

A Dog's Life

by

Ronnie Larsen

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CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

For each character the ages, races, gender are completely flexible as long as it's believable that Honey and Babe could be in a long term relationship together.

Honey, a human being

Babe, a human being

Buddy, a dog

NOTE

The play is written to be performed with no light cues, no sound cues, no costume changes, no furniture and minimal props. The actor playing Buddy should NOT be in a dog costume or anything resembling a dog costume nor should the actor be on all fours trying to act like a dog. Buddy observes, listens, tries to understand, reacts but it should all be very understated and subtle. Under no circumstance should Buddy try to be cute or silly. Buddy can be played by either gender of any age. After Buddy enters in the opening scene Buddy should go to center stage and stay there, standing up for the entire play. Buddy should never sit, chase, run or mime dog actions. At one point Buddy turns and faces upstage but that's it. Buddy merely reacts and tries to understand. Babe and Honey move around Buddy but Buddy never moves. Buddy deals with a few props that need to be concealed at first so maybe a brown trenchcoat with lots of pockets would be a good costuming choice. Maybe Buddy could also wear one of those hats with attached ear muffs to suggest big dog ears. I'm not opposed to suggestive costuming just nothing literal. When Buddy first enters the audience should have no visual cue that Buddy is a dog.

SCENE 1: A DOG'S LIFE

BABE

Honey, come out here, I have a surprise
for you.

Babe enters arm in arm with Buddy.

BABE (CONT'D)

This is Buddy!

HONEY

Buddy?

BABE

Isn't Buddy adorable?

HONEY

Babe, you're really scaring me.

BABE

I'm sitting in the parking lot eating my
lunch and I look out the window and Buddy
is just sitting there...staring at me
with those beautiful eyes...look at those
eyes, it was love at first sight...I'm
sorry, honey, but please, just look at
those adorable eyes...

Buddy starts to lick the face of Honey, slow and steady, long
streaks.

HONEY

Oh come on? That's gross.

BABE

Buddy loves me.

HONEY

I love you, too, but I don't lick your
face.

Buddy continues licking.

BABE

Okay, Buddy, that's enough.

Buddy stops licking Babe and starts licking itself - arm,
armpit, foot - whatever's funniest.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BABE (CONT'D)

Okay, Buddy, that's enough.

HONEY

So is Buddy housebroken?

BABE

I have no idea.

Buddy takes out a water bottle with a small hole and squeezes out a long, steady, stream of water maybe some in the direction of honey.

BABE (CONT'D)

Uh, no, actually, Buddy is not housebroken. But it's okay, I got it...everything's fine. Honey, please, go say hi to Buddy.

Buddy and Honey just stare at each other skeptically in silence. Honey slowly approaches. Reaches out. Begins to pet the head of Buddy. Honey gets closer. More relaxed. Suddenly Buddy starts licking the face of Honey and Honey recoils.

HONEY

No, no, no.

Babe enters with paper towels and begins to wipe up the water.

BABE

Okay, all clean. We're fine.

Honey stands up.

BABE (CONT'D)

So what do you think? Pretty adorable, right?

HONEY

I don't now. I told you I wasn't ready for a...

BABE

Hold on, we need a picture for Facebook.

Babe pulls out a smart phone.

BABE (CONT'D)

Okay, everyone, say cheese.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BABE & HONEY

Cheese!

Buddy and Babe flash both flash huge smiles, Honey not so much.

Honey takes out a tennis ball and bounces it three times to mark the passage of time.

HONEY

Come on, Buddy, want to play ball.

Honey throws the ball. Buddy watches it fly across the stage but doesn't chase it.

BABE

You're wasting your time.

HONEY

Go get it!

BABE

Honey, the only one chasing the ball is you.

Honey goes to retrieve the ball. Honey has the ball now. Honey bounces the ball and tries to catch it like a dog would. The ball ends up in Honey's mouth. Buddy just observes, confused. Honey takes out the ball. Throws it to Buddy. Buddy finally catches it. Opens mouth. Inserts. Babe and Honey cheer wildly.

HONEY

Yay!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

BAB

Good job, Buddy!!!!!!!!!!!!

Babe and Honey face out front. Buddy turns upstage.

