

1. INT. MAX'S APARTMENT. DAY

MAX(25) is helping his girlfriend EMILY(24) move into his apartment. Max is bringing in boxes from the front door, while Emily organizes the kitchen. The whole apartment is an open space, other than the door at the far right of the place, which leads to the master bedroom. On the kitchen island there is a bouquet of purple and yellow tulips, and a card that reads "Happy Anniversary! One year down and an eternity to go.-Max"

On the dining room table near the kitchen there is a makeshift computer office like area, with papers and notes cluttered all around two different laptops. Emily notices this mess and walks over to it as Max sets down another two boxes.

EMILY

Max? Can you clean this computer nerd stuff up?

MAX

Yeah soon, and it's not computer nerd stuff. It's for my company.

Emily rolls her eyes playfully at Max and walks back to the kitchen. Suddenly there is a crash and a rustling sound inside of the packaging.

EMILY

No Lulu! Stop that! Bad girl.

There is a small french bulldog with oversized ears LULU who is currently devouring all the popcorn packaging. She stops and stares at Emily, Lulu has popcorn packaging stuck to her face. Lulu tries to shake them off, but they don't budge. She looks at Emily, who is not amused, then bows her head down in shame.

MAX (LAUGHING)

Aw Emily don't be so hard on her. Lulu's a good girl, yes you are!

Max walks over to Lulu, takes out his phone and snaps a picture of her. Then picks her up, wipes the popcorn off her, and gives her kisses. While Emily scoffs and storms over to the mess to clean it up.

MAX (CONT'D)

She was just having some fun.

EMILY (FRUSTRATED)

I think you mean making a giant mess of the place.

MAX

She can't help it she's only a puppy.

EMILY

Clearly those training lessons are not helping.

Emily stands up directly in front of Max, who is still holding Lulu.

MAX

(shyly)

It's because...we stopped going.

EMILY

What?!

MAX

It was cruel! They wouldn't give her treats.

EMILY

That's because she has to earn them! This is just typical.

Emily scoffs again and marches back to the kitchen to continue to organize. Max gives Lulu one last kiss before putting her down. Lulu immediately runs over to Emily hitting her head against Emily's leg. Emily shrugs, and walks away from Lulu to the far side of the kitchen, Lulu follows. Emily goes to the front door to look inside a box, Lulu follows. Emily glares at Lulu before walking into the master bedroom, Lulu right at her heels. Emily slams the door in Lulu's face, and Lulu begins to whimper and claw at the door.

Max has been enjoying watching this whole scene until Lulu gets shut out. He starts to go to Lulu, but Emily opens the door and bends down to talk to Lulu.

EMILY (CONT'D)

(firmly)

Lulu, don't scratch on the door.

Lulu bows her head down, and then runs to her little bed by the front door. While Emily walks back to the kitchen to continue putting cups and plates away.

Max walks to stand in front of Emily, who is preoccupied in unpacking cups.

MAX

You don't have to be so hard on her.

EMILY

Someone has to be, since you're too obsessed with her.

MAX

I'm not obsessed with Lulu. I just love her.

Emily stops putting cups away and turns to look at Max. Lulu gets up and walks over to Emily's feet.

EMILY

You have changed Max.

MAX

I am exactly the same person, only now I have Lulu.

EMILY

No you have been acting weird since Lulu.

MAX

(defensive)

What? That's ridiculous! I shower her with love that's all.

Lulu moves from Emily's feet to Max's. She gives him a lick, then walks so that she is standing in the middle of them both. Lulu looks at Max, then looks at Emily, and so on.

EMILY

No that's not all! You completely ignore adult responsibilities now.

MAX

Ohhh not this again.

EMILY

Yes this again! Just last week you missed an important business meeting. All because Lulu had a “cold”

MAX

Her nose was running non-stop and she couldn't stop sneezing what was I supposed to do?

Leave her at home?

EMILY

Yes! Because that's what normal people do Max.

MAX

You just don't get it Emily, all you do is shut her out.

EMILY

She's a dog!

MAX

She's MY dog!

