps in and hangs up her bag. She turns around and stops.

Her husband and children suspiciously stand shoulder to shoulder, dumb expressions plastered across their faces.

ANDREA
What's going on?

Captain Crunch's sense of timing hasn't waned.

CAPTAIN CRUNCH
OH SHIT! OH SHIT! OH SHIT!

ANDREA
Where on God's earth did he get that from!?

Karsten, Rachel and Raleah all speak at the same time.

KARSTEN
Dad stubbed his toe and cursed.

RACHEL
It was in a movie.

RALEAH
Uncle Eric stopped by.

Right on cue, Chip loosens up and approaches Andrea.

CHIP
 (Lying and merging all
 three responses into one)
 Yeah, Eric stopped by to watch a
 movie and I stubbed my toe running
 to open the door for him.

Andrea is suspicious but lets it go.

DING-DING-DING-DONG-DING! The Murray's doorbell goes off.

Chip runs to the door and opens it. Three men crowd the doorway. It's Skip, ERIC (36), and PATRICK (38).

PATRICK
 Let's go get that bi...

Andrea reacts. Chip forces a cheap and loud laugh, nodding towards Andrea.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
 Biiiiiiiieautiful new hotdog special
 I texted you about.

CHIP (WHISPERING)
 Guys, what are you doing here?

Chip's friends barge in past Chip.

ANDREA
 Hi, boys.

Andrea puts her hands on her hips.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
 (To Eric)
 Eric, I'd appreciate it if you
 didn't curse in front of the kids.

Eric reacts. Behind Andrea's back, Chip frantically signals to him to apologize.

ERIC
 (Catching on)
 My bad! I should have just said
 Pumpkin Pie.

Eric side-eyes Chip.

CHIP
 (Realizing Eric has let
 the cat out of the bag)
 (MORE)

CHIP (CONT'D)

Yeah, we made a pact to start using names of desserts instead of curse words.

At first Eric looks perplexed but buys in after he gets it. Andrea seems to buy in.

ANDREA

Alright

(To Chip)

You promised to cook dinner tonight.

Chip reacts. He totally forgot.

CHIP

Baby, I can't tonight. But I promise...

Andrea glares at Chip. Beat

CHIP (CONT'D)

I'll make it up to you.

ANDREA

May I ask what is so important that you can't cook for your family?

Chip looks at Skip, Eric and Patrick, searchingly.

CHIP

We have an... Umm... Important things to do.

ANDREA

Such as?

CHIP

Special frat meeting to elect the new president.

ANDREA

Frat meeting?

Skip, Eric, and Patrick avoid eye contact with Andrea and rush out the door.

Chip waves timidly while the door shuts.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

(Turning to the kids)

Is something going on?

All three shake their heads and act like pros.

RACHEL

Nope.

RALEAH

Nothing.

KARSTEN

Nothing at all.

ANDREA

Ok, I guess we're getting pizza.

The kids smile excitedly.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Focused and confident, Chip, Eric, Patrick, and Skip strut down the street, on a mission. The reality of Chip's situation looms.

ERIC

I wonder if he'll hit you first.

PATRICK

Or just bite your ear off.

Chip reacts.

SKIP

Well if he hits you first, then it's all over. He once knocked someone out in 30 seconds! The dude didn't even have time to be scared.

Chip tries to play it cool, but his face is a billboard of worst-case scenarios.

Chip's phone RINGS. The caller ID reads 'Mike Tyson'.

CHIP

Shit

Chip declines the call.

SKIP

Look on the bright side, if he hits you you'll probably grow two feet!

Skip cradles an imaginary severed head in his hands, kicks it, and watches it split the goal posts that only he can see. Chip watches in horror.

SKIP (CONT'D)

And... It's good!

Everybody except Chip erupts into riotous laughter.

CHIP

Why does it always have to be my head?

Eric kisses Chip on the forehead gamely.

ERIC

Because it's so tiny and delicate.

Chip pushes Eric away.

CHIP

Get off!

Eric, Patrick and Skip continue to laugh.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Stop screwing around. We've gotta find this dog.

PATRICK

What did you say it looked like?

CHIP

(Sarcastically)

A dinosaur. What do you think it looks like?! It's a giant hairy ass dog!

PATRICK

Giant?

CHIP

It's the size of a damn bear.

ERIC

(Laughing)

Come on!

CHIP

Like Clifford the Big Red Dog!

Eric licks his lips.

ERIC

Man, all this talking about dogs has got me thinking about the most important dog of them all... Hot dogs!

CHIP

Guys, this isn't a food tour. We need to focus on finding that dog.

PATRICK

Man, isn't there a burger joint over on Pico and La Brea?

CHIP

Now's not the time or place to be thinking about...

Eric, Skip, and Patrick excitedly run off.

CHIP (CONT'D)

(Dejected)

Food.

CUT TO:

INT. BURGER JOINT - LATER

The crew sits at a table waiting for their orders to be called.

At the table next to them sits a family of four, happily enjoying their meal. Skip's eyes wander. He stares at the family for a second.

SKIP

Fellas, this may sound crazy.

(beat)

But I think I'm ready for a family.

Wife. Kids. The whole package.

The table erupts in laughter.

SKIP (CONT'D)

What?!

PATRICK

Man, you can't just order up a family like it's a number four with extra fries! You have to put some work in!

ERIC

Bro, women are expensive!

CHIP

Forget about the women. KIDS cost the most. It starts with their dental and doctor bills...

(MORE)

CHIP (CONT'D)

Piano lessons, basketball AAU...
 Birthday parties.

PATRICK

And you're as cheap as they come.
 Having family comes with accepting
 that your money is their money.

SKIP

Screw you, guys. Tell ya what, this
 one's on me.

The crew is in shock.

Skip approaches the counter and hands his debit card to the
 CASHIER (19). She runs it once and looks at the cash
 register. She runs it again, shakes her head with pity and
 gives it back to him.

CASHIER

I'm sorry, your card's been
 declined.

The table of friends explodes in hooting and hollering.

PATRICK

(Between laughs)
 Yea, get that wedding ring,
 brother!
 (Beat)
 Just don't use your debit card to
 buy it.

Hi-fives smack and tears of joy flow as the crew are beside
 themselves.

ERIC

Man, your kids are gonna be hungry!

Chip is enjoying the roast but knows what has to be done.

CHIP

Alright, let's get out of here.

Chip moves to the counter and pays for the crew's meal with
 cash.

