

HEART OF A DOG
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Libretto

SCENE 1

DOG enters

DOCTOR enters wielding large bone and beckons the DOG.

Doctor: here doggie doggie, here doggie doggie, here doggie, here doggie, doggie here doggie, here doggie, here doggie, here dog, here doggie, here doggie.

DOG takes the bone and follows DOCTOR off stage.

SCENE 2

HOUSEKEEPER and ASSISTANT in kitchen. DOCTOR enters with DOG.

DR: Well, I've done it. A dog, everything intact, one can only assume the reproductive organs are still up to snuff.

DOG: oooo?

HK: It's a beastly mongrel Doctor!

AT: She's a beauty in fact; I had a dog once.

HK: It probably has fleas and ticks. It's a wild animal!

DR: Marfa, it's in the name of science.

HK It is with great pain, Sir, that I scrub this home on my knee, day in and day out. I deal with your peculiar experiments and predilections.

DR: Well - I only-

HK: Who has ideas like this? It will piss and shit Doctor. Have you thought of that?

DR: It's only natural that certain digestive processes work themselves out.

HK: Piss and Shit.

AT: Shit?

HK: And we both know whose arms will be elbow deep in excrement.

DR: But only for a few hours, dear, then Mitya will prepare the bitch for surgery.

AT: What a birth shiny coat she has.

HK: Surgery? And I expect that the blood and brain matter will once again, be my job.

DR: One must make certain accommodations.

HK: What will it eat?

DR: Marfa, the dog will only be as such.

HK: I can't bide, Sir

DR: I'm telling you that the dog will, in a most expeditious time frame, be subject to certain surgical procedures -

AT: Transmutation!

DR: - or is it transubstantiation?

AT: Uni translateralism?

HK: Sit, sit. The tea is getting cold.

DR: We are talking about a grand procedure here. My dear lady, though you may be a sharp individual, there are certain scientific prerequisites to understanding.

AT: Like physics, or perhaps biology.

DR: Precisely, even botany -

AT: Astrology

DR: - Indeed! A culmination of years focused on one grand idea.
AT: You may fondly recall the episode with the frog.
HK: That filthy toad?
DR: Yes, precisely, we made several crucial observations.
AT: And now we're ready to extend those calculations to our greatest experiment.
DR: Namely, the dog.
AT & DR: dog dog dog dog dog
DR: This once unfortunate wretch will become the progenitor of a new generation.
AT: And your once obscure master will become -
DR: We musn't get ahead of ourselves.
AT: A Nobel prize?
DR: Well, perhaps.
HK: So what exactly will you do with the beast?
DR: Well every woman needs a handsome pair of breasts.
AT: Yes, two jigglers.
DR: She must, after all, be taken seriously, then perhaps flowing golden locks.
AT: Without question.
DR: Things like heels and make-up can be taken care of post op.
AT: And of course the glans.
DR: The most crucial part - pituitary, salivary, apocrine, vulvo, vaginal, gastric, and so forth.
AT: The essence of humanity distilled.
HK: So, she'll become a woman?
DR: In a sense.
AT: With all the necessary physical paraphernalia.
HK: Hmmm, seems like a bad idea.
DR: Hahaha Hahaha! Marfa, you simple soul, pass the sugar will you?

SCENE 3

Surgery happens

Dog: AhhhAhhh AhhhAhhh

SCENE 4

Doctor and Assistant examine Dog

DR & AT: Temperature, a solid three hundred nine point eight one kelvins. Blood pressure, holding steady at one ten over seventy four. Salivary function normal. Saccadic dysfunction negative. Scar tissue looks superb, the collagen production has equalized, the collagen production has equalized.
DR: A fiery constitution of noble aspect.
AT: Three weeks and she's good as, new, or better
Dr: Better.
AT: Better.
Doctor moves to the kitchen. Assistant and Assistant have sex
HK: She's an incorrigible beast, Doctor, just yesterday there was a gentleman caller for her.
DR: The dog?
HK: Of course! Little hussy has been all over the block, trading her wares.
DR: What wares?
HK: Those breasts you gave her! Every time she comes in she tracks filth all over, as if she's been rolling in garbage all day. God knows what she's doing, out until the early hours.

DR: You wanted me to get rid of her Marfa. You said your piece of mind. Get her out of the apartment for a while. Quote - "She can take care of herself."

HK: But she's taken up with some undesirable lements now! Cats in the neighborhood are disappearing. There's constant howling at all hours, hours, hours. Strange dogs scratch the door. I can't take it anymore. Get rid of her.

HK: Please, Doctor.

DR: You'll have to bear this burden.

DR: You're talking about my greatest achievement, my immortality. She's not the most considerate.

DOG and ASSISTANT in post coitul embrace. DOCTOR and HOUSEKEEPER continue discussion inaudibly.

Dog: My shiny, white Frankenstein has emancipated this dog to chores more invasively. Satisfying. Who could have guess, at a world beyond blood sausage and cardboard shelters, the gentle waves of furnace heat. Consumption of the grocer's finest and the butcher, once an uncaring bastard, now caters to my whims and fancies, and all that pleasure costs me naught, but a tumble with this child who only hears my words of love and wants become haves.

SCENE 5

DOCTOR, ASSISTANT & HOUSEKEEPER sit together. DOG alone in office

Doorbell sound

AT: The doorbell.

HK: It better not be that randy companion.

DR: What the mail caller?

AT: The post?

HK: Well, should I get the door?

Sax moves to the stage

Door opens and reveal saxophone player as SUITOR

HK: I told you yesterday Sir, the dog is not home.

DR: She's not a fine piece of anything, Sir, but a science experiment

Dog: My bulbous savior sa-

DR: It's time for you to leave Sir.

HK: Your girth is not an issue at this time.

Dog: Entry to my friend, with hospitality.

AT: Friend.

DR: You don't have friends; you are a half dog woman!

HK: Those stockings are totally inappropriate.

Dog: You create this vessel, vessel distinct as hoy creation. You must respect this soul and all its lusty appendages.

SUITOR attempts to enter apartment

DR: Get out of here.

Dog: ow ow ow ow

HK: Remove your shoes, rascal.

DR: She has no such heinous affliction, sir.

Dog: What good is freedom from filthy flesh, if you cage the more fragrant variety in flaccid chains?

HK: I can't live like this Doctor.

AT: He's only trying to -

HK: *Cacophony.*

DR: Marfa, please now, Sir. I'm gonna have to ask you to remove yourself from my place of residence.

HK: Help your master, Mitya

AT & DR: push push

HK: Doctor, look what the dog is doing.

Dog: A just reward for my unhappy wardens.

HK: I can't live like this.

DR: Catch the beast, Marfa, before she wrecks the whole place.

Doctor, Assistant and Housekeeper chase Dog through the apartment.

HK: The smell in her is terrifying.

As if in slow motion

DR: She's getting away!

AT: Her reflexes are incredible.

HK: She's the antichrist, the devil in fur!

Dog locks herself in office

DR: Come out you ungrateful -

HK: After all the things you've done for the wretch.

AT: Perhaps some patience?

DR: I'll tear the mongrel's hair out.

HK: The Good Lord does test us sinners.

Dog: ow ow ow ow

DR: Open the door.

HK: Do you hear that? She's destroying your office.

DR: Beast, I'll kick the door down!

HK: It's all too much for me, too much.

AT: Let me talk to her. Let me in furry friend. Nobody is going to hurt you.

HK: I'll boil her alive.

AT: Please!

DR: *(whisper)* Unbearable .

Dog allows the ASSISTANT to enter

Dog: The yoke of captivity -

AT: The doctor's only trying to help you.

Dog: Self awareness, at the price of shackled liberty.

AT: Perhaps -

Dog: He has designs for me, unholy designs. Perhaps, you could somehow assist me, my love?

SCENE 6

Doctor works alone in office

Dog enters

Dog: Good Doctor, pray you listen. My behaviors' been incorrigible and I tender my humble apologies, perhaps the instincts of my previous condition have poisoned me.

DR: Well, I appreciate that madam and -

Dog: You, alone, have saved me from my low state. I was hoping to thank you with a peace offering, a fleshy and hot offering. It's all I have to give now. Let me submit to your baser instincts.

Doctor and Dog begin to labor away at love. Inaudible

HK: ahh ahh sin

Assistant enter

AT: Rake and whore. You couldn't keep your filthy old mitts off her could you? And you bitch -

DR: Mitya, you can't grudge an old man.

Assistant stabs Doctor to death with surgical instrument.

Assistant beats dog

Police: Doctor! This is the police. We've been informed that you're harboring a prisoner, a woman as some sort of sexual slave. I warn you Doctor, I'll break this door down if you don't open it. We've heard all about your surgical perversions. Okay, we're coming in. Put that instrument down, sir, now!

Police shoots Assistant

End of Opera