Lulu gives a little bark then goes to Emily and starts to pat her foot with her paw. Emily gives Max a confused frustrated look.

MAX (CONT'D)

She has to go out. I'll take her.

Emily looks at Lulu, then at Max and nods her head yes. Max get's Lulu's leash and walks to the door, but Lulu is still staring at Emily.

MAX (CALLING) (CONT'D)

Lulu! Come her girl! Let's go for a walk now.

Lulu and Emily stare at each other for a bit, till Lulu finally runs over to Max. Leaving Emily lost in thought. He puts the leash on her, rubs her ears, and gives her a kiss. They both leave, and Emily is left staring at the door lost in thought yet slightly warm.

## 2. INT. MAX'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN/FRONT ROOM. EVENING

Max is cooking a small meal in the kitchen while Lulu sits at his feet watching him with her ears pointed straight up. Emily walks through the front door and Max stares at her for a brief moment they make eye contact, then Max immediately goes back to making food. As if the food is more important than saying hello to Emily. Emily is finishing up a phone call.

She is still standing at the front door.

EMILY (ON PHONE)

Yes, yes okay dad. Yes I will ask him right now I just walked through the front door, talk to you soon.

She hangs up the phone, drops her bags off by the front door, and slowly makes her way to the kitchen island to see what Max is making. Emily stops just shy of the kitchen and leans on the dining table, she looks around awkwardly, and stops when she notices the mess is still on the table. She rolls her eyes, then turns back to Max. Who is overly focused on stirring.

There is a long awkward pause.

EMILY (CONT'D)

(softly)

That smells good what are you making?

MAX

(coldly)

Lulu's favorite dinner.

EMILY

(under her breath)

Of course you are.

Max, annoyed, stops stirring and looks at Emily.

MAX

Do you have a problem with that?

Emily grabs a handful of almonds from the jar on the island.

EMILY

No, no problem at all.

She pops an almond in her mouth. Max takes a teaspoon full of the food and feeds it to Lulu.

Emily rolls her eyes. After, Lulu goes to Emily. Emily gives her a little tap, stares at her for a moment then looks back at Max.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Did you make us any dinner?

MAX

No I got caught up making Lulu's dinner.

EMILY

(smiling)

Of course you did.

Max gives a little smile to Emily as he goes to clean up. Emily walks around the kitchen island, Lulu following, and begins to take out pots and pans.

MAX

Was that your dad on the phone?

EMILY

Yeah that was him.

Max begins to rinse out the small pot he was using, while Emily goes to the fridge, and pulls out chicken and asparagus.

MAX

What did he want?

EMILY

Oh you know just to say hi and--

She trailed off on purpose because Lulu has been nudging her foot. Emily stares at Lulu and feels a little guilty, so she gives her a short petting.

MAX

And what?

Emily snaps out of it and stand back up and looks at Max.

EMILY

And, to see if we made up our minds about going on the annul family vacation.

MAX

There it is. You know why I can't go.

EMILY

Why? Why can't you go?

MAX

You know...I can't leave Lulu living here all by herself.

EMILY

She will be fine! It's just two weeks. Besides we can find someone to come and check on her.

MAX

Of course YOU would trust a stranger with her.

EMILY

What is that supposed to mean?

MAX

You never make an effort to get to know Lulu.

EMILY

I have made a little effort.

MAX

If you could call it that! You should try to make more of an effort.

Max starts to fill Lulu's bowl with the food he just made.

MAX (CONT'D)

She's a special dog, and you would know that if you knew her better.

Emily shrugs and crosses her arms. Then both Max and Emily stare at Lulu who has begun to chow down on her food. Emily stares at Max for a moment thinking. She looks to Lulu then back to Max, Emily has a plan.

EMILY

Okay I'll make you a deal. I will take these next few days to "get to know Lulu," if you seriously consider going on this trip. If I change my mind we won't go, and if I don't we do go.

Max looks at Lulu who has already finished her plate and is moving toward them. Lulu stares at both Emily and Max. Max looks to Lulu then back to Emily.

MAX

Fine, deal.

3. INT. MAX'S APARTMENT. DAY

All the boxes are unpacked and thrown away. Except two empty boxes remain. These are where Lulu is currently playing. The flowers on the kitchen island look as if they are beginning to die, and the water is that gross dirt color now. Emily is alone in the apartment playing with Lulu in the boxes. Clearly her attitude toward her immensely, because she is laughing and really into playing with Lulu. Emily is sitting on the floor when Max comes home.

MAX

You're home?! I have been trying to get a hold of you all day!

EMILY

(distracted)

Sorry. I have been a bit busy today.

She picks up Lulu, and begins to kiss her on the head.

MAX

I see that.

Max puts his things down, and starts to clean up the mess that both Lulu and Emily have made.

MAX (CONT'D)

Your dad wants our answer for the trip today Emily.

Emily ignores him playing with Lulu. She sets Lulu down and they both go to the kitchen where Emily gets a few treats.

EMILY

Max, watch this. Lulu? Sit.

Lulu sits.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Good girl!

Emily gives Lulu a treat. Max gives a little smile as he puts away the boxes.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Lulu, lay down.

Lulu does this.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Very good!

Emily gives her a treat as Max inches closer to them in the kitchen with a smile from ear to ear.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Okay Lulu, roll over.

Lulu struggles but rolls over.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Aw good girl Lulu!

Emily gives her a treat again, then once Lulu has finished that one Emily gives her another treat.

Emily looks at Max.

EMILY (CONT'D)

And an extra treat, because she is such a talented little girl.

Max is pleased, but then he realizes something.

MAX

Is this what you have been doing all day? Did you even go into work?

EMILY

Work? It's Saturday.

MAX

Honey, its Tuesday.

Emily is confused and a little shocked. She starts to look for her cell phone, she looks at it and sees the date and time.

EMILY

Oh shit.

Then Emily begins to laugh.

MAX

What's so funny?

EMILY

(still laughing)

I missed two days of work and I don't seem to care!

Emily goes over to Lulu who is sitting on the couch, she begins to pet her. Max walks over to the couch and stands at the arm of the couch watching.

MAX

I'm really happy you have finally warmed up to Lulu, but you still have to go to work.

EMILY

How can I go to work when this cute little bundle of joy is here at home?

She picks up Lulu and begins to shower her with kisses. Max watches and begins to get slightly jealous, but then starts to really miss Lulu, then snaps out of it remembering the deal. He takes a deep breath.

MAX

Yeah she's cute, but listen Em we need to give your dad an answer today.

EMILY

Today really?

MAX

Yes today.

Emily sets Lulu down on the ground. Lulu sits with her ears straight up looking at Emily. Max slowly starts to walk closer to Emily.

MAX (CONT'D)

Well? What'll it be? Two weeks on the beach?

Max is finally sitting down next to Emily. He sets his hand on her knee, Emily is still thinking and looking at Lulu.

MAX (CONT'D)

Two weeks where Lulu will be all alone. Sitting here, watching the door, waiting.

Max smiles while he watches Emily stare at Lulu. He knows he won, but wants to hear Emily say it.

MAX (CONT'D)

Of course we could always leave her at the pound-

EMILY

Enough! No no no there will be no pounds and no abandoning of our sweet little girl!

Emily gets up and looks at Max who is still sitting on the couch. Max looks at Lulu, then back to Emily.

MAX

(smiling)

Our sweet little girl? Are you saying what I think you're saying?

Emily lets out a deep breath, looks at Lulu then back at Max. Max is walking towards Emily.

EMILY

Yes. I don't want to go on the trip.

MAX

Why?

EMILY

Because...I don't want to leave Lulu.

MAX

And?

Emily lets out another deep breath then playfully rolls her eyes at Max.

EMILY

And....you were right Max. She is a special girl.

MAX

Thank you, and so are you.

They both kiss, and Lulu starts to bark. Max picks up Lulu and the three of them hug, and Lulu showers them both with kisses. Leaving Max and Emily laughing.