

Rebel
by
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INT. GUIDANCE OFFICE-DAY

A few students linger in the sitting area of the guidance office when a tall boy with a disgruntled look on his face enters the room. This is TIM. He approaches Mrs. McCann's desk.

TIM

Hi, Mrs. McCann. I'm here to see Rebel.

Mrs. McCann looks up.

MRS. MCCANN

She's with someone right now, but if you're willing to wait I'm sure she'll be able to accommodate you when she's done.

TIM

It's really urgent. My girlfriend just broke up with me and I-

Mrs. McCann interrupts him.

MRS. MCCANN

Tim, I really don't care. Pop a squat and wait for Rebel.

TIM

How much longer will she be?

Clearly distracted, Mrs. McCann begins trimming one of the succulents on her desk.

MRS. MCCANN

She's been in there for about an hour, so she shouldn't be much longer.

TIM

Who on God's green earth could be talking for that long?

CUT TO: INT. REBEL'S OFFICE-DAY

The office is set up like a normal Guidance counselor's room: inspirational quotes on the walls, stress balls, a jar of hard candies. In addition, a strangely large number of framed dog photos hang on the walls, and next to the jar of candies there is a jar of dog treats. In the counselors chair sits REBEL, a mid-sized golden retriever who is taking notes on her computer. Across from her sits NOODLES, a small, white Maltese dog who looks upset. Noodles is

rocking a pink bow and a bedazzled collar. They are in the middle of a discussion, but it is clear by her tone that Noodles has been doing all the talking.

NOODLES

It just makes me feel worthless, you know? Like, he thinks I'm overweight? Fine. Let him think that. But actions have power, and let me tell you, going on two walks a day instead of one isn't sneaky, it isn't slick, it's obvious. I just feel like, as an individual in America, I should have some rights, too. Changing the brand of my dog food? That was bold. I literally miss Blue Buffalo. That stuff was bomb. I wake up from my naps sometimes and it's on my mind. Especially the chicken flavored one, that stuff was so good.

While Noodles is talking, Rebel clicks on a different tab on her computer and makes a note on her To-Do List: "Ask officer Hart to buy Blue Buffalo dog food." She looks back at Noodles and then back at her screen. She adds: "Chicken Flavored".

NOODLES (CONT.)

Even the other day, we were on a walk at that park by the lake, and he started calling me a "good girl" for keeping my pace with him while we walked.

FLASHBACK: NOODLES & OWNER ON WALK

Noodles' owner walks her along the lake's edge, constantly mouthing words of approval to Noodles. Noodles does not look happy.

NOODLES (V.O.)

Like, okay, bud. I get it. Just because I'm 3 1/2 pounds heavier doesn't mean that I suddenly can't walk. We were down by the water when I just got so P.O.ed at his constant back-handed praise that I just ran away from him. Like I didn't even care.

Noodles sprints away from her owner, and he drops the leash unexpectedly. She begins causing a scene, and even knocks a girl into the lake when she runs by.

NOODLES (CONT.)

I was getting so carried away that
I might've accidentally knocked
some random girl into the lake.

REBEL

I see. So what happened next? Did
he catch up to you?

NOODLES

Yeah, I really wasn't in the mood
to actually run away because I
hate cardio, so I just went back
to the car and waited for him.

FLASHBACK: Noodles waits by the car as her owner approaches. He picks her up and puts her inside, and they drive off.

CUT TO: Noodles back in the office.

NOODLES (CONT.)

I just don't think I'm given the
love and respect I deserve.

A beat.

GUIDANCE OFFICE-MOMENTS LATER

Tim sits in one of the seat of the waiting room with his head in his hands.

The door to Rebel's office opens and Noodles walks out. Tim jumps up to go into Rebel's office but Mrs. McCann stops him before he can get inside.

MRS. MCCANN

Tim, It's not your turn. Longshot,
you're up.

Tim backs up and another dog slips in front of him and into the room. This is LONGSHOT.

Tim looks in annoyance at the door and then turns around and sits back down. He looks over at a student sitting next to him who is writing something in their notebook.

TIM

(to the student)

Hey, do you mind listening to me rant for a second? I just planned the best date for my girlfriend for our anniversary and she-

The student he is talking to cuts him off with a loud hissing sound. Kind of like a cat's hiss. They then go back to writing in their notebook.

Tim stares at the student for a moment and then slowly cradles his head in his hands again.

REBEL'S OFFICE-MOMENTS LATER

The office is in the same set-up as before, but now Longshot sits across from Rebel instead of Noodles. Longshot is a medium-sized dog of unspecified breed. He is already deep into telling his story to Rebel.

LONGSHOT

So I just think it's funny how they call dogs, "man's best friend", but then Johnny from lacrosse camp comes over *once*, and suddenly I'm old news.

REBEL

Have you tried talking to Steven about your concerns?

LONGSHOT

Well, last month I talked to him about him suddenly giving me the cold shoulder, and he agreed to let me go out with him and his friends to the movies. I was trying *really* hard to be one of the guys, but halfway through my bag of popcorn, I threw-up. Yeah, I tried making it discreet by upchucking in someone else's bag, but the smell permeated through and got around the theater pretty quickly. They actually had to evacuate in the middle of the movie.

FLASHBACK: MOVIE THEATER-NIGHT

Longshot leaves the theater on a leash with Steven and his friends. They all look upset and Longshot is hanging his head in shame.

STEVEN

(to one of his friends)

Dude, as long as Spiderman doesn't die, I'm fine.

CUT TO: GUIDANCE OFFICE-DAY

Longshot is continuing his story.

LONGSHOT

After that, he never hangs out with me anymore. And I'm way cooler than Johnny, too. Just because I haven't made it on "What's the Word? Mass" doesn't mean I'm not *with it*.

CUT TO: GUIDANCE OFFICE-MOMENTS LATER

Tim still sits in his chair in the lobby, dozing off every few seconds.

The weird girl sitting next to him sticks a piece of chewed gum on his cheek. He jolts awake and peels the gum off his face, gagging a bit.

Tim gets up and stomps over to the door of Rebel's office. He's about to rap on the door when it opens and Longshot walks out.

TIM

Finally!

INT. REBEL'S OFFICE-MOMENTS LATER

Tim enters Rebel's office and walks toward one of the chairs to sit down.

TIM (CONT.)

Rebel, I really need your advice. my girlfriend just broke up with-

Rebel cuts him off.

REBEL
 Yeah, I'm sorry to hear that.
 Unfortunately I have a client
 waiting right now so you're going
 to have to wait.

TIM
 How many clients could a
 dog possibly have?

Rebel chuckles to herself.

Mrs. McCann appears in the doorway.

MRS. MCCANN
 Tim, you have to wait.

She scooches him out of the room.

MRS. MCCANN (CONT.)
 (calling over her
 shoulder)
 Spike! You're next.

A big, Burmese mountain dog-sized dog perambulates into the room. This is SPIKE. He slowly climbs up onto his seat.

Spike waits while Rebel barks into her phone. After a few seconds of this, Rebel hangs up.

REBEL
 (to Spike)
 Sorry about that. In-laws.

Rebel takes a sip of coffee from the mug on her desk.

REBEL (CONT.)
 So, what brings you in today,
 Spike?

SPIKE
 I've made a big mistake.

A beat.

Spike stares at Rebel. Rebel stares back, shooting him a "please elaborate" look. He does not elaborate.

REBEL
 Uhh... can you explain that a
 little more?

SPIKE
 Sure.

A beat.

Spike stares at Rebel. Rebel stares at Spike. She rolls her eyes.

REBEL
(sighing)
What was the mistake, Spike?

SPIKE
Well, you know how I'm an indoor dog.

REBEL
Yes, Spike, I know.

SPIKE
Well, I'm just tired of having no freedom, no liberty. It's borderline censorship!

REBEL
That's not what censorship is, Spike.

SPIKE
Anyway, I decided last night that I would experience the great outdoors. So when Mrs. Baker left for poker night, I made my move.

FLASHBACK: SPIKE'S HOUSE-THE NIGHT BEFORE

Spike lays on a dog bed, asleep. An older woman pats him on the head and grabs her keys as she walks out the door.

As soon as the door shuts, Spike opens one of his eyes.

He jumps up and climbs on the couch to watch Mrs. Baker's car pull out of the driveway.

He runs to the backdoor where he jumps up and pushes the door handle down. It swings open.

SPIKE (V.O.)
Well, Mrs. Baker left the door unlocked so I figured it must be a sign.

Spike runs into the yard and rolls around in the grass.

He stands up and looks around.

SPIKE (CONT.)
The only question was: where do I
go?

CUT TO: PRESENT DAY- GUIDANCE OFFICE

Camera focuses back on the conversation between Spike and
Rebel.

SPIKE (CONT.)
You see, a normal dog would go to
a pet store to get unlimited dog
food.

REBEL
I don't think that's how pet
stores work-

Spike cuts her off.

SPIKE
-But I'm not a normal dog. So I
was thinking: what's the one thing
humans have that all dogs want?

REBEL
Opposable thumbs?

SPIKE
No. People food!

REBEL
Well... you're not wrong, I guess.

SPIKE
So, I went to the nicest place in
town.

FLASHBACK: OUTSIDE T-TEES-NIGHT

Spike looks down at a printed google maps to T-Tees bar &
grille, and then up at T-Tees. It is abandoned.

SPIKE (V.O.)
But, T-Tees was closed. So I
walked across the street to
Jalapenos.

Spike jumps up and hits the crosswalk button. He crosses
the street when the walk signal flashes.

Spike enters Jalapenos and immediately begins sniffing around, running under tables and eating scraps of food people drop on the floor.

SPIKE (CONT.)

It was like a fiesta in my mouth.

Spike jumps up on the table and eats a full quesadilla off of one of the tables.

He jumps up onto another and starts drinking out of a Margarita glass.

SPIKE (CONT.) (CONT'D)

So there was about 20 more minutes of me sneaking around and eating food before I think I had a few too margaritas.

Spike climbs up onto a chair and pees in one of the glasses on the table.

A waiter comes by and grabs the glass, not noticing Spike, and brings it to another table. Spike looks at the audience for a second and then gives an "oh well" look and walks off.

REBEL'S OFFICE-DAY

Rebel and Spike continue to discuss the story.

REBEL

So, what happened?

SPIKE

Everything was fine.

REBEL

What do you mean? How did you get home?

SPIKE

Well, after the hostess found me, she called Mrs. Baker from the phone number on my collar. I thought Mrs. Baker would be mad but she struck it big in Bingo so she quickly forgot about the whole situation. But now that I've gotten a taste of the real world, I'm so tempted to go back again.

REBEL

Well, Spike. I would strongly advise not breaking the rules again, just look at what happened this time. Sometimes you need to learn to take responsibility for your actions.

SPIKE

Hey, what happens in Jalapeños, stays in Jalapeños.

A beat.

INT. GUIDANCE OFFICE-MOMENTS LATER

Tim sits asleep in his chair when he hears the bell ring for the next class. He drowsily gets up and slings his backpack over his shoulder, heading for the door.

The door to Rebel's office opens.

REBEL (V.O.)

Tim?

Tim stops dead in his tracks. He spins around and speeds over to Rebel's office.

INT. REBEL'S OFFICE-MOMENTS LATER

Tim sits down in the chair across from Rebel's desk. She's typing something on her computer while he looks around.

REBEL

Tim, I must admit, I don't usually have human clients.

TIM

Well, I don't normally have dog therapists.

Rebel stops typing and looks at him.

REBEL

Touché.

A beat.

So what brings you in?

TIM

Well, you see, yesterday was my girlfriend and I's forty-two-day-aversary and I had the perfect date planned.

REBEL

I'm sorry, your what-aversary?

TIM

Our forty-two-day-aversary. It's to celebrate us going out for a total of forty-two days, Duh.

Rebel stares, confused.

TIM (CONT'D)

Anyway, I had this huge date planned, right? And everything went wrong.

FLASHBACK: THE PARK- THE DAY BEFORE

Tim walks along the lake with his girlfriend, this is VANESSA. They are laughing and chatting.

TIM (V.O.)

So we're walking along the lake at our favorite park, talking about That 70's Show and playfully pushing each other.

Tim nudges Vanessa with his shoulder, and she laughs and pushes back at him.

TIM (CONT.)

And then literally out of nowhere some dog came up and knocked Vanessa in the lake!

Noodles sprints by and knocks Vanessa into the lake.

Vanessa comes out of the water shaking and visibly upset. She shoves Tim and then runs back to her car.

TIM (CONT.) (CONT'D)

Apparently, Vanessa thought I shoved her in the lake. And I tried explaining to her that it was a small white dog that pushed her in, but she wouldn't believe me.

Tim and Vanessa sit in their car inaudibly talking.

TIM (CONT.) (CONT'D)
I took her to the movies as a way
to make it up to her.

FLASHBACK: MOVIE THEATER- THE AFTERNOON BEFORE

Tim and Vanessa sit in a movie theater with 3-D glasses on,
happily munching popcorn and enjoying the flick.

TIM (V.O.)
Everything was going well until
Vanessa ran out of raisinettes and
got up to get some more. She told
me to watch her popcorn and to not
mess with it at all. She knows I
love a good prank, but after the
lake incident, I wasn't going to
risk anything.

Vanessa hands her popcorn to Tim, who sets it on the
ground. She then gets up to go get raisinettes.

While Tim isn't looking, Longshot comes over and throws up
in the popcorn.

A few moments later, Vanessa returns.

TIM (CONT.)
So Vanessa came back and I handed
her the popcorn. She went to take
a handful and literally almost
screamed. She took her hand out of
the bag and there was throw-up all
over it! I put the bag down for
like, two minutes!

Vanessa reaches into the bag and then removes her hand,
covered in dog vomit. She looks as if she's going to vomit
herself.

Vanessa gets up and runs out of the theater.

TIM (CONT.) (CONT'D)
Pretty soon the entire theater was
evacuated because of the vomit
smell. Vanessa was so embarrassed.
She thought I had put fake
throw-up in her popcorn.

FLASHBACK: IN TIM'S CAR-THE NIGHT BEFORE

Tim is driving a silent Vanessa.

TIM (V.O.)

I knew there was no way I could explain how throw-up mysteriously got into her bag, so I decided to take her to our favorite restaurant to make her forget about the lake and the popcorn vomit.

The car rolls up to an abandoned T-Tee's.

TIM (CONT.)

Unfortunately, T-Tee's was closed.

The car starts to back up and then crosses the street over to the parking lot by Jalapenos.

TIM (CONT.) (CONT'D)

So, I took her to our second favorite restaurant—Jalapenos.

FLASHBACK: JALAPENOS—MOMENTS LATER

Tim and Vanessa sit eating at a table together, laughing.

TIM (V.O.)

Things were going well. I think she had forgotten about the previous incidents from the day.

Their waiter comes over to the table to take their orders.

TIM (CONT.)

I recommended their lemonade to Vanessa, and when we ordered I told the waiter to include the secret ingredient.

TIM

(whispering to waiter)

The secret ingredient is love.

TIM (V.O.)

Things were going great, until the final bomb hit.

The audience sees Spike peeing in Vanessa's cup.

Their waiter brings them over their drinks.

Vanessa takes a sip and spits it out.

TIM (CONT.)

There was urine in her lemonade.

VANESSA

Secret ingredient?! Really?! What did you put in this? Oh my God. That is the final straw, Tim. You can't take anything seriously, and clearly aren't fully in this relationship like I am. We're done!

Vanessa storms out of the restaurant.

INT. REBEL'S OFFICE- PRESENT DAY

Rebel and Tim sit in the same positions as Tim finishes his story.

TIM

And now, she won't talk to me.
What do I do?

We see Rebel's face for the first time since Tim began his story. Her jaw is dropped and she looks at Tim and then at the audience.

THE END

