

A DOG NAMED REGGIE

Written by

Kaden Quinn

kqfilm@gmail.com
502 418 0089

FADE IN:

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - RECEPTION - DAY

The bell above the door RINGS as **OLIVIA** - early 30s - enters. **JULIE** - mid 40s in her forest green employee polo - looks up from the computer behind the counter.

JULIE

Good morning Olivia! Here to find
that special someone?

OLIVIA

(signing in on the
volunteer sheet)

Good morning. No, I don't think I'm
ready yet.

Julie puts an apron the same color as her polo on the counter. Olivia takes it.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

INT. CAT ROOM - DAY

Olivia sits on the floor, bouncing a STICK TOY up and down. The kitten lunges into the air after its prey.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- Olivia drags the stick toy in a circle, the kitten chasing it.

- The kitten ready to pounce.

- Olivia laughing.

- Olivia throwing toys across the room and the kitten in hot pursuit.

BACK TO SCENE

Olivia holds the kitten close, rubbing under its chin. She puts it back into its cage.

SEEN THROUGH THE WINDOW - a **FAMILY** comes into the reception with **REGGIE** (5 years old, a jumbo black dog). The **FATHER** (mid 30s) is very animated with his hands. Julie lets out a sigh. She takes the dog from the father. He hands her a LETTER. The family leaves.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - RECEPTION

Olivia stops at the counter, adjusting her bag. She peeks behind at the black dog laying at Julie's feet.

OLIVIA
Who's this?

JULIE
This is Reggie. I feel bad for him.
That was the third family to bring
him back.

OLIVIA
He's been adopted three times and
returned?
(looking at Reggie)
Poor guy.

JULIE
I don't think people realize how
big he actually is until they take
him home. He's also not a puppy
anymore and they want someone
who'll play with them. I don't know
how much more this poor fella can
take.

Julie goes back to typing on her computer. Olivia stares at Reggie. He looks defeated.

INT. OLIVIA'S CAR

Reggie lays in the back, taking up the entire backseat.

EXT./INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE

The door opens and Olivia motions for Reggie to enter. He sulks inside.

LIVING ROOM

Reggie lays in the dog bed next to the door. Olivia notices.

OLIVIA
(more to herself)
No, no, no. That's not yours.

MONTAGE - Olivia tries to brighten Reggie's spirits but he stays sullen and unmoving.

- She offers him a toy. She squeezes it. It SQUEAKS.

- She shakes a bowl of dog food. She leaves it in front of him.
- She looks into the room whenever she passes.
- She rolls a ball and it bumps into the bed.
- She sits next to him eating peanut butter. She offers him the spoon. He's not interested in the slightest.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - RECEPTION - TWO WEEKS LATER

Olivia at the counter.

OLIVIA

I don't know what to do. He seems done. Thankfully he eats but he there's no life to him.

JULIE

Have you taken him for a walk?

OLIVIA

He won't even get up. I don't think a walk outside will fix this.

JULIE

We see this all the time. Just like humans, it can take a while for a pet to get used to a new surrounding. Give him time.

OLIVIA

I'll try. Thanks.

Olivia starts to leave.

JULIE

Oh wait! I have something from you.

Julia searches through the clutter on her desk.

JULIE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

It's here somewhere.

She opens one of the drawers and pulls out a letter. She hands it to Olivia.

OLIVIA

What's this?

JULIE

A letter from Reggie's owner.

OLIVIA

His owner? I don't understand.

JULIE

A year and a half ago a nice young man brought Reggie in and asked us if we could take care of him for a bit. He said that if he wasn't back in 8 months then it was okay to put Reggie up for adoption, but to please wait at least 8 months. I hoped to see him again but he never came back.

OLIVIA

(holding up the letter)

Well, thanks for this and thank you for the suggestions to help Reggie. I'll try.

The bell RINGS as Olivia leaves.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - LATER

KITCHEN

SOUND EFFECT: A door unlocking

Olivia lays a pile of mail on the table, Reggie's letter caught underneath. She puts her purse in the chair.

LIVING ROOM

Reggie sleeps in the dog bed. Olivia marches up to him. He opens his eyes. A leash unrolls from her hand.

OLIVIA

What we gonna do with you?

She crouches down and clips the leash onto his collar.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I think we could both use some air.

She starts walking. The leash becomes taut and Reggie reluctantly gets up.

EXT. SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

Reggie trails behind Olivia. She's practically pulling him.

SOUND EFFECT: A truck engine

Reggie's ears perk up at the sound. His head soon follows looking for the source. He has life to him.

A truck turns the corner and barrels down the street. Reggie pulls on the leash as it passes. CLOSE on his eyes - hopeful and then fading back to sadness.

Olivia lowers to his level. She pets him.

OLIVIA

What was that about bud?

(pause)

Let's go back.

Olivia stands back up and they turn around, walking back the way they came.

EXT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

CARA - a blond woman Olivia's age - sits on the porch, scrolling on her phone.

Olivia and Reggie walk through the gate. Cara sets down her phone.

CARA

Well there you are! I was beginning to worry about you.

OLIVIA

(surprised)

Cara! What are you doing here?

(panicked)

Oh my gosh were we supposed to do something and I forgot? So much has happened lately and I've been all over the place.

CARA

No, no, no, no. I was around and stopped by.

(crouching to Reggie's level)

And who's this fella?

OLIVIA

This is Reggie. I brought him home
a few weeks ago.

CARA

Well he's beautiful. Aren't you a
good boy.

Cara stands up and gives Olivia a hug.

CARA (CONT'D)

I'm glad to see you're doing okay.
I know losing Bear was hard for
you.

Tears start to form in Olivia's eyes.

OLIVIA

Yeah, it was.
(brushing away the tears)
Do want to come inside for a drink
and catch up? Do you have time?

CARA

I'd love to.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Olivia unleashes Reggie and hangs the leash on the coat rack.
He beelines for the dog bed.

KITCHEN

Olivia fills a kettle with water. She places it on the
stovetop and turns it on. She pulls two mugs out of the
cabinet.

Cara picks up a remote and turns on the television.

Olivia clears the mail from the table. Reggie's letter falls
on the ground. She picks it up and sits down in a chair. She
carefully tears it open.

SGT. ETHAN GRODESKY (V.O.)

If you're reading this, it means I
didn't make it back. And I hope it
means you've decided to keep him.
He's such a good boy.

INT. BAR - FLASHBACK

SGT. ETHAN GRODESKY (23) sits in a booth, writing a letter. He pauses, takes a drink from his beer and goes back to writing.

SGT. ETHAN GRODESKY (V.O.)

I wish the circumstances were different and that it didn't have to be this way for my best friend, but this is the way things played out.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

Ethan sits at his kitchen table, still writing. Reggie lays at his feet. Ethan offers a piece of watermelon to Reggie, the juice dripping down his fingers. Reggie gingerly takes it.

SGT. ETHAN GRODESKY (V.O.)

There are some things you need to know about him. Like how he loves to eat watermelon and how he won't go outside when it's snowing and how he'll sit by the door all day waiting for you to come home. He goes to bed early and don't ever take him to a farm because the horses'll scare him.

INT. ETHAN'S CAR - FLASHBACK**REAR VIEW MIRROR**

Reggie sits in the back seat, a big smile on his face.

SGT. ETHAN GRODESKY (V.O.)

He loves car rides but will only sit in the back. Also don't ever turn on country music or you're in for an exclusive concert. And if you let him, he'll be your best friend.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - RECEPTION - FLASHBACK

Ethan - dressed in a Marine's uniform - hands Julie the leash and the letter. He kneels down in front of Reggie. He caresses Reggie's face in his hands.

Reggie never loses his smile. They lock eyes. Ethan leans in and gives him a hug - pausing for a moment to hold his best friend.

He stands up, nods to Julie and walks out the door.

SGT. ETHAN GRODESKY (V.O.)
Thank you for welcoming him into
your home and loving him the way I
do.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE

KITCHEN

Olivia pulls a photo from inside the envelope. It's of Ethan holding Reggie in his arms, two best friends.

CARA (O.S.)
Olivia, look at this.

The local news is on and the banner says "LOCAL HERO'S REMAINS RETURNING HOME." Cara turns the volume up on the television.

ANCHOR
After 10 months a local hero's remains are finally returning home to be laid to rest. Ethan was a U.S. Marine serving across seas when his team was caught in a dispute between the two main warring parties of the country's civil war. Grodesky sacrificed himself by throwing himself onto a grenade to absorb the impact. Survivors of his team were extracted soon after but body was unable to be claimed in the hostile area. Recently, U.S. Forces cleared the area and his body was recovered.

OLIVIA
No way.

CARA
Crazy, right?

ANCHOR

A memorial for the fallen hero will
be held next Saturday-

Cara mutes the television. The kettle SCREECHES.

CARA

Olivia! The kettle.

She hustles to the kitchen. Olivia is starstruck.

CLOSE on the photo. CLOSER on Kyle's face. She goes back to
the letter.

SGT. ETHAN GRODESKY (V.O.)

P.S. His name his Tank.

OLIVIA

(quietly to herself)

Tank.

(louder)

Tank.

LIVING ROOM

Reggie's ears perk up. He darts up.

BACK DOOR

They meet at the back door. He has life to him. Olivia rubs
him all over. She opens the door and follows him outside.

FADE TO BLACK.