

ROWLF

By

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1st Draft

FADE IN

EXT. BEDROOM- DAY

ROWLFs alarm goes off. he smashes it. His mother calls from downstairs.

MOM

Rowlf Kenniston!! did I hear a
smash upstairs? you know we cant
afford another clock.

(Rowlf is a small, yet will built 9 year old boy. He has scruffy hair and wears a lucky orange lucky hat wherever he goes.)

EXT. KITCHEN- DAY

Rowlf is trying to enjoy breakfast while his mom and dad are completely ignoring him. his sister EMILY is chatting on the phone about her day.

MOM

Rowlf? don't forget to take out the
garbage.

EXT. HOUSE- DAY

Rowlf drags a huge garbage bag out the front door. He trips over a crack and falls down. By doing so, he misses the bus.

EXT. STREET- DAY

Rowlf is seen walking to schhol when suddenly, he sees a group of dogs getting captured by the local dogcatcher/janitor BRAD MCKINSKY. (Brad wears a silver jumpsuit with a big BM on his name tag. His biceps are almost as big as his calves; he carries a golf bag full of zany inventions on his back) Rowlf discreetly walks over around the van to the back side and kicks the latch open, thus freeing the dogs. The start to trample all over Brad. One of the dogs, a female in particular, looks at him and they both smile at each other. He gives her a piece of his lunch.

ROWLF

I wish I was like one of you.

They both wink, he Tiptoes away as she re-joins her pack

INT. LOCKER BAY- DAY

Rowlf is placing his things in his locker. He notices KATIE GREEN right next to him. She's about the same age and size as him, yet a body that could envy a calender girl. She has glistening blond hair, yet wears minimal amount of makeup, except for the thick eyeliner. He fixes his hair and walks up to her.

ROWLF

Um.. Hi Katie.

No response

ROWLF (CONT)

I was... um... just wondering.. if
you would.. do the honor.. of um..
uh..

she walks off as if he wasn't even there. As she strolls down the hallway, an infatuated smirk envelops on Rowlf's face.

ROWLF

Katie...Sweet, sweet Katie.

The scene gets blurry as birds chirp in the background

EXT. MEADOW- DAY

Katie and Rowlf are in the middle of a meadow surrounded by butterflies and flowers. They slowly skip towards each other in white clothing with arms ready to embrace.

VOICE

rooowlf....rooowlf...

Janitor Brad slaps him on the back of the head, bringing his fantasy to an abrupt halt

INT. LOCKER BAY- DAY

BRAD

Rowlf!

ROWLF

Huh? what?

BRAD

Drooling on the floor I see. That's
harrasment of school property.

(CONTINUED)

Writes on a green slip from his suit pocket

BRAD

Two days detention for you.

Slaps it on Rowlf's forehead. He immediately takes it off.

ROWLF

Look. Mr. Mckinsky-

BRAD

That's LT. Mckinsky

ROWLF

Whatever. You gotta stop scoping out every stray dog in this town. I mean, why you trying to catch them all in the first place

BRAD

Don't play smart talk with me kid. This town needs a hero, a vigilante, a bounty hunter, and it looks like it's gonna be me.

Minute bell rings

BRAD (CONT)

You better get to class Kid. Don't want another slip now do ya?

INT. BATHROOM-DAY

Rowlf is at sink washing his face. Suddenly, in comes the three notorious school bullies: GORK, LAMPY and OLGA. The trio looks like a combination between ear wax and a grown up warthog with rabies. They corner Rowlf to the edge of the room

GORK

Whaddup ya little runt?

The other two grunt a laugh as he smiles menacingly

LAMPY

So, ya got us the cash, or ya got us the cash...

GORK

Lampy, let me handle this one alright?

(CONTINUED)

ROWLF

Gork, I already told you this. I don't have any lunch money. I just gave it to you last week.

OLGA

Tsk..Tsk..Tsk. That's a shame. Cause I thought we are were friends here

ROWLF

Were not friends Olga!

Gork presses his hand against the wall

GORK (THREATENINGLY)

Listen up squirt. You better have something in that bag of yours, or you're gonna have a little date with my own bag. And it aint gonna end pretty

The three message their knuckles and chuckle maniacally

ROWLF

Ok. Ok. Ok guys. I was just joshing with ya. I really do have something really special in here, and it's-

Changes tone

GOOD GRIEF WHAT'S THAT!!

The three turn to check. Rowlf kicks Gork in the groin and bolts out of the bathroom

GORK

GET HIM!!!

INT. HALLWAY- DAY

Rowlf is running through every short cut possible to make it to the exit while Gork, Lampy and Olga are right behind his tail (Some chase music should be played in the background). He spins around a ladder, jumps over a kid on crutches, and slides under a jock trying to woo a cheerleader.

EXT. SCHOOL LAWN- DAY

After a few close calls, Rowlf makes it out of the school and onto the lawn. However, the bully trio are gaining up on him.

LAMPY

We have you now.

Rowlf notices the female dog from earlier nearby. She spots him and comes to the rescue upon seeing the bullies. She grabs a sprinkler and blocks their path.

OLGA

What da-?

The three trip on the sprinkler-

ALL THREE

WHOA!!!!

and fall into a nearby mud hole. Gork grunts in frustration.

GORK

Next time you won't be so lucky
Rowlf!!

Storms off defeated and covered in mud

ROWLF

Thanks Girl!!

She barks back and runs off. He continues running but doesn't notice the SCHOOL SECRETARY carrying a stack of papers a blender full of cappuccino walking in his path

SCHOOL SECRETARY

AAAAAHHH!!

ROWLF

AAAAAHHH!!

He smacks into her with papers flying all over the place. The Secretary and he wake up in a puddle full of decaf. He lets out a big innocent grin.

ROWLF

he he he. Hey secretary. What a surprise.

She walks off with a huff. He gulps

(CONTINUED)

LIGHTNING CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL- NIGHT

Rowlf is standing in the middle of pouring rain. His parents drive off

MOM
Have fun sweetie. We'll pick you up
at about three.

Rowlf is left all alone as he sees a light ignite one of the windows

ROWLF
Oh, help us all

LIGHTNING CUT TO

INT. CLASSROOM- NIGHT

Rowlf opens door to classroom. He sees a light source coming from a trap door behind the teachers desk.

ROWLF
Mr. Quackberg?

He opens the trap door. a big puff of smoke blows into his face.

ROWLF
(coughs) Mr. Quackberg

He climbs down the hidden stairway as smog grows thicker and thicker.

INT. LABORATORY- NIGHT

As he reaches the bottom, the smoke clears to reveal a humongous laboratory: he slowly walks toward an array of test tubes, research papers, electric wires and test subjects encased in jars. He quivers at the sight.

ROWLF
m...Mr. Quacberg? Whatever you're
doing down here you need to find
yourself a new..oomph

(CONTINUED)

Bumps into what reveals to be MR. QUACKBERG in the flesh, holding his lucky hat. He's a tall skinny, demented figure with frizzled hair and shabby clothing. He wears a pair of glasses which make his eyes look like two golf balls. Rowlf is paralyzed with fear.

MR. QUACKBERG

Who are you and what are you doing here?!?

ROWLF

Um.. Uh.. I was just told to uh-

MR. QUACKBERG

Tresspassing on my private sanctions!? I have the right mind to blow you to kingdom come!!

Pulls out a laser gun as he says this

ROWLF

I was told to serve detention with you!!

Mr. Quackberg adjusts his glasses.

MR. QUACBERG

Ah yes. Rowlf Kenniston: the little scamp I was put in charge for

Places gun away and gives him back his hat

MR. QUACBERG (CONT)

Sorry about that. Well then. Lets not waste time pointing fingers. Let me show you your assignment.

Drags Rowlf to the back of the lab

INT. BACK END OF LAB- NIGHT

Rowlf is found sitting on an old stool table. Up on a chalkboard reads "METAMORPHOSIS IN NATURE." Quackberg firmly slaps a rod on the writing.

