

ABE

Written by

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EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

A beautiful summer afternoon in a fenced-in back yard. Birds sing and bees buzz about the nearby bushes.

ABE, a yellow, English lab, lies in a deep sleep by the porch. With a body like a pudgy football, this slumber seems to be his natural state.

Light footsteps rapidly approach. The dog is quickly rattled awake by a pair of small hands. He looks up.

JESSIE (6), bright eyed and gleefully smiling, dangles an old, tattered tennis ball in front of his nose.

JESSIE

C'mon, Abe, you ready?

Abe's expression turns sour. Not this again. He rolls over to look the other way.

Jessie laughs and props him up towards her.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

You ready, boy? Catch?

With all her might, she tosses the ball up into the air. Without moving, Abe catches it as it comes down.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Good boy! Drop it. Abe, I said drop it.

Abe looks at Jessie, then ruthlessly hurls the ball over the fence into the front yard.

The sound of it hitting the top of one of the garbage bins makes Jessie wince. She takes off to go get it.

A smirk appears on Abe's face as he rolls over onto his side and shuts his eyes.

A beat.

JESSIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Mom! Dad!

Jessie's MOM and DAD can be heard coming outside to see what the matter is. Abe begins to snore.

INT. GARAGE - EVENING

Abe lies passed out on a dog bed two sizes too small. Light from the sunset outside pours in through an open doorway that leads to the rest of the house.

Abe's stomach gurgles, stirring him from his rest. He turns to check his food bowl on the other side of the room.

Empty. That's odd.

He gets up and ventures into the house.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Abe circles around the center counter. No signs of life, so he investigates the dinner table. Still nobody.

The kitchen door quickly opens and Mom comes in. She walks right by Abe over to the sink, where she fills a small dish with water before heading back out.

Abe walks over to the window and looks out to see where she is going.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Mom places the dish on the ground and walks over to Dad, who is standing with Jessie as she holds a skinny, gray, CAT in her arms. The white spot on its chest shines like a crystal. Its purrs can be heard from the kitchen.

She sets the Cat down and it runs over to the dish, ravenously lapping up the water.

The family smiles. Abe can barely be seen in the kitchen window.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Abe lets out a defiant huff. This is unacceptable.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

The following day. Jessie sits, watching the cat devour food from a napkin.

Abe shuffles over with a leash in his mouth. The cat stops what its doing and focuses on him. Jessie notices.

JESSIE
Not right now, Abe. Go hang out on
the porch.

Abe slowly walks away.

The cat resumes its feast, only to be interrupted by Abe bounding over to offer the old tennis ball to Jessie.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Abe! Not now!

Filled with disdain, Abe glares at the cat and spits out the tennis ball. The cat offers only a quick look before diving back into its food.

Abe marches off. Time for a new plan.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

MONTAGE:

- Abe tries to intimidate the Cat by barking. No effect.
- Abe steals the Cat's food. Jessie just gets more.
- Using an elaborate trail of breadcrumbs, Abe lures the Cat through the fence-gate, into the front yard, and spooks it into one of the open trash bins. To Abe's dismay, Jessie answers its cries for help.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Sometime later. Abe, exhausted and fresh out of ideas, pants furiously.

On the other side of the yard, Jessie sits with the Cat in her lap, gently petting the top of its head.

Mom and Dad come out through the kitchen door and walk over to Jessie. By the way she is walking, Mom seems to be hiding something behind her back.

DAD
(to Jessie)
Hey hon. Your mom and I have been
thinking -

Jessie holds the Cat closer.

DAD (CONT'D)
- and we think we can handle
another pet around the place.

JESSIE
(bewildered)
Really!?

Abe stops panting.

MOM
Yes. Now, we'll have to go to the
vet, get shots, buy cat food, and
all that, but that's later. Look at
this.

Mom reveals the hidden object: a soft bed for the Cat. She
gently places it on the ground. Curious, the Cat steps off of
Jessie and places one paw onto the bed.

JESSIE
(to the Cat)
You have a family now!

That's it. Abe charges and pounces on the bed, tearing it to
shreds. Jessie screams!

The Cat leaps away and bounds out of sight. Abe goes to run,
but Dad holds him back by the collar.

DAD
What are you thinking!? Bad dog!

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Thunder and lightning roar outside. Abe sits upright by the
door, quivering slightly.

He lets out a sorrowful howl. No response. Defeated, he lays
down next to a group of boxes filled with extension cords and
Christmas lights.

His eyes dart around the room as raindrops pelt it left and
right. He forces them shut.

The rain continues its assault.

Abe shivers, praying for the end to come already, when a
faint sound perks his ears. He opens his eyes and focuses in.

There's that sound again. A meow. A call for help. A call for
shelter. He huffs and turns the other way.

One more agonizing meow. Abe slowly gets up.

He eyes the garage door opener, then the boxes.

EXT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

The Cat sits in the driveway, drenched head to paw. A flash of lightning sends it scurrying in between the trash bins.

It tucks its tail in close and closes its eyes, praying for the end to come already, when the garage door slowly sputters to life and opens.

There sits Abe, waiting at the edge.

The Cat recoils, ready for a fight. Abe, however, gets up, turns around, and ventures back into the garage.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

The Cat enters, cautiously. It studies the room, looking for escape routes should the need arise.

Abe turns around and sits, waiting for his new guest. The Cat, full of skepticism, lurks forward. As it approaches, Abe pulls his old bed around so that it lays in between him and the Cat.

The Cat sits in front of it. A scowl planted on its face. Abe pushes the bed closer. Its eyes glance between the bed and Abe.

Abe steps back and sits down. It gently places one paw onto the soft cushion.

It's too comfy to resist. The Cat lays down and curls up in the bed. A wide smile appears on its face and a low, steady purr begins emitting from its chest.

DAD (O.S.)

(to Mom)

Yeah, it turned on for some reason.

I'll check it out.

Dad opens the door to a sight of pure bliss. The Cat sleeping in the dog bed and Abe passed out on the floor.

DAD (CONT'D)

Hey Jessie, come here. I think you'll wanna see this.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

A beautiful summer afternoon in a fenced-in back yard. Birds sing and bees buzz about the nearby bushes.

Mom and Dad sit on the porch. Next to them, the Cat lays curled up in Abe's old bed.

On its neck, a collar that reads: CRYSTAL.

A frisbee goes flying through the air. Abe, a bit trimmer, leaps up and catches it in his mouth and runs it back to Jessie.

JESSIE

Good boy!

She switches out the frisbee for a fresh, tennis ball and tosses it high up into the air.

Abe runs underneath it, winds up, and leaps into the air, catching it.

CUT TO BLACK.