

DOG PARK OR SEXUAL PERVERSITY IN MAGNUSON

by DENNIS SCHEBETTA

CHARACTERS

TIGER
JAKE
DUKE
BAMBI

SETTING

Magnuson dog park, Seattle

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DOG PARK OR SEXUAL PERVERSITY IN MAGNUSON

[SOUNDS of dogs barking, people chatting, splashing, owners calling their dogs, etc. JAKE sits, squatting. He watches something moving offstage, his head going from the left to the right, right to left, left to right. HE snorts. ENTER TIGER, his hair wet, runs around JAKE.]

[TIGER runs off again. JAKE watches.]

[TIGER runs back on, panting.]

TIGER

Fucking water, I tell you, Jake, you hear me?

JAKE

Tiger...

[TIGER shakes his wet ears. Jake shields himself.]

TIGER

Water is so, y'know...wet...

JAKE

You drink any?

TIGER

Listen, you gotta try it. Y'know? I mean... Wow. Ball, where's my ... so cold, where's my ball? There!

[He runs off, then stops.]

You stay here. I got it.

[TIGER runs off. Comes back with ball. Pants. JAKE snorts.]

JAKE

Tiger?

TIGER

Yeah, Jake.

JAKE

You drink any water?

TIGER

No ... what? Water? Why the fuck ...

JAKE

You gotta drink water, Tiger. I keep telling you.

TIGER

Fuck water. Who needs water? I am a god! The humans don't know, talk their stupid words at us, watch us run, but I have *boundless* energy ... Today is the day.

JAKE

Fuckin' puppy. You're going to die of panting.

TIGER

You going in?

JAKE

There?

TIGER

Yeah.

JAKE

Fuck no.

TIGER

Ball? Let's play!

[HE throws the ball at JAKE. JAKE doesn't move. The ball bounces off him. HE snorts. TIGER runs to get it.]

JAKE

Fuck off.

TIGER

Ball. Yeah? We play *ball*, Jake. That's what we *do*. We're *dogs*. I feel it today. Life is *good*, you know?

[Enter DUKE.]

DUKE

Fucking human, fucking human, fucking human, fucking human ...

JAKE

...Yeah?

DUKE

Fucking human! Two-legged monstrosities ...

JAKE

Same old story ...

DUKE

They got, you know, they are without a doubt, no *decency* ... the common sense to, treat us like we're ... what are we, animals? We're not animals. Am I wrong in this? Fuck that, those god-damn cocksucking humans.

TIGER

Hi, Duke!

JAKE

You got my biscuit?

DUKE

I'm pulling the chain, my leash too tight, I try to tell him, talk to him, you know ... I don't want trouble, I just have to fucking *pee*, right? Am I right? You can't talk to these creatures. They're not *decent*. They don't *understand*. Doesn't matter how much, how loud you bark. I can't just pee anywhere. I pull, I have to find my, you know, it's my, there's a reason why I pee where I pee. It's my *spot*. It's what I ... and he ... you know ... He *jerks* me back. Jerks me, (what am I?) ... fucking, jerks like no tomorrow, I'm gagging, my tongue hanging out the side of my fucking neck while that two-legged asshole talks up a storm with some other two-legged blonde with those weird, what you call them, breasts, and I'm the "bad dog". Bad dog? Me? I have to fucking pee, right? Is it my fault that nature doth call upon me at this time? I tell you, Jake, it's no way to treat another living being ... There was a time (when I had some teeth) I'd bite and I'd bite hard. It's what I would do. Instead we have this. This. It's shit. Do we live in a world of dogs or a world of men?

JAKE

So what? You do something?

DUKE

Did I do something, Jake? Did I...? Let me tell you what I did.

JAKE

Yeah.

DUKE

I peed all over that breasty blonde two-legged. Right on her little shoes. Call me “bad dog” you gonna see the bad dog rear its ugly head. We are not animals, am I right?

JAKE

We are.

DUKE

What?

JAKE

We are animals.

DUKE

But not *those* kind of animals, Jake. Not those... (what are you, arguing) ... not like wild animals, beasts untamed and whatnot.

JAKE

(I’m just saying...)

DUKE

(Don’t push...)

[beat]

Fucking two-leggeds.

JAKE

Place is going to the humans. You got my biscuit?

DUKE

Your...?

JAKE

You owe me.

DUKE

Tomorrow.

TIGER

Ball?

[TIGER throws the ball at DUKE, who doesn’t flinch. TIGER runs after it. Eventually drops it on the ground.]

DUKE

What the fuck the pup doing here?

JAKE

It's a free park.

DUKE

So?

JAKE

Yeah?

DUKE

It happen yet? He (you know) do the deed?

JAKE

Says today is the day.

DUKE

Bullshit. I'll eat cat litter if he even sniffs the butt of some bitch.

JAKE

I like cat litter.

DUKE

Shut up.

JAKE

Fresh. You know. It's minty. Right after I chew a bone.

DUKE

You disgust me.

TIGER

Hey, Duke, you going in the water?

DUKE

You talk to any bitches yet, Tiger?

TIGER

Aw, no, you know, Duke, I ... they ... it doesn't ...

DUKE

Let me tell you something about bitches, okay? Let me enlighten you ...

JAKE

Take it easy on him, Duke

DUKE

What, I can't talk to him, it's like *forbidden*. No one can *converse* with your pup?

JAKE

No, it's just that...

DUKE

So, Tiger, you know, the park is full of bitches. And I say this is the truth and the truth shall wag our tails. Those bitches. They're in heat. They're not in heat. Whatever. They stroll. They tease. What is that *smell* they put off? They want you to sniff their butt, lick their ears, get all friendly, get all *carnal* ... and what do they ... how do the bitches repay you for this affection? They steal your chew toys. Know what I'm talking about?

TIGER

Yeah?

DUKE

But you gotta play it cool, like your balls aren't on fire (god, I miss my balls) and then you gotta tear into them when you can, right? You been practicing on the two-leggeds?

TIGER

I can't stop. I see a leg, I go to town.

DUKE

That's a good boy!

TIGER

Oh yeah. They see the pink.

JAKE

I'm so glad I'm fucking neutered.

DUKE

See that bitch over there? The border collie?

TIGER

What about that other one? By the water.

DUKE

The Shitzu? I don't think so, Tiger. You can't climb Mt. Rainier first time hiking, right?

[ENTER BAMBI who goes to the ball.]

TIGER

Hey, she's got my ball.

DUKE

Poodles. Might as well wear a sign that says, "Come on in..."

JAKE

Go talk to her, Tiger. But don't just talk to her. You know? *Talk* to her.

TIGER

Talk to her?

DUKE

Yeah, but don't just talk to her, you know, *talk* to her.

[TIGER moves over towards BAMBI.]

TIGER

Ball.

BAMBI

This your ball?

TIGER

Ball. Ball. My ball.

BAMBI

You're a smart one, aren't you?

TIGER

Can I sniff your butt?

[TIGER tries to sniff at her butt but she moves away.]

BAMBI

Dogs ... why are you so ... What are you? Retriever? I'm not looking for—Hey, you ... Do I have to spell things out for you?

TIGER

If I can't sniff your butt, can I have my ball back. Please. My ball.

BAMBI

Get lost.

DUKE

Shit. She's a cocktease.

JAKE

At this point, you can't say that.

DUKE

Show her the pink!

BAMBI

Those your friends over there? Real nice.

TIGER

Hey, look, listen to me ... wait ... will you listen? Will you? Please. I got ... this is my first time I'm talking to a bitch, you know ...

BAMBI

We don't like that term ...

TIGER

(I'm sorry)

BAMBI

(It's all right). You're cute.

TIGER

Listen, I ... you got my ball, you have a smell, I smell you, and you're touching that other, that part of me ... Look, I'm not making sense. We're talking, right?

BAMBI

Yeah.

TIGER

But are we *talking*?

BAMBI

What the fuck you talking about?

TIGER

Look ... I haven't had, I want to show you my ... here's the thing.

BAMBI

You're not ... hey ... it's okay ...

TIGER

I want to do more than sniff your butt. You know? You and I, we could frolic together over there in the bushes ...

BAMBI

Frolic? You want to frolic with me?

TIGER

Down there in that corner, where its dark and smells like rotting garbage ...

BAMBI

I *love* rotting garbage ...

TIGER

And we could roll around in it and lick each other ...

BAMBI

So far, so good ...

DUKE

He's talking to her. Yeah, he is. But is he *talking*.

JAKE

He's *talking*.

TIGER

But I need my ball back when we're done.

BAMBI

How long this gonna take?

TIGER

So fast you won't even know it happened.

BAMBI

I need to get back for my fetch. I love the water.

TIGER

Yeah, me too. It's so ... wet. Let's go.

[TIGER and BAMBI run off. JAKE snorts.]

DUKE

Fuck, can you believe ... he just talked to her and then suddenly ... you know.

JAKE

I know.

DUKE

Fucking bitches.

JAKE

Right. So that's another biscuit you owe me.

DUKE

Fuck. You going in?

JAKE

In the water?

DUKE

Yeah.

JAKE

Fuck no.

DUKE

You gotta live, Jake. That's what I'm saying ...

JAKE

What are you saying?

DUKE

Life is ... you know, we can't just sulk in the doghouse ... we gotta *live*. We must swim. We must chew. We are dogs. Right? That's what we do. I gotta poop. You want me to bring back a stick for ya?

JAKE

I want my biscuits.

DUKE

Tomorrow.

[DUKE EXITS. TIGER ENTERS, running and panting, goes to Jake.]

TIGER

Wow! Right? Am I right ... that's just better than water ...

JAKE

You done already?

TIGER

I mean, y'know ... that felt great! [pants] Ball! Where's my...? That bitch took my ball!

[TIGER runs OFF again after his ball. JAKE snorts.]

JAKE

Fucking puppy.

[SOUNDS of dogs barking. Splashing. LIGHTS OUT.]

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