MR. QUACKBERG

"Metamorphosis in Nature."
Throughout existence, we've become witness to the most mysterious transformations life has to offer-

Makes maniacal gestures and exaggerated movements

(CONTINUED)

MR. QUACKBERG (CONT)

From the incarnation of a butterfly, to the evolution of our simian relatives, to the very aging of our mortality, life is filled with transformation-

Rowlf has a confused look on his face. Quackberg pushes away chalkboard to reveal a mysterious object covered in cloth.

MR. QUACKBERG (CONT)

That, is why my latest creation will truly be a success.

ROWLF

Uh...teacher. That's great and all, but when do we get to the...

MR. QUACKBERG

SILENCE!! Behold, the one invention that will truly knock their socks off and change peoples lives. I give you-

Pulls back drapes to reveal a huge machine

MR. QUACKBERG (CONT)

THE TRANSFIGURATOR!!!

Puzzled look falls on Rowlf's face

MR. QUACKBERG (CONT)

let me show you what I mean.

Quackberg creeps towards a box and opens it to reveal a fragile little mouse shaking with fear. He gently places it on a circular disc in the middle of the Transfigurator. A glass door closes shut

ROWLF

Uhhh, is that little guy gonna be ok?

Quackberg gleefully cranks up a lever to reveal the night sky and starts pushing some buttons.

MR. QUACKBERG

Let's just say you'll be seeing a whole new rodent...LITERALLY!!!

(CONTINUED)

Throws the main switch. The mouse is surrounded by pure energy, striking it instantly. it floats in midair. Then slowly, limb by limb, it changes form. Quackberg then turns the switch off. The residue smoke clears. To Rowlf's shock and amazement, the mouse has fully changed into a squirrel.

MR. QUACKBERG

(ENTHUSIASTIC)

YIPPEE!! What did I tell ya!! A
true success to success to behold!
HA HA HA!!

The squirrel/mouse scurries away to a nearby shaft, up to a basement window and into the night.

ROWLF

So wait, doc. You're telling me you
invented this machine that turns
animals into other animals?

MR. QUACKBERG

Precisely dear boy. Who knows what
this can bring for me. I could
change a lion into a lamb, a bird
into a bee, a...

ROWLF

What about people

Awkward pause

MR. QUACKBERG

What do you mean "People?"

ROWLF

Just sayin there might be some
folks out there who'd like to see
what it's like. I sure know a few.

MR. QUACKBERG

Well I never had time to come
across what purpose this device
serves. I'm just thrilled I got it
to work-

turns off the machine

MR. QUACKBERG (CONT)

No matter, You're job tonight is
simple.

takes out a broom and mop

(CONTINUED)

MR. QUACKBERG (CONT)
Cleaning out my lab.

Hands them over to him.

ROWLF
Hey mind if you give me a..

Quackberg has vanished without a trace

ROWLF (CONT)
..Bucket?

Starts mopping the floor. He sees a speck of dirt in the transfigurator and goes in to clean it.

ROWLF
What a way to spend a weekend.

Suddenly the glass door shuts from behind him. He tries to open it, but to no avail

ROWLF (CONT)
Hey. Hey! Mr. Quackberg?!

bangs on door

ROWLF (CONT)
Mr. Quackberg!!

The Transfigurator starts to turn back on

ROWLF (CONT)
Mr. Quackberg, this isn't funny anymore!!

Lightning strikes the lab, igniting the machine. He lifts off the ground. He tries to hold onto something in panic, but there's nothing to hold on to. Buttons and switches start to move and blink out of control. Everything gets hazy.

ROWLF
mmm mr. chackberg...? Ima feelin a little funny....

FADE OUT

FADE IN

A silhouette of him floating against a white background. Then, just like Arnie, he starts to change form. His body is slowly becoming the shape of a brown labrador puppy. The lifeless body then floats to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. BEDROOM- DAY

The sun shines through the window of Rowlf's bedroom. The alarm goes off. As usual, he smashes it. Only this time, he sees a paw instead of a hand. His shadow is shown on the windowsill in the form of a puppy dog. He yawns, scratches himself and puts on his lucky hat. He lands head first on the floor. He tries to stand on two legs, but to no avail. He walks over to the bathroom and wipes away the fog from the mirror.

ROWLF

What the...?

He jumps on the ground in a state of shock at what he sees in the mirror. In place of his face is that of a dog wearing his hat. He places his paws on the mirror to see if it's really him.

ROWLF (CONT)

Is that....me?

Examines his paws, checks out his new floppy ears and wags his new tail as a smile grows on his face.

ROWLF (CONT)

I'm a...I'm a dog!

Looks at himself again gleefully in the mirror.

ROWLF (CONT)

(laughter)

This is awesome! I'm a dog!!

(barks)

Joyfully runs out the bathroom, down the stairs and into the kitchen.

EMILY

Mom? Dad? When did we get a pet?

MOM (O.S.)

Rowlf. Don't forget to bring out the garbage.

He grabs a garbage bag and runs out the front door with it.

EXT. HOUSE- DAY

He tears the bag open and snarfs down any leftover food. He notices the bus coming but ignores it and runs down the other way.

ROWLF
 (Woof, Woof)
 (Laughter)
 Bye bye, school life, hello
 alleyway!!

Jumps over crack

ROWLF
 (In midair)
 IM A DOOOG!!!!

WHITE FADE OUT

WHITE FADE IN

EXT. ALLEYWAY- DAY

a group of dogs are chilling on top of some trash cans and garbage bins.

CHAPS
 (a stray greyhound)
 Hey Ricky! What's the name of that
 human kid we always see walking
 around here?

RICKY
 (a collared wheaten terrier)
 I think his name's relish..waldo,
 uh...rover or something.

TRIPSY
 (a collared bull terrier)
 Who's mom would name a did that?

All laugh

HECTOR
 (a stray rottweiler)
 His name is Rowlf, and he's a swell
 kid. I like him.

SHAKES
 (collared chihuahua)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHAKES (cont'd)
Yeah. We all like him too Rowlf.
Especially what he did for us two
days ago at the van.

MEL
(a stray german shepherd)
"sigh". If only he were one of us.

ROWLF (O.S)
I think your wish has just come
true.

They all gasp in shock as Rowlf stands in front of them in
his new form. They walk up to him.

RICKY
I..Is that really you Rowlf?

ROWLF
Who were you expecting? Garfield?

They sniff him.

SHAKES
Yep! that's him alright. I know
that smell of pizza anywhere

MEL
Well what happened to you?

ROWLF
Beats me. One night I'm serving
detention, next thing you know, I'm
a full blown mutt.

HECTOR
Then I guess we found ourselves a
fine addition to our canine
enterprise.

ROWLF
Huh?

HECTOR
Allow me to introduce you to the
gang. That's Chaps. Over there's
Ricky, followed by Shakes, Tripsy
and uhh...

Mel is found trying to catch a fly

(CONTINUED)

HECTOR (CONT)
..Mel. MEL!

MEL
Oh, Sorry Boss!

HECTOR
What did I say about introducing
new friends

MEL
To not drift off

HECTOR
Anywho, I'm Hector. You might say
I'm the leader of these seven
misfits

TRIPSY
Were looking at the seventh one
right now.

ROWLF
(gasp) Really? Just like that?
I'm part of the gang?

SHAKES
Lets explain while we give you a
VIP tour.

They escort him down the alley way.

INT. ALLEY- NIGHT

There's slides made out of pipelines, trampolines from bed
sheets, mutts playing tugg o war with a hunk of meat,
collared dogs talking about their owners misadventures, and
a wide array of other activities that fill up a canine
hearts desire.

TRIPSY
So ya see kid. We've been watching
you for some time now.

CHAPS
Yeah. We loved what you did for us
at that dog catchin van last
friday.

HECTOR
especially for that girl pup:
CANDACE

(CONTINUED)

ROWLF
So that's her name huh?

SHAKES
If you'd like to meet her, you can
see her tonight: at the SPOT.

INT. THE SPOT- NIGHT

A mutt band's playing out a show nvolving trash cans and discarded instruments; audience members are being escorted to their seats by rats; On their tables are flavored dish bowls. Rowlf and his friends are at the center table.

RAT WAITER
Your caviar gentlemen

CHAPS
Boy, your'e gonna love this grub
kid.

Lid opens to reveal crumbled homework over pastrami and noodles.

RAT WAITER
Homework a la mode et le pastrmi de
pasta. Bon appetite.

scurries off

MEL
I'll take the pop quiz

SHAKES
I'll take the geometry

ROWLF
So, the legends are true. You
really like this stuff.

HECTOR
Call it a weakness. Now dig in.

Rowlf takes a nibble

ROWLF
This aint half bad

They all snarf it down when suddenly the music ends

(CONTINUED)

DOG DRUMMER

And now ladies and gentlepups. We
bring you teh star attraction of
our show: MISS CANDACE VON FURRY!!

Everyone cheers, barks, and whistles

ROWLF

She's really that popular around
here?

SHAKES

Kid, there's some stuff you don't
know yet.

Lights dim down. Jazzy music starts playing; spotlight reveals Candace on pedestal. Like Katie, she's the same height as him only a little more furry. She sings a rendition of "Rolling in the Deep"(Rolling in the Dirt) While sensually cascading across the stage. Rowlf can't keep his eyes off her since they're in the shape of hearts. He watches her body move in slow motion surrounded by a pink blur.

INT. BACKSTAGE- NIGHT

A number of fans are outside Candace's dressing room waiting to get her pawtograph. None are more eager to meet her than Rowlf himself. He shovess through the puppyrazzi to get a better view. As she opens her door a wave of fans storm around her. She then notices Rowlf in the distance jumping up and down

ROWLF

Candace! Candace! It's me Rowlf!
Remember? from the van! From
yesterday!

CANDACE

Rowlf?

A smile envelops her face

CANDACE

Rowlf!

Runs toward him, ignoring all the fans. She sniffs him.

CANDACE

Holy Smokes!! It really is You!!
I..I can't believe it!!

(CONTINUED)

ROWLF

Yeah! Isn't it awesome! I'm one of you now!

CANDACE

I always knew, you'd be my best friend but not like this.

ROWLF

Boy, imagine what we could do together. I betcha..

CANDACE

Listen Rowlf. There's..There's something I always wanted to tell you. I..

Suddenly, the sound of police sirens.

TRIPY

Everyone!! Head for the hills!!
Brad's Coming!!

Everyone starts panicking; ducking for cover. Unfortunately Candace is the only one exposed. Brad's dark shadow now looms over her. She tries to run away but grabs her just in time.

ROWLF

CANDACE!!

HECTOR

Wait, it's too dangrous!!

ROWLF

Not for me! I know his every angle, and now he's crossed the line.

Runs up to Brad who has Candace dangling from his hand

BRAD

He he he. You're gonna make a fine addition to my collection

CANDACE

(whimpers)

ROWLF

HEY!

(CONTINUED)

BRAD

HUH?

ROWLF

Get your ugly claws off of my
friend you psycho!

Pounces on him, releasing Candace from his clutches. Brad and Rowlf start wrestling each other on the ground. Brad grabs him by the neck and stuffs him into a bag.

CANDACE

ROWLF!!

BRAD

You're one feisty little fella
aren't ya.

Throws him in the van

BRAD (CONT)

You remind me of a student I truly
loathe.

Closes the back doors and gets to the drivers seat.

CANDACE

Brad, you inconsiderate prick!

Bangs on the van doors; but drives off. She chases after it but loses momentum. She stops for breath. Tears fall down her eyes as her friends look on. She pulls herself together and turns toward them.

CANDACE (CONT)

Everyone, This is now a rescue
mission. Our friend is in trouble
Now, lets follow that van.

The gang runs down the street

INT. BASEMENT- NIGHT

Rowlf is found locked in a small cage in a dirty prison-like basement. All around him are other cages crammed with captured puppies. One can be found playing a harmonica.

ROWLF

Maybe this whole dog thing wasn't
the best idea.

(CONTINUED)

CANDACE

Psst.

Candace and the gang are at the basement window

CANDACE (CONT)

Don't worry Rowlf. Were here to
bust you out of..

ROWLF

SHHH. Someones coming

Brad enters as the gang hides

BRAD

Alright ya flea ridden mutts. I've
got a big surprise for you all.
Eternal Slumber!!

Takes out syringe from bag and pulls Rowlf from cage

HECTOR

on my signal... One

BRAD (CONT)

Lets start with you, ya creep.

HECTOR

...Two...

ROWLF

(whimpers)

HECTOR

..and..

BRAD (CONT)

Say goodbye to the sweet breath
of..AAAGH!!

Mel's gnawing on Brads leg.

HECTOR

MEL! I didn't say three yet!

MEL

Oh, sorry.

HECTOR

(sighs)

Dogs jump from the basement windows and basement door piling
up on Brad and releasing Rowlf from his neon claws

(CONTINUED)

CANDACE
C'mon lets get out of this trap

ROWLF
You said it.

He releases all the other dogs from their cages and heads out the window with the others.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD-NIGHT

The gang stops to catch their breath

HECTOR
You really handled that well for a first timer.

ROWLF
Thanks. But I don't understand. I thought being a dog would help me figure out who I truly am. All it did was leave me in more trouble.

CANDACE
Oh Rowlf. Don't you see. I would of liked you even you were still human.

ROWLF
You mean, it doesn't matter what I am?

CANDACE
Of course not. Just love yourself for who you are

ROWLF
Thanks Candace. You're a true friend

They hug for a moment

CANDACE
Now head on home. I think a couple of folks are waiting for ya.

Candace and her pals run off

ROWLF
Hey Candace!

Candace stops while Rowlf takes off lucky hat

(CONTINUED)

ROWLF (CONT)

Catch!

Tosses it over to her. She grabs it with her mouth

ROWLF (CONT)

It's for keeps

She smiles and runs off. Rowlf heads to the front door of his house.

EXT. BACKYARD- DAY

Rowlf wakes to find himself back in his human form, naked, in the middle of his backyard. He scurries into the house.

INT. LOCKER BAY- DAY

Rowlf is back at his locker getting his things ready for the next class. He notices Brad picking on another kid across the hallway.

KID

Come on Brad, I only been late twice for class this month

BRAD

That is two too many kid, and also..

ROWLF

Hey Brad. Get Your dirty hands off that guy.

BRAD

This doesn't concern you Rowlf

Rowlf approaches

ROWLF

Oh, this has concerned me from the very beginning. This whole thing you do, Whatever it is, needs to stop now. You consistently talk down to us kids for no apparent reason and I know that little secret you have in your basement

Students in the locker bay gasp

(CONTINUED)

BRAD

Ha! What you gonna do about it kid?
send me over to the big house? I'm
bigger and smarter than you and
there aint nothin...

PRINCIPAL (V.O.)

BRAD MCKINSKY.

The principal is heard over an intercom

PRINCIPAL (V.O.) (CONT)

A member of the Humane Society
wishes to speak with you
immediately. Report to my office
A.S.A.P

BRAD

But I..

PRINCIPAL (V.O.)

NOW BRAD!

Brad walks off defeated. The kids cheer Rowlf for his
heroism.

KATIE

Rowlf. That was, like, the boldest
thing I've ever seen from anyone.

ROWLF

Hey. It was nothing

KATIE

So listen. Do you wanna...you know-

ROWLF

Go on a date?

KATIE

I was just thinkin that!

ROWLF

Sounds great. I'll pick you up at
around...

KATIE

Tonight at Five?

ROWLF

Sounds good to me.

Winks at her

(CONTINUED)

KATIE

See ya then.

Goes back to her locker to get her things. One of things she takes out is Rowlf's lucky orange hat. She stares at it and smiles. She places it back in her locker and closes the door.

FADE OUT