HONEY

Buddy?!?!?!?!?!?

BABE

Buddy?????????????????

HONEY

When was the last time...?

BABE

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HONEY

Buddy????? How long did you leave the gate open?

BABE

I didn't leave the gate open.

HONEY

Well someone left the gate open! I'm pretty sure Buddy doesn't know how to open a gate!

BABE

Don't yell at me.

HONEY

I'm not yelling at you I'm yelling for Buddy. Buddy!!!

They all turn and face each other.

BABE

Buddy!!! Buddy!!! Come here, baby.

HONEY

No! Get in the house! Go. Get in the house! Buddy, I'm gonna kill you, seriously. What is wrong with you?!?! You want to get killed?!?! Walking in the street??? Really??? Ridiculous. You're an idiot.

Buddy starts shaking.

BABE

Honey, can you calm down, please. Buddy's shaking.

HONEY

No, I won't calm down.

BABE

Okay that's fine. Don't calm down. It's okay, Buddy.

HONEY

No, it's not okay! I'm really upset.

BABE

Buddy, this was not your finest hour.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

They all face forward. They are now watching tv.

BABE (CONT'D)

Can we watch something else, please?

HONEY

Hold on.

BABE

Please, I really, I don't want to listen to him. He makes me physically ill.

BABE (CONT'D)

Hold on.

They continue to watch. Silence. We began to hear heaving sounds. Babe and Honey slowly turn to see Buddy who is starting to dry heave and is about to hack something up.

HONEY

Buddy, you okay...

Buddy throws up something on the floor. Then looks at both of them.

BABE & HONEY

Buddy!

HONEY

I'll clean it up.

Honey goes off.

BABE

You okay, Buddy. I love you, Buddy. You know that? I love you so much.

Buddy begins to lick Babe's face. Honey enters. Sees it.

HONEY

Nooooooo! Come on. That's gross.

BABE

Oh relax.

HONEY

You two are so gross. Buddy just threw up and now...really...licking your face!?

Honey starts to clean it up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

BABE

We just love each other, right. We just love each, don't we Buddy. And Buddy loves you, too. Just a big happy family.

HONEY

A big gross happy family. You know where that tongue has been?!?!

BABE

I don't care.

HONEY

Well I care. I'm tired. I'm going to bed.

They are now all three sleeping in the bed. This is shown just by them standing next to each other. Different levels of snoring. Buddy is taking up the most room sleeping spread eagle.

HONEY (CONT'D)

Buddy, come on. Buddy! Buddy, come on, move over. Buddy move over. Come on.

BABE

Go to sleep.

HONEY

Buddy come on.

They all fall sleep again. Buddy is snoring. It is very tight. Babe slowly wakes up.

BABE

Honey. Honey. Come on. We gotta go. It's the big day. Come on...everybody up. Rise and shine. We gotta go. Come on, Buddy, let's go outside. It's your big day. Everybody ready? Let's go. Come on. Get in the car. Here we go!

All three are now riding in the car. Honey is driving.

BABE (CONT'D)

Buddy, wants you to put the window down, please, can you put the window down for Buddy?

Buddy's face pops out the window. Buddy is happy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

HONEY

Ok, we're here.

Honey and Babe exit the car and stand in front of Buddy so the audience can't see what is happening.

BABE

All done, Buddy. You were so good. No kids in your future, my friend. Sorry about that. You okay, Buddy? Come on, don't hate us.

Finally, they step back to reveal Buddy wearing a big plastic protective cone. Buddy is not happy.

BABE (CONT'D)

Oh, I need a pic of this for Facebook. Come on, Buddy, smile. It's okay, Buddy, you only have to wear it for 2 weeks. Smile.

Babe takes a series of photos of Honey and Buddy but Buddy refuses to smile. Finally, honey steps up and starts to remove the plastic cone.

HONEY

Good news, Buddy. I just talked to the doctor and she said you can finally take your cone off.

Honey takes it off.

HONEY (CONT'D)

There ya go, Buddy. Happy now?

Babe gives Buddy a really big bone and Buddy begins to gnaw on it.

BABE

You love, Buddy right?

