

THE KENNEL CLUB

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Cast of Characters

Sally, a wise old Golden Retriever
Molly, a nervous English Spaniel
Sam, a hyperactive Jack Russell
Bruno, an Alsatian cross

A pair of humans "enter" and "exit" during the course of the play, and the dogs should behave as if they are real, but they are invisible to the audience and not meant to be played by actual actors.

Setting

A rescue kennel.

Production Note

No attempt should be made to make the characters look like dogs.

Rescue kennels. SALLY and MOLLY share a kennel. To their right is a vacant kennel. To their left is Sam's kennel, currently empty. To the left of Sam is the kennel containing the sleeping BRUNO.

SALLY

Will you stop pacing about. What is wrong with you?

MOLLY

I can't help it. I'm nervous.

SALLY

Pacing up and down the kennel isn't going to change anything.

MOLLY

I don't know how you can just sit there, Sally. Do you think she will be alright?

SALLY

Who?

MOLLY

Pixie of course.

SALLY

She'll be fine.

MOLLY

I hope so.

SALLY

She will be. They looked like a nice couple. She'll be fine.

MOLLY

I'm going to miss her.

SALLY

Don't worry about her, Molly.

MOLLY

Who do you think we'll get next door now.

SALLY

Stop panicking. I'm sure that whoever moves in to her old kennel will be nice.

MOLLY

How can you say that?

SALLY

There's no reason to believe anything else.

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MOLLY

This is a rescue centre, Sally! We don't all come from loving homes you know. Some of us have problems.

SALLY

I know. But most of the guys are OK aren't they?

MOLLY

What about Bruno?

SALLY

Bruno's OK.

MOLLY

He's not exactly well balanced is he?

SALLY

He's alright.

MOLLY

Alright? Barking like a mad thing every time he hears a car is alright? Growling at the staff is alright? Howling the whole night is alright?

SALLY

He's never hurt anyone. He's had a hard life.

MOLLY

And it's not about to get any better.

SALLY

Don't say that. Molly, how can you say that?

MOLLY

Nobody would have him though would they? Even if people believe he's all bark and no bite they are not going to take him home.

SALLY

Ssshh. He'll hear you. And don't say that. There's hope for all of us.

MOLLY

Yeah right.

SALLY

We have to have hope.

MOLLY

Why? What's the point?

SALLY

There's hope for all of us. Pixie found someone.

MOLLY

Pixie is cute. A cute little ball of fluff, that's what they called her. Bruno isn't cute. Bruno is just scary. And what about us? Who's going to want us? 'Cannot be separated' That's what it says about us. Who is going to want to take both of us? I mean, look at you. You're on your last legs Sally. Sorry to be blunt about it but it's true.

SALLY

You wouldn't go without me would you?

(Pause)

Molly?

A human, seen only by the dogs,
leads SAM to his kennel, then
exits.

SAM

(Spoken at a furious pace)

Hello Molly, hello Sally, I've been for a walk. I smelt rabbits and I saw birds and, and I saw a squirrel, well I think it was a squirrel, and more rabbits and more birds and, and there was a stick, but I couldn't reach it, but I've remembered where it is, and, and, oh yes, I heard a noise and I forgot I was on a

(It is also acceptable to use
"leash.")

lead and I went to run after the noise and Catherine, she was walking me, said "Oh Sam" just like that, you know, "Oh Sam," and I looked up at her and she just laughed so I know she didn't mind, but I've remembered where the stick was and, and...

SALLY

You've been for a walk have you, Sam?

SAM

Yes, oh I love walks.

SALLY

I think we've gathered that.

SAM

Love them. Has anyone seen my, oh there it is.

Sam occupies himself with a toy.

MOLLY

I don't know where he gets his energy.

SALLY

It's in his breeding isn't it? They're supposed to be little bundles of energy.

MOLLY
Yeah, but he never gives it a rest.

SALLY
A bit like you.

MOLLY
What?

SALLY
Will you sit down for God's sake.

MOLLY
Oh.

SALLY
That's better.

BRUNO
(Suddenly, booming)
Someone's coming!

SAM
Oh good, good, good.

SALLY
Alright Bruno, thank you.

BRUNO
Someone's coming, someone's coming. I heard a car.

SALLY
They might not be coming into the kennels.

MOLLY
Was it a car or a van?

SALLY
I don't know, I didn't hear. Ask Bruno.

MOLLY
You ask him.

SALLY
Oh Molly!

MOLLY
Please.

BRUNO
Someone's coming.

SALLY
He's fine. Just ask him.

Please. MOLLY

Ask him. SALLY

Er. Bruno? MOLLY

Someone's coming. What? BRUNO

Would you mind. MOLLY

What is it? BRUNO

Well, do you know, er... MOLLY

Spit it out for God's sake. BRUNO

Was it a car or a van? MOLLY

What? BRUNO

A car or a van. MOLLY

A car. I think. Or a small van. What does it matter? BRUNO

Could it have been the van? MOLLY

The van? BRUNO

You know. The van. MOLLY

Oh no. It wasn't the van. BRUNO

Oh thank God. MOLLY

Happy now? SALLY

MOLLY

I'm just not ready. OK. I haven't got used to Pixie going yet. I don't want a stranger moving in just yet.

SALLY

Pixie's only been gone ten minutes. I don't think they'll move someone in today. Anyway, you had better get used to standing up for yourself, if you're thinking of getting out of here without me.

MOLLY

Sally, I didn't...

BRUNO

Someone's coming. Someone's coming.

SALLY

There is as well. Positions, everyone.

A second human, again only seen by the dogs, walks from one side of the stage to the other, then back during the following dialogue, which should overlap.

BRUNO

Hello.

(Beat)

Hello.

(Beat)

Hello.

SAM

Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello.

SALLY

Lads, please.

BRUNO

Hello.

(Beat)

Hello.

SAM

Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello.

SALLY

For God's sake.

SAM

Hello. Hello.

The second human exits.

She's gone, Sam. SALLY

Hello. Hello. SAM

She's gone. SALLY

Wait! BRUNO

Too late--she's gone. Thanks, lads. SALLY

What did I do? SAM

Bloody cacophony of sound every time someone walks in here. SALLY
It's no wonder nobody stays long.

I just wanted to say hello. SAM

I think you just about did that. SALLY
(Beat)
She'll be in the next block now choosing a nice quiet dog.

I couldn't help it, I just... SAM

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