

PERUSAL SCRIPT

A BOY AND HIS DOG

A Short Play in Three Scenes

by Alice Jankell



Newport, Maine

© 2023 by Alice Jankell

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

CAUTION:

Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that

A BOY AND HIS DOG

being fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States Of America, the British Empire, including the Dominion Of Canada, and the other countries of the Copyright Union, is subject to royalty. Anyone presenting the play without the express written permission of the Copyright owners and/or their authorized agent will be liable to the penalties provided by law.

Script and music copies must be rented from the Publisher and Royalty must be paid to the publisher for each and every performance before an audience whether or not admission is charged. A performance license must first be obtained from the publisher prior to any performance(s).

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the author or his respective agent(s), or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 or under the terms of any license permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency.

Federal Copyright Law -- 17 U.S.C. section 504 -- allows for a recovery of a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$50,000 **for each infringement**, plus attorney fees.

The professional and amateur rights to the performance of this play along with the lecturing, recitation, and public reading rights, are administered exclusively through LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be made. For all other rights, inquiries may be made to the authors through LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS. Any adaptation or arrangement of this work without the author's written permission is an infringement of copyright. **Unauthorized duplication by any means is also an infringement.**

FOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCE RIGHTS YOU MUST APPLY TO THE PUBLISHER OR YOU ARE BREAKING THE LAW!

The possession of this PERUSAL SCRIPT, does not constitute permission to perform the work herein contained, in public or in private, for gain or charity. Proper prior application must be made, license granted and royalty paid before a performance may be given. Copies of this SCRIPT and all other rehearsal materials may be rented from:

LEICESTER BAY THEATRICALS
P.O. Box 536 Newport, ME 04953-0536
www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com
Printed in the United States Of America

THIS NOTICE MUST APPEAR IN ALL PROGRAMS, ON ALL POSTERS AND PUBLICITY MATERIALS AND INTERNET ADVERTISING/WEBPAGES FOR THE PLAY:

“*A Boy and His Dog*’ is presented through special arrangement with Première Theatrical Licensing on behalf of Leicester Bay Theatricals. All authorized materials are also supplied by LBT, www.leicesterbaytheatricals.com”

NOTE: Your contract with Leicester Bay Theatricals limits you to making copies of this document for persons directly connected with your production. Do not distribute outside of your cast and crew. Following your performance run you must destroy all photocopies, preferably by shredding them. If we sent you the document in printed format, you must return that document to us. If we provided you with an electronic PDF file, simply trash that on your computer so that it cannot be recovered. The electronic document may only be on ONE computer -- it may NOT be duplicated. This is also a part of your contract with Leicester Bay Theatricals.

ORDER #3358

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