Humans Can Lick Too
by
Khamanna Iskandarova

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FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The living room downstairs opens to a hall. The front door is open. LINDA (50s) walks in and out, carrying bags and a small suitcase.

Plopped comfortably on a couch is KATHY (16), dreamy look in her big brown eyes. She leafs through a flashy magazine and munches on baby carrots. At her feet, sits OGI, her Rottweiler. He watches Kathy like a hawk.

Eyes on the magazine, Kathy rises and walks to Linda. The dog follows behind.

LINDA
Don’t tell Tim I’m not home, ok? Please. It’s only for two days...

KATHY
Alright, gosh, I wasn’t going to. I’ll read some and go to bed.

LINDA
You call that reading? Whatever happened to my Kathy...

Linda looks closely at the magazine. It’s mostly teen stuff – every headline has “dating” and “boyfriend” in it.

LINDA
What do you see in that boy, seriously? Does he really love you?

KATHY
Mom...

LINDA
Keep in mind the first rule of dating. Play hard to get, do it for me please.

Linda tenderly kisses Kathy on the cheek.

KATHY
Come on, mom, we never get to stay alone anyway.

LINDA
Believe me you’ll thank me later.
Linda gives Ogi an affectionate pat, but Ogi growls at her. Linda wags her finger at him.

**LINDA**
That’s what I get when I pay for his training. Are you sure it did him good? He growls at everyone.

**KATHY**
Nah ah, at me he doesn’t.

Kathy watches Linda walk out, slide into her sedan and start the engine. One final wave and Kathy shuts the door.

Kathy walks to the couch, Ogi in tow. She sits comfortably down, curls her feet up to tuck them beneath her legs.

Her phone chimes – someone messaged her. She reads the text. It’s a long letter. She skims through it, reaches the part that says “Her parents left their daughter home alone, but protected by her dog”.

Kathy continues reading “The girl reached her hand over and let the dog lick it for reassurance that he would protect her”.

Kathy grabs her phone and dials a number.

**KATHY (INTO PHONE)**
Hey, Tim. You can do better than a chain letter. The one about a girl with a dog that used to lick her hand... who else knows that Mom left? Ok, cool it, I’ll forward it to you.

Few clicks and she forwards the chain letter to Tim. At that moment Ogi licks her hand. Kathy pulls her hand away.

Ogi turns to the door, growls, pricks up his ears and rises. He barks and runs to the door.

Kathy leaves the couch and follows Ogi. She glances into the peekhole – there’s no one outside. She dials Tim again. --And hears a phone ring from the outside. She hangs up.

**KATHY**
Tim? Is that you out there? How did you get here so fast?

She twists the knob and pulls on the door, but it wouldn’t open. It looks like a jammed lock. Tim knocks impatiently.
TIM (O.S.)
What’s going on?

KATHY
I don’t know. It’s too late to call a locksmith.

Kathy hears Tim walk away.

Ogi pricks up his ears. Someone climbs up from the outside. Ogi runs upstairs.

Kathy leaves the door alone and looks toward the stairs.

Upstairs, the door of her bedroom opens and Kathy sees TIM (18), athletic type, coming down the stairs.

TIM
I got in through your window. You should lock it sometimes.

KATHY
There’s Ogi to protect me.

TIM
He let me through.

KATHY
He knows you. ...Besides, who do I need to hide from?

TIM
Says scaredy cat that just called to ask about some chain letter.

They hear footsteps from the outside.

TIM
That’s Albot. I told him to get lost.

KATHY
He follows you around like a puppy.

TIM
Ogi follows you around, you don’t see me complaining.

Kathy plops on the couch with her phone in hands. She looks at the letter.

KATHY
Who would have sent such a thing?

Tim sits next to her, plays with her hair, smells it.
TIM
I don’t know. Not me, I was busy listening to your mother.
(mocking Linda)
“Keep in mind the first rule of dating. Play hard to get. You’ll thank me later”. Haha, that’s rich.

Kathy throws the magazine at Tim. Tim lifts his arms in mock surrender.

TIM
Chill. By the way you’ve been playing hard to get real well. Good girl.

Kathy throws him a questioning look.

TIM
There’s no sex, is there?

Kathy hides her eyes.

KATHY
Can we change the subject? Please.

TIM
Sure. ...What’s the second rule of dating?

KATHY
I’m not going to talk about it.

TIM
Why, it would be only fair for me to know the rules too.

KATHY
My mother cites the “first rule” to keep me away from boys that’s all.

TIM
Come on. Tell me the second rule.

KATHY
Make him jealous.

Tim claps his hands.

TIM
Which you’re doing just fine.

KATHY
When?!
When you talk with two college boys every day after school. Don’t pretend like you don’t – one is Emily’s brother and the other tall one...

He likes Emily!

Whatever. Everyone sees you flirt with them like a mad cat and it ain’t pretty.

I do not.

She moves further away from Tim.

Uncomfortable silence follows. Tim moves closer, massages Kathy’s shoulders, his hands glide down her spine.

Come on, babe, I was just kidding.

He locates her bra, but she pulls away.

They hear Ogi growl.

It’s kind of weird he stayed upstairs. Ogi, here boy. Ogi.

Ogi whimpers upstairs.

