

Dog Anxiety

by

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Cast of Characters

ZARA:

20's

ELEANOR:

60

Place

Eleanor's apartment

Time

Evening

Zara sits on Eleanor's couch in the living room.

Eleanor hands Zara a glass of water.

ELEANOR: Here you go, dear, drink this down.

ZARA: Why is it so fizzy?

ELEANOR: It's a vitamin energy drink. It's just what you need.

Zara takes a sip.

ZARA: It's good.

ELEANOR: It will clear your mind. So, tell me, what's going on with you?

ZARA: You have no idea, Eleanor. I feel like I'm about to drop dead.

ELEANOR: Oh, my.

ZARA: I've never appreciated my lonely life more than I do this very moment.

ELEANOR: Oh, dear, are you lonely?

ZARA: Yes and I love it, I embrace it.

ELEANOR: You're saying you like being all alone?

ZARA: I cherish being alone. I've never appreciated silence as much as I do right now.

ELEANOR: So, that's a good thing, isn't it?

ZARA: It's a terrible thing!

ELEANOR: I'm confused.

Zara sips her drink.

ZARA: This is really good by the way.

ELEANOR: It gives incredible energy boosts.

Zara stands up.

ZARA: I already feel it working.

ELEANOR: Oh, yes, a few sips and you feel like you're flying.

Zara sips her drink.

ZARA: Mmmm.

ELEANOR: Glad you like it.

ZARA: You ever do a favor for a friend and it completely blows up in your face?

ELEANOR: I was married, that should say it all.

ZARA: Right! So you get what I'm saying.

ELEANOR: Not exactly.

ZARA: She asks me to watch her puppy, Oscar. I say sure, I mean, how bad could it be to watch an innocent, harmless, cute little puppy? Right? Right? WRONG! It was a nightmare if there ever was one. Look at me! Do you see the bags under my eyes? I look like I went twelve rounds with Muhammad Ali. I look horrible!

She tells me, like it's noooooo big deal. She says, "Zara would you mind watching my puppy for me for three days?" I said, "Sure, no problem." No problem!

This dog has NOT stopped barking his tiny squeaky voice, (imitates dog) Maar, Maaar, Maaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaar! Didn't stop barking for the entire night. Maaar, Maaar, Maaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaar! Like a wolf howling in the night. Kept me up! I tossed and turned and tossed and turned some more. I felt like a 1980's break dancer.

Finally it's time to go to work. I was actually excited to go to work for once in my life. Work was somehow a better option than staying home with Maar, Maaar, MAAAAAAAAAAAAAAR!!

ZARA: (cont'd) But guess what?! When I stepped foot into my kitchen, I found myself sliiiiiiiiiiiiiding alllllllll the waaaaaaayy ACROSS the kitchen and FLAT DEAD ON MY BACK! I have bruises the size of boulders...DOG PEE PEE.

Smiles sarcastically.

Yeah, huh.

Nodding her head up and down. She waves her arms and sips more of her energy drink.

It's messed up! The dog is messed up! Cheryl is soooooo messed up for suckering me into watching her, her, her, her, her, I can't think of any more insults for that, that, that, that... AAAAAHHHH! I've had it.

Pouting.

He tore up my couch when I came home from work. My couch, the one that I just recently purchased from Levitz, great deal by the way, is destroyed!

Annd where was OSCAR? Somehow *Oscar* the expert trapeze artist positioned himself ON TOP of my kitchen cabinets. Did I mention how small this puppy is? The size of my foot. Don't know how the hell he got up onto the cabinet, miracles of God, ANYWAY, he couldn't get down. The genius was afraid to jump and rightfully so, I'll give him that.

Mind you there was a load of poop and pee pee to go around, spread alllllllll over the cabinet tops.

SO, I'm going to shut up now before I find myself passed out in a hospital from dog anxiety.

ELEANOR: How can your friend Cheryl do that to you?

ZARA: I would *never* do that to a friend.

ELEANOR: She sounds exactly like my ex-husband, on the surface everything is dandy but underneath there is nothing but lies and deceit!

ZARA: Well, yeah, she could have told me Oscar was a hyperactive puppy, to say the least.

ELEANOR: What are you going to do now, dear?

ZARA: Wait! I have to wait for her to return from Newport. Tomorrow! I have one more night with Mar, mar, maaaar!

ELEANOR: Calm down, come, sit down, maybe giving you the energy drink was a bad idea.

ZARA: No, I love it, can I have more?

ELEANOR: Let's just take a breather and try to settle this thing first.

ZARA: One more night. How am I ever going to get through one more night?

ELEANOR: Is the dog really that bad?

ZARA: A living nightmare.

ELEANOR: Oh, that's bad.

ZARA: Terrible! I have a pitch meeting tomorrow and I have no idea how I'm going to get through it. There is so much to prepare and it's for a major account. If I don't nail this pitch tomorrow, I could quite possibly lose my job!

ELEANOR: Oh, no. There's no way to re-schedule?

ZARA: Re-schedule? Ha! I wish. There is absolutely no way. It's a corporate 500 company.

ELEANOR: What's a corporate 500---

ZARA: It's a meeting with executives from a major brand.

ELEANOR: Oh, I see.

ZARA: Eleanor...can you take Oscar?

ELEANOR: What?!

ZARA: Please! I will pay you for your time.

ELEANOR: For how long?

ZARA: One night...tonight. Can you? Please?

ELEANOR: I don't know the first thing about dogs.

ZARA: It's really not that difficult.

ELEANOR: But you just said---

ZARA: I know, I know. It's difficult for me, but for you, you can handle it way better than me and it's only for one night and I will pay you---

ELEANOR: Oh, no, I can't take any money from---

ZARA: I will give you a hundred dollars for your time. Please, I have no one else to ask and I am desperate to nail this pitch tomorrow. Eleanor, my life depends on it!!

ELEANOR: Oh, dearie me. Oh dear, dearie me. This Oscar as he's called, does he bite?

ZARA: No bites.

ELEANOR: Is he big?

ZARA: He's really tiny.

ELEANOR: That's right. And he barks a lot?

ZARA: Like breathing air.

ELEANOR: And he likes to climb?

ZARA: Just like Spider-man, I'm afraid.

ELEANOR: Is he friendly?!

ZARA: Yes!

ELEANOR: He is?

ZARA: He needs lots of love and attention, I think.

ELEANOR: Oh, I don't know...

ZARA: Two hundred. I'll give you---

ELEANOR: It's not about the money---

ZARA: I will owe you big time. My career is at stake!

ELEANOR: Well, I have managed three husbands.

ZARA: THREE?

ELEANOR: Long story. OKAY! I'll do it.

ZARA: Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you. You are the greatest friend in the entire world! Let me run nextdoor and bring him right over!

ELEANOR: Wait a second! Shouldn't I prepare? I have a spare room, maybe I should set some quilts down and try to organize things a bit.

ZARA: Fine! I will help you. Let's do it now! We can set everything up and then I'll bring him over! Yeah?

ELEANOR: I hope I won't regret this.

ZARA: It's just one night.

ELEANOR: One night.

END OF PLAY