HONEY

Yes, I love Buddy. I love waking up to throw up on my side of the bed. I love coming home to a yellow puddle in the kitchen. I love running around the neighborhood yelling, "Buddy? Buddy?" I love the 1500 dollar vet bills every time Buddy swallows some random object. I love the snoring. I love the holes in the backyard from all the digging.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

HONEY (CONT'D)

I love the freak-outs every time the doorbell rings. Yes, I love Buddy.

Suddenly we hear the sound of a bouncing tennis ball. Honey and Babe turn around to see Buddy bouncing the ball.

BABE

And Buddy loves you.

HONEY

Ok, Buddy, let's go, come on.

Honey throws the ball. Buddy catches it and inserts in mouth.

HONEY (CONT'D)

Good catch, Buddy.

Buddy throws it back. Honey catches it. Buddy looks at Babe.

BABE

Oh, look, Buddy, you got a Christmas gift from Aunt Diane. It's cologne. Hmmm. Smells good.

Babe sprays Buddy with the cologne. Buddy winces. Honey throws the ball. Buddy catches it and inserts in mouth.

HONEY

Good catch, Buddy.

Buddy throws it back. Honey catches it. Buddy looks at Babe who is now holding three dog costumes.

BABE

Buddy, what do you want to be for Halloween? A pumpkin, a shark or a hot dog?

HONEY

A hot dog! Cause Buddy's a hot dog. Aren't you Buddy?

Honey throws the ball but this time Buddy ignores it and just stares forward.

HONEY (CONT'D)

Buddy?

BABE

Buddy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

HONEY

I think something's wrong.

BABE

Nothing's wrong.

HONEY

Something's wrong. Buddy, you okay?

Buddy slowly turns and looks at them.

HONEY (CONT'D)

I told you something was wrong.

BABE

"I told you so, I told you so." Enough!
Just give me the peanut butter?

HONEY

Here.

Honey hands Babe a spoon with peanut butter on it.

BABE

Do you have the pills?

Honey puts a pill in spoonful of peanut butter for Buddy.

BUDDY

Yum. Peanut butter. Delicious. You
love peanut butter, dontcha Buddy?

Buddy is not very responsive. They hold a bowl of water in
front of Buddy.

BABE

Come on Buddy, drink some water. Buddy,
please drink some water. Come on, Buddy.

Buddy, once again takes out a water bottle and squeezes out a
long, steady, stream of water on to the floor.

HONEY

Oh, Buddy, no no no no no no.

BABE

It's okay, it's okay, you're okay, Buddy.
I got it.

Babe runs off to get towels.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

HONEY

You, okay, Buddy? I know you don't feel well. I'm sorry, Buddy. I love you. Life goes by too quick, doesn't it, Buddy? I love you, Buddy.

Buddy slowly licks Honey's face and Honey allows it. Babe and Honey slowly move downstage. They are both shell shocked.

HONEY (CONT'D)

I can't do it.

BABE

They said, it's only gonna get worse.

HONEY

I just can't do it. I just...I can't.

BABE

Buddy's in a lot of pain.

HONEY

I know, I know, I know, I know, I know, I know...this is literally the hardest thing I've ever had to do. I can't do it. I can't. I'm sorry. I can't.

They move back to Buddy. Honey and Babe are on the verge of melting down.

HONEY (CONT'D)

Hey, Buddy, you okay. How ya holding up? So unfortunately, this is where we have to say goodbye. You were a great friend, to us. You were our best friend. We're gonna miss you, Buddy. We're gonna miss you so much. Come here, Buddy.

They share a group hug. Buddy slowly licks the faces of Honey and Babe one last time then Babe and Honey slowly take a step back. Buddy looks at them each one last time then slowly Buddy's eyes close and Buddy is gone.

Babe and Honey are devastated and lost. They both begin to silently sob almost to the point of collapse. Finally, they embrace and hold each other tight as the lights slowly fade to black.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

PROPS

Water bottle with water in it (used twice)

Paper Towels

Dog Cone

Smart Phone (used three times)

Tennis Ball (used twice)

Throw-up

Dog Christmas Gift Bag

Dog Cologne

Peanut Butter

Pill in bottle

Spoon

Dog Water Bowl

Dog Costume - Hot Dog

Dog Costume - Shark

Dog Costume - Pumpkin