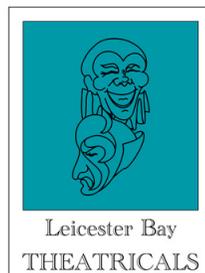


**PERUSAL SCRIPT**

# **A BOY AND HIS DOG**

A Short Play in Three Scenes

by Alice Jankell



Newport, Maine

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**A BOY AND HIS DOG**

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**CHARACTERS: 1m, 1f, 1either**

**CHIP**...a young man

**KAREN**...a young woman

**LOKI**...a sleek dog, lab mix, played by a beautiful young person

**TIME:** The present

**PLACE:** A living room

**A BOY AND HIS DOG** a 10-minute play by *Alice Jankell* 1m, 1f, 1either. Simple Interior setting. Modern costumes. Chip is thrilled to have both a beauty of a dog and a winner of a girlfriend...*Oh, but that dog!!!* Lovers and alliances certainly shift in unexpected ways in our natural world. *A 2021 Aery Festival Award Winner* **ORDER #3358**

**ALICE JANKELL** — For Disney, Alice helped to create and develop new Broadway musicals. As Associate Artistic Director of The Williamstown Theatre Festival, her directing work included *AS YOU LIKE IT*, *DINAH WAS*, and *ENOUGH ROPE*, the special event on Dorothy Parker starring Elaine Stritch. As Creative Director of The Barrow Group's F.A.B. (For, About, and By) Women, Alice co-helmed the company of 125 women and helped generate and produce 48 new plays. She has worked in theaters around the country, including the Mark Taper, L.A. Opera, The Public Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, The Hollywood Bowl, La Mama, and City Theater, among many others, as well as in film and TV. Favorite acting roles include a solo performance, backed by the L.A. Philharmonic, at the Hollywood Bowl. She has taught acting at Carnegie Mellon and on the graduate level. Alice directed and co-wrote *URBAN MOMFARE*, which won a Best Musical Award from the NY International Fringe Festival, was a Critic's Choice, and garnered 4 stars from Time Out. Just before Covid, Alice directed *AN ENCHANTED APRIL* Off-Broadway, and more recently, she directed and filmed Craig Lucas' brand new play, *MORE BEAUTIFUL* for the Putnam Theatre Alliance. A founding member of Core Artists Ensemble, member of The Actors Studio PDW, Theatre Now National Musical Theatre Workshop, New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect, and a co-founder of Putnam Theatre Alliance. AEA/SAG-AFTRA/Dramatist Guild

<https://www.alicejankell.com>

## A BOY AND HIS DOG

*Scene 1 — Spot up on CHIP and KAREN, staring at something on the floor.*

**CHIP:** God, she's beautiful.

**KAREN:** She sleeps really soundly.

**CHIP:** Like a fallen angel. No, no, a goddess! A fallen goddess!

**KAREN:** Look, she must be in REM. She's twitching.

**CHIP:** Not *fallen*, no, no. A goddess in *repose*.

**KAREN:** Look! Look at her legs! She's running. She's dreaming of running.

**CHIP:** In a field.

**KAREN:** Or at the dog park.

*(LIGHTS open up to reveal LOKI, a dog, played by a beautiful young person.)*

*(She's stretched out on her dog bed at CHIP and KAREN's feet, sleeping the sleep of the innocent.)*

**CHIP:** Do you think she runs enough at the dog park?

**KAREN:** Sure. Especially when Gandolf is there. She loves to chase him and chew his cheeks. Oh, and Cooper.

**CHIP:** Cooper the goldendoodle?

**KAREN:** No, Cooper the labradoodle.

**CHIP:** Oh *that* Cooper! Great! That dog is fast! That other Cooper has bad hips.

**KAREN:** And I suppose our young goddess needs Godlike playmates, huh?

**CHIP:** She needs to be challenged, Karen. Kept on her game. She's a powerful girl. Aren't you, Loki?

**KAREN:** You are too much, Chip.

**CHIP:** A boy and his dog...!

**KAREN:** Give me a break.

**CHIP:** You love her too, don't you?

**KAREN:** Yes, of course. From the moment we walked into the shelter. But I don't idolize her, like you seem to.

**CHIP:** I'm just excited. She's still new. I dreamed of having a big dog all my life. A big, strong dog. I'm just so excited to have her.

*(LOKI stretches.)*

**LOKI:** (Moans in sleep)

**CHIP:** Awww, I don't want to leave her. But I'll see you both tonight. You're so lucky you get to stay home with her.

**KAREN:** I hope she lets me work.

**CHIP:** Look at her. She's out. But remember about the exercise. When she wakes, you'll take her down to the dog park and tire her out all over again, right?

