PUPPIES

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EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD SIDWALK - DAY

On the first really warm spring sunny day, COLT a young man wearing a black T-shirt and blue jeans is walking his Great Dane Legend, who is off leash and clombering wildly all around him.

COLT

Legend, get back here!

Legend is bounding for PIPPA a young woman wearing yellow sunglasses dressed in white shorts, yellow fanny pack and a pink top.

Pippa bends down, kneeling on the sidewalk.

Suddenly another Great Dane jumps out from behind a bush and bolts towards Legend yanking Pippa over with the leash she's holding onto.

PIPPA (kneeling back up) Duchess sit!

Duchess comes to a complete calm stop and sits perfectly still just as Legend leaps and tackles her.

Colt runs up to Pippa with a big smile on his face.

COLT They're fun dogs aren't they.

PIPPA You just let him run wild?

COLT They're having fun. Relax they're just in the yard.

PIPPA

Not your yard.

COLT Is that why you make her dump on the sidewalk?

PIPPA Oh that's what I do. I trained her special.

COLT That's a lotta dog loaf, size 20 shoe I'll bet. PIPPA What are you wearing there, eight and a half nine?

COLT Pleasant and a sense of humor.

Pippa turns her pockets inside out then shakes her head looking up at Colt.

PIPPA With every fiber I hate to ask, but do you have an extra baggie?

COLT Do you have a name?

PIPPA Do you have a bag or not?

COLT It's a simple--

PIPPA Pippa, my name is Pippa, the bag?

COLT

That's cute.

PIPPA

Bag?!

COLT

I'm Colt.

PIPPA

I don't care.

COLT

OK, OK. Quart size three lock zipper. Grip and seal, water tight.

Colt pulls a baggie out of his back pocket and Pippa snaps it out of his hand.

PIPPA You've memorized the box. Surprised you can read...

Pippa puts her hand in the bag and slorps the bag over the Matterhorn of poo.

She tries different hand positions but can't get the right placement to lift it all up at once.

COLT That last one was close. I have big hands maybe I should--PIPPA Don't you have anything better to do. COLT Here try this. Colt flips a small piece of cardboard out of his back pocket. COLT (CONT'D) Scrapes it right up. PIPPA (yanking the cardboard) I get the concept. Pippa lifts up the squishy poo and plops it into the bag. COLT So what do you do for a living? PIPPA We're making small talk now? COLT I'm the one watching the Duchess. PIPPA She doesn't need it. COLT Well? PIPPA I'm a professional cuddlier. COLT So you're rich? Pippa stand up holding the baggie of poo from the bottom with the cardboard. PIPPA What do you do genius? COLT I'm a vet.

Pippa pushed and stuffs on the poo bag and cardboard, finally getting them crammed into her fanny pack.

PIPPA

Well sorry about the genius remark. Thank you for you service. I'm sure that couldn't have been easy.

COLT No, a vet, a veterinarian.

PIPPA

Couldn't make it as a people doctor?

COLT Well I can tell you've got a problem.

Pippa places her hand on her hips in a model pose.

PIPPA And just what might that be?

COLT You have dog poo on your shorts and somehow your sunglasses to.

Pippa steps backs with her arms out looking down at her shorts.

PIPPA Goddamnit, these are new.

COLT At least I hope its dog poo. I'm no genius, but I am a vet.

Pippa shakes her legs trying to get the poo to fall off of her shorts.

COLT (CONT'D) Not a bad shake surprised its not working.

Pippa reaches up and yanks off her sunglasses and just throws them into the yard.

Legend and Duchess bound over, sniff, then quickly go back to playing.

COLT (CONT'D) (Feigning surprise) OH WOW?

PIPPA

What?

COLT Just that it's not your yard. PIPPA Those nasty things are never going on my face again. COLT (staring at her eyes) And they never should. PIPPA You look like you've seen King Hamlet? Never seen blue eyes before? COLT No I can't say I... PIPPA Why not? You've said everything else. COLT Oh it's nothing it's just the shade. They are very, very blue. PIPPA Everybody always stares, It brings out the sketchies. They both glance over at their dogs then back awkwardly. COLT Happy valentines day. PIPPA Valentines day? Why would you say that? COLT 'cause it is. PIPPA Oh I get it, it's your April fools day. COLT It's those eyes. PIPPA That your best line?

COLT No it just came to me.

PIPPA Well shoot your shot dude, if you think today is your day.

COLT No, I was just--

PIPPA

The vet back from the front at the animal farm looking for a bore bride?

COLT No, I was just trying--

PIPPA

You sure say no an awful lot for a guy wanting to get married today. Shouldn't you be saying I do?

COLT I Dooo, believe, you'll never be married.

PIPPA Oh do ya? What makes you so sure?

COLT

I'll bet you don't like surprises. And the whole proposal thing would be a--

PIPPA Surprises turn into negotiations.

COLT Surprises turn into dreams.

PIPPA

In marriage you end up destroying each other dreams.

COLT You were married?

PIPPA No I grew up in one.

COLT What about the magic of love? PIPPA Magic of love? Love is just habits coming together.

COLT Aren't you the romantic. You could soften granite.

PIPA I'm romantic, if I get married I want to be very married.

COLT What does that even mean?

PIPPA It means marriage is a long conversation, and I don't think you would have that much to say.

COLT I think I could like annoying you.

They both look over at the Duchess and Legend sniffing each other snout to tail and tail to snout.

COLT (CONT'D) I guess it's a good thing we don't smell each others butts huh.

PIPPA You're are SO romantic, hold back my beating heart.

COLT Hey you're the one that smells like poo.

PIPPA I wish you were gay.

COLT If you think about it, love is like a great painting and marriage is just the frame, and the frame doesn't really matter.

PIPPA Are you kidding? The frame is everything, it gives the painting focus.

COLT It just protects the edges. PIPPA

Well in your case the edges of insanity. But the frame sets the painting apart from its surroundings, gives it style, aesthetically integrates it in the room. The frame creates the window to the world of the art.

COLT I see you took a class.

PIPPA Better than having no class.

The dogs romp around them and run back into the yard.

COLT So you hate valentines day?

PIPA I like it fine, it's just...

COLT It's just what? To commercial?

PIPPA No... I get my hopes up and I never get the right gift.

COLT OH! Well look at you gold digger, not commercial enough. How romantic.

PIPPA Ok, what was the worst valentines day gift you ever got?

COLT Not having a valentine.

PIPPA Doesn't count. What was the worst? I'm sure women are dying to give you gifts.

COLT Did I tell you I'm a drummer to?

PIPPA Come on player. You have had more than one night stands haven't you?

COLT They're not one night stands, they're auditions. Colt thinks for a moment looking over at the now barking Great Danes. COLT (CONT'D) Uh... Hmm... A gas station hotdog. We were young, broke and hungry. PIPPA Nope. That's actually very romantic. Go on. COLT Uh... Oh, a valentines bear that sang "Lets Got It On" PIPPA Nope, somewhat crude but in your world I would imagine, still romantic. COLT I got it at work from my boss. PIPPA Taste has no boundaries. COLT Well dare I ask what was the worst you ever? PIPPA I'm glad you asked Colt. Mind you these are in no particular order of gift or relationship. COLT There can be an order? How many? PIPPA I'm a hopeless romantic, what can I say. There were so many auditions. COLT I can't wait. PIPPA

Well here we go. From my early teens till now. First I'll start off with plastic flowers.

COLT Maybe he didn't want them to die? PIPPA They were weathered like from a grave. COLT But still the thought. PIPPA The thought... A wife beater tank top. COLT A nice night shirt. PIPPA He tie-dyed it and gave it to me to wear as a dress. COLT Inventive. PIPPA Inventive... A steak carved into the shape of a heart. COLT Still tasted good? PIPPA Still tasted good... Sugar free chocolates. I had a freshman fifteen then. COLT Still looking out for you. PIPPA Still looking out for me... Feminine razors, jumper cables, condoms And lube, expired coupons and a metal garbage can that actually did come in handy when I burned all his shit! COLT

Wow.

PIPPA

Wow... Perfume he stole from his Mom, black duck eggs, don't ask look them up on the dark web. (MORE) PIPPA (CONT'D) And a nice homemade card very sweetly decorated.

COLT Well that was nice.

PIPPA

Nice... With my name spelled wrong, not one letter wrong but the same one twice. PISSA!

COLT

Yeah Wow.

PIPPA Well what would you get me Mr. Happy Valentines day fool?

They both suddenly hear whale like sounds coming from the yard and look over in horror at the two Great Danes.

Legend has Duchess mounted and is going at it hard as he starts to howl louder.

Pippa and Colt quickly glance back at each other.

Pippa's face tightens red with rage.

COLT

Puppies?

PIPPA Duchess sit!

THE END