

# Rescue Dog

## **Logline:**

A two-strike teen doing community service rescues a shelter dog giving each of them one last chance at redemption until a poor decