

NEW GIRL

"We Fostered A Zoo"

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ACT ONE

INT. LOFT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The main kitchen and living room seems empty, dark, and quiet. The front door handle jiggles then slowly opens revealing JESS. Leading her in is a small, energetic DOG on a leash.

JESS

Shh. Don't wake my roommates.

WINSTON (O.S.)

Who are you talking to?

WINSTON is REVEALED waking up from sleeping on the couch. Jess let's out a scream.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

I thought I heard you talking to someone.

JESS

Oh-- hey, Winston.

Jess throws her jacket over the dog.

WINSTON

What time is it?

JESS

A little bit past two, maybe.

Jess occasionally peers over to her jacket.

WINSTON

What's with your "I'm hiding something" face? You bring a guy home with you?

The dog, under Jess's jacket, runs from the kitchen to Schmidt's room. It pushes open his door, entering his room.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Uh, Jess. Your jacket just floated into Schmidt's room.

JESS

Static. I guess it's magnetically attracted to Schmidt's silk blankets. You see, when an excess of electric charge-

SCHMIDT (O.S.)

Jessica!

Jess turns around to see a half naked SCHMIDT standing at his open door.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

Would you care telling me why I was
awaken by your smelly jacket
licking my already moisturized
face?

JESS

So, you guys know how I have a
heart of gold?

Schmidt and Winston groan and glare at Jess.

JESS (CONT'D)

I'm volunteering for *Foster A Pet*,
okay? We take care of animals that
belong to marines while they're on
leave.

SCHMIDT

Damn it, Jess. How are we ever
suppose to be mad at you? If we
express our frustration we look
like jerks!

The small dog runs over to Jess from Schmidt's room, jumping up on the couch.

NICK (O.S.)

The lamp!

The dog kicks a coaster, which flies across the room causing a LAMP to fall towards the ground. NICK runs into the room in time to catch the lamp before it can touch the ground.

Schmidt, Winston and Jess stare at Nick in astonishment.

JESS

How did you know the lamp was going
to fall?

SCHMIDT

Oh my God. You're a soothsayer!

NICK

I'm not a soothsayer-- I just-- I
had a dream that the lamp was going
to fall.

JESS

Witch!

SCHMIDT

Burn him!

NICK

The last few nights I've been having dreams of certain events that just happen to come true.

WINSTON

That's why I'm sleeping on the couch. You keep waking me up.

NICK

How am I waking you up?

INT. LOFT - NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Nick is asleep in his room when he suddenly lets out a scream.

NICK

It's going to rain!

Thunder is heard.

INT. LOFT - NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

It's a different night. Nick is asleep when his eyes suddenly open.

NICK

Car crash!

A car crash is heard from outside followed by a car alarm.

INT. LOFT - NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

It's tonight. Nick is asleep when he quickly sits up.

NICK

Schmidt's going to sneeze!

INT. LOFT - WINSTON'S ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Winston is lying in bed glaring at the ceiling. We hear Schmidt sneeze from his room.

NICK (O.S.)

Bless you!

SCHMIDT (O.S.)

Thank you!

WINSTON

-That's it! I'm sleeping on the couch.

Winston throws back his sheets.

BACK TO:

INT. LOFT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Back to the present moment.

WINSTON

You need to go to a psychic and figure out what's going on.

NICK

I'm not going to a silly, stupid psychic. These are crazy coincidences. Happens to everybody.

JESS

But what if these dreams are signs? If you can predict a lamp falling you can tell the future.

NICK

This is ridiculous. You can't predict something that hasn't happened yet. I'm not Dr. Manhattan.

SCHMIDT

Who?

NICK

Dr. Manhattan-- From *Watchmen*?

WINSTON

Out of all the references you could have made you pick Dr. Manhattan? Why not a magic-eight ball, a fortune cookie, *That's So Raven*, the weather man?

SCHMIDT

Don't be stupid. The weather man can't tell the future. He senses the future.

Schmidt pantomimes sensing the weather.

NICK

I'm not any of those things cause I can't tell or sense the future!

Nick heads back into his room.

SCHMIDT

And this dog is not staying in my apartment. His hair's going to get all over my suit. I can't go into work looking like a homeless man who uses dogs as blankets.

WINSTON

You've seen a homeless man do this?

SCHMIDT

I would do it if I was homeless. It's like an electric-free heated blanket. Very efficient.

JESS

Fine. But tonight he sleeps like a prince. Poor Bruce misses his master so much, the least you could do is give him some compassion.

SCHMIDT

Don't lecture me on compassion. I once made out with a fatty so my bro could get with her hot friend. I didn't even hesitate. I pounced on that grenade. Figuratively and literally.

JESS

Ew.

SCHMIDT

(referring to the dog)
And don't tell me his name. I'm not going to become emotionally attached to this mutt.

Jess holds the dog's face up to Schmidt's face.

JESS
Say good night, Bruce.

The dog yips and licks Schmidt's nose. Schmidt smugly wipes his nose as he trots back to his room. Winston lays back on the couch.

SCHMIDT
I refuse to house this dog. Unless it pays rent it has no use to me.

WINSTON
Will you both leave? I'd like a little shut eye before work.

Schmidt slams his door and Jess walks to her room, still holding the dog. Nick screams suddenly.

NICK (O.S.)
--Bless you!

Schmidt sneezes from his bedroom.

SCHMIDT (O.S.)
Thank you!

WINSTON
That's it!

Winston jumps up from the sofa, grabbing his car keys.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
I'm staying at a hotel!

NICK (O.S.)
Bring your umbrella!

Thunder is heard and lightning flashes.

WINSTON
Damn it!

SMASH TO MAIN TITLES

INT. LOFT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

It's the next day and the sun is quickly setting. Winston has returned from work and looks completely exhausted. He staggers to the kitchen table.

Schmidt is cooking a meal, still wearing some of his work clothes under a colorful apron.

WINSTON

We've got to do something about Nick's sleeping problem.

SCHMIDT

I think the problem is you're a light sleeper.

WINSTON

I'm not a light sleeper, I'm just alert, like a watch dog.

A bark is heard from Jess's room.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

And now we've got a yapping mutt in the loft.

The dog barks once more.

SCHMIDT

His name is Bruce, Winston.

Schmidt finishes cooking his food and dumps it on the plate. Winston holds out his hand, preparing to receive the plate from Schmidt.

WINSTON

Oh, thank you so much. I'm starving-

Schmidt walks right past Winston, setting the plate on the floor. Schmidt smiles ear to ear.

SCHMIDT

(calling out)

Come get it while it's hot.

The dog runs over, gobbling up the food off the plate.

WINSTON

You're attached, Schmidt.

SCHMIDT

I am not attached. I just don't want the poor guy to die of starvation. Jess hasn't fed him today.

The dog finishes his meal then begins to do back-flips.

WINSTON

Are you watching this?

SCHMIDT

His way of complimenting my cooking. You guys never do back-flips for my food.

Winston stands up, pointing to the dog in amazement.

WINSTON

This isn't an ordinary dog, Schmidt. He's different.

SCHMIDT

Like a snow dog?

WINSTON

I bet it used to be on T.V. or in movies.

SCHMIDT

That's ridiculous. Bruce isn't a show biz dog.

WINSTON

(to the dog)
Bruce, sit.

The dog sits.

SCHMIDT

Lay down.

The dog lies down.

WINSTON

Sing.

The dog howls.

SCHMIDT

Do my taxes.

The dog tilts his head slightly to one side.

WINSTON

You believe me now? We could make millions off of this dog. Take him to the circus, open our own tent. I always wanted to be part of the circus. They make good money. Money!

SCHMIDT

Jess has to take him back eventually.

(MORE)

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)
 And it's not technically our dog.
 We can't make money off him.

Jess slowly opens the door, peeking in.

JESS
 Hello?

WINSTON
 Sup, Doctor Doolittle.

JESS
 Oh-- Uh, everyone close your eyes.

SCHMIDT
 Close our eyes?

JESS
 Just do it!

WINSTON
 That's not happening. I've had a
 long day. I close my eyes now, I'm
 not waking up for a few hours.

Jess lowers her head in shame, carrying in a cage with a
 PARROT inside.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
 What is that?

PARROT
 What is that?

WINSTON
 This isn't happening to me.

PARROT
 This is happening to me.

WINSTON
 I can barely sleep when Nick's
 screaming every twenty minutes in
 the night. How will I fall asleep
 with a barking dog and a squawking
 parrot?

PARROT
 Squawking parrot-

WINSTON
 (to the parrot)
 Shut up, you.
 (then)
 (MORE)

WINSTON (CONT'D)

I'm going to take a shower. If you hear me collapse I'm either asleep or dead. At this point, I don't really care which one.

Winston walks into the bathroom.

SCHMIDT

Do you realize you didn't feed Bruce today? The poor mutt must have been starving.

JESS

I didn't have time to feed him this morning, and to make matters worse; I got a call saying the marine who owns him can't afford to keep Bruce when he returns. Apparently he was just a present that he got before leaving the country.

SCHMIDT

(excited)

We get to keep Bruce?--

Schmidt quickly disguises his excitement with disappointment.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

I mean; we have to keep the dog? Bummer. I guess he can sleep in my room if he needs to.

Bruce barks then runs into Schmidt's room. Schmidt excitedly runs into his room as well. Winston screams, then comes running out wet and wrapped in a towel.

WINSTON

What the hell is in our bathroom?

JESS

You talking about the snake or the turtle?

WINSTON

There's a snake in there?

JESS

His name's Henry. I didn't like him at first either, but he came with Franklin.

WINSTON

Franklin's the turtle?

JESS
Franklin's the iguana.

Winston glares at Jess, paralyzed with anger.

WINSTON
I'm going back to the hotel.

Winston grabs his car keys and walks out of the loft wearing nothing but a towel.

JESS
Winston, you forgot-

Winston quickly reenters the apartment.

WINSTON
I know what I forgot!

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Jess, CECE, Schmidt and Winston are sitting in a waiting room. A DOCTOR walks in and the four of them stand with worried expression.

JESS
Is Nick going to be alright?

CUT TO:

INT. LOFT - NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

Nick jerks out of sleep screaming.

NICK
I-- I'm okay. It was just a dream.

Nick starts to control his rapid breathing.

NICK (CONT'D)
Unless I'm really a soothsayer.

Nick chuckles to himself.

NICK (CONT'D)
That's ridiculous.

PARROT (O.S.)
That's ridiculous.

Nicks spots the parrot sitting on top of his dresser drawer and screams.

NICK

Jess!

EXT. PARK - DAY

Winston, Schmidt, and Nick stand in the park with Bruce, the dog.

NICK

In the circus, you say?

WINSTON

Not really. We're training him to be featured in the circus. We open him as an act and they pay us handsomely.

SCHMIDT

We'll give him most of the money in dog treats.

Schmidt pets the energetic dog.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(to the dog)

Yes, we will. Who's a good puppy?
Bruce is.

NICK

Alright! You got it out of me!
Something has been bothering me.

Winston and Schmidt exchange confused glances.

NICK (CONT'D)

It's about the dream I had last night.

WINSTON

No way. I don't want to know what happens in my future, you Nostradummy.

NICK

Oh, that's clever. Were you working on that?

Winston's very proud.

WINSTON

Just came to me. I'm like a black Wayne Brady.

NICK
Wayne Brady's black.

Winston gives Nick a look of disgust.

WINSTON
Is he?

SCHMIDT
(to the dog)
Nick's a filthy little soothsayer.
Yes he is.

NICK
I had a dream you guys were in a
hospital waiting room.

SCHMIDT
Waiting for who?

NICK
For me, I'm pretty sure I was
dying. I can't die. I haven't seen
Iron Man Three yet.

WINSTON
Makes sense. You hate hospitals.
The only thing that would get you
in one would be death.

NICK
Don't-- just don't say that.

SCHMIDT
Say what? Death? Death. Death.

WINSTON
I've never seen you so scared,
Nick.

NICK
I'm not scared. It was just a dream--
- I think.

WINSTON
So now you believe you can tell the
future?

NICK
I don't know anymore. I'm starting
to doubt my own beliefs, or doubt
my own lack of beliefs.

WINSTON

I don't think you have anything to worry about.

Nick laughs, trying to brush off the dream as an irrational fear.

NICK

Yeah. No, you're right. I don't know what I was thinking.

The dog barks. Nick reacts by running away.

SCHMIDT

Nick, where are you going?

NICK

Away from your rabid dog! Death is all around us!

The dog lies on the ground on it's back motionless.

WINSTON

What's Bruce doing?

SCHMIDT

Oh, he's doing his Nick impression.

The dog opens it's eyes barking at the sky. Winston and Schmidt burst into laughter.

WINSTON

Spot on.

SCHMIDT

That's nothing. Bruce, do your impression of a girl at a bar after they see Winston.

The dog begins running far away followed by Schmidt's taunting laughter.

WINSTON

Oh, very funny. Hilarious.

SCHMIDT

Bitches, man.

Winston begins his exaggerated clapping.

INT. LOFT - LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER

Nick, Schmidt, Winston, and the dog return to the loft.

WINSTON

Jess, we're-

A hawk sores over Winston's head. He now realizes there's four cats, a large snake, two large dogs, a pony, a turtle, and a chameleon exploring the loft.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

When did my life turn into *We Bought A Zoo*?

NICK

I think I dreamt this. I'm having a major deja vu moment. Next thing that happens is someone says "pudding porn".

The Parrot is perched in the kitchen.

PARROT

Pudding Porn.

NICK

Just like that!

SCHMIDT

What's that smell?

WINSTON

Pick one.

Schmidt dramatically sniffs the air.

SCHMIDT

No, not my Will.i.am cologne!

Schmidt prances into his room.

Jess begins walking into the room before spotting the guys. She immediately spins around, walking back to her room.

WINSTON

Jess!

Jess spins around with a fake smile doing a 1940's cigarette girl impression.

JESS

Oh, hey fellas.

WINSTON

Don't you vintage girl 'hey fellas' us. Noah didn't have this many animals on his ark.

NICK

There is a tiny horse in our loft!

Schmidt returns from the bedroom holding a bunny.

SCHMIDT

And a bunny got all up in my Swagger Spray. I knew I should have kept it on the high shelf and left my SPF 60 face lotion in the middle next to my Hashtag-Beautiful hand moisturizer.

JESS

I know how this looks and I'd just like to remind you of my heart of gold.

WINSTON

You may be the Tinman at the end of *The Wizard of Oz*, but you're definitely not the scarecrow.

JESS

Hey!-- Wait, what?

WINSTON

You're not using your brain! These animals have to go.

SCHMIDT

The dog can stay.

NICK

And so can the turtle.

SCHMIDT

The turtle is the first to go!

JESS

Okay, maybe you're right. Maybe I went a little overboard on this one. I just haven't had time to balance volunteering and work like I used to.

WINSTON

So now you're trying to make up for it by adopting a zoo?

JESS

Fostering a zoo of pets.

NICK

Nothing wrong with that. Life's short. Yolo-- todyd. You only live once-- till one day you die!

JESS

Thank you, Nick.

NICK

When I die can you name the turtle after me?

SCHMIDT

If you die I'm putting the turtle in the coffin with you.

NICK

Not Nick Jr.!

WINSTON

You know what, Jess? It's time we get you out of the loft for a while. The fur flying around is clouding your judgment.

NICK

And the scent of Schmidt's cologne.

SCHMIDT

Yeah, let's get away from the animals for a while.

JESS

That sounds fantastic. Where are we going?

CUT TO:

EXT. CIRCUS - DAY

Jess is standing at the entrance of the circus with Winston, Nick, and Schmidt. Jess is in shock, Nick is frightened, Schmidt is holding the dog, and Winston is holding a boombox with a menacing smile.

JESS

We couldn't go see a movie?

END OF ACT I

ACT II

EXT. CIRCUS - DAY

Jess and Nick walk around the grounds of the circus. They pass a cage with screeching monkeys. Nick grabs hold of Jess tightly.

NICK
Killer monkeys!

Jess pries him off her arm.

JESS
You need to pull yourself together, Miller. I'm determined to enjoy myself. I can't do that when you're a spider-monkey on my arm.

The monkeys screech.

JESS (CONT'D)
Stop that!

The monkeys fall silent. They arrive at the opening of a tent.

NICK
Maybe I should just go home and watch the animals.

JESS
That's been taken care of.

INT. LOFT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cece opens the door to the apartment. All the animals are flying, trotting and crawling around the place.

CECE
Jess, this is not "just a couple cute animals."

Bird shit falls on her shoulder.

EXT. CIRCUS - DAY

JESS
Are you going to behave yourself if we go in the main tent?

Nick scoffs.

NICK

Of course. I'm just on some new meds and I'm a little jumpy. I'll be fine.

JESS

You don't take meds.

NICK

They're *Flintstone* vitamins. I'm trying to be healthy.

INT. MAIN TENT - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Nick and Jess enter the large inner area of the tent. Crowds of people sit in the stands around the tent. Nick spots several clowns piling out of a tiny car.

NICK

Nothing life threatening about a bunch of demon clowns defying basic physics.

Nick then sees a lion tamer whipping at a lion inside of a cage.

NICK (CONT'D)

In a cage. Nothing too scary about that. I'm not in the cage.

A man on stilts walks towards Nick blowing fire in his direction.

NICK (CONT'D)

Oh, hey. Check this guy out-
(then)
Fire! A tall man with fire! I'm very uncomfortable with this happening so close to my face.

Nick runs outside of the tent leaving Jess alone.

JESS

Walk it off, Nick!

EXT. CIRCUS MAIN GROUNDS - DAY

Winston and Schmidt stand awkwardly in the middle of an open area between tents. Several groups of people walk by. At their feet sits the dog and their boombox.

WINSTON

This is the perfect time. People are walking by. Time to get their attention and then their money.

Schmidt leans down to give the dog a pep talk.

SCHMIDT

Listen, Bruce. This is it. This is your big chance. You ready to do this?

The dog barks, wagging his tale.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(to Winston)

He's good to go.

WINSTON

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention. I have with me the most magnificent dog in the world. One of a kind, you'll never see another dog like him in all of your lifetime unless you own a T.V., which, let's face it, if you did you wouldn't be at the circus.

Schmidt is behind Winston waving his arms around, showing off the dog. No one is paying attention to them.

SCHMIDT

(to Winston)

Let me handle this.

Schmidt presses a button on the boombox, cuing up fast-pace music.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

Oh, what in the hell? A dancing dog!

The dog begins jumping up and down, bouncing backwards.

People begin to gather with wide smiles. They throw down dollar bills and quarters in front of the dog.

WINSTON

Do you know what this means, Schmidt?

SCHMIDT

Bruce is going to become a star.

WINSTON

An overnight sensation.
Commercials, movies, we're going to
be rich! Dreams do come true. I'm
not going to die a poor man alone
in a dirty shack.

Winston begins cackling.

SCHMIDT

-What?

WINSTON

-Nothing!

Schmidt and Winston hold each other, jumping up and down in excitement.

EXT. CIRCUS BACK ALLEY - DAY

Nick is walking around the circus alone. He comes across a tent that reads "Psychic: 5 dollars for your future to be told".

NICK

(to himself)

Might as well get a second opinion.

Nick reluctantly enters the tent, pulling out his wallet.

INT. PSYCHIC TENT - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

A female PSYCHIC in her mid-thirties sits at a table with garments around her head. Her eyes are closed, but she opens them when Nick enters.

PSYCHIC

Greetings. Please, sit.

NICK

Uh, no. I'm okay.

PSYCHIC

Sit, now!

NICK

Yes, ma'am.

Nick quickly sits at the table in front of the psychic.

NICK (CONT'D)

Can I be perfectly honest. I don't believe in all this nonsense. I just kinda came in here to get away from the other scary stuff around the circus. And don't think for a second any of your silly mind trick malarkey will sway what I think. I'm very stable on my belief of not believing. You can't penetrate the great wall of knowledge and sensibility surrounding my way of life.

PSYCHIC

I'm sensing you're worried about your safety.

Nick is taken off guard.

NICK

God?

INT. MAIN TENT - DAY

Jess is sitting amongst a crowd watching the circus performers. She now has a bag of popcorn as she cheers on the trapeze artists.

The RINGLEADER in a tall top-hat walks out to the middle of the ring.

RINGLEADER

Do we have any volunteers for our next act? Preferably a small child.

Jess freaks out, jumping up and down, then running down towards the ring. The Ringleader smiles and points at Jess.

RINGLEADER (CONT'D)

Or someone with the excitement of a small child.

JESS

Me! I'm the volunteer! It's me!

She points at a small child.

JESS (CONT'D)

In your face, shortstack!

Jess runs down to the ring standing next to the Ringleader.

RINGLEADER
What's your name, miss?

JESS
Jess, my name is Jess. I'm a great
volunteer. I won't let you down.

RINGLEADER
I mean, there's really nothing to
it. You just stand here and we'll
do a few tricks. Would you folks
like that?

The crowd cheers.

JESS
I can do tricks if you need me to.
I can juggle two balls for almost
twenty seconds.

RINGLEADER
That won't be necessary.

EXT. CIRCUS - PORTA-POTTIES

Winston exits a porta-potty. He spots a flier on the ground
with a picture of Bruce. It says:

"Missing Circus Dog, Tag. If you see him call number below."

Winston looks over to the giant crowd gathered around Schmidt
and Bruce.

WINSTON
Uh-oh.

EXT. CIRCUS MAIN GROUNDS - EVENING

A giant crowd is gathered around the dog as he continues to
dance to music. Schmidt begins to chant "Bruce". Everyone
joins in chanting. Winston walks over to Schmidt.

WINSTON
We've got trouble, man.

He hands Schmidt the flier.

SCHMIDT
This can't be Bruce. Jess got him
from a military guy.

WINSTON

Who got it from a shelter. He was a rescue. We can't give him back. You've heard stories of the circus. They abuse their animals.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

I know. I saw *Dumbo*.

KIRK Whitman, a large muscular man wearing a suit walks up to Winston and Schmidt.

KIRK

Gentlemen, is this your dog?

SCHMIDT

(proudly)

Yes, it is. It has been for a long time. Always been ours.

KIRK

My name is Kirk Whitman, I own this circus.

Schmidt quickly throws away the flier. Winston smiles nervously.

WINSTON

Yes, hello, Mr. Whitman. I'm Winston and this is my associate, Schmidt.

SCHMIDT

Sup, Kirk. Nice pecs. What do you bench? Two-fiddy?

WINSTON

How can we do business with you?

KIRK

You can get the hell out of my circus. Your dog is distracting the customers.

SCHMIDT

You got it.

WINSTON

But Bruce could draw in customers given the chance to be a paid act at your circus.

SCHMIDT
 (whispering to Winston)
 What are you doing? He's going to
 recognize Bruce.

WINSTON
 (whispering back)
 There's no way to prove it's their
 dog. We can still make a lot of
 dough.

Kirk peers over the crowd watching the dog dance.

KIRK
 He is quite good. How much?

SCHMIDT
 Oh, he's not for sale. We'd bring
 him in as a featured act.

KIRK
 Interesting. He looks familiar.

Winston and Schmidt exchange worried glances. The dog
 continues to dance and Kirk ends up cracking a smile which
 turns into a laugh.

KIRK (CONT'D)
 Gentlemen, I think we have a deal.
 This pooch is very talented.

WINSTON
 Really?

Schmidt and Winston cheer and begin chanting "Bruce" again,
 Kirk joins in the chanting.

INT. MAIN TENT - EVENING

A clown walks up to the Ringleader holding a large hula hoop.

RINGLEADER
 Well, Jess. All you have to do is
 hold this hula hoop straight ahead
 of you.

He hands Jess the hula hoop.

JESS
 No problem. When I taught kids we
 had hula hoops all over the
 classroom. We'd play a game where I
 called out a number-

RINGLEADER
Bring out the pooches!

Five dogs come running out from the side of the tent. They all look just like Bruce.

JESS
Hey, they all look just like Bruce.

The dogs start jumping through the hoop.

RINGLEADER
This is our family of pups.

One of the dogs starts sniffing Jess's leg. It then wags it's tail, barking at Jess with excitement.

RINGLEADER (CONT'D)
Rex, stop that. Get back to the routine. I'm sorry, Jess. He never acts like this.

Jess realizes Bruce and Tag may be one and the same. Rex's bark echoes through the man's microphone.

EXT. CIRCUS MAIN GROUNDS - EVENING

The crowd is still throwing money at the dog, chanting Bruce's name along with Schmidt, Winston, and Kirk. The three of them now seem to be doing the can-can.

We hear Rex's bark coming from the main tent microphone. Bruce perks up facing the main tent barking back. He runs through the crowd towards the tent.

WINSTON
Bruce, where are you going?

SCHMIDT
Bruce, what's wrong, boy?

Kirk looks towards the tent as Bruce runs through the entrance.

INT. MAIN TENT - EVENING

Bruce runs through the tent. Jess is still holding up the hula hoop. Bruce takes a running start and leaps through the hoop. The Ringleader stares at the dog in astonishment.

JESS
Bruce? What are you doing?

RINGLEADER

Ladies and gentlemen, it seems our long lost pooch has returned. May I present to you, the leader of the pack, Tag.

The audience cheers. Jess stares at the dog with a shocked expression.

JESS

Bruce?

Schmidt, Winston, and Kirk rush into the tent to see Bruce/Tag do a backflip.

KIRK

I knew that dog looked familiar.

Kirk hugs Schmidt and Winston.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Thank you both for bringing home our star.

SCHMIDT

Star?

WINSTON

Do we at least get a reward or something?

KIRK

Free admission to our circus, anytime.

WINSTON

(disappointingly)
Great.

Tag leaps through the hula hoop. The crowd begins to chant Tag's name, Jess, Schmidt and Winston join in.

INT. PSYCHIC TENT - NIGHT

Nick is now lying down on the floor in front of the bored psychic.

NICK

And I think after that I decided I never wanted to be like my father. Then he died and I was all like, "Bummer"-

PSYCHIC

Nick, can I be honest with you?

Nick sits up facing the psychic.

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)

There is such a thing as having dreams that come true, but ultimately you're in charge of your own future.

NICK

Like *Looper*?

PSYCHIC

Even though you had this dream you determine the outcome. And just because you know what might happen doesn't mean you should live in fear of when it will happen. Just enjoy life.

NICK

So you're saying if I just say "yolo"-

PSYCHIC

Please don't say that-

NICK

-then I will corrupt my normal way of living. If I'm more risky with my way of living I might not die.

PSYCHIC

I never said that.

Nick grabs the Psychic, kissing her passionately.

NICK

Thank you! I'm going to be fine!
I'm not going to die!

Nick dashes out of the tent. The Psychic shouts after Nick.

PSYCHIC

Don't do anything stupid!
(Then)
He still owes me five dollars.

INT. MAIN TENT - NIGHT

Everyone is chanting Tag's name.

Jess, Schmidt and Winston watch near the entrance of the tent.

WINSTON

I think it's about time to go.

Jess sadly nods.

JESS

Bye, Bruce-- or Tag.

Schmidt sadly watches Tag leap through another hoop. He turns to the others.

SCHMIDT

I can't do this.

Schmidt grabs the microphone.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

I will not allow you to take back this pooch. He is to be treated like a king and this place is rotten for him.

KIRK

Schmidt, we treat all our animals like royalty. You're welcome back anytime to check on Tag. I assure you, he's safe here. This is where he belongs.

Just then Tag runs over to Schmidt barking, wagging his tail.

SCHMIDT

Hey, buddy. You wanna come with us?

Schmidt looks up to see the crowd staring back with sad expressions.

The other dogs crowd together, whining. Schmidt spots a small CHILD with a balloon staring at Tag with sad eyes.

CHILD

Doggy.

Schmidt looks down at Tag.

SCHMIDT

Listen, pooch. You've got to stay here with your family.

(MORE)

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

You know you're always welcome at our loft along with the rest of the animal kingdom, but you belong here doing what you love. Jumping up and down, backwards, and through hoops, which somehow impresses hundreds of people.

Tag barks, licking Schmidt, then runs back to the middle of the ring with the rest of the dogs.

Jess, Schmidt, and Winston begin walking out of the tent when suddenly Nick runs through the entrance towards the ring.

NICK

I'm a daredevil! I'm going to live forever!

Nick runs out in front of one of the men on stilts blowing fire. The man accidentally blows fire in Nick's direction. We hear Nick scream off screen as Jess, Winston and Schmidt stare in horror.

