

DOUG THE PUG'S FINAL ADVENTURE

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. JOY'S HOUSE, FRONT YARD - SATURDAY MORNING

It's a beautiful fall morning in the sunny suburb of Paradise Hills, San Diego. BIRDS happily chirp from the trees, a NEIGHBOR collects his newspaper, JOGGERs run past doing their morning exercise. Ah, the serenity.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. JOY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

JOY BENNETT (10) brunette sporty-type, sleeps open-mouthed in her bed.

JOY

PAMELA (O.S.)
Joy! Up, up, up and at 'em! Time to
rise honey! Doug, come get your
breakfast!

Joy starts to awaken, yet still the room echoes with loud snores. She wipes the drool from her mouth and lifts her bed sheet to reveal her plump pug DOUG (10) fawn coat, greying muzzle, wearing a bright green collar, snoring the house down.

DOUG

JOY
(whispers)
Dougie. Wake up, it's breakfast time.

DOUG

Behind Joy's bed is a series of photos that tell the story of Joy and Doug's 10 years of life together, Doug visibly ageing from a lively puppy to the old boy he is today. All the while wearing the same green collar.

JOY
(louder now)
Time to get up, Doug The Pug.

Doug continues snoring away so Joy jumps out of bed and searches the mess in her room for her dressing gown. She finds it eventually and while slipping it on she looks down noticing that she's absolutely covered in Doug's hair. Boy does he shed hair.

JOY
Dooooooooooooouggg .

JOY
Dougie it's time fooooooooor...
breakfast.

PAMELA (O.S)
Joy stop ignoring me please!

Having still gotten no reaction in the slightest from Doug she hangs her head out of the door and yells down to her mother.

JOY
I'm awake Mom! But Doug won't get
out of bed!

PAMELA (O.S)
I know, I can hear him from down
here! Just leave him be. Your
babysitter will be here in 10
minutes.

INT. JOY'S HOUSE, STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

Joy bounds down the stairs ready to face a new day. The staircase walls display photos of the whole family, Doug included.

INT. JOY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Joy's mother PAMELA BENNETT (40) also brunette, keeps her head down busying herself preparing breakfast.

JOY
(sombre)
Remember when I only had to whisper
"Breakfast" and Doug would come
sprinting down the stairs?

PAMELA
He's getting old Joy, his hearing,
and his sight for that matter
aren't what they used to be.
(sighing)
We all have to get old one day.

JOY
(being cheeky)
Old like you Mom?

PAMELA
Very funny Joy.

JOY
But we can live till 100. Pugs only
usually live to 11 and Doug's
already 10 Mom. You heard what the
Vet said last week.

PAMELA

The Veterinarian said pugs COULD
live to 12 Joycie.

JOY

She also whispered something to you
and you won't tell me what it was.

PAMELA

(looking guilty)

We were just talking about the bill
sweetheart. Nothing for you to
concern yourself with.

Pamela finally looks up now.

PAMELA (CONT'D)

Joy! Look at the state of your
pyjamas. I just swept the floor. Go
clean yourself up please.

Joy just shrugs and pulls her dressing gown closed, tieing
it up.

PAMELA (CONT'D)

That's not what I meant.

Joy's father GREG BENNETT (40) tall, dressed in golfing
attire rushes through the kitchen, grabs his coffee to go
and hastily kisses Joy and Pamela while he rushes around
gathering his things.

GREG

Gotta go fam bam. I'm running late
again.

PAMELA

But Greg, I've nearly finished
making breakfast.

GREG

Sorry Pam, if I miss this flight I
won't make the company tournament.
I'll barely make it as it is.

Pamela hands Greg a waffle.

PAMELA

Well here, at least eat this on the
way.

Greg rolls his eyes dramatically then winks at Joy.

GREG

Ladies, I bid you adieu.

JOY

Bye Dad.

PAMELA
Have fun darling.

Greg stops, pats down his pockets and turns around to ask...

GREG
Honey have you seen my ...

Joy does her best softball pitch and launches the car keys to her father.

GREG (CONT'D)
...keys? Thanks Joyce. You're really getting some speed now kiddo. The extra practice is really paying off.

JOY
Thanks Dad. I'm starting pitcher next week!

GREG
Really?! That's great sweetheart.
OK, you two have a great weekend.

Greg rushes out of the kitchen and Joy returns her focus to her mother.

JOY
Well I think I should be home-schooled.

PAMELA
What? Why?

JOY
I just want to be around Doug more and my teacher already said I can't take him to school.

Pamela starts to sweep up the dog hair.

PAMELA
You're being silly now Joy. How about you go wake him up properly so he doesn't spend his whole day in bed again.

JOY
(defeated)
Fine.

Joy looks to the staircase and envisions herself and Doug several years ago bounding down the stairs laughing, all the while, Doug's curly tail wagging madly. She glumly smiles at the memory.

PAMELA
Everything OK?

JOY
Yeah, just...

PAMELA
Just what honey?

JOY
Nothing Mom.

With that Joy runs back up the stairs.

INT. JOY'S BEDROOM, SAN DIEGO - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Joy bounces into the room clapping her hands together and singing:

JOY
"Doug, Doug, the little pug. Time
to get up and eat some grub. Doug,
Doug, the little pug. Time to get
up and meet the sun. Doug, Doug,
the little pug. Time to get up and
have some....BREAKFAST!!!"

Doug's head quickly jerks up. That got his attention. He slowly rises from bed and has a big, long stretch.

DOUG
(yawning)
Huh, what?

JOY
Breakfast Doug.

DOUG
BREAKFAST?!

JOY
Mom yelled out to you like 5
minutes ago.

DOUG
I could have been eating breakfast
5 whole minutes ago?! What is wrong
with you Joyce, why didn't you
wake me up?!

JOY
I'll try harder next time. Here let
me help you down.

DOUG
(defiant)
I can jump down myself. Don't worry
about little old me.

JOY
But I do. I can't help but worry
about you.

DOUG

Fine, you can lift me down if it's
that big of a deal to you.

Joy gently lifts Doug to the ground.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Now how about that breakfast? Make
sure Mom doesn't skimp on the liver
this time.

JOY

Ew, gross.

DOUG

I don't know why she insists on
putting me on another diet?

Doug sizes himself up in the mirror. Yep, he's chubby.

JOY

(sarcastic)

Beats me Doug.

Doug and Joy make their way down the stairs in stark
contrast to Joy's previous memory. Doug stops halfway to
catch his breath, but when Joy looks back he sticks out his
chest and continues on his way down as if each step doesn't
cause him pain.

INT. JOY'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The small TV in the kitchen has the morning news on.

DOUG

Morning Mom, I sleep like a baby
these days it seems.

PAMELA

Not to worry. I made your
favorites. Liver and biscuits for
you Doug, and waffles for you Joy.

DOUG

Ooh, do I get waffles too?

PAMELA

What do you think?

DOUG

Hmmm, I'm no mind-reader but I'm
guessing by the scowl on your face
it's a solid...maybe?

PAMELA

It's a no Doug.

DOUG

Can't blame a pug for tryin'.

Doug has a drink of water while Joy gives him a little scratch on the back unleashing a cloud of hair onto the twice swept floors.

PAMELA

Joy!

JOY

Oops, sorry Mom.

Doug and Joy take a seat at the kitchen counter and happily munch away on their meals. Joy sneaks Doug some waffles when Pamela is busying herself sweeping the floor yet again. Then the door bell rings.

PAMELA

Oh, that's the babysitter. Can you please behave this weekend? I was lucky to find someone left in the area willing to take the job.

JOY

We're not that bad Mom.

PAMELA

Tell that to Mrs Whiteside. Your little ghost prank now has a 62 year old woman afraid of the dark!

Joy and Doug burst into fits of laughter.

PAMELA (CONT'D)

Well I don't think it's funny so please, please, please play nice with this one.

DOUG & JOY

(trying to keep a straight face)

We will.

Pamela heads for the front door.

JOY

(mimicking Pamela)
"Please, please, please behave Douglas."

DOUG

You're the one that gets us into trouble. I'm quite happy spending the day napping.

Joy leans down, straightens out Doug's curly tail, then lets it go watching it spring back up into a curl.

JOY

I know, but where's the fun in that?

Doug notices a news report that sparks his interest.

DOUG
Quick turn the volume up.

NEWSREADER

Multiple dog disappearances in the Paradise Hills area have local law enforcement on high alert. After last month's successful raids and subsequent shutdowns of several 'Puppy Farms' in the area, San Diego Police Department fear the disappearances could somehow be linked. Senior Detective ROBERT DAVILA had this to say at last nights press conference.

Senior Detective ROBERT DAVILA (45) hispanic, stands in front of several news microphones while addressing the media.

ROBERT DAVILA

After an unprecedeted number of dogs were reported missing from the Paradise Hills general area, I ordered an extensive investigation to get to the bottom of this. Our early investigations indicate that the disappearances could in fact be kidnappings as all homes of the missing dogs had signature small red ribbons tied to their front gates. We believe the homes were scouted first to see if suitable dogs were present and if so the ribbon markers were left to inform the kidnappers which houses to hit when the time was right. One particular street had 7 dogs go missing all within a few hours of each other. All dogs were 'whole', ie, fertile, leading us to believe they will be used to start 'Puppy Farm' operations back up in the area.

Doug and Joy share concerned glances.

NEWSREADER

'Puppy Farms', although sounding cute and lovely, are in fact awful places where cruel people force dogs to breed litter after litter in a horrible and dirty environment. Most dogs are locked in tiny cages, with little to no food and water. The ASPCA advised
(MORE)

NEWSREADER (cont'd)
 our network that they still have
 40+ dogs from the recent rescues in
 their shelters awaiting adoption,
 so please contact your local
 shelter for more information.

Joy picks Doug up and cuddles him close.

JOY
 That sounds horrible Doug.

DOUG
 Those poor dogs.

JOY
 We need to do something about
 it...today!

DOUG
 A few years ago I would have been
 out the door before the news report
 even finished, but I'm too old and
 sick to be going on rescue
 missions.

JOY
 Sick? You said the Vet gave you the
 all clear.

DOUG
 Oh yeah, pfft, she did. Totally.
 I'm much better, fo' sho'. I've
 just got a bit of a stomach ache.

Upon noticing Joy's worried expression Doug tries to put her mind at ease.

DOUG (CONT'D)
 Probably just ate my breakfast too fast again. You know me.
 (burps)
 Whoop, there it is.

Pamela and the babysitter KIRBIE (21) African American, rebel-punky and really tired looking, enter.

PAMELA
 Joy, Doug, this is Kirbie.

DOUG & JOY
 (monotone)
 Hello Kirbie.

KIRBIE
 Hey guys, how you doin'?

DOUG & JOY
(monotone)
Fine.

Kirbie approaches Doug and gives him a scratch behind the ears. And you guessed it, unleashing ANOTHER cloud of hair into the air much to Pamela's dismay. She dejectedly reaches for the broom yet again.

KIRBIE
Look at you you handsome Pug.

PAMELA
(to Kirbie)
Now are you sure you're OK to watch them all weekend? You look rather tired dear.

KIRBIE
I'm fine Mrs Bennett. I've just been studying hard for my mid-terms is all.

PAMELA
Really?
(then)
Oh how I miss college. What are you studying Kirbie?

KIRBIE
A few things Mrs B but ultimately I'm hoping to be a Veterinarian. I've got a long way to go though.

DOUG
(whispers to Joy)
Oh great, another Veterinarian.

Kirbie hoists her big heavy backpack, complete with various animal rights activist buttons, including a cute pug faced button, off of her shoulder and onto the table with a thunk.

KIRBIE
(to Joy and Doug)
Which is why I plan on studying some more this weekend if that's OK with you two?

JOY
(sarcastic)
Really? Oh no. I hoped we'd braid each others hair and talk about boys.

PAMELA
Joy don't be so rude.
(MORE)

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