

SPORT DOGS

Written by

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FADE IN.

INT. TWEEN PICK AWARDS - STAGE

A JUSTIN BIEBER TYPE opens a winner's envelope.

JUSTIN BIEBER TYPE
Being a great kisser takes more
than just a pretty face. It takes
lots of practice. Trust me, I know.

GIRLS CHEER in the audience.

JUSTIN BIEBER TYPE (CONT'D)
The Tween Pick Award for Best On-
Screen Kiss goes to...

CUT TO a bunch of interchangeably HOT 20-SOMETHINGS.

JUSTIN BIEBER TYPE (CONT'D)
Dane Hanson and Skye Moore for
Suburban Wasteland.

DANE HANSON and SKYE MOORE, 20s, both beautiful and dressed
to the nines, stand up amidst WHOOPS and SCREAMS from their
adoring fans.

Their Best Kiss clip plays on the big screen.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN WASTELAND - NIGHT

It's raining.

Skye stares longingly at Dane as he walks out into the
Suburban Wasteland.

For some reason he's not wearing a shirt.

He stops and smolders back at her over his shoulder.

DANE
Hey.

She runs to him. They make out in the rain.

BRITT (O.S.)
Ahhhhhhhhhhh!

CUT TO:

INT. DORM COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

Katherine "KAT", 19, a nerdy film major with a bone-dry wit and a cynical streak, watches the Tween Pick Awards with her best friend, roommate, and polar opposite - BRITT, 19, a perpetually optimistic romance enthusiast.

BRITT
Dane Hanson is so perfect.

KAT
Gross.

BRITT
Kat, what could you possibly have against Dane Hanson?

KAT
He's like the physical manifestation of someone's idea of hot.

BRITT
Yeah. Mine.

ONSCREEN:

Cut to commercial.

A trailer with DOGS in JERSEYS playing SPORTS.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Airing this Wednesday on ABC
Family...

A GOLDEN RETRIEVER hits a baseball with a bat held in his mouth.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
From the *HUMANS* behind Sport Dog, Return of Sport Dog, and Sport Pups, comes a brand new adventure that's sure to be a home run.

KAT (O.S.)
Dude.

An old baseball COACH scoffs.

COACH

A dog on my field? This is highly unconventional.

The CROWD chants.

CROWD

Let him play! Let him play!

A doughy KID pets the Golden Retriever.

KID

Come on Sport Dog. You can do it!

Sport Dog stands on home plate, bat in mouth. He dons a Yankees Jersey - #1. The stadium is packed. A hawk-eyed PITCHER throws a fast ball his way.

CRACK. The ball soars into the sky.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Sport Dog 4: Pups in the Outfield.

BACK TO DORM:

Kat and Britt laugh.

BRITT

I can't believe they're still making these.

KAT

The first Sport Dog came out when? Twenty years ago?

BRITT

I think I saw one at a birthday party in kindergarten.

KAT

Somebody needs to put down that franchise.

INT. KAT & BRITT'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Standard college double.

Kat checks her email on her laptop. There's a new message from HBO. She braces herself and opens it.

THANK YOU FOR APPLYING TO THE HBO SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.
UNFORTUNATELY...

Form rejection. Kat closes her laptop. She glances at Britt watching something on her bed - probably The Notebook for the billionth time - and silently debates whether or not to tell her the bad news.

KAT
Hey, you hear back from Suburban
Wasteland yet?

BRITT
I was waiting until you found
something to tell you.

Kat forces a big smile. Britt genuinely beams back.

BRITT (CONT'D)
I just found out yesterday.

KAT
(gushing)
Awww! Britt, I'm so proud of you.

BRITT
I still don't really believe it
yet.

KAT
Come on. Nobody could possibly be a
better fit for Suburban Wasteland
than you.

BRITT
Thanks, Kat.

KAT
That wasn't a compliment.
(wry)
Who knows. Maybe you'll blend so
well they'll put you on the show.

Britt hugs Kat.

BRITT
Kat.
(beat)
You're the best.

KAT
I know.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

California cookie-cutter.

INT. FILM II LECTURE HALL - DAY

Kat and Britt sit in the middle row. Class is almost over for the summer, so they're starting to pack.

Up front, PROFESSOR ERIN SHEPHERD, 40s, one of the cool teachers, finishes her lecture.

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD

I'm sure all of you have solidified summer internship plans, but more importantly, begin thinking about what you want to gain from the experience. Get on set, absorb everything, and when it gets tough, always remember the artistic passion that drives you to stick it out. Now go have a kick-ass summer.

All the students excitedly shuffle out, chattering about parties and beaches and summer plans.

Kat motions for Britt to go on without her.

She then catches Professor Shepherd as she gets her papers in order.

KAT

Hi, Professor Shepherd? Do you have a few minutes to talk?

INT. PROFESSOR SHEPHERD'S OFFICE - DAY

Professor Shepherd's office fits her cool teacher vibe-- vintage film posters on the wall, film books and DVDs lining the shelves, a few pieces of replica memorabilia.

Kat and Professor Shepherd sit across from one another at the professor's desk.

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD

So, Katherine, what can I do for you?

Kat fidgets before answering.

KAT

I'm not really sure. I've been having a lot of trouble finding an internship, so I don't know. Maybe just some advice?

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD

What kind of internship are you hoping to get?

KAT

I don't know, that's part of the problem. I'm honestly not sure. I applied to all the big, cool places like HBO and Netflix. But...like I said, I don't know.

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD

All right, that's fine. I wouldn't expect you to know exactly what you want to do at your age.

KAT

Britt does. She has it all figured out.

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD

Where's she interning?

Kat responds with just a hint of jealousy.

KAT

Suburban Wasteland.

Professor Shepherd reacts accordingly.

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD

Permission to be blunt?

KAT

Sure.

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD

You don't seem like the Suburban Wasteland type.

KAT

I'm not. It's a really dumb show. But Britt loves it and she knows she wants to do romance. She really deserves that internship.

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD
Well, let's forget internships for
a minute. What are you passionate
about artistically?

Kat thinks again before answering.

KAT
I know I want to write scripts. And
maybe direct them too, but writing
for sure.

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD
Scripts about what?

KAT
I-

Kat cuts herself off and looks at her knees.

KAT (CONT'D)
Sorry. I'm wasting your time.

Professor Shepherd smiles warmly.

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD
Not at all.

She pulls out her cell phone.

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD (CONT'D)
I got a message the other day from
an old friend who's currently at
ABC. One of their affiliate studios
is shooting a feature and looking
for a bright kid to help out. I
don't know if this is your exact
cup of tea, but they are on the
same lot as Suburban Wasteland.

Kat brightens a bit.

KAT
Whatever it is, I'll take it.

PROFESSOR SHEPHERD
I'm glad to hear that. I'll send
them your info.
(beat)
And hey, you'll figure things out.

INT. DORM - DAY

Kat chats with BRITT'S PARENTS outside their dorm room while Britt packs up the last of her stuff.

Kat's phone RINGS.

KAT
 (to Britt's parents)
 I'm sorry, give me a second.

She picks up the phone.

KAT (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 Hello?
 (beat)
 Yes, this is she.
 (beat, brightening)
 Hi Russell.
 (beat)
 Wow, okay, yeah. Yes. Definitely. I accept.
 (beat)
 Monday, 7AM at the entrance to the ABC lot. I'll see you then.
 (beat)
 Alright, looking forward to it.
 Have a great weekend. See you Monday.

Kat hangs up.

KAT (CONT'D)
 BRITT.

BRITT
 Did you get it?

Kat beams and nods. Britt runs over and hugs her.

BRITT (CONT'D)
 AHHH I KNEW YOU WOULD. And you know what that means?

KAT
 YUP.

BRITT
 It means we're gonna get to see each other all summer.

KAT
 I KNOW!

BRITT

Did he tell you what movie you're gonna be on?

KAT

I didn't even think to ask.

BRITT

Who cares? You're gonna have so much fun.

EXT. ABC BACKLOT - ENTRANCE - DAY

MONDAY MORNING

Kat stands just inside the entrance to the backlot. RUSSELL, a pleasant bearded man in a cap, approaches her with his hand outstretched.

Kat shakes his hand.

RUSSELL

You must be Kat. I'm Russell, the production coordinator.

KAT

Great to officially meet you, Russell. I'm Kat, the intern.

Russell laughs good-naturedly.

RUSSELL

Have you been on the backlot before?

KAT

No, I haven't. It's like a dream come true.

RUSSELL

Want a tour?

KAT

Seriously?

RUSSELL

Of course. If you're going to be working here, you should know your way around.

CUT TO:

EXT. ABC BACKLOT - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY

Russell helms the wheel of a golf cart. Kat sits shotgun, taking in the film industry surroundings with wide-eyed anticipation. Groups of executives holding coffee, intricate sets, beautiful people rushing about, and maybe even a familiar face or two.

KAT

This is SO cool.

RUSSELL

Yeah, this is where all the sausage gets made.

Russell narrates to Kat as they pass different buildings and sets.

1. Two buildings on opposite sides of the path, each with a big billboard sign on top - one featuring a handsome sheriff titled ZOMBIE NATION, the other featuring an attractive doctor titled MEDICINE NOW.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)

These two buildings serve as the home bases for some of ABC's biggest single camera shows. Right now it's Zombie Nation and Medicine Now, but when I first started working here one of them was Lost, if you can believe it.

KAT

Wow.

2. A large outdoor set made from heaps of scrap metal and blown-up building remnants.

RUSSELL

You might recognize this set from the main posters for Superhero Showdown 3.

KAT

That poster was everywhere.

RUSSELL

Well, here's the real deal.

3. A building with a big lobby and a billboard at the top featuring the blown up face of a nerdy guy with his arms crossed.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)

This is the sitcom studio. It's a state-of-the-art facility equipped for ABC's hit multi-camera sitcom, Nerd House.

4. A pretty building that seems particularly crowded at this early hour.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)

Here's one of our three cafeterias. The coffee's really good at this one, too, so it's a great place to meet people after work.

5. A building with a billboard at the top featuring Dane Hanson and Skye Moore against a black backdrop, with the title Suburban Wasteland dripping sexily between them.

RUSSELL (CONT'D)

And of course, here's where they film Suburban Wasteland. You can usually pick it out from a mile away by the crowd of women who hang out nearby trying to catch a glimpse of Dane Hanson. But you won't need to do that.

KAT

Oh? Why not?

RUSSELL

Because, he's shooting a scene with us tomorrow. So you'll get to see him up close at work.

KAT

Lucky me.

6. They pull up to a small, dinky, nondescript building on the edge of the lot. No banner, no nothing.

RUSSELL

And here we are. Our little slice of paradise.

For a moment, a look of disappointment passes over Kat's face. But she contains it before Russell notices.

KAT

I'm sorry, this is definitely a stupid question, but I've been so excited it totally slipped my mind...

(MORE)

KAT (CONT'D)

(beat)

What movie are we shooting?

Russell grins.

RUSSELL

It's an upcoming TV movie called
Ice Pups.

(beat)

Welcome to the one and only Sport
Dog Studio.

OFF Kat.

CUT TO:

INT. SPORTS DOG STUDIO - DAY

Kat and Russell stand in the middle of the open room.

Considering everything Kat just saw, Sport Dog Studio is
clearly bare bones.

RUSSELL

(calling out)

Hey, Terry!

TERRY, 22, a goofy, happy-go-lucky PA with thick sideburns
emerges from the sound stage.

TERRY

What's up, Russ?

RUSSELL

This is Katherine, our new intern.

(to Kat)

Terry is our PA. He's going to show
you around the studio and answer
any questions you have.

(to both)

Terry, Katherine. Katherine, Terry.

Russell walks off, leaving Kat and Terry alone.

TERRY

Uh, sorry, I wasn't expecting to
have to show anyone around the
studio today.

(beat)

So, it's your first day here?