CHIP (CONT'D)

We've gotta find that dog.

The crew exit the burger joint, one after the other, smiling.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

The crew drives around looking for the dog.

The crew check dog parks. Eric gets distracted by ATTRACTIVE FEMALE with a poodle and starts flirting. Chip is suddenly tackled to the ground by an overexcited LABRADOR. Eric is too busy flirting to notice. Chip finally pulls Eric away.

The crew search back alleys.

Chip's phone RINGS.

He checks the caller ID. It reads 'Mike Tyson'. Chip declines the call

CUT TO:

The crew travel to dog shelters and pounds across the city, but every time leave empty handed.

The crew see a massive brown furry ball through an opening in a fence and get excited. They go around and see it is just a LARGE WOMAN wearing a coat with fur at the bottom.

MONTAGE ENDS

CUT TO:

EXT. MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Tired, defeated and dirty the guy's slump in a semicircle outside of Chip's house. Chip is visibly downtrodden. Skip half-hugs Chip.

SKIP

Man, we got this. We'll just pick up where we left off tomorrow.

PATRICK

I just thought of something.

(Beat)

Posters!

CHIP

What?

PATRICK

Put up a bunch of missing posters, offer a nice fat reward and...

SKIP

You'll have Pumpkin Pie before you
can say...

ERIC

Pumpkin Pie!

The guys laugh and exchange fist bumps. While the others file off, Chip heads inside.

CUT TO:

INT. MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Chip slowly walks into a dark and quiet house.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD- NIGHT

Chip lumbers into the kitchen and flips on the light. He sees a covered plate with a note: "Chip's dinner".

He licks his lips in excitement. Enthusiastically, he uncovers the plate to discover... Leftover meatloaf from the other day.

CHIP

Great. Worst. Day. Ever.

Chip feeds the meatloaf to Cash, who is waiting patiently at his side.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Chip enters and moves towards his computer.

He sits down, turns on the computer, and opens a simple design program.

INSERT: COMPUTER SCREEN He clicks on a FLYER TEMPLATE.

He types quickly.

INSERT SCREEN: "LOST DOG - REWARD \$10,000"

CHIP
I'll find you even if it's the last
thing I do...And it may be.

FADE TO:

INT. CHIP'S BEDROOM, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Chip is in bed. Although deep asleep, his head tosses
violently from side to side.

CHIP
I'm sorry. I'm sorry

FADE TO:

DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. BOXING GYM - DAY

Chip is standing in a large boxing ring, looking confused.
Andrea and Elderly Woman stand in front of him, wearing
boxing attire.

CHIP
(Confused)
What?

Mike Tyson suddenly appears behind Chip.

Before Chip can move, Mike Tyson has pinned his arms to his
side.

MIKE TYSON
Where's my Pumpkin Pie

Chip struggles.

CHIP
No! Wait!

Andrea and Elderly Woman approach chip.

CHIP (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

Elderly Woman and Andrea are taking turns punching CHIP in
the stomach, while Mike Tyson holds him in place.

MIKE TYSON
(Directing the Elderly
Woman and Andrea how to
deliver the punch to
Chip)
Left. Right. Uppercut!

CHIP
I'm sorry.

MIKE TYSON
Left. Right. Uppercut!

CHIP
I'm sorry!

DREAM SEQUENCE ENDS

FADE TO:

INT. CHIP'S BEDROOM, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Chip continues to toss and turn, still gripped by the
nightmare in the ring.

CHIP
(Mumbles)
I'm sorry! I'm sorry!
(Jerking awake)
I'm sorry

Exhausted from the dream, Chip feels his face to make sure it
really was just a dream.

CUT TO:

EXT. MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DRIVEWAY - DAY

A sleep deprived Chip hands Skip, Patrick, and Eric the
flyers he made the previous night.

INSERT: FLIER WITH IMAGE OF CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG

They gaze at the flyers incredulously.

CHIP
What?

PATRICK

Ten thousand dead presidents for a dog!? Are you serious?!

CHIP

Yes! I need this dog back.

SKIP

This is a picture of Clifford.

CHIP

I didn't have a photo, okay?!

The boys stare back at Chip in disbelief. Chip moves over to the SUV.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Just get in, man. We've got a lot of ground to cover.

The crew load into Chip's car.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Using duct tape and staple guns, the crew post flyers to trees, fences and bulletin boards throughout the neighborhood.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

Chip attaches a flyer to a utility pole outside of his clinic. He looks up. Something across the street catches his attention.

A shiny, black sports car pulls up in front of 4 Paws. Travis C. slides out and closes the door. He looks at his cell phone for a moment, then looks up and sees Chip.

They stare at each other for a few seconds.

TRAVIS C.

Do I know you from somewhere?

CHIP

(Dodging the question)
Working on a Saturday?

TRAVIS C.
We're open seven days a week.
(Beat)
Do you have a dog?

CHIP
(Not realizing what he's
talking about)
Yeah. He's at home though.

TRAVIS C.
(Slowly putting two and
two together)
Right.
(Beat)
You heard about the Purina dog
contest?

Chip shrugs.

TRAVIS C. (CONT'D)
It's the event of the century.
Maybe you should enter.

CHIP
Maybe I will

TRAVIS C.
Anyway, I better go. Unlike other
clinics, we try to meet the
community's needs.

Travis C. goes inside.

Chip shakes his head in disgust.

CHIP
(Mumbles)
What a dog turd.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAVIS C.'S OFFICE - DAY

Travis C. looks out his office window and notices the flyer
Chip recently placed on the pole near Chip's office building.

Travis C. calls his assistant on the phone.

TRAVIS C.
Hello Patricia, can you go across
the street and grab that flyer?

PATRICIA
Yes, Dr. Weddington, I'll be right
back.

Patricia hangs up the phone and is seen walking out the door.
Travis C. continues to stare out of the window.

TRAVIS C.
Where do I know him from?

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM, 4 PAWS WE CARE. DAY

Travis C. enters the room.

TRAVIS C.
Dr... LL Cool Tee, I assume...

Chip quickly stands up and turns toward him.

CHIP
What?
(Suddenly realizing)
Oh yeah, that's my name.

FLASHBACK ENDS

CUT TO:

INT. TRAVIS C.'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

TRAVIS C.
(Suddenly realizing)
He's that inch high private eye vet
from across the street!

Patricia walks in and hands the flyer to Travis C.

PATRICIA
Here you are, Dr. Weddington. Looks
like a cute dog.

TRAVIS C.
Thank you, Patricia.

Travis looks at the flyer. First, he recognizes the name
Pumpkin Pie, then he puts two and two together.

TRAVIS C. (CONT'D)
That's Mike Tyson's dog! Son of a
dog turd stole my customer!

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Chip's cell phone rings, blocked number.

CHIP
Great, it's not Mike Tyson
(Answering the phone)
Dr. Murray speaking.

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)
Hi, I'm looking for Chip. I'm
calling about a missing dog.

CHIP
(Suddenly excited)
Yes, yes, this is Chip.

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)
I have your dog.

CHIP
Great! Where are you?

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)
I'm about to get on a plane to
China.

CHIP
Ch-china?

Chip starts to hyperventilate.

CHIP (CONT'D)
(To himself)
Oh, hell no! Pumpkin Pie can't
become a bargain bucket for a
family of five!

He gives himself a quick little slap to the cheek, snapping
out of it.

CHIP (CONT'D)
Hey, wait! Let's talk about this! I
have the money, I can bring it to
you...

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)
I need more than money.

CHIP
What? What do you need?

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)
The first thing I need you to do is
to cleanse your mind, body, and
soul.

CHIP
Ok, let's pray together.

Chip bows his head and closes his eyes.

CHIP (CONT'D)
Our father who art in heaven.

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)
No, you dog biscuit! I need you to
cleanse your mind, body and soul
the right way.

CHIP
(Sounds desperate)
How? Just tell me what to do, and
I'll do it right away!

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR WASH. DAY

VOICE ON PHONE (V.O.)
Walk over to the car wash, pay for
a supreme dream clean, and walk
thru the car wash. When you come
out the other end, wait for my
call.

While the voice gives his instructions, we see Chip
approaching a car wash. He pays the lady and proceeds to walk
thru the washer. He exits soaking wet, covered in suds. A few
of the patrons are looking at him in shock.

CHIP
(To the people watching)
You know, you can save so much time
and money when you wash your
clothes and body at the same time.

Chip's phone RINGS. It's Mike Tyson again. He declines the
call.

The camera swings back to Travis C's office.

TRAVIS C.

He did it! He did it! What a Basset
Hound. Now for the next mission
impossible.

Travis C. picks up the phone and dials Chip's number.

The camera swings back to Chip, whose phone is ringing. The
caller ID registers as unknown again.

CHIP

(Answering his phone)
Hello?

TRAVIS C. (V.O.)

You sound squeaky clean.

CHIP

Now what?

TRAVIS C. (V.O.)

My flight leaves in an hour from
LAX. Come find me.

The call goes dead.

Chip quickly runs away from the car wash.

The camera swings back to Travis C. office, almost falling
out of his chair laughing.

CUT TO:

INT. DEPARTURES, AIRPORT - DAY

Chip runs into the airport's departure lounge. He is still a
mess from the carwash.

He scans the crowds of people but doesn't see who he's
looking for.

His phone rings. The number is blocked.

CHIP (ANSWERING)

I'm here, where are you?

AUTOMATED VOICE (V.O.)

This is the California Democratic
Union, there is an important
election coming up and we want your
vote...

CHIP
 (Hanging up)
 Come on man!

His phone rings again.

CHIP (ANSWERING)
 Hello?

TRAVIS C. (V.O.)
 Sorry. I was in the john.

CHIP
 Gross. Where are you now?

TRAVIS C. (V.O.)
 My associate has the dog.

CHIP
 Associate? Where are they?

TRAVIS C. (V.O.)
 Oh, trust me, you'll know them when
 you see them.

CHIP
 And how's that?

TRAVIS C. (V.O.)
 They'll have the dog with them!

Travis hangs up the phone.

CHIP
 Damn it.

Chip looks around and spots a MIDDLE AGE HISPANIC WOMAN
 leading a DOG THAT LOOKS LIKE PUMPKIN PIE.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 Excuse me miss! Miss!

The woman moves to the check in counter, ticket in hand. Chip
 runs up to her.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 Excuse me.
 (Laughing nervously)
 Hi! Sorry! But I think you have my
 dog.

CHIP grabs hold of the dog's leash.

WOMAN

Are you loco?! This is my dog!

The woman snatches the leash back.

CHIP

Ah, no, no. It's my dog.

Chip attempts to take the leash back.

WOMAN

(Struggling)

You better let go!

CHIP

This is my dog!

They struggle backwards and forwards.

WOMAN

Oh, you're gonna be sorry!

CHIP

For what?! Taking back my own dog!

The struggling becomes more frenzied. The woman swipes at Chip, trying to scratch him. Chip falls, trying to dodge the woman's swipe. A small crowd gathers, as the woman lunges at Chip.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Someone call 911!

Some of the crowd begin to laugh, as it looks like Chip is being beaten up by the woman. The woman snarls, flashing her teeth and biting.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Don't you bite me! Don't you bite me!

The two police officers from earlier approach Chip and the woman.

OFFICER 1

Alright, break it up.

Chip and the woman move apart, both holding on to the dog leash.

OFFICER 2

Dr. Weddington, we meet again.

OFFICER 1

Both of you, let go of the dog

Chip and the woman let go of the leash. Officer 1 takes possession of the dog.

CHIP

Officers I know what this looks like, but this really is my dog!

WOMAN

(To Officer 1)

Oficial. ¡Este hijo de puta salió de la nada y trató de robar mi perro! (Officer. This son of a bitch came out of nowhere and tried to steal my dog!)

CHIP

Oh, so now no hablo English all of a sudden?

WOMAN

(To Officer 1)

No hablo ingles (I don't speak English)

CHIP

(Laughing)

Of course we are not going to fall for that...right officers?

OFFICER 1

Lo siento señora Nos ocuparemos de esto. (I'm sorry madam. We'll deal with this.)

CHIP (SHOCKED)

You speak Spanish?!

OFFICER 1

My mother is Puerto Rican. Now let's sort this out

CUT TO:

INT. DEPARTURES, AIRPORT - LATER

The crowd around Chip, the woman and the officers has grown.

Officer 1 leads the dog to a midpoint between Chip and the woman.

CHIP
This is stupid.

OFFICER 1
Hey, it's either this or we drag
you both downtown.

CHIP
Fine! Get on with it.

OFFICER 1
Whoever the dog goes to is the
owner.
(Repeating for the woman)
A quien va el perro es la dueña.

OFFICER 2
(Unleashing the dog)
Start your engines.

CHIP
(Gets down on his hands
and knees)
Hey Pumpkin Pie, come here girl!

WOMAN
Hazel!
(Going into Spanish)
Alma! Ven aquí, angelito de las
momias! Alma! (Come here, mummies
little angel!)

CHIP
Lady, you fooled the police
officers, but you are not going to
fool a dog, she's not going to
answer to Hazel, that's a stupid
dog name

Chip and the woman continue to call the dog. The dog looks
between them and eventually chooses the woman. The crowd
cheers.

CHIP (CONT'D)
Are you kidding me...wait I know my
dog rights....I'm calling my lawyer

WOMAN
Llame a su abogado! Ella sigue
siendo mi perro! (Call your lawyer!
She's still my dog!)

CHIP

I don't know how you did that, but
I'm not leaving here without my
dog!

WOMAN

Estupido! (Stupid!)

CHIP

Did you just call me stupid?

OFFICER 1

(To the WOMAN)

Señora, ¿hay alguna otra prueba que
tenga de que el perro es suyo?
(Madam, is there any other proof
you have that the dog is yours?)

WOMAN

Ella tiene una marca de nacimiento
en su vientre. (She has a birth
mark on her belly.)

OFFICER 1

Apparently, she has a birth mark on
her belly.

CHIP

(Laughing again)

Nice try! I've personally examined
every inch of that dog, and there
is no way that she has a...

The woman instructs the dog to roll over, revealing a
noticeable birthmark. Chip stares in disbelief.

OFFICER 2

Well, I think that prove it!

OFFICER 1

(To CHIP)

Oh, and if we catch you around here
again, you'll be the one we're
dragging to the pound.

The officers walk away, leaving Chip staring in disbelief.

CHIP

It's not my dog

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

The crew are still searching dog clinics.

Skip is chased and avoids being bit for a third time by jumping into the arms of a FEMALE SECURITY GUARD.

CUT TO:

The boys react with fear and run out as a LITTLE GIRL brings a huge snake into the clinic.

CUT TO:

At the next clinic the boys are traumatized and wait in the car, afraid to go in. Chip taps on the window, scaring the crew.

MONTAGE ENDS

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S CAR - DAY

Chip drives slowly through a residential neighborhood, the crew in the back. Suddenly, his cell phone rings. He looks at the caller ID. It's not Mike Tyson.

Chip answers and puts it on speakerphone.

CHIP

This is Chip.

SEXY LADY (V.O.)

(Sexy voice)

You still looking for that dog?

CHIP

Yes, yes!

SEXY LADY (V.O.)

Well, I found it.

CHIP

Are you sure it's mine? She's beige and fluffy?

SEXY LADY (V.O.)

Oh, It's brown and fluffy.

CHIP

Lady, you just made my day.

SEXY LADY (V.O.)

Not yet.

CHIP

What's your address?

INT. ANDREA'S CAR - DAY

Andrea drives. Raleah sits shotgun and the other kids are in the back with Pumpkin Pie.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

One of the favorites in the Purina Dog Competition has disappeared. Conspiracy theorists think she may have been put on a flight to China for ritual purposes, but others insist that it's the work of the Dollar Dogman.

RALEAH

Where are we going, Mommy?

ANDREA

Girls, we're gonna teach your father a little lesson.

KARSTEN

Why do we need to come?

ANDREA

Because you are all grounded and are next in line.

EXT. LUXURY DOG HOTEL - DAY

The car pulls in front of a swanky building.

The sign reads: "CLOUD K9 LUXURY DOG HOTEL AND GROOMING."

CUT TO:

EXT. MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Chip's car pulls into the driveway.

Exhausted, he slowly gets out of the car and drags himself to the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER/LIVING ROOM, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD- NIGHT

Andrea and the kids are watching TV.

CHIP
Hey guys, I'm home.

Rachel and Raleah rush to Chip and hug him.

Karsten avoids eye contact, while Andrea remains neutral, still upset.

ANDREA
(In a soft and warm voice)
Honey, why do you look like you
just lost your best friend?

Chip responds like he has something stuck in his throat.

CHIP
Just a long day honey.

ANDREA
Dinners in the kitchen.

CHIP
I think I'll just go to bed.

Chip lets go of the girls and slumps toward the bedroom, defeated.

Rachel and Raleah return to the living room.

RALEAH
Daddy looks sad.

Andrea is unaffected.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S BEDROOM, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Chip is in bed. Although deep asleep, his head tosses violently from side to side.

CHIP
No. No. No!

FADE TO:

DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. BOXING GYM - DAY

Chip dreams that he's in a boxing ring with Mike Tyson.

The ANNOUNCER (50) saunters to the middle of the ring with a MICROPHONE in his hand.

ANNOUNCER
 In the red corner, the next
 victim...
 (Beat)
 Dogman Chip Murray!

Scared to death, Chip leans against the ropes in his corner.

Patrick, Eric and Skip passionately bark orders from all sides.

On the other side of the ring, Mike Tyson, a monolith of chiseled muscle, locks in on Chip while jabbing the air.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
 And in the blue corner, a savage
 fighter who hits hard and bites
 even harder...
 (Beat)
 Iron Mike Tyson!

The crowd goes wild. But these aren't normal sounds of whistling, hooting and hollering. It sounds strangely like BARKING. Chip focuses on the crowd. The place is packed with dogs - all breeds and sizes.

The Announcer floats over to Chip and looks him in the eyes.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
 Are you ready?

CHIP
 (Delirious with fear)
 No

ANNOUNCER
 Fight!

Mike Tyson begins to move towards Chip, who is frozen in fear.

CHIP
 No.

Mike Tyson reaches Chip.

CHIP (CONT'D)

No.

Mike Tyson brings his fist back and throws it at Chip.

CHIP (CONT'D)

No!

DREAM SEQUENCE ENDS

HARD CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S BEDROOM, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Chip continues to toss and turn, still gripped by the nightmare in the ring.

CHIP

(Mumbles)

No. No. No!

Andrea shakes him awake.

Chip jumps with a scream. It takes him a moment to relax.

CHIP (CONT'D)

bad dream...

Andrea is still unaffected.

ANDREA

Get ready for church.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Families, dressed in their Sunday's best, flock to their weekly house of worship.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Lester, donning his traditional robe and collar, prepares his Sunday sermon. He warmly glances towards the worshipers as they file in.

Chip, Andrea, and the kids squeeze into the pew closest to the door, next to Michael.

