

The No Show
Episode 1
"No Place Like Home"

by
Lisa Laureta

April 17, 2021

Lisa Laureta
www.LisaLaureta.com
Los Angeles, CA
303-514-9023

"NO PLACE LIKE HOME"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. DOG POUND - MORNING

The dogs of the pound are all asleep in separate cages. The dogs aren't too lonely, as they can see each other through the fence of the cages. They lay on dirty blankets on the concrete floor.

Off camera, a door slams.

Various heads begin to pop up out of slumber. A pair of work boots walk down the aisle. Two human hands holding a water pitcher begin reaching through cages one at a time pouring water into bowls. As each bowl is filled, the dog in that cage begins to lap up the new fresh water. This happens a few times before the human makes it to NO's cage.

NO is a small, middle-aged tan chihuahua-pug mix, about five years old, with an underbite that causes a bottom canine tooth to protrude resulting in a lisp and causing a brownish tint making it look suspiciously like a candy corn. His tail bends like a lightning bolt, from previous breaks, and his face is slightly grizzled.

He rises slowly, walks over to his bowl, and takes in a cool lap of water.

NO

Ahhh. Just like morning dew. Only
it's water!

OLLIE, an excitable young black and white Border Collie, always speaks at double speed.

OLLIE

You bet your tooshy it's water! I
love water! Water's probably the best
thing that the human's have ever
given any of us! Well, water and
food! Oh, and love! I love love!
Nothing's better than love!

NO looks at the cage across from him where OLLIE wags his tail and jumps up and down in his cage in between talking and taking laps of water.

NO

Umm, I've been meaning to ask, since you mention it so much...Not necessarily for myself but for the other pups who might not know, of course...um...what is love?

OLLIE

Oh NO! How can you not know what love is? Love is the best! When I was in the house, it was the first thing I got! It's hard to explain, but you know it when you get it. I miss it!

OLLIE, still excited, proceeds to finish his water in three swipes, most of it ending up on the floor. The floor water seeps underneath the fence separating OLLIE's cage from the aged Labrador retriever, Luthor, who lives next door.

LUTHOR is forced out of his slumber by the intrusion of moisture and rises to a sit position before beginning to lap up the floor water.

NO

Hey Luthor, you ever hear of this love thing?

LUTHOR

I think I heard mention of it back in my youth. Pretty sure it was yellow. Or maybe gray. But it was nice, I'll tell ya.

NO

Sounds warm.

GARBAGE

It sure does.

GARBAGE lives in the cage next to NO. They're a medium-sized dog, covered head to toe in matted fur. They're probably a poodle mix, with only one visible eye, the other covered with clumpy hair.

NO

Whoa, who are you?!

GARBAGE

They called me Garbage. I think it's because they found me in the garbage. And you?

NO
Folks call me "No." I think it's
because...I'm not sure why.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK:

EXT. DUMPSTER BEHIND GREEK RESTAURANT

NO has his head deep in a bag of trash lying next to an overcrowded dumpster. A large, swarthy man comes out of the back door with another trash bag to throw onto the heap. He takes one look at the mess that NO has made by rifling through the other bags.

SWARTHY MAN
NO! Get out of here! NO!

NO, covered head to toe in gyro meat and wearing a half of a piece of pita bread as a hat, makes a quick break for it.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM

A gathering of pigs eat from a trough. Upon closer inspection, NO is right in the middle of the gathering, also eating from the trough. A farmer comes by and throws some apple cores in the trough and NO jumps in excitedly going after the apples.

NO
Oooh! Apple middles! I love middles!

The farmer takes notice of NO eating the pigs' food.

FARMER
NO! Get out of there! No! No!

CUT TO:

INT. MOVIE THEATER

Music climaxes in a dark theater while an audience waits with anticipation for what's about to come. In between bites of popcorn, a woman speaks to the man next to her.

WOMAN
I want to know how it ends, but I
don't want it to end.