JESS

Nick!

NICK

My eyes!

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Jess, Winston, Cece and Schmidt sit in the waiting room identical to Nick's dream.

WINSTON

He told me this would happen.

JESS

It's all my fault. We wouldn't have even been at the circus if it wasn't for me being a volunteering maniac.

CECE

It's not your fault, Jess. It's okay to have a passion to volunteer.

SCHMIDT

Yeah, even if you get a little out of hand it can result in great things. For instance, I never would have met Bruce slash Tag if it wasn't for you volunteering for Foster A Pet. They probably would have just sent him to the pound to be put to sleep.

JESS

But Nick might have third degree burns.

SCHMIDT

Yeah, that's the downside.

The Doctor walks in and the four of them stand with worried expression.

JESS

Is Nick going to be alright?

DOCTOR

Well, after cleaning him up a bit I think he will be okay. But there was a complication he hasn't exactly been reacting well to.

SCHMIDT

Can we see him?

The doctor nods letting them into the main hallway.

INT. NICK'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Nick is lying in his hospital bed. He seems fine, the only problem is his EYEBROWS are missing.

Nick is staring at a mirror in shock, his mouth hangs open.

JESS

Nick?

Nick's face remains the same as he slowly peers over to Jess and the gang.

NICK

My eyebrows!

DOCTOR

He's been screaming that for the past ten minutes.

NICK

My eyebrows!

The others stare at Nick with their eyebrows raised.

NICK (CONT'D)

Don't give me that look. It doesn't look the same when I do it now.

DOCTOR

They will grow back, but not very soon.

WINSTON

Nothing a dark brown shade of sharpie can't cover up.

SCHMIDT

And most of your customers are too drunk to notice any ways.

CECE

I think it actually looks-- uh, sexy?

The others nod in agreement while still in shock.

NICK

At least I'm still alive, right?

They all smile.

WINSTON

Well, there's probably no better time than now to tell you, Nick. You're banned from the circus.

NICK

(joyfully)
I don't care.

CECE

He's in a good mood. Now's a good time to tell him.

JESS

The horse killed the turtle-

NICK

Son of a bitch!

INT. LOFT - NIGHT - LATER

Winston is watching *Homeward Bound* in his pajamas with Schmidt and Jess. There appears to be no more animals in the loft.

SCHMIDT

Watching this doesn't make me miss Bruce at all. I'm completely over him.

WINSTON

That's the fourth time you've said that.

SCHMIDT

Cause it's four times as true.

JESS

Thank God the Foster a Pet organization understood why I couldn't take care of all those animals. I feel like I forgot one of them, though.

WINSTON

As long as it's not that damn snake.

JESS

No, I remember taking him back. He didn't go quietly. I've never heard such sad hissing.

Nick walks in proudly. His drawn on eyebrows give him a sad appearance, they curve upwards towards the middle of his forehead.

NICK

Look who's back and handsome as ever.

WINSTON

You look like you're about to cry.

NICK

I'm fine. And I had a dream that my hand had fallen off in my sleep and guess what.

Nick waves his hands around as he does a happy dance.

JESS

Hey, your superpower is gone.

WINSTON

Finally, I can fall asleep again.

Schmidt is now crying while watching *Homeward Bound*.

SCHMIDT

Bruuuuuuce! Come home to me, Bruce!

JESS

(to Nick)

He'll be fine. It's been a long week.

Jess hands a Kleenex box to Schmidt as he sobs walking to his own room.

SCHMIDT

Bruce used to walk me to my room. With his little wagging tale. He had a swag wag.

JESS

He was here for two days.

WINSTON

I'm going to bed as well.

Winston stands up leaving the room.

INT. WINSTON'S ROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

The lights are off. Winston slowly lays down in his bed relaxing. He begins to fall asleep.

WINSTON
At last, a good night's sleep.

PARROT
Good night's sleep!

Winston flips out, screaming as he tumbles out of bed.

The parrot imitates Winston's scream.

WINSTON
No! Not okay! Jess?

PARROT
Jess?

WINSTON
That's it!

Winston grabs his car keys walking out of the room.

PARROT
That's it.

Winston slams the door in his exit out.

PARROT (CONT'D)
Pudding porn.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE