

# ACT I

## Scene One

The audience meets Harley Sam and Mary. The scene establishes that Harley is getting old and having problems—not the dog he used to be. There is the first of the “marked scenes, which are repeated exactly as they occurred. The first time with people talking and the second time from the dogs view. BLUE LIGHT SCENE with Sam and Mary coming home and Harley reacting to their arrival home.

Before curtain rises the music is sad - *Dreams Yiruma*  
At curtain rise the spotlight is on sleeping “dog” in the sunlight. The living room area is lit. Florence in the kitchen, Mary and Sam are due home.

**SETTING:** Spot on Harley then full lights up

Harley

(Sleeping on the rug, lies quietly for a time, then yelps like a sleeping dog. He raises his head as if he hears something, barks once weakly then goes back to sleep.)

**FLORENCE**

(Florence enters the room from the kitchen and sees Harley.)  
“You mangy dog. You still alive? (Picks up dishes from the table to carry into the kitchen) “Why don’t you do this family and the world a favor and just die?”

Harley

(Sees her and growls.)

**FLORENCE**

“Growl at me will ya. If I had my way I’d beat you with a broom. All you’re good for is making a mess in the house; peeing everywhere and that odor. Oh saints preserve us.” (Pause while working.) “Yes sir. If I had my way I’d club you on the head and throw you in the river.”

Harley

(Gets up and moves further away from her. Watches her intently.)

**FLORENCE**

(Goes to the kitchen drops off the dishes and returns. Gets her coat from the coat rack, while putting it on she talks to Harley.) “I’ve been here an hour cleaning; in and out of the living room and kitchen and you haven’t moved.” (pause) “You are a useless old bag of bones. (Stares and glares at Harley.)

Harley

(Gets up and goes further downstage left on the other side of the couch and not visible from the door and goes immediately to sleep.)

**FLORENCE**

(Looks menacing at where Jake is laying. Gets ready to yell more distasteful things to Harley.) “Well, Harley...”

(Pauses as the front door opens; Sam and Mary are returning home. Florence changes to a sweet old lady.)

**SAM**

(Surprised to see Florence.) “Oh Hello Florence.”

**FLORENCE**

(Said sweetly.) “You’re home early. I just finished and I am on my way.”

**MARY**

“Everything go okay? Any problems with Harley?”

**FLORENCE**

(Said very sweetly.) "Not a one. He's such a dear. See you next week."  
(Florence exits front door.)

**SETTING:** Sam closes the door behind Florence, takes Mary's coat and hangs it on the coat rack, then hangs his. They talk and look for Harley from the door.

**SAM**

"Oh, I'm glad to be home."

**MARY**

"Me too. But I did a good time. Didn't you?"

**SAM**

"If you consider Barbara's glue food and listening to Alan talk about himself all night fun, then I had fun."

**MARY**

"Glue food?"

**SAM**

"It glued my throat shut."

Mary

(Gives Sam an evil look.)

**SAM**

"Where's the dog?"

**MARY**

"Some watchdog he is. Thieves could come in and he'd sleep through it. No, no, no - they would come in, the dog would lie there like a rug and they would trip over him, break a leg and then sue us - AND win."

**SAM**

"Mary you are too hard on Harley, he's just getting ... seasoned."

**MARY**

"Seasoned?"

**SAM**

"Yeah. Like fine wine, he's just reaching his peak."

**MARY**

"Honey, if Harley is just reaching his peak then the climb beat the hell out of him."

**SETTING:** BLUE LIGHT SCENE

Ship's Clock sounds 9 pm (three bells)

Humans are Upstage Center, Harley remains downstage right.

**SAM**

(Checks his watch.) "21 hundred hours, 9 pm, perfect time." (Puts hat on hat rack.) "Where is that dog?"

**SAM**

(Reacts to smell.) "Ugh. Never mind I found him."

**MARY**

(Reacts to smell.) "Oh Sam, he's rotting from the inside. We've got to do something."

**SAM**

"HARLEY!"

Mary

(Mary goes to the bedroom, stands in the doorway and points at Harley who is hidden by the sofa then disappears from view inside the room.)

Harley

(Wakes up, sees Sam and wags his tail.)

**LIGHTING: GO BLUE LIGHT WITH SPOT ON HARLEY**

**Harley**

"Hey buddy. Good to see you boy. Want to scratch my head? Damn I love a good scratch. You've been gone long? Hell I can't tell if it was five minutes or five hours—it's the whole relative time thing you know. But damn man its good to have you home."

**LIGHTING: GO normal lighting**

**SAM**

(Walks around to Harley) "Harley, what is it with you?" (Pets Harley then starts for the bedroom door. Smells Harley and reacts.)

"Again? Why couldn't you do that OUTSIDE?"

**HARLEY**

"Barks." (Excited to go out. Runs to the door.)

**MARY**

(Steps outside the bedroom door, Harley starts to walk to her.) "Harley, don't **COME.**" (She puts up her hand to Harley like a crossing guard.) "Please take HARLEY OUTSIDE. I'm dying here."

**HARLEY**

"Barks." (Excited and confused.)

**SAM**

(From inside the bedroom.) "Give me a minute and I'll take him **OUTSIDE.**"

Mary

(Returns to inside the bedroom.)

**LIGHTING: GO BLUE LIGHT WITH SPOT ON HARLEY**

**HARLEY**

(Standing by the door.) "I heard that! **OUTSIDE.** Let's go. Maybe there's some cute bitches out there. And to tell you the truth I am feeling a little frisky." (Stands facing the door. Pause. Gets frustrated waiting.)

(Harley turns back to the bedroom.) "Hey hey. Let's get it together shall we. My man pet says, 'Outside' then the female pets says 'Come Here' and then I get

an 'Outside' again from man pet, and yet here I am still inside. I'm happy to see you guys but you're getting me confused."

**LIGHTING: GO normal lighting**

**HARLEY**  
Barks.

**SAM**  
(Sam returns to the living room, gets the leash.) "Okay, lets **GO BOY**."

**Harley**  
Barks. (Excited to leave.)

**SAM**  
(Sam opens the door, sends Harley out and starts to walk out the door.)

**MARY**  
(Before Sam can exit, Mary pokes her head out from the bedroom.) "Don't forget the trash."

**SAM**  
"Right." (Calls to Harley.) "Wait! Come."

**Harley**  
(Harley returns, enters the living and sits by the door.)

**SAM**  
(Sam quickly goes to the kitchen and gets a bag of trash. Then quickly returns with the bag and exits the door. From the hallway calls to Harley.) "Harley. Come Boy."

**LIGHTING: GO BLUE LIGHT WITH SPOT ON HARLEY**

**HARLEY**  
(Harley just sits by the door.) "Outside. Come Boy. Wait. That's it? Really? I gotta need to teach you human pets some more vocabulary. This is sooo frustrating"  
(Harley slowly exits the main door.)

**LIGHTING: GO normal lighting**

**MARY**  
(Mary comes from the bedroom carrying a book, sees the open door, closes it then goes to the chair closest to where Harley was, starts to read, then reacts to the smell.) "Oh God Harley, you're still here." (Mary rises and moves to the furthest seat.)

(Starts to read Tenth Man. Reacts again.) "It's following me."

**MARY**  
(Stands looks at the door and then picks up photo of Sam and the Harley, and then gets herself ready as if talking to Sam.) "Now Sam. I know you love Harley but sometimes we have to do things for those we love that are really hard for us to do but it's best for them. I know you've had Harley for ten years and he's more than a dog." (pause) "I know, a best friend to you."

(She pauses and looks back at where Harley was laying.) "A really good friend that has gas that could kill an elephant."

(She looks back to the photo, refocuses and continues.) "There comes a time when we need to do what's best for Harley and I think, no, no, **we both** think it's time for Harley to...."

(She struggles for the word.) "Move on. No. Take the next step. No. It's time for Harley to take his last nap..... His last nap?"

(She gets frustrated with herself. Now says with authority.) "Sam, it's time to put the dog down."

(Mary puts the photo down and exits to the bedroom.)

**SETTING:** Lights Dim, Time passes  
Lights up and spot light on front door.

Sam and Harley re-enter room, Sam unhooks the dog and put up the leash. Harley sits beside him looking bored.

**SAM**

(Petting dog.) "Twenty minutes walking around and no pee, no poop. You best not go in the house. Mary will have my head, and your ass."

**MARY**

(Dressed in a bathrobe and calling out from the bedroom.) "Is that you Sam?"

**SAM**

"No, Its George Clooney and I'm here to ravage you while your husband is out with the dog."

**MARY**

(From the bedroom.) "Excellent! Come on in and ravage away."

**SAM**

"Wish I could but we only have two minutes before he returns."

**MARY**

"Well, that's twice what I normally get."

**SAM**

(Walks to bedroom door.) "Not cool Mary, not cool."(pause) "I'm getting some juice and I'll be right in. You want something?"

**MARY**

"I thought I just made that clear."

Sam

(Sam goes through the kitchen door.)

Harley

(Walks over to the plant, lifts leg, pees then walks over to the rug and lies down.)

Sam

(Exits the kitchen after Harley has already peed.)

**SAM**

(Returns with juice and sees pee.) "Damn it!"

**MARY**

(From the bedroom.) "Everything all right?"

**SAM**

"Yes, I just spilt my juice. I'll clean it up and be right in." (Sam runs to the kitchen door comes back with a towel, cleans up pee. Runs towel back to kitchen door.)

Mary

(Mary walks out of the bedroom in her robe, looks at Harley and shakes her head.)

Sam

(Comes back into the living room and is surprised to see Mary.)

**MARY**

"Did Harley go?" (Mary asks suspiciously.)

**SAM**

"What's that?" (Sam pretends he doesn't understand she's asking about Harley.)

**MARY**

"Did Harley do his business?"

**SAM**

(Starts to get ready for bed) "Oh yeah. Peed like a race horse."

**MARY**

"Good. I've got to tell you I am getting tired of his peeing in the house. I swear I don't have a good rug left in this place."

**SAM**

"My fault, I need to make sure he gets out more."

**MARY**

(She tells him caringly, tenderly.) "It's not that, and you know it. Harley has been a good dog. But he's getting old. He *is* old. He's having problems; peeing on the floor – he never did that before. And that gas, oh God, I want to gag. He sleeps all the time, he barely walks, and his eating is off. Sometimes he doesn't touch his bowl for days. When he does go out he just sits there. You know what the vet said." (pause) It may be time."

**SAM**

"Ah, Time for what?"

**MARY**

"Time to think about alternatives. What Farrel our vet, your friend, said. It is the quality of life not the quantity of life."

**SAM**

"That was obviously said by some young guy, certainly not one whose *quantity* was running out."

**MARY**

(She says tenderly.) "Hun."

**SAM**

"Harley is fine. We had a nice walk tonight." (Sam walks over to Harley and pets him.)

**MARY**

"Did he go?"

**SAM**

"I told you already, yes"

**MARY**

"I mean outside."

**SAM**

(He lies.) "Of course."

**MARY**

"Don't lie to me. If you do I'll ask Barb and Alan to come over for dinner."

**SAM**

(Instantly responds.) "Harley peed on your fichus plant."

Harley

(Walks to the sofa and tries to jump up on the sofa.)

Mary

(Shakes her head as Harley struggles. She walks over to the sofa and sits down.)

Harley

(Gives up and goes back to the oval rug and curls up on the floor.)

**MARY**

"See what I mean, he can't even jump up on the sofa. That just breaks my heart."

**SETTING:** Harley passes gas and Sam and Mary react.

**SAM**

(He sadly says.) "I'll talk to the Farrel again... About the gas."

**MARY**

"Please!" (Mary puts pillow over her face.)

Lights dim - Fade to Black.  
Music begins: *Dreams Pia Yiru Ma*  
End ACT I Scene One.