The couple gaze into each other's eyes for a brief moment and then look back to the screen.

MAN

I love you.

Just then, a head peaks through the seats between the couple. It's NO, staring at the popcorn with desire in his eyes. He moves his head closer and closer, until his snout is fully immersed into the popcorn bucket.

The couple, eyes closed, go in for a kiss but they meet at NO's ears rather than each other's lips.

NO speaks with a full mouth of popcorn.

NO

Ooooh, that feels nice.

The couple, in unison, open their eyes and see who they're kissing NO's ears.

MAN

NO!

WOMAN

NO!

NO looks up, surprised, popcorn covering his face.

NO

Umm, you guys are kind of ruining the popcorn.

An usher comes by with a flashlight.

USHER

No! You can't be in here, get out of here! NO!

NO hurriedly makes his way toward the exit, where the usher is holding the door open to the outside alley.

NO

Wow, I didn't know they still had you guys.

NO exits the building as the door shuts, but not before one last word from the USHER.

USHER

NO!

END FLASHBACK.

CUT TO:

INT. DOG POUND

NO

Who knows where names come from.
Probably the same place as cheese.

OLLIE

Mine came from my people. Back when I
had people. And a home.

GARBAGE

What's a home?

OLLIE excitedly hops around while he wags his tail and tells his tale of youth.

OLLIE

Oh it's the best place! My home was
like a dream! It had bones as big as
bones can get, and a little person
that greeted me at the door. He was
small, and his voice was way higher
than the other two people's voices. I
love high pitched voices!

LUTHOR

Oh boy, now you got him goin'.

OLLIE

And a blanket! And they would always
stick the blanket in a machine that
made it smell gross, like flowers and
freshness, but after enough time I
could get it smelling just right
again, like dirt and chips!

GARBAGE

How long's he usually go for?

LUTHOR

Could be a week to a year. If I knew
what time was I could give ya a
better idea.

OLLIE

And I had a flea collar, and and and,
oh it was great! And the most bestest
thing about it was the love! Oh I
miss the love. That's why I had to
leave. They said I just had too much
love to give.

(MORE)

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Lots of people say that, but I don't know what they mean by too much! I don't know how anyone can have too much of anything ever!

OLLIE's banging his tail against the cage, hitting a very patient LUTHOR through the fence with every wag.

LUTHOR

I can see how some might have a problem with it.

NO

What was your home like Luthor?

LUTHOR

Oh, nice. Calm.

(Looks at OLLIE)

Just me and Thelma. She was my person. She was warm and grey. And then one day, she was just grey. That's when they came and got me.

GARBAGE

My home smelled like me. It was dark but there was always something squishy to eat.

NO takes a big long whiff of GARBAGE through the cage.

NO

(Flirty)

Mmmmmmm...smells just like brisket. And also juice, orange juice, the kind of orange juice that's grown green fur on it. And...is that a hint of diaper I detect?

GARBAGE

Oh you're good.

The big door slams off camera again and a little puppy is being carried in the arms of a human guard. He is placed into the cage on the other side of NO. The human pours some water into a dish and closes the cage door, walking back out of the room.

PUPPY

Is this home?

OLLIE

No.

NO

Yes.

PUPPY

I don't know if I like it here.

The PUPPY begins to cry.

LUTHOR

Don't worry kid. The young ones always go first. You'll be out of here by tomorrow, first thing.

NO

If it'd make you feel better you can come with me tonight. I know the way outta here.

LUTHOR

Quit puttin' your crazy ideas in his head, No.

NO

Not crazy. Just right.

GARBAGE

You know the way out?

NO

I sure do pretty lady. And if you stick around I might just bring you with me some day.

PUPPY

What is he talking about?

LUTHOR

He thinks he knows how to break outta this joint. But even worse, he actually thinks he does it, every night.

NO

I'll have you know I abosofruitly tutily dutily do. Every night-a-roony.

LUTHOR

If you know how to get out, and do so every night, why bother coming back?

NO

And leave all this?! No thank you! What are friends for if they just leave everywhere.

GARBAGE

So you'd rather be here than free?

NO

Oh sure thing hot stuff. I love friends, and food, and when it rains out there, well, let's just say, outside is short on roofs.

OLLIE

I wanna go! I wanna go! OUCH! OUCH OUCH!

OLLIE's tail is hitting the back wall of his cage. With every hit OLLIE cowers in pain, but can't help still wagging.

LUTHOR

Kid, ya gotta calm down, not just for the sake of all of us, but for your tail. I knew a guy like you, so excited he wagged his tail right off. Look, you're starting to get a sore on it from hitting it on things. They're gonna make you go see the white coat now.

OLLIE tries to look at the sore developing on his tail, but can't seem to get it to sit still enough. He shrugs and starts to jump up and down.

OLLIE

Maybe the white coat will pet me!

PUPPY

The white coat?

NO

(Ominously)

It's the one who takes us away. Often times when someone goes to see the white coat, they doooooon't coooooome baaaaaaack.

LUTHOR

It's not always bad, sometimes it means they got a home.

NO

Yeah, but sometimes it means, you know what.

PUPPY

What? WHAT?!

NO
He'll tell you when you're
older.

LUTHOR
We'll tell you when you're
older.

The big door opens and a veterinarian wearing a white coat enters. He goes to OLLIE's cage, opens it, puts a leash around OLLIE's neck and escorts him out.

OLLIE's demeanor is slightly subdued for the first time in his life, but his butt can't help but continue to softly wiggle. He looks back at his friends.

OLLIE
I've loved you all! I've loved you
all!

NO
Good bye Ollie! We've loved you too.
You and apple juice! You're just as
sweet but slightly less yellow.

The door closes leaving the rest of the dogs behind. Moments later, the rest of the cages are opened by a worker who escorts them all down the hall.

PUPPY
What's happening now? Do we have to
go with him? I'm scared.

NO
No way kid, it's the best part of our
day. Yard time!

CUT TO:

EXT. POUND PLAYLOT - MOMENTS LATER

The dogs are escorted to a fenced-in field of dirt with grass patches, scattered with toys. They all begin to play with each other, some using toys, others just run.

LUTHOR goes to lay in the sun.

NO and PUPPY prance around for a bit before joining LUTHOR on their backs looking up at the sunset.

NO
Looks great huh? Like a mouse is
guarding the gates to heaven. I've
always liked those little squeakers.
Their hearts may be small, but they
sure are mighty.

A guard opens the door and the dogs begin to file in. NO and LUTHOR rise to their feet. LUTHOR struggles a little and NO nudges his nose underneath LUTHOR's belly, helping him up to his shaky legs. PUPPY continues staring at the sky. NO looks back.

NO (CONT'D)

Time to go in kid.

PUPPY

I think I'll just stay out here.

NO

Suit yourself, but the kibble is inside. It's eating time.

PUPPY

I don't know, I'm not much in the mood for food.

NO

Okay, but it smells like salt!

NO heads in through the door. PUPPY, having been sufficiently enticed, quickly rises to his feet. Ears perked and tail wagging he runs for the door, knocking over NO and other dogs as he makes his way to his cage.

PUPPY

I love salt!

FADE OUT.

END ACT I

BEGIN ACT II

FADE IN:

INT. POUND - NIGHT

The pound is dark and the dogs lie asleep and quiet except for NO, who is talking in his sleep.

NO

But why do they call 'em marathons if mayors rarely run in 'em?!

NO's one-sided conversation startles him out of his slumber. He looks around to ensure that the coast is clear.

NO (CONT'D)
Looks like it's time to go
'esplorin'.

NO nudges a dingy pillow away from the back wall of his cage revealing a small hole in the concrete floor leading outside. He sneakily makes his way to the outside and takes a big hearty whiff of the air.

NO (CONT'D)
Smells like freedom. And fries. I
guess that's why they call 'em
freedom fries.

NO begins to happily saunter off into the darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

An establishing shot of a sign outside the Natural History Museum entices NO with its promise of a new display of bones.

CUT TO:

INT. NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM - MAMMAL EXHIBIT

NO is chewing on the tusk of a woolly mammoth while talking to someone off camera.

NO
They didn't originally call it the
tango. They used to call it Michelle
but then Michelle got mad, she's
always been a very litigious girl ya
know. Have you met Michelle?

A stuffed saber-toothed tiger looks on at NO trying to conquer the woolly beast with mouth ajar and glazed, plastic eyes.

NO (CONT'D)
Don't get me wrong, she's a great gal
but kind of annoying at times. One of
those mouth breathers, ya know what
I'm talkin' about? Say, could I
borrow a couple of yer teeth? This
guy's got no give!

NO stops chewing and falls to the floor. He stands back up with a nonchalant look on his face as though it's a regular occurrence. He waits for a response from the stuffed tiger. The camera cuts between shots of NO and the Saber-tooth before, frustrated, NO finally gives in.

NO (CONT'D)

You know for having such an open mouth you're a pretty closed mouth dude. I'll see ya later, we can talk about that ice age you like to go on about.

NO makes his way off of the exhibit and begins prancing down the halls. He catches a whiff of something and perks up immediately.

NO (CONT'D)

I smell hot dogs!

He begins to run but then stops, dead in his tracks.

CUT TO:

T-REX DISPLAY

NO is amazed and bewildered at the sight of giant bones making up the body of a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

NO

I didn't know bones could get that big!

NO makes his way to the T-rex skeleton. He excitedly, but carefully approaches the dinosaur to examine it for signs of life.

NO (CONT'D)

Hey guy, you don't have eyes. I knew a raccoon that didn't have eyes, but he was still alive. You still alive or what?

A beat.

NO (CONT'D)

Blink once for yes and twice for no.

The dinosaur does not respond.

NO (CONT'D)

Well you're more boring than that giant cat.
(Shrugs)
Don't say I didn't try.

NO hops up onto the tail of the great beast, making his way to the top of his back before prying a rib off of the display.

Just then, a flashlight begins to dance around the two. An old voice echoes from down the hallway.

GUARD

Hey! Who's there? Somebody there? Oh man, don't tell me the displays are coming alive again. I'm gettin' too old for this.

NO is startled and does his best to pry the bone clean off. He works it like a baby tooth in a gum until it breaks off at the spine just as the flashlight begins to hold steady upon him.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Hey, you're not supposed to be doing that! Oh man, you're supposed to be in the mammal exhibit! I'm gonna get suspended again!

NO jumps down, still holding a tight grip on the t-rex bone, and begins to run from the old guard. They chase throughout the museum until NO sees a door slightly ajar. He runs through the small opening into the parking garage, still pursued by a jumping flashlight and a fuzzy old figure behind it.

He makes his way through the parking garage to level one.

Finding a small opening, he jumps down to the ground outside.

He lands in a pile of garbage outside of the dumpsters where a homeless man is looking through trash. The homeless man finds a hat and puts it on.

NO

Youseff?

YOUSEFF

Hey! How ya doin' ol' pal? How do I look?

NO

Haven't seen you in a while. Nice capper!

YOUSEFF

Thanks pal. You want it?

NO

Nah, I can't really pull off a cap. They hide my ears, I like to wear things that bring attention to them.

YOUSEFF

Oh yeah, they're great ears. Still at your old place?

NO

Sure thing. It's my home. I think. Where you been?

YOUSEFF

I been down at the shelter, but it's over crowded so I gave my bed to some new guy. You know what it's like.

NO

Sure thing buddy. Hey, Youseff, ya ever hear of this thing called love?

