

FRIED

Written by

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TEASER

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - MORNING

We're in a plain yellow waiting room. An Asian family of five sit on one couch.

A worker brings in a puppy and places it on the mom's lap. It's eyes are filled with the infinite adorableness of innocence. The pup slowly yawns and crawls up the mom's shirt to give her a kiss on the cheek.

ANI (39), pushes the puppy down away from her face. With just a little too much force.

ANI (39)
Nope, too young.

Her two youngest children, twins, ISAAC (7) and Eve (7), begin crying. They frantically pet the animal.

ISAAC
But he's so cute!

EVE
And yellow!

Ani pushes their hands away from the puppy.

ANI
He's going to be running around the house at 4am. I thought we were supposed to get an old tired dog.

The worker shrugs his shoulders.

WORKER 1
Most people avoid old dogs. Just as you get attached, they get sick and pass away in just a few years.

ANI
That would be ideal for me.

The two children know better than to argue against this tone of voice. Instead they turn to their last resort. He sits in the back of the room doing a crossword puzzle.

ISAAC
Dad. Please, please, please. I promise to stop pretending to be a dog when we go to the playground.

Isaac begins crawling on all fours to demonstrate the embarrassment.

EVE

If you don't say yes I'm going to
kill myself!

The worker looks alarmed. The older daughter CATHERINE (11) leans towards him.

CATHERINE

(whispering)

Don't worry she's joking

DANIEL (40) glances up from his crossword.

DANIEL

Sorry kids. We can try a different
place tomorrow

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER - MORNING

The family walks out of the animal shelter to their minivan. They begin to get ready to leave.

To the side of the parking lot, in the shade of dark bushes, we hear a POP and see the outline of a small serpent-like dragon teleport into the bushes.

The animal is hurt. Dark red blood seeps into the dirt it lies on. Its eyes are a deep violet and it stares at the entrance of the animal shelter which contains a mural of a happy dog.

The animal begins to transform into an identical happy dog mural: a white pyrenees dog. Only its eye color remains the same.

POP. The dog teleports again. Right behind the family's minivan as it backs out. Daniel sees the dog just in time to SLAM the breaks.

DANIEL

Woah!

Daniel opens his door and checks out the bumper to make sure he didn't hit anything. We hear another POP.

The dog appears behind Daniel and jumps up into the car. He runs over the wheel and into Ani's lap. The children and Ani all SCREAM at the same time.

ANI
Too stinky!

Then, Ani notices the dog is missing his left ear. His fur is slowly getting darker with blood. Isaac leans forward from the back of the car to get a better look.

ISAAC
He's hurt! No! He's dead.

Catherine leans over.

CATHERINE
No he's not. He just feel asleep.

Indeed, the intruder has fallen asleep in Ani's lap.

EVE
Awww. He's so cute.

The children reach over from the back seat and begin to pet their new dog. Eventually, Ani does as well.

TITLE SCREEN: 10
YEARS LATER