**KAREN:** Honey, I told you I would.

**CHIP:** Big dogs need a lot of exercise is all.

**KAREN:** I didn't ask for a big dog. That part's on you.

**CHIP:** The break will be nice for you too.

**KAREN:** I wanted a beagle.

**CHIP:** I know, and thank you for loving this big girl. Anyway, you said you wanted to exercise more.

**KAREN:** Is this about the gym membership again?

**CHIP:** I'm just saying--

**KAREN:** What? What are you just saying?

**CHIP:** That it'll feel good. Won't it? It's good to get out and run around.

**KAREN:** I hate when you do that.

*(CHIP stares reverently at LOKI.)*

**CHIP:** Wow. Look how strong she is. There's not an ounce of fat on her. That's all muscle there.

*(CHIP bends down and whispers to Loki.)*

I love you so much, big girl. You sleep. That's right. I'll see you in just a few hours. I'll take a jog with you by the river tonight. I love my girl. Yes I do.

*(CHIP then kisses KAREN quickly.)*

Gotta run, Kar. See ya later.

*(CHIP exits.)*

*(KAREN sits on the sofa and opens her laptop.)*

*(LOKI stretches luxuriously and jumps up on the sofa with KAREN.)*

**KAREN:** Oh! You're up?

*(LOKI circles in place on the sofa a couple of times, arranging for just the right position.)*

Careful! Watch my laptop.

*(LOKI suddenly drops down next to KAREN, snuggling her body perfectly into KAREN's.)*

Aww, look at you. Hey now, that's so sweet. I just need my arm...

*(KAREN readjusts her arm so she can type. LOKI snuggles in closer.)*

**LOKI:** (Contented moan)

**KAREN:** Aww. Ok. I can work like this.

**LOKI:** (Contented sigh)

*(KAREN types as the LIGHTS shift.)*

*Scene 2 — Lights up. Days later. CHIP is ready to leave for work. LOKI circles him by the door. KAREN watches from the sofa.*

**CHIP:** I love you too, beauty! I'll be late, but we'll jog tonight.

**KAREN:** You're jogging tonight? What about seeing the movie?

*(LOKI goes and snuggles against KAREN's feet.)*

**CHIP:** Have to be another time, Kar. I'm gonna be home late, and Loki needs exercise.

**KAREN:** I give her exercise.

**CHIP:** You know what I mean, Karen. Real exercise. Look at her. Look at those thighs. She's built to run.

**KAREN:** So you keep saying.

**CHIP:** Well, you won't jog with me. Or hike.

**KAREN:** I hike.

**CHIP:** Really hike. Anyway, She's my bud, aren't you Loki girl.

*(LOKI stretches against KAREN's feet.)*

That's right. Loki loves her mama. Look how long she is! Karen, look at those lines, so long and lean. Look at her waist. It's tiny for that big chest. Such lung capacity.

**KAREN:** I have lung capacity.

**CHIP:** Don't take this so personally.

**KAREN:** You go on and on about her muscles and her Goddamn waist. It makes me feel--

**CHIP:** Oh, come on!

**KAREN:** It makes me feel somehow...*less than*.

**CHIP:** You do that to yourself.

*(LOKI stands up.)*

I'm talking about our dog.

*(LOKI rises up and puts her front paws on CHIP's shoulders.)*

Whoa. So tall.

**KAREN:** You're so much about *bodies*. Proportions. Waists.

**CHIP:** She's a specimen. Her proportions are perfect. She's built to move fast. Look how long she can stand up! She's like a *painting* of a dog.

*(LOKI, still up on her hind legs, starts walking CHIP backwards.)*

Whoa. So strong. Almost seems like she's pushing me towards the door.

**KAREN:** Loki!

*(LOKI keeps walking CHIP backwards.)*

**CHIP:** Hey! Careful!

*(CHIP and LOKI reach the door.)*

Ok girl. Ok. Wow. I'll be back so soon. We'll jog then.

*(CHIP tries to ruffle LOKI's head, but LOKI jumps back down on all fours and stares at CHIP.)*

Ok. That's ok. We'll jog tonight. Bye my love girl. Bye Kar. Oh, do the doggy massage thing the trainer taught us. The two finger thing. We haven't tried that. She might like it.

*(CHIP exits.)*

*(LOKI immediately jumps up onto the couch and snuggles deeply into KAREN.)*

**KAREN:** This is what we like to do, right big girl?

**LOKI:** (Contented sigh)

**KAREN:** Should I try that massage thing? Let's see, soft circles with two fingers...

*(KAREN gently strokes LOKI's side with two fingers, slowly, round and round.)*

How's that?

*(LOKI stretches along KAREN's thigh, then lies very still.)*

Am I doing it right?

**LOKI:** (Deep moan - Sounds almost like "Mmm hmmm")

**KAREN:** Yes, I guess I am.

*(Silence, as the massage continues. LOKI is very still, mesmerized.)*

You're so soft.

*(LOKI stirs. Nuzzles into KAREN's neck.)*

So soft...

*(LOKI wraps herself into KAREN's body and settles.)*

You stick like Velcro. You're my Velcro buddy.

**LOKI:** (Contented moan - Sounds almost like "I am...")

*(LIGHTS shift.)*

**THREE MORE PAGES IN SCENE THREE**