YOUSEFF

Oh sure, I had that once, back home. Long time ago.

NO

Wow. What's it like?

YOUSEFF

Warm.

NO

Sounds nice.

YOUSEFF

Yeah. Maybe you'll get it yourself one day. I'm sure ya will.

NO

It's my dream. I just decided.

YOUSEFF

Sounds good to me. Ya know you can't get anything if you don't dream it first.

NO

You got any dreams?

YOUSEFF

Oh sure. I got dreams. I dream of having a home one day. Something simple. Forty rooms, central heating, live-in chef, ceiling fan, plumbing, electricity, water fall, somethin' close to public transportation.

(MORE)

YOUSEFF (CONT'D)

Just some place I can watch the sun rise and be nice and warm. Ya know, simple.

NO

Youseff, I know just the place! This is like a miracle! Or a tire! Come on! Follow me!

NO takes off and YOUSEFF shrugs his shoulders. He puts the hat back on the pile of garbage.

YOUSEFF

(To the hat)
I'll be back for you.

YOUSEFF picks up a bindle that was sitting on the ground next to him as well as the t-rex bone that NO forgot about in his rush, and begins to run down the alley after NO.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDEWALK - NOT-SO-GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

NO comes over the hill of a dilapidated sidewalk. Weeds grow in the cracks on one side and on the other, the occasional loud truck or siren whizzes by.

YOUSEFF finally catches up to NO and they both stop and look over the hill in awe.

NO

Here's your place. Here's your dream!

The beginning of a sunrise is eking out of the sky as the two head away from the sidewalk and closer to an abandoned train yard. They begin to close in on about forty boxcars, many with open doors.

NO (CONT'D)

Forty rooms! Just like ya wanted!

They peruse the boxcars and make their way to a fire burning in a trash can in the middle of the yard.

NO (CONT'D)

Central heating.

The two make their way to a drainage pipe emerging from a concrete wall. A small stream trickles out into a swampy puddle below.

NO (CONT'D)
There's your plumbing. And might I
show you to your...

They make their way to the back of a building where a man
dressed in a uniform for a donut shop throws a cigarette butt
to the ground before making his way back inside.

NO (CONT'D)
...personal chef. Now I know you
didn't ask for a garden...

NO leads YOUSEFF around one of the boxcars where a patch of
flowering weeds grows wildly.

NO (CONT'D)
But I thought it'd be a nice touch.

A helicopter loudly lands on top of a hospital across the way.

NO (CONT'D)
Ah, and here comes your ceiling fan
right now.

Sparks fly above them as a city train drives over the bridge.

YOUSEFF
And ya can't beat its proximity to
public transportation!

A spark lands atop NO's head and NO shakes it off as a small
trail of smoke emerges from its landing point, fading out
shortly after.

NO
Oh good, they've turned on the
electricity for ya!

YOUSEFF
It's got everything I could've ever
want! Except for the water fall. But
No, it's perfect! Thanks pal!

YOUSEFF gives NO a big hug and scruffs up the top of his head
before releasing his grip on the sweet pooch.

NO begins to leave while YOUSEFF begins to unpack his bindle.

NO
I better be getting back. I'll see ya
around.

YOUSEFF

You know where to find me. Hey, don't forget this!

NO turns around as YOUSEFF throws him his t-rex bone. It lands in front of NO who grips it in his jagged teeth. He attempts to thank YOUSEFF with a mouth fuller than it's ever been.

NO

Thanksth pal!

A few droplets of rain begin to fall and by the time NO is back on top of the hill a full-on downpour is occurring.

NO looks back and spots YOUSEFF dancing around as he happily yells out.

YOUSEFF

MY WATERFALL!!!

NO gets back on his way again, this time with ears down and a bit more of a hop to his step.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. POUND

NO's hole sits empty, unguarded by the bedding that usually covers it, until NO's shiny nose and gangly tooth stick through, followed by his head and body. NO turns around, puts his head back into the hole and pulls the bone through. He then buries it in a the pile of bedding that he's used to cover the hole back up, makes a circle around the bed and lays down.

