

No Goodbye

by

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Cast of Characters

ALLY: 20's
BOB: 20's
DUTCH: 5

Place
Bus stop

Time
Morning

2.

Setting: The play takes place at a bus station on a quiet suburban road.

At Rise: The play opens with Bob, Ally and Dutch standing at the bus stop waiting for the bus to arrive.

Pause.

Bob extends his arm while holding the dog leash, offering it to Ally.

BOB: ...He's yours.

ALLY: No, you can have him.

BOB: I feel bad..you take him.

ALLY: I feel worse, you take him.

Bob brings his arm down.

Pause.

BOB: We're...how are we going to do visitations. If I have him, I'm pretty sure he's going to want to see you.

ALLY: We can meet at the park.

BOB: Which park?

ALLY: Any park.

BOB: He's going to miss you.

ALLY: Yeah, well, I'm going to miss him right back.

BOB: It was your idea.

ALLY: ..What was---

BOB: To take Dutch in, when we found him.

ALLY: Yeah, so?

BOB: So I feel obligated to say that perhaps he belongs to you more than he belongs to me.

ALLY: He does.

BOB: He does?

ALLY: But I can't take him.

BOB: You could.

ALLY: I can't.

BOB: You're choosing not to, it's not that you can't.

ALLY: I can't because my new apartment is the size of a walk in closet.

BOB: You chose that place.

ALLY: I chose that place because it's what I can afford Bob!

BOB: Okay, but let's say as things progress in your life, if you expand your prospects and eventually find yourself in a larger apartment, what happens then?

ALLY: What do you think happens?

BOB: You expect me to hand Dutch over to you?

ALLY: Of course.

BOB: That's fucked up Ally.

ALLY: How?

BOB: Because he won't want to be with you by then. He would have gotten comfortable living with me.

ALLY: Once I have a big enough place, I plan on taking him back.

BOB: That's, that's abuse!

ALLY: What?!

BOB: You're damaging his feelings.

ALLY: That's not true.

BOB: Don't you see that you are severing the bond by going off for an undisclosed amount of time? You expect Dutch to just accept that? You expect Dutch to go running back to you when you've realized you made a huge mistake?

ALLY: Umm, are we still talking about Dutch?

BOB: ...Yes...no, I mean, YES, we are okay? I won't give him back to you.

ALLY: Bullshit.

BOB: I won't.

ALLY: Then I'll call the police.

BOB: Haven't you even thought about my feelings in all of this?

ALLY: I wasn't aware that you even had feelings Bob.

BOB: I do have feelings!

ALLY: No need to shout!

BOB: I'm tired of being ignored!

ALLY: Then speak up and say something!

Pause.

BOB: It's hard enough for me to...I won't be able to give him back to you after a certain span of time -

ALLY: You look like an overgrown toddler right now.

BOB: You know Dutch and I have a special connection, we have -

ALLY: And I don't?

BOB: Not like me.

ALLY: Oh, really?

BOB: Yeah.

ALLY: I happen to think my connection is greater than your connection.

BOB: No way.

ALLY: Yeah.

BOB: Impossible.

ALLY: Tell you what. Let the leash go and let's both call him to see who he goes to first. That will decide it.

BOB: That's stupid.

ALLY: No, it's not.

BOB: Fine!

Bob releases the dog leash.

Ally and Bob walk a few paces back and turn around side by side.

ALLY: Dutch!

BOB: Here boy.

ALLY: Dutchie, come here sweetie.

BOB: Hey Bud, over here, come here.

ALLY: That's a good boy, come to Momma!

BOB: No Dutch, come here boy, *now*.

ALLY: No Dutch, wrong way, come back to Mommy.

BOB: That's a good boy, right to Poppa.

ALLY: No! Dutchie! Come here this instant!

BOB: Dutch, I have some BACON TREATS!

ALLY: That's cheating!

BOB: Bacon treats!

ALLY: No, that's unfair!

Bob laughs.

BOB: That's my boy, that's my buddy. I win.

ALLY: You bribed him.

BOB: Doesn't matter.

ALLY: If I dangled bacon bits like you, he would have come to me and besides I was winning until you did that.

BOB: No, you weren't.

ALLY: He was practically in my arms.

BOB: He knows Daddy provides the bacon.

Pause.

BOB: ...Want to feed him a bacon bite?

ALLY: ...No.

BOB: ...You okay?

ALLY: Leave me alone.

BOB: ...I'm sorry.

ALLY: No, you're not.

BOB: I am.

ALLY: Don't you think I want to take Dutchie home with me?

BOB: I do.

ALLY: I love him.

BOB: I know you do.

ALLY: I don't want to abandon him.

BOB: Of course you don't.

ALLY: I have no choice Bob!

BOB: *(sighs)* Maybe he can crash by you on the weekends.

ALLY: Nooo, that wouldn't work.

BOB: Why not?

ALLY: Cause then I'll have to see your face every weekend and we can't go back there.

BOB: We can't?

Ally makes a face.

BOB: Okay.

Pause.

BOB: You warm enough?

ALLY: I'm fine.

Bob removes his scarf.

BOB: Take this, it's getting cold.

ALLY: Supposed to be getting warm.

BOB: The weather plays tricks on us.

ALLY: I don't want your scarf.

BOB: Will you just take it, please?

Ally takes it.

Ally wraps the scarf around her neck.

Ally looks down at Dutch.

ALLY: He looks sad.

BOB: Does he?

ALLY: His eyes are watery.

BOB: No, that's, I don't think he slept well last night -

ALLY: He knows I'm leaving him.

BOB: ..He does.

ALLY: I never meant to hurt him.

BOB: ..He knows.

ALLY: Do you think he will hate me forever?

BOB: No. I'll, I'll talk to him, I'll sit him down and explain to him that you needed to go away for a bit and that maybe one day you will come back..I'll tell him that it wasn't his fault, that it was a decision we both made and that we are still, well...still a family. Just not in the same house and, uh, he will see you and you can both spend time maybe on the weekends when it's convenient or, if you're not comfortable with that, then maybe we can set up a video call once in a while and uh, it will be better for the two of you that way, perhaps...Look, I'll do whatever you need me to do to make sure Dutchie doesn't hold a grudge against you...I promise.

ALLY: (*nods*)

BOB: You okay?

ALLY: (*shrugs*)

Bob hugs Ally.

LIGHTS SLOWLY FADE.

ALLY: You promise to take good care of him?

BOB: I'll take the best care of him, Ally.

ALLY: Will you take him for those nature walks and give him all the love he needs?

BOB: I'll do everything in my power...I promise.

ALLY: (*sincerely*) I don't even know why I asked, of course you will.

END OF PLAY