

"Woman's best friend"

by

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1 INT. CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 1

CLAIRE (30s) wakes up in her bedroom, seemingly from a nightmare. She reaches instinctively out with her hand to the empty side of her bed.

But nobody is there.

2 INT. CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 2

Claire sits drinking her coffee as she looks out at people passing by. Her store is a clothing store, chic.

She's dressed in a very Audrey Hepburn manner. Chic, simple, elegant.

No one comes into the store. She breathes out a heavy sigh.

3 EXT. STREET OPPOSITE CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 3

A YOUNG GIRL and her MOTHER is walking on the opposite side of the street. The Mother stops to tie the young girl's shoe.

They have their DOG, who is held by a leash by the mother. As the mother ties her shoe, the young girl pets the dog.

The dog looks over at Claire's shop and stares through the window.

4 INT. CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 4

Claire notices the dog looking at her. They share a connection, Claire feels.

5 EXT. CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 5

From the dog's POV, we can see he can barely see beyond the end of the street.

6 INT. CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY. 6

Claire drinks her coffee, looking at the dog. The mother finishes tying her daughters shoe and the two of them, plus dog, leave. The dog still looking over.

- 7 INT. CLAIRE'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 7
- Claire opens her medicine cabinet looking for some night moisturizer. Behind some of the products, she sees a photo of herself and her ex. They are both at Disneyland, wearing mickey mouse hats that say their names : CLAIRE, and GEORGE.
- She looks at it. Tears it up angrily. And throws it in the trash.
- 8 INT. CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 8
- Claire lies in her bed at night, wide awake. We see more around her apartment.
- Her closet is half empty, the space where her ex occupied empty.
- She flashes to an image of the dog looking at her.
- She smiles to herself.
- 9 INT. CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 9
- Claire is helping a CUSTOMER with something when she glances out the window and sees the dog being walked by the young girl and mother on the opposite side of the street.
- She takes a beat to focus on the dog, so happy and carefree.
- Briefly, the dog looks through the window and Claire gasps.
- The customer holds up a piece of clothing in a 'what about this?' type gesture, grabbing Claire's attention.
- Claire asks for 'one second' and walks outside the door of her shop.
- 10 EXT. CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 10
- Claire stands somewhat awkwardly outside her shop as she stares at the family across the street, but mainly at the dog.

She smiles at the dog, and to her, the dog 'smiles' back.

She then catches the eyes of the mother staring back at her. She waves apologetically, feeling caught, and walks back into her store.

11 INT. CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 11

Claire's helps the customer out some more.

She briefly looks out the window again, but the dog and its owners are gone.

12 EXT. PARK - DAY 12

Claire runs around laughing with the dog, chasing each other. The day is surreally sunny, almost romantic too.

13 EXT. PARK - DAY 13

Claire and the dog have a picnic together. She feeds it a treat and when he takes it she laughs, throws her head back and feeds herself a chocolate strawberry.

14 INT. CLAIRE'S APARTMENT - DAY 14

Claire is sitting in her kitchen, reading the paper. She puts down the paper and we see the dog is sitting on her lap! Claire laughs maniacally as she pets the dog.

15 INT. CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 15

Claire and the dog 'spoon' in bed, Claire mouthing 'I love you' as she falls asleep.

16 INT. CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - DAY 16

Claire wakes up the next morning, sitting up looking for the dog. The dog isn't there. The whole thing was a dream. She lies back in her bed, rolls her eyes, embarrassed at herself.

17 EXT. NY STREETS OPPOSITE CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 17

Claire is walking to the store ready to start the day. She sees the mother and young girl tying the dog to a rail so that they can go into a coffee shop.

The mother very briefly sees Claire, and continues to leash the dog.

The young girl calls out to the mother, and the mother finishes what she was doing, distracted, and walks into the coffee shop.

18 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

18

Claire walks past the coffee shop, slowing down to look at the dog. The dog stares up at her, expectingly almost.

Claire stops when she's by the dog, and looks around, almost guilty. She bends down to pet the dog. The dog responds so lovingly she's super enamored.

As the dog moves more towards her Claire sees the dog's leash is not securely attached to the post and it falls away from the post, freeing the dog.

She looks up at the coffee shop, but the mother and young girl are distracted giving their orders to the cashier.

Claire, almost instinctively, GRABS THE DOG.

She starts RUNNING away from the coffee shop, and away from her store. Back to her apartment

19 EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

19

Claire runs through the streets as fast as she can. New Yorkers pass her by, but all she sees is the young girl every where, looking angry at her.

20 INT. CLAIRE'S APARTMENT - DAY

20

Claire's rushes into the apartment and shuts the door behind her. Breathing hard and fast.

The excitement and horror of what she's just done hits her all at once. And she holds the dog up. She smiles at him.

She notices his leash and takes it off, hanging it on her over her coat.

- 21 INT. CLAIRE'S KITCHEN - DAY 21
- The dog and Claire sit, staring at each other. She cuts up an apple and feeds it to him. She realizes looking around she is not prepared to have a dog.
- 22 INT. PET STORE - DAY 22
- Claire, dressed in shades and a headscarf, trying to be incognito, walks around the store and picks up two large sacs of dog food. She pays the cashier, trying not to be suspicious but failing. The cashier eyes her.
- 23 INT. CLAIRE'S APARTMENT - DAY 23
- Claire leaves for work, she looks behind her and the dog is eating from an OVERFLOWING breakfast bowl of dog food, another dinner plate sized bowl full of water beside it.
- 24 INT. CLAIRE'S STORE - DAY 24
- Claire works as normal, helping customers out. She tries not to think about what she did.
- She sees the young girl outside her window, asking around to strangers. She has flyers of the missing dog she is taping to posts. The young girl is clearly very upset.
- Claire looks away, guilt consuming her.
- 25 INT. CLAIRE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 25
- Claire returns home after a long day of work. She opens the door to see her apartment has been demolished by the dog. There's papers everywhere, little pieces of shit, pee stains, corners of her furniture have been torn.
- And amongst all this devastating chaos, sits the dog, looking as innocent and lovely as ever.
- Claire is shocked.
- She starts to clean as best as she can, disgusted.
- 26 INT. CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 26
- Claire sits staring at the ceiling, tired from cleaning all evening. She doesn't look happy.

Suddenly the dog jumps onto the bed, walks up to her, and lies across her belly. She smiles, almost instantly forgetting the dog's behavior.

27 INT. CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 27

Claire and the dog are asleep, peaceful. Claire is having a nightmare.

Her eyes open. She sees a shadow near the bed. As she looks closer, the girl JUMPS UP OUT OF NOWHERE, crying tears. Claire screams. The dog jumps in fright.

28 INT. CLAIRE'S BEDROOM - DAY 28

Claire wakes up from her nightmare. She looks over at the dog, still sleeping peacefully. She lets out a sigh.

29 INT. CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 29

Claire holds the dog in her arms, waiting. She looks out the window. She finally sees the mother and young girl walking by. The young girl looks dejected.

They stop at a shop, where the young girl goes in to look at something.

Claire walks out of her shop, holding the dog.

30 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 30

Claire walks out holding the dog, she walks slowly as if to her death sentence.

She gets closer to the young girl in the store, when suddenly the mother intercepts her.

MOTHER

I have been trying for years to
get rid of that dog.

CLAIRE

What?

BEGIN FLASHBACK

31 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 31

We see the mother has noticed Claire approaching, and purposefully did not tie the dog's leash to the post.

END FLASHBACK

32 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 32

MOTHER

You look like you would give him a good home, so please, just walk away.

CLAIRE

But what about your daughter?

MOTHER

I'll get her a cat, she'll forget about him in like a week.

CLAIRE

I...

MOTHER

Walk. Away.

Claire turns, uncertain, and walks away back to her store.

MOTHER

And change his tags for heaven's sake.

33 INT. CLAIRE'S SHOP - DAY 33

Claire walks back into the store, completely thrown. She sees the mother hurriedly move the young girl away from the store so the young girl can't see the store.

Claire is now unsure what to do. She holds the dog up to look at his dog tags, which she hasn't notice till now.

The dog's name is....GEORGE.

Claire frowns, reminded of her ex. As Claire holds up the dog they stare at each other, the dog pisses on her nice shoes. Claire looks down, then back up at the dog. This may not be greatest love story ever told.

THE END