

LIFE IS RUFF

Written by

Eric Maus

Ericwritesfilms@gmail.com

Copyright 2024

FADE IN:

INT. THE DOG HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

On a rug in an open-concept living room, a chubby Chihuahua, FRANCO, rips apart a squirrel-patterned sock.

PETER SQUIRLY, early 30's, clomps up the steps in a malaise. He sees Franco and rushes to him.

PETER
No, no, no Franco.

Peter yanks the sock from Franco's mouth and holds it up.

PETER (CONT'D)
Aww man, my mom gave me these for
my birthday.

Phone Camera CLICK(O.S.). BLAKE, late 20's, lounges on the couch and edits the picture of Peter she just took.

BLAKE
Consider it a blessing. That sock
is hella cringe. Perfect BTS for
the Life is Ruff IG page though.

PETER
How did you let this happen?

BLAKE
Umm, I'm marketing, not dog caring.
I don't get paid to do two things
at once.

BENJI, early 30's, at the kitchen counter pulls out an ear bud.

BENJI
Do you guys mind? I'm in a client
meeting.

PETER
Why can't you take it in your room?

BENJI
I'm not the one operating an
illegal business out of my home.
You are. Plus the WIFI sucks in my
room.

BLAKE
Pet-sitting is illegal?

PETER

He means if the landlord finds out,
we'd get evicted. And this place is
rent controlled so we--

BENJI

Seriously!? This guy's gonna do 4
years if I can't concentrate.

PETER

What'd he do?

BENJI

He *allegedly* impersonated a pigeon
and shit on people at Central Park.

BLAKE

Sounds guilty to me.

There's a KNOCK(O.S.) at the door.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

Ooh, I bet that's my new 24 karat
face mask.

PETER

You have to stop shipping stuff to
my apartment.

BLAKE

And risk getting it stolen off my
stoop, no way.

Peter opens the door. It's LENNY, the ham-fisted, New Yorker
landlord.

PETER

Oh sh--!

Peter slams the door in Lenny's face.

PETER (CONT'D)

Blake, get the sheets from Benji's
room and meet me in the basement.

BENJI

Hey!

PETER

I'll make it up to you.

BLAKE

I'm not messing up my nails.

PETER

If you want to keep your job,
you'll help.

BLAKE

I can tell you've been reading the
negotiation book I gave you. That's
called a win-lose scenario.

Peter gathers up Franco and carries him downstairs.

Lenny KNOCKS(O.S.) on the door.

--

To request this screenplay, email: ericwritesfilms@gmail.com