

Dog Meat

FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

A long row of identical white houses. This is Leave it to Beaver town, where nothing bad ever happens.

EXT. SCOTTIE'S FRONT YARD - DAY

SCOTTIE, 11, pudgy but energetic, throws a frisbee to his German Shepherd, SHADOW. The dog catches it and brings it back to him.

Scottie gives Shadow a thorough pet-down. They're in love.

SCOTTIE
Good boy, Shadow.

Scottie's sister CASSIE, 8, sits on the porch steps stroking her pet bunny, MR. COTTON. She watches Scottie in disgust.

CASSIE
Ew. Dogs are so gross.

SCOTTIE
At least Shadow's fun to play with.
Mr. Cotton's boring.

CASSIE
Mr. Cotton is well-behaved. Isn't
that right, Mr. Cotton?

The bunny doesn't move.

MR. WHITE (O.S.)
Hello kids!

Both kids look to see MR. WHITE, their friendly neighbor, waving to them from the other side of the picket fence. He's mowing the lawn.

SCOTTIE AND CASSIE
Hello, Mr. White!

Mr. White smiles and continues on his way. Scottie turns to Cassie.

SCOTTIE
I betcha I can throw this frisbee
over Mr. White's house.

CASSIE
I bet you can't even get it over
the fence.

SCOTTIE
Oh yeah? Watch this!

Scottie tosses the frisbee. It goes sailing over the fence.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Go, Shadow, go!

Shadow follows it. He jumps over the fence.

The frisbee climbs higher, and higher...

Scottie watches in anticipation.

But it doesn't quite make it over Mr. White's house.

Scottie's smile fades. He sees Shadow dashing across Mr. White's lawn, attempting to intercept the frisbee - headed towards the lawn mower.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Shadow, look out!

But it's too late.

CRUNCH!!!

A terrible yelping sound mixes with the grinding of metal.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
NOOO!!!

Mr. White turns off the lawn mower.

MR. WHITE
Oh, fiddlesticks.

EXT. MR. WHITE'S YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Scottie, Cassie and Mr. White gather around what's left of Shadow. Scottie is dismayed.

MR. WHITE
I'll be. I think the poor
creature's still breathing.

Scottie's MOTHER joins the group, a shotgun at the ready.

Scottie looks at the gun. Looks up at his mother, horrified.

MOTHER

Honey, somebody's gotta do it. Do you want to?

Scottie shakes his head.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Oky-dokey.

She aims the barrel at Shadow's head.

Scottie closes his eyes.

Cassie plugs her ears.

BANG!!

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

Scottie's Mother shovels dirt into the dog's grave. Scottie watches, tears streaming down his face.

SCOTTIE

I didn't get to say goodbye.

Cassie strokes Mr. Cotton.

CASSIE

I still won the bet, right?

He glares daggers at her.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Scottie looks out of place wearing a birthday hat and sitting before a huge cake with twelve candles. He doesn't want to be here. Adults and children have gathered around him and are singing.

GROUP

Happy birthday to Scottie...Happy birthday to you!

Everyone cheers. Scottie can't even muster a smile. Scottie's Mother puts a hand on his shoulder.

MOTHER

Make a wish, Scottie.

Scottie stares at the candle before him. He zones out.

MONTAGE - FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

-Scottie gives Shadow a bath.

-Scottie and Shadow watch a movie together.

-Scottie and Shadow frolic through a field of tulips.

END FLASHBACK

Scottie snaps back to reality. He smiles.

He blows out the candle.

EXT. TREE HOUSE - DAY

Scottie sits by himself in his tree house.

Scottie's Mother climbs the tree house ladder and sits next to Scottie.

MOTHER

I'm taking Cassie to ballet, then
I'm going to work. There's a TV
dinner in the freezer.

Scottie nods. His mother kisses him on the forehead.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Don't make a mess.

She climbs down. Cassie, dressed in leotards and a tutu, calls up to Scottie.

CASSIE

And don't forget to feed Mr.
Cotton!

Scottie waits for them to leave. He grabs the rope and slides down the zip line running from the tree house to his bedroom window.

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

Scottie tosses the frisbee across the yard.

He looks around. There's no dog to retrieve it.

Scottie plods over to the frisbee and picks it up.

In frustration he throws the frisbee as hard as he can - it goes sailing into the bushes.

He glances at Shadow's grave. Something catches his eye.

He walks closer to the grave. He's shocked by what he sees.

The grave is empty. There are clawmarks on the sides of the hole, as if the dog had clawed his way out.

WOOF!

Scottie hears Shadow's bark. He perks up.

SCOTTIE
Shadow? Where are you?

Scottie notices the bushes in front of him rumble.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Is that you, boy?

Shadow bursts from the bushes, carrying the frisbee in his mouth!

Scottie is overjoyed.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Shadow! You're back!

Shadow charges into Scottie, knocking him over. Scottie laughs.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
I knew you'd come back! I made a
birthday wish!

Dog and boy wrestle. Scottie rubs Shadow's belly.

Finally, Scottie sees that something is wrong.

Shadow still looks like a piece of tore-up dog meat. His fur is matted with dark wet blood. His eye-ball dangles from its socket. He smells like death.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Oh boy...you still look pretty bad.

But Shadow doesn't seem to care. He drops the frisbee in front of Scottie and barks.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
You want to play?

Shadow barks again.

Scottie throws the frisbee.

Shadow chases after it, snatches it up before it hits the ground, and brings it back to Scottie.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)

Good boy!

Scottie tries to take the frisbee from Shadow. Shadow emits a low, deep growl.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)

Shadow, give me the frisbee.

Shadow growls louder.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)

Shadow, what's wrong with you?

Scottie pulls the frisbee out of Shadow's grasp - a little too hard. Shadow's lower jaw breaks off and comes with it, the teeth still firmly implanted in the plastic frisbee.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)

Oh God.

Scottie pulls the jaw out of the frisbee and attempts to reattach it to Shadow's mouth. Shadow whimpers.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)

Hold still...

Scottie snaps the jaw into place.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)

There. All better.

Shadow whines.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)

You must be hungry.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Scottie lets Shadow into the kitchen through the back door. Shadow rushes past him and runs into the kitchen chairs, knocking them over.

SCOTTIE

You're making a mess. Sit.

Shadow doesn't listen. He continues to run into things and knock them over - a lamp, a table, the TV.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Shadow! Sit!

Shadow sits.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
That's better.

Scottie rummages through the cabinet.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
There must be a can of dog food
left...Ah. Here we go.

Scottie pulls out the last can of dog food. He opens it with the can opener and plops it into a bowl.

Scottie places the bowl before Shadow. Shadow stares at it. He won't eat it.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
It's your favorite. Don't you
remember?

Shadow looks up at Scottie with his one good eye.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
I guess you're not hungry.

Scottie reaches for the bowl.

SNAP!!

Shadow bites into Scottie's hand.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Ouch!

Scottie jumps back and cuddles his hand. There are teeth marks in his flesh.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Bad dog, Shadow! What's the matter
with you?

Shadow stares back at Scottie. No response.

Scottie, more confused than ever, examines Shadow's breathing corpse of dog meat. Is this really his dog?

He takes a deep breath. He suddenly gets an idea.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
I know. You want to see Mr.
Cotton.

INT. CASSIE'S ROOM - DAY

Butterfly wallpaper, rainbows, and stuffed animals.

Shadow tracks blood and dirt onto the clean pink carpet.

Scottie opens Mr. Cotton's cage and pulls him out. He holds Mr. Cotton in front of Shadow's nose. Mr. Cotton shakes nervously.

SCOTTIE
Say hello to Mr. Cotton, Shadow.
He missed you.

Shadow stares at Mr. Cotton.

Mr. Cotton struggles to break free from Scottie's grasp.

Shadow emits a low growl.

SNAP!!

Shadow bites off Mr. Cotton's head in one gulp.

Scottie is shocked. He drops Mr. Cotton's body to the floor.

Shadow proceeds to chew on Mr. Cotton's head.

Scottie smacks Shadow on the nose.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Bad dog! Spit it out!

Shadow vomits out Mr. Cotton's saliva-covered head onto Scottie's shoe. Scottie's too disgusted to move.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Scottie pulls out duct tape from a drawer.

He tapes Mr. Cotton's head back on.

INT. CASSIE'S ROOM - DAY

Scottie places Mr. Cotton back in his cage. Mr. Cotton falls over.

Scottie places him upright and closes the cage. All done.

He looks at Shadow, who is watching him patiently.

SCOTTIE
Let's get some air.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Scottie walks Shadow on a leash.

Shadow takes off running. Scottie can't control him and has to run to keep him.

Shadow stops abruptly to smell a lamp post. Scottie tries to pull him, but he isn't strong enough.

SCOTTIE
C'mon, boy.

Shadow takes off again, pulling Scottie with him.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Scottie and Shadow arrive at a playground.

Children play on the slide, the swings, and the seesaw. Parents sit on benches nearby, watching them.

As Scottie and Shadow approach closer, the children stop playing. The parents stop chatting with each other to look up.

It's a disturbing sight - a dog that looks like a zombie.

Scottie waves to everyone.

Shadow growls.

The children scream and run to their parents.

Shadow dashes forward, dragging Scottie with him.

SCOTTIE
Shadow, no!

But there's nothing he can do. Shadow has his sights set on a small child climbing up the slide.

The child's parent, MRS. WHITE, screams at her child.

MRS. WHITE
Theodore! Climb faster!

Theodore tries to climb, but the slide is too slippery.

Shadow is at the slide now, nipping at the child's heels.

Scottie braces himself against the metal frame of the playset and pulls as hard as he can on the leash. He manages to stall Shadow.

Theodore starts to slip towards Shadow's open jaws.

SCOTTIE
Shadow, sit!

But Shadow won't listen. He's hungry.

Mrs. White climbs the playset. She reaches the top of the slide.

Theodore slips - he's now within inches of Shadow's teeth.

Sweat breaks out on Scottie's forehead as he uses all his strength to pull on the leash.

Mrs. White grabs Theodore's hand and pulls him up - just in time. She scoops him up in her arms.

Shadow backs down. He growls louder.

Scottie stands up. He sees Mrs. White glaring at him. Theodore cries in her arms.

MRS. WHITE
I'm calling animal control.

Mrs. White's friend, MRS. JONES, appears next to her, crying daughter in tow.

MRS. JONES
And I'm calling an exorcist!

Scottie backs away, suddenly afraid.

SCOTTIE
Let's go home, Shadow.

He tugs on the leash. This time, Shadow obeys.

Scottie and Shadow leave the playground as frightened parents and children look on.

EXT. BACK YARD - TWILIGHT

Scottie unhooks Shadow's leash. Shadow's empty grave is before them.

SCOTTIE
I'm sorry, boy. I can't keep you
anymore. I need you to be dead
again.

Shadow doesn't move.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Be dead!

Shadow rolls over and plays dead.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
No, be dead.

Shadow sits up. He rubs his dangling eyeball against Scottie's leg.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
I shouldn't have wished you back.

Scottie tries to push Shadow towards the grave.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Go back to dog heaven!

He pushes Shadow into the deep grave. Shadow disappears from sight.

Did it work? Scottie crouches down in front of the grave and peers in.

All Scottie can see is a pair of glowing red eyes.

Shadow growls like a demon dog from hell.

Terrified, Scottie backs away.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
Down, boy.

Shadow leaps from the grave, his teeth bared. He's hungrier than ever now.

Scottie turns and runs to his treehouse.

Scottie climbs the ladder, just as Shadow lunges.

Shadow slashes at Scottie's leg.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)

AAAHHH!!!

Scottie continues to climb. He reaches the top. He looks down.

Shadow digs his claws into the tree and proceeds to climb. He continues to growl.

Scottie grabs the rope attached to the zipline. He slides down the zipline.

He's headed straight for his bedroom window - but he won't let go.

CRASH!

Scottie crashes into

THE HALLWAY

then gets up and glances towards the end of the hallway, where his mother's bedroom is.

He runs towards the door, and he's almost there when...

CRASH!!

Shadow bursts through a window behind him.

Scottie runs faster. Shadow nips at his heels.

Scottie reaches the door.

Scottie enters

HIS MOTHER'S BEDROOM

He tries to shut the door, but Shadow is too strong. Scottie can't hold the door.

Scottie rushes to the closet. He shuts the door. Locks it.

INSIDE THE CLOSET

It's dark and musty.

Scottie can hear Shadow on the other side of the door, growling and clawing at it.

Scottie searches frantically for something. He moves clothes and boxes out of the way.

Then he sees it - on the top shelf...

The shotgun.

By now, Shadow is almost through the door. Scottie sees his bloody jaws, snapping.

Scottie stands on a box. He reaches for the shotgun.

Shadow's entire head is now through. His eyes burn like fire.

Scottie loads a shotgun shell.

Shadow pushes his way through the hole. He crawls towards Scottie.

Scottie raises the shotgun.

SCOTTIE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, boy...

BANG!!!

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

Scottie and Cassie stand, side by side, in front of two graves.

One is marked "Shadow." The other, "Mr. Cotton."

Scottie no longer looks depressed. Cassie, however, is devastated.

CASSIE
I don't understand how his head
could just fall off like that.

SCOTTIE
It happens.

CASSIE
Well, I guess Mr. Cotton's in a
better place now.

Scottie takes Cassie's hand and they walk towards the house.

Cassie spots a cotton seed, caught in a gentle breeze. She catches it in her hand.

She closes her eyes for a moment, then lets it go.

SCOTTIE
What was that for?

CASSIE
I made a wish. But I can't tell
you what it is or it won't come
true.

Suddenly, the children hear a loud trembling, like a small earthquake.

They turn to see something emerging from Mr. Cotton's grave, covered in dirt and blood.

Cassie breaks into a smile.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
My wish came true! It's Mr.
Cotton!

But it's the zombie version of Mr. Cotton, with glowing red eyes and razor sharp fangs.

The demonic bunny hops towards them.

SCOTTIE
Ah, hell.

FADE OUT.