NO

Home sweet domicile.

NO looks across the aisle and sees OLLIE, back in his original cage, staring at the back wall with a bandage around the nub that remains of his tail.

NO (CONT'D)

(Quietly, to himself)

I guess he's back. Poor ol' chum.

NO buries his head into his body and goes to sleep.

FADE OUT.

END ACT II

BEGIN ACT IIIFADE IN:INT. POUND - DAY

NO's awakened by a bustle of movement. He goes to the front of his cage, takes a couple of bites of food and proceeds to go outside for yard time. NO looks back at OLLIE.

NO
Ya comin' kid?

OLLIE
I can't. I got no tail left. Can't play without a tail.

NO
What happened to your tail?

OLLIE
They said it was too happy. Then I went to sleep. I think they stole it. I feel like a part of me is gone!

NO
Maybe a critter just took it.

OLLIE
And then bandaged it up?

NO
Yeah, you're right, critter bandaging is much sloppier than that. Come on, there's plenty of time to look at that wall, it won't go anywhere until **at least** next fall.

OLLIE
Yeah, you're right.

OLLIE and NO proceed to outside where everyone else is playing. A group of dogs including GARBAGE, PUPPY and LUTHOR are standing around in a circle. NO approaches the group while OLLIE goes to another corner of the yard.

GARBAGE
Where'd his tail go?

NO
Clever critter? Maybe a human? I don't know. But I think that tail had his sense of direction in it.

(MORE)

NO (CONT'D)

Because he seems to only be comfortable sticking close to walls now.

LUTHOR

C'mon kid. Don't be silly. That tail contained all his happy. Now it's gone, and he's got none left.

NO

But, what's an Ollie without happy?

PUPPY

But, can't you make someone happy?

NO

He's right! Puppies do that all the time! Let's give Ollie his happy back!

GARBAGE

But we don't know where the critters took it.

NO

We can make him some new happy.

LUTHOR

Right. It's like what were we talking about yesterday.

NO

Which yesterday, the one in life, or the one in my mind?

GARBAGE

I think he means the one in life.

NO

Oh, well in that case, hmmm...

GARBAGE

We were talking about dream homes.

NO

Oh that's right! I remember because then I escaped and gave a man his dream home.

LUTHOR

Sure kid. Sure. Anyways, they're right! We were talking about dream homes. How do we give Ollie his perfect dream home?

NO
I got it! You run distractions while
I set it up!

The dogs begin to run around in circles as NO makes his way to the door.

LUTHOR, GARBAGE AND PUPPY
DISTRACTIONS! DISTRACTIONS!
DISTRACTIONS!!!

CUT TO:

INT. POUND - MOMENTS LATER

NO runs into the pound turning the corner into OLLIE's cage.

CUT TO:

EXT. POUND PLAYLOT - SECONDS LATER

NO comes back out the door holding some bedding in his teeth bringing it to the dirt part of the yard. He rolls it around in the dirt while the others continue running in circles saying "distractions!" NO heads back inside with the dirty bedding.

The dogs make their way inside from the yard, exhausted and slightly dingy.

OLLIE lags behind, his nub between his legs, at least as much as it can be.

CUT TO:

INT. POUND - OLLIE'S CAGE - MOMENTS LATER

OLLIE turns the corner into his cage as angelic music begins to play. The bright lights of the pound seem to all be shining into what was once a dingy kennel, now a castle.

NO, directing a choir of fleas that's responsible for the angelic music, cuts them off and turns to the crowd to sing a welcome home song.

NO
Oh you've come along way
From sleeping to play
And now I can say
That all three of those words rhyme!
So I made you a song
Welcome home!

OLLIE
(tearing up)
Oh NO! You magnificent mutt! What
have you done?

LUTHOR
He made you your dream home.