You want me to check on him? I have my dad’s gun on me.

Kathy shakes her head.

You can’t fire it – your dad will be put in jail for that.

Can’t wait. I hate the guy.

Ogi whimpers again. It’s a long whimper this time. Kathy and Tim’s listen carefully. Kathy rises and takes a few careful steps toward the staircase. Tim follows.

Hey, is there a third rule to dating?
KATHY
Are you serious?

She looks at Tim and there’s something in his face that makes her shiver.

KATHY
I’m cold.

Tim takes off his jacket and puts it around her.

They hear Ogi whimper again. Kathy heads upstairs. Tim reaches for his gun that’s been tucked into his belt at the back.

KATHY
Wow, I thought you were kidding about the gun.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM

Tim pushes the door to her room open. Tim steps inside. Kathy follows. Ogi is not in the room.

TIM
Hey Kath. Come here.

Kathy sees a note on the floor. She bends for it, it says “HUMANS CAN LICK TOO, MY BEAUTIFUL”.

KATHY
Someone’s having a good laugh.

She turns to Tim and flinches – he has his gun trained on her.

TIM
You shouldn’t have flirted with those boys, Kath.

Fear crosses Kathy’s face.

KATHY
Are you kidding me? I didn’t. You totally imagining stuff.

TIM
I asked you not to, remember?

Kathy shakes her head in disbelief.

TIM
You never do as you told, don’t you?
KATHY
What else I didn’t do?

TIM
Push the bathroom door open, my beautiful. You have a surprise waiting for you.

Kathy gulps. The bathroom door is not completely closed. She sees blood trickle to the bedroom floor. She holds her mouth.

TIM
Come on. Don’t make Ogi wait.

Kathy presses on the door and it opens. There’s creepy silence for a moment. There seems to be no movement inside the bathroom.

Then... Ogi, alive and well, runs out of the bathroom. Next moment is a blur – Ogi jumps Kathy up, trying to lick her in the face. Kathy falls.

She falls on Tim. He goes down and hits his head on the bed railing. The gun falls out of his hand. Kathy bends for the gun, grabs it. Her hand shakes and she tries to steady it the best she can.

Tim lies unconscious on the floor. Ogi watches Kathy with adoration.

Kathy walks into the bathroom holding the gun at the ready, her hand still very shaky.

INT. HOUSE – BATHROOM

Kathy sees ALBOT (18) lying on the bathroom tile, in a pool of blood. His hand clutches a knife. There’s blood on the edge of the tub – Albot hit his head when he fell.

Kathy runs to the sink and throws up.

INT. HOUSE – BEDROOM – LATER

Tim rises and rubs his head. He sees Kathy tower over him with a gun pointed in between his eyes.

KATHY
He’s dead.

Tim looks at Ogi, there’s terror in his eyes.

TIM
Your Ogi?
KATHY
Your Albot.

She guides Tim to the bathroom, holding a gun pointed at him at all times.

KATHY
Your plan backfired. Ogi doesn’t know Albot that well.

INT. HOUSE – BATHROOM

He walks in and sees Albot.

Kathy holds the note in her hand. Ogi smells it and growls at it. She hands Tim the note.

KATHY
Is it real blood?

TIM
We were goofing off. Hope you don’t think we wanted to kill you.

KATHY
Let me see. You and Albot climbed my window. You had a gun on you.

TIM
That’s just to scare you.

KATHY
How do I know now?

Ogi runs inside the bathroom and licks Albot’s blood.

KATHY
Ogi, don’t. Back off.

She jerks toward Ogi to push him away from Albot. Tim watches her intensely. His eyes betray him – he waits for the good moment to move for the gun.

KATHY
Don’t even think about it.

TIM
Listen, Kathy. Please don’t do anything stupid. All we have to do is call the police. We’ll tell them everything – I sent you the letter...
KATHY
The police didn’t see the glow in your eyes when you wanted to rape and kill me.

TIM
What are you even talking about?

Kathy points to the wall.

KATHY
That’s how it goes in your letter. Step back and face the wall.

Tim does as she tells him. Kathy takes a long moment before she talks again.

KATHY
You know what irks me?

TIM
I didn’t mean it about the college boys. Just wanted to scare you.

KATHY
You never told me you loved me.

Eyes on Tim at all times, Kathy bends over for Albot’s gun.

TIM
I do! I love you!

KATHY
Thanks, that makes me feel so much better.

Sarcasm in her voice makes Tim flinch.

KATHY
...Remember the three rules we talked about earlier?

He nervously gulps.

KATHY
The third one is to surprise him more often.

There’s silence for a moment. Tim’s voice shakes when he speaks.

TIM
...Are you going to shoot me?
KATHY
No, I’m not. I’m not a killer.

Tim sighs relieved.

KATHY
Does it surprise you?

TIM
I... I don’t know. Please don’t shoot me.

KATHY
I don’t want to kill you.

TIM
Thank you.

KATHY
But Ogi might.

She looks at Ogi, who waits for her signal. Ogi senses her mood, looks at Tim and growls.

Kathy walks out of the bathroom, closes the door behind. And--

She cups her ears and exits the bedroom not to listen to the terrifying sounds coming from the bathroom.

FADE OUT.