Chip looks like a man with a lot on his mind while Andrea is the face of composure. Michael is in his own world. The kids fidget.

LESTER

(To the worshipers)

For we walk by faith, not by sight.
We must believe in the things we do
not see, see the things we do not
have, and wait patiently for the
things we want to come.

The crowd hangs on every word.

Chip is listening with more attention than ever before.

CHIP

(whispers)

Lord, I know I'm a little short on
faith, but seeing the dog before
Mike Tyson gets back in town would
give me growth.

Andrea looks at him.

LESTER

For God so loved the world that he
gave his only Son to salvation
station!

Arms wide, head hung, eyes closed, Lester pauses and waits
for thunderous applause.

Silence.

He cracks open an eye and nods towards a lady sitting in the
front pew. CHURCH LADY (62) takes the cue, shoots to her feet
and breaks the silence.

CHURCH LADY

Amen!

Lester nods smugly as the amens and applauses crash over him.
He then slides up to the microphone.

LESTER

Oh, a bit of housekeeping. I am
blessed to announce that this, the
finest heavenly house in all of Los
Angeles, is now accepting donations
through Venmo.

Church Lady fishes her phone out of her bright pink bag.

LESTER (CONT'D)

That's right. That's right. You can find me and fund me through that holy app that makes transactions a snap. @LesterBpreaching. And God Bless!

The worshipers stand up with loud mumbling.

KARSTEN

(to Andrea)

Mom, does Uncle Lester make more money than Dad?

ANDREA

Don't ask questions like that in church.

Karsten rolls his eyes.

LESTER

At this time, if there is someone in need of a special prayer, please come forth.

Chip pops up from the pew. He's still a ball of nerves.

CHIP

There's something I need to, uh... I need to pray for one of my customer's dog.

Chip starts to make his way towards the front of the church.

RACHEL

(Whispers)

Daddy, don't forget to ask God about brothers and sisters for Lizzie.

She smiles with puppy eyes.

Chip tries to kill the conversation through clenched teeth.

CHIP

That conversation is with Santa, not with God.

Chip pushes against the flow of worshipers towards the front of the church and edges towards the altar. He lights a candle and hangs his head in prayer.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Deadman praying. If you could just bring me back Pumpkin Pie. The dog. Not the dessert. I'll... I'll...

Chip looks around, sheepishly.

CHIP (CONT'D)

I'll stop passing gas and blaming it on the dogs. I'll stop taking up two parking spaces. I'll stop feeding Andrea's meatloaf to the dog.

Chip's face is a reflection of remorse.

CHIP (CONT'D)

I'll do anything. Just don't let Mike hit me.

Andrea looks up in shock to see Chip praying.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Chip, Lester, Andrea and Michael huddle near the church's front entrance.

Lester exits the church. The Church Lady clutches Lester's elbow and squeezes tight.

CHURCH LADY

Reverend Murray, today's sermon about being trustworthy and putting the truth before a lie really moved me. Thank you so much.

Lester clutches her hands in his.

LESTER

Thank you, Jennifer. And God Bless you, my sister.

As she walks away, Lester shouts after her.

LESTER (CONT'D)

Don't forget the Venmo!

Lester redirects his attention to his brothers, and sister-in-law.

LESTER (CONT'D)

(To Chip)

Chip! I meant to ask you, did you find your pumpkin pie?

Chip laughs nervously, playing it off, and leads Lester away from Andrea.

CHIP

Are you crazy? You can't put me on blast in front of Andrea like that! She'll kill me for bringing home that damn dog!

LESTER

Little bro, you gotta put it in God's hands and let go. Don't worry, God always comes through for those who believe. There's nothing to worry about.

CHIP

(sarcastically)

Let go? Let go?! Do you know how hard Mike Tyson hits?

Lester looks on.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Why am I worrying? Hmm... Maybe it's cause I lost Mike Tyson's expensive ass dog! And I can't afford to just buy him another one. Who pays a million dollars for a dog anyway? Dogs are pets, they lick their own butts and play with their poop...

LESTER

I'm sure you'll be reunited with the dog.

CHIP

And what makes you think that?

LESTER

If New Edition can get back together, anything can happen.

CHIP

(Raises brow)

You think?

Lester shrugs. Meanwhile, Michael turns to Andrea.

MICHAEL
So, what's Chip going to do now?

ANDREA
What do you mean?

MICHAEL
I mean, now that I wasn't able to
give him that loan to keep the
clinic open?

ANDREA
What do you mean? He'll lose the
clinic?

MICHAEL
(Sudden realization)
He didn't tell you?

Andrea turns to look at Chip, who is still talking with Lester. Chip catches Andrea's eyes and smiles. Andrea is furious.

The smile on Chip's face disappears, realizing something is very wrong.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S CAR - DAY

The Murray family is packed into the car.

Chip's eyes dart between Andrea, the road, and the rear-view mirror. Arms folded; Andrea looks at anything but her husband.

CHIP
(Breaking the silence)
Baby, I didn't want to worry you.

Andrea lifts up her hand and stops him.

ANDREA
Don't talk to me. I don't want to
say something I'll regret right
after church.

Chip sighs.

Rachel and Raleah can sense that something is wrong. They look at each other in worry and hold hands.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Chip's car pulls into the driveway. Andrea and the kids get out.

CHIP

(To Andrea)

I'll fix it, baby. I promise. I already know how...

(Mumbles)

...I just need to find her.

ANDREA

Alright, I trust you. I mean if we lose the clinic, at least we'll always have that... Trust.

Andrea slams the door shut and stomps away. Chip deflates and sighs.

CHIP

Dead husband on the dog shit list.
Great

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

Chip drives around the city, looking for Pumpkin Pie with melancholic music playing.

INT. LUXURY DOG HOTEL - DAY

Backed by catchy pop music, Pumpkin Pie is enjoying her spa treatment (wash, dry, pedicure, manicure, sleeping mask).

INTERCUT BETWEEN CHIP AND PUMPKIN PIE

The more Pumpkin Pie gets pampered, the more desperate Chip gets...

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S BEDROOM, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Chip stares intently into the mirror.

CHIP

Champ, you're not gonna believe this.

Dissatisfied, he shakes it off and tries again.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Mike...

(Pause)

Can I call you Mike? Mike, I bet you have a lot of extra animals running around the house?

He tries again.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Mr. Tyson... pray with me?

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Rachel, Raleah and Andrea are in the kitchen finishing up the dishes.

RACHEL

(To Andrea)

Mom, don't you think Dad's learned his lesson?

Andrea takes a deep breath and flings the dishrag over her shoulder. Her face softens.

INT. CHIP'S BEDROOM, MURRAY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Still in mid-rehearsal, Chip doesn't see Andrea slip into the bedroom.

CHIP

You know the saying, if you love something, set it free?

Andrea puts her arms around Chip. He reacts.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Hey, baby. You startled me.

He turns and faces Andrea.

CHIP (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I didn't tell you.

ANDREA

I know you didn't want me to worry so you tried to fix it by yourself.

CHIP
(Sighing)
That's exactly it.

ANDREA
But this is a partnership. You and me -- we're a team. I can't help you if you don't tell me about these things.

CHIP
You're right. From now on, I will. We're a team.

ANDREA
Great!

They kiss and hug.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
Now, is there anything else you want to tell me?

CHIP
(Panicking)
Hmmm...

ANDREA
You know you can tell me anything. Whatever it is, we'll fix it together.

Chip hesitates.

CHIP
Right... Together.

Chip laughs, nervously.

CHIP (CONT'D)
No, everything's great!

Chip kisses Andrea's forehead and walks to the bathroom.

Andrea looks after him, not happy.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

Chip is driving to work, distracted and nervous.

CHIP
 Deadman driving
 (To an imaginary Mike
 Tyson)
 You know, some dogs just thrive
 outdoors.

He rips through a red light. Cars HONK repeatedly.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 And Pumpkin Pie, she just has that
 thirst for freedom. I've seen it a
 million times.

People driving by watch Chip talk to himself, oblivious.

CHIP (CONT'D)
 She was born to be free! What? What
 do you mean you only hurt people
 that deserve it?

Chip panics. His car weaves between lanes.

HOOOOOOOOOOOONNNNNNNNNNNNNKKKKK!

A semi-truck nearly flattens Chip's car.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUXURY DOG HOTEL - DAY

Andrea exits with a beaming Pumpkin Pie. She has a bedazzled
 pink bow around her neck.

ANDREA
 Damn, you're looking good, P.P. I
 need to start coming here myself.

Pumpkin Pie pants, happily.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
 Thank God we have good neighbors.
 Whaddayya say it's time to teach
 Chip about honesty.

Pumpkin Pie yelps as if in agreement.

ANDREA (CONT'D)
 That a girl! We should be at Chip's
 in twenty minutes.

EXT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

A shiny, black luxury SUV blazes into the parking lot. The only other car in the lot is Chip's.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

Mike Tyson enters. The wall clock reads: "8:45am". He makes his way to the front desk and rings the bell.

DING! DING! DING!

Jessica sweeps to the counter. If she recognizes Mike, she doesn't show it.

JESSICA

Yes?

MIKE TYSON

I'm looking for Pumpkin Pie.

JESSICA

Try the diner around the corner.

Jessica turns and walks away, leaving Mike Tyson staring after her.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUXURY DOG HOTEL - DAY

Pumpkin Pie sits happily in the back seat. The driver's side door is partially open.

Andrea hops inside the car.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREA'S CAR - DAY

Andrea glances at her watch, then looks over at Pumpkin Pie.

Andrea's car pulls out of the parking lot. She turns on the car stereo as she takes the freeway on ramp.

UPBEAT HIP HOP RINGS OUT as she merges into the highway traffic.

Then, suddenly BRAKES and LOUD HONKING CAR HORNS.

Miles of gridlock comes into view. Andrea slams her hands on the steering wheel.

ANDREA
(Turning to Pumpkin Pie)
Looks like it's gonna be a minute,
doggy.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S OFFICE, CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING- DAY

Meanwhile, Chip sits in his office scribbling furiously.

The TV in the background announces that the next front-runner for the "Purina" Dog Contest is out. He's caught Kennel cough and won't recover in time. It's now a Tibetan Mastiff that's a shoe in...

CHIP
(Mutters)
Kennel cough...

A notepad comes into view with a drawing.

INSERT: It's a man's face. Pure fury. It's a meticulously drawn caricature of Mike Tyson. In his extended right hand, he's lifting something into the air. It's Chip's severed head.

Chip doesn't notice Jessica, who walks in. She sees the drawing.

JESSICA
Who is that in the picture getting
the beat down?

Chip snaps out of his drawing session, confused.

CHIP
Huh?

JESSICA
Whoever that is, they have to
strike first, it's punch or be
punched.

She gets into a boxing defense stance to demonstrate.

CHIP
 (Hiding the drawing)
 Can I help you with something?

JESSICA
 (Nonchalantly)
 Someone's here looking for Pumpkin
 Pie. I've tried to tell him to try
 the diner, but he's not leaving.

CHIP
 Shit, shit, shit... I told him 9:30
 am, he's early... Tell him... Tell
 him that I'm with another customer.

JESSICA
 But you're not.

CHIP
 Just tell him!

JESSICA
 (Sarcastic)
 Sure, he'll believe that. The
 parking lot's empty and we don't
 open until 9 am.

Jessica exits. Chip pulls his cell phone from his pocket. He split-second dials a number.

ERIC (V.O.)
 (Answering machine)
 This is E please leave a message on
 my hit line, grits and gravy,
 beeeep--

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S OFFICE, CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

Clutching the notebook, Chip closes his eyes in defeat and slowly shakes his head.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREA'S CAR - DAY

Andrea is finally moving again. She heads off the freeway.
 She glances at her watch again.

ANDREA

Good thing I know a shortcut.
 (Looking at Pumpkin Pie in
 the mirror)
 We should be there in five minutes.

Andrea makes a right-hand turn on a red light, not paying attention to the "No right turn on red light" posted sign.

The shrill sound of a POLICE SIREN takes over.

Andrea looks in the rear-view mirror.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

You've got to be kidding me!

A city police car pulls her over.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S OFFICE, CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

Chip paces back and forth. The clock reads: "9:00am".

Jessica leads Mike Tyson into Chip's office. Chip looks up and tries to gather composure.

CHIP

Mr. Tyson! It's good to see
 you...you're early! How was your
 trip?

Chip feigns interest as he shoos away Jessica.

MIKE TYSON

Great. It really made me come to
 terms with the roots of my nature
 of my being.

CHIP

You don't say?

MIKE TYSON

And it made me realize that
 violence can't be used as a weapon.

CHIP

(Suddenly paying close
 attention)
 Right! You're so right.

MIKE TYSON

But as a tool.

Chip is again defeated.

MIKE TYSON (CONT'D)

A tool to get what is rightfully
mine

(Beat)

Enough with the pleasantries. I'm
ready to see my queen.

CHIP

(Stalling)

And what a queen she is.

MIKE TYSON

Part of my spiritual retreat
focused on loss. And to be honest,
my mind went to a dark place.

CHIP

(Nervously)

Oh, really?

MIKE TYSON

Oh yes.

CHIP

I'm sorry to hear that.

MIKE TYSON

Images of vengeance overtook me.
Especially the things that I would
do to those who took away what I
value the most.

Chip downs two horse-sized pills with a glass of water. Mike Tyson gets closer to Chip. They lock eyes.

MIKE TYSON (CONT'D)

My shaman spoke of people like you.

CHIP

(Squeaking)

He did?

MIKE TYSON

Empathy. Sensitivity. You've forged
an everlasting bond with these
majestic creatures that you've
dedicated your life to.

Framed photos of cats, dogs and gerbils in Chip's office come into view.

MIKE TYSON (CONT'D)

That's your love language. Embrace it.

Through tears and nods, Chip tries to go along with it the best he can. Behind his back, he grips the notebook.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDREA'S CAR - DAY

Officer 1 holds Andrea's driver's license in his right hand. He studies Andrea through dark sunglasses.

ANDREA

Listen, you're doing a great job cracking down on traffic infractions and all, but I've got a life or death situation on my hands here.

He leans into her car and removes the sunglasses.

OFFICER 1

We have to take all incidents seriously. This weekend we got a lotta out-of-state visitors. Big big doggie contest. Don't know if you've heard. Huge.

ANDREA

Yes, I've heard!

OFFICER 1

Then you see why we have to take these incidents seriously.

ANDREA

I'm being serious here! You see this dog here? Well, this is Mike Tyson's dog.

OFFICER 1

(Raising his brow)
Mike Tyson?

Officer 2 approaches from the car.

OFFICER 2

Did she say Mike Tyson?

ANDREA

Yes! And if I don't get this dog to Mike right now, he might do something to my poor husband...

(Pause)

Who I'm not on speaking terms with right now but who I still love very much, and don't want to see in the hospital.

Officers 1 and 2 look from Pumpkin Pie to Andrea, studying her and assessing her story.

OFFICER 1

Who's is your husband?

ANDREA

Dr. Murray...

OFFICER 2

Dr. Cecil "Chip" Murray?

ANDREA

Yes, that's my husband... So, you know him?

Officer 1 and 2 laugh.

OFFICER 1

We've nearly arrested him twice already.

ANDREA

Great

Officer 1 and 2 stare at Pumpkin Pie.

OFFICER 1

So this is the dog he was looking for.

OFFICER 2

He's a big boy!

ANDREA

She.

(Looks at her watch)

Ok, so you can help me get her there?

Officers 1 and 2 look at each other

OFFICER 1

Sure. Why not? Let's give the doctor a break.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S OFFICE, CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

Mike Tyson looks around.

MIKE TYSON

So, where's my girl?

Chip freezes. He swallows and starts breathing faster, heart beating faster.

CHIP

She's...

(beat)

...gone. I don't know where she is.

Mike stares at Chip, blankly.

CHIP (CONT'D)

It was an accident. I mean I don't know how it happened. I'm sure she's fine though. We've been looking for her twenty-four seven. If we just put an ad on the TV or radio or newspapers... I'm... sure someone will find her and return her.

Chip pauses and looks at Mike, who is still expressionless.

CHIP (CONT'D)

I'm... so sorry. Please just give me one more day?

Mike is still stone-faced, then...

Mike raises his fist and punches Chip, an uppercut to the jaw, knocking Chip over the desk and through the wall.

SNAP BACK TO REALITY. Chip was just imagining what would happen if he told the truth.

MIKE TYSON

She's where?

CHIP

She's... On a walk. That's right,
my assistant took her for a walk.
She should be back any minute now.

Mike Tyson's eyes squint.

MIKE TYSON

But it's not her walking hour?

CHIP

She looked like she needed to go.
(Starts walking Mike
toward the door)
Why don't I just deliver her to
your house? Free of charge!

MIKE TYSON

(Stopping)
I'll wait.

Mike Tyson sits down and eyes Chip suspiciously.

CHIP

Or you could wait.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The police car blazes down the street, SIRENS BLASTING.

Behind the police escort is Andrea, following in her car. She
smiles pompously at the people pulled aside off the road.

In the back, Pumpkin Pie gleefully looks out the window.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S OFFICE, CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING- DAY

The clock reads: "9:25am".

Now on his feet, Mike Tyson is restless. His Assistant
standing beside him is restless too.

Chip is pale.

MIKE TYSON

(Turning on Chip)
Where. Is. My. Pumpkin. Pie?

CHIP
Why don't I go and check?

Chip tries to leave the room, but Mike stops him.

Sad, wet muffled sounds start to bubble up out of Chip. He clenches his teeth and closes his eyes.

MIKE TYSON
Where is she!?

In his head, Chip hears Jessica's voice.

JESSICA (V.O.)
You have to strike first, it's
punch or be punched

Chip clenches his fist.

MIKE TYSON
Where...?

With a cry of desperation, Chip punches Mike Tyson in the face. Mike doesn't even seem to notice.

CHIP
(Quickly)
I'm sorry! I've been going through
a lot of pressure...

Mike Tyson grabs hold of Chip.

SNAP BACK TO REALITY. It was another one of Chip's imaginations.

Andrea walks in with the dog.

Mike Tyson smiles widely, lets go of chip and gets on one knee. He hugs Pumpkin Pie affectionately. She licks his face.

MIKE TYSON (ADMIRING PUMPKIN PIE)

She looks great. A real champion!

ANDREA
(Winking)
Yeah! A heeeaaavy-weight champion.

Chip is almost speechless. He looks at Andrea, then at Pumpkin Pie, then at Mike Tyson. He gathers himself.

CHIP
No meds whatsoever!

Chip pets Pumpkin Pie. He looks at Andrea and mouths, "Thank you".

ANDREA

She just needed some pampering and attention.

Chip stands up, proudly. For the first time in a long time, the old Chip starts to take over.

CHIP

(To Mike)

When was the last time you took Pumpkin Pie for a walk?

MIKE TYSON

Never, my security team does that.

CHIP

And guess what Mike. Spend a little more time with her, one-on-one. It'll be like finding a missing dog.

Mike Tyson stands back and sizes up Chip. He nods...

MIKE TYSON

You know what? You're right. What have I been thinking?

CHIP

(Laughing)

We all make mistakes.

He turns toward Andrea, who is all smiles.

MIKE TYSON

Like ever trying to fight me?

Chip freezes.

CHIP

(Under his breath)

Bad idea.

Mike Tyson smiles as if he heard Chip's thought.

Chip practically collapses into Andrea's arms.

Mike leans over to his assistant and whispers. The Assistant pulls out the check from the exhibition fight Mike just attended. She hands it to Chip.

MIKE TYSON

Take this, I'll endorse it to you.
You deserve it.

Chip takes the check and stares at it. He can't believe his eyes.

INSERT: "\$50,000.00"

Chip passes out, hitting the ground hard.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S OFFICE, CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone is looking down at Chip, as he slowly wakes up.

MIKE TYSON

He's awake!

CHIP

Am I...am I dead?

Mike effortlessly picks Chip up into a bear hug.

CHIP (CONT'D)

(In slight pain)

Nope, still alive!

Mike Tyson puts Chip down.

MIKE TYSON

(Turning to Andrea)

He's light as a feather. You should try feeding him Purina -- he'll be big as Pumpkin in no time.

CHIP

(Staring at the cheque)

I... I... I can't accept this.

MIKE TYSON

I've got two fists that say you can.

Chip fake laughs.

MIKE TYSON (CONT'D)

You cured my dog. If there's anything you need, you just ask.

Chip is speechless. Andrea chimes in.

ANDREA

We could use a spokesman for our
next commercial.

Mike Tyson smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. PURINA DOG SHOW HALL - DAY

Hundreds of DOGS and THEIR OWNERS walk and strut around a large convention centre hall, waiting for the main events to begin.

Mike Tyson proudly stands with Pumpkin Pie, patting her on the head. A REPORTER holds a microphone to Mike Tyson

REPORTER

Mister Tyson, any words on your
win!

Chip, Andrea, Karsten and the twins are standing near the stands, looking around. Mike Tyson sees them and waves eagerly. The family wave back.

MIKE TYSON

I owe it all Chip's Vet and
Grooming.

Mike Tyson raises his fist up in the air looking at and acknowledging Chip. Chip returns the acknowledgment by giving Mike Tyson a thumbs up.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

SUPER: "Three Weeks Later..."

A huge new sign and a paint job decorates the building.

The parking lot is full. A huge line of customers have lined up around the corner to Chip's business.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHIP'S VET - LATER

Travis C. Weddington is now standing in front of his business, staring across the street at Chip's Vet and Grooming, pissed.

We see a YOUNG MAN spinning one of those cardboard advertisement signs right out front of Chip's Vet. The sign is a big Mike Tyson cut-out. He spins it, flips it, then points to Chip's.

Travis C. looks at the sign spinner and shakes his head in disgust, then he stomps back into his empty building.

INT. CHIP'S OFFICE, CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING- DAY

Andrea sits on Chip's lap. They attentively watch something on TV....

It's their commercial with Mike Tyson.

MIKE TYSON (V.O.)
And that's why I use Chip's Vet and
Grooming. The place of champions!

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

The waiting room teems with customers and pets of all kinds.

In the background, Jessica and a new INTERN check in new customers and their pets.

COMMERCIAL NARRATOR (V.O.)
Chip's Vet and Grooming. Just off
interstate five. Book now for an
appointment. Sponsored by the
Purina World Champions Mike and
Pumpkin Pie

CUT TO:

INT. CHIP'S OFFICE, CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - DAY

Chip looks at Andrea.

CHIP
Baby, you saved the clinic.

ANDREA
I did, didn't I?

They kiss.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

So, have you learned your lesson?
What did I tell you to never do?

CHIP

Use your toothbrush.

ANDREA

What else?

CHIP

Hide my good liquor when your dad
comes over...

ANDREA

And?

CHIP

Comment on your mother's hair...
Eat beans for dinner?

ANDREA

All of that...
(Pause)
But this was more recent.

CHIP

Fart when we're in the car
together?

ANDREA

No!

CHIP

(Grins)
Keep secrets from you.

ANDREA

Yes. Besides, women always find out
the truth. Honesty is always the
best policy...

CHIP

You're right, sweetie.

They kiss again.

CHIP (CONT'D)

Although technically, didn't you
lie to me too? You had the dog all
this time, and you never told me.

Andrea reacts.

ANDREA

Not at all. First, you never asked if I knew where the dog was. Second, why should I tell you something that you didn't want me to know?

Chip nods.

CHIP

You ever gonna forgive me?

ANDREA

No more secrets.

CHIP

No more secrets.

ANDREA

(Smirking)

So when are you going to tell me that you broke the picture frame my sister gave us?

CHIP

You knew about that?

ANDREA

(smiling)

I know everything.

Andrea kisses Chip, and begins to straddle him.

CHIP

What you doing?

ANDREA

I have an appointment.

Chip laughs and continues to kiss Andrea.

FADE TO:

CREDITS

POST CREDIT SCENE

INT. CHIP'S OFFICE, CHIP'S VET AND GROOMING - NIGHT

Chip is locking up for the night.

His cell phone rings. The caller ID shows Mr. Snoop Dog.

CHIP
(Answers the phone)
Snoop Dog, what it do?

SNOOP DOG
Hey Little Nephew Doggy Doctor,
everything is green and gravy up in
the clouds.

Chip looks at the phone and smells it as if he smells smoke coming thru from Snoop Dog's phone.

SNOOP DOG (CONT'D)
I have something right up your
alley Doctor Doggy Doctor, and
you'd be perfect for it.

CHIP
(Thinks he's talking about
something related to
music)
Snoop, you know I have skills and
talents, there's nothing I can't
do, so yes, whatever it is yes!

SNOOP DOG
Coolio, Mr. Doggy Doctor, I have a
concert coming up, and I need a dog
sitter for the weekend, so I'll be
dropping off my Rottweiler to you
in a few hours for a weekend dog
sitting gig. I'll pick him up on
Monday, with a check for \$50k for
your time. I heard about what you
did for Iron Mike, I want the same
love. Duces.

He hangs up. Chip has a look of "Oh no, not again" on his face.

CHIP
Andrea's not going to go for
this..... But it's Snoop...
(Pause)
What should I do?

He looks at the camera.

SNAP TO BLACK:

THE END