GARBAGE
It's so shiny!

NO
That's cause I spit on it!

NO begins to give a small tour of the newly refurbished enclosure.

NO (CONT'D)
Here's your dirty blanket,

NO takes PUPPY by the scruff of his neck.

PUPPY
Hey!

NO places PUPPY onto the dirty blanket.

NO
Here's a nice, high-pitched voice to
play with.

OLLIE
What is that against the back wall?!
Is that...

OLLIE becomes so excited that his butt begins to wag uncontrollably. Springing into the air, he lunges toward the t-rex bone that lies in the back of the cage.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
It's the biggest bone I've ever seen!

LUTHOR
I guess if you stare at a wall long
enough, sure enough it makes a bone.

NO
And wait, there's more.

NO turns to the flea choir.

NO (CONT'D)
Ok fellas! Do it just like we
rehearsed.

The fleas begin to march, two by two.

FLEA SEARGANT
Hup two three four. Hup two three
four. Company halt!

The fleas form a line and salute with their tiny hands.

FLEA SEARGANT (CONT'D)
Company, collar!

The fleas hop up and form a collar shape around OLLIE's neck.

OLLIE
A flea collar! Like I've always
wanted!

OLLIE laughs as he itches his neck with his back leg.

GARBAGE
Hey, Ollie, I got ya somethin' too!

GARBAGE quickly exits the cage.

NO
I wonder what it could be, could it
be...

OLLIE
The only other thing I wanted was
love. I don't think that's around
that corner.

GARBAGE comes back with a dingy glove.

GARBAGE
LOVE!

OLLIE gives the glove a once over, sniffs it, looks around and spots the hopeful, well-meaning looks in the other dogs' eyes. He gladly picks the glove up with his mouth, shaking it and throwing it around in the air like a beloved toy.

OLLIE
Love! It's just like I remember it!

PUPPY
I think that's a glove, not love.

LUTHOR
Hey kid, you wanna be right, or do
you wanna be happy?

PUPPY looks at OLLIE playing with the glove as LUTHOR, GARBAGE and NO join in, wrestling around.

PUPPY
I wanna be happy!

PUPPY joins in the fun.

FADE OUT.

END ACT III

TAGFADE IN:INT. POUND NO'S CAGE - MORNING

NO is talking in his sleep again.

NO

They call 'em craw daddys, but no one ever talks about their kids.

PUPPY's making some noises that startle NO out of his light slumber. NO looks up to see PUPPY packing a bindle.

NO (CONT'D)

Did it happen kid? Did you find someone?

PUPPY

They're the best! They're humans, but they seem great! One of them smells just like tortilla chips and the other one smells kinda like a perfect mix of milk and old paper! I think you'd really like 'em. You can come with me if you want.

NO

Nah kid, I got some unfurnished business here. Plus, what would the others do without me? You're gonna do great all by yourself.

PUPPY looks down at the ground, worried.

PUPPY

I'm nervous.

NO

You'll be great. Just do yourself a favor: when they tell ya things, like sit or roll over, don't pick up the first time, wait a few times. They like to think they're in charge and they're teaching ya something.

PUPPY

Roger that! You're so smart.

PUPPY begins to pack the rest of his bindle as two humans come down the hallway. One of the humans, a woman, bends down and picks him up. The other human picks up PUPPY's bindle and they begin to walk off.

NO watches as PUPPY makes his way down the hall in the arms of his new human. PUPPY's head is over her shoulder and he softly licks the woman's ear as she giggles. He then talks down the hallway, quietly so that only NO hears it.

PUPPY (CONT'D)

Hey No, I think I found it.

NO

Found what kid?

PUPPY

Loovee.

NO

Cool. Is it warm?

PUPPY

It sure is.

NO

Good dog. Good dog.

NO goes back to his bedding and curls up. He turns a few circles before laying down. The other dogs begin to awaken and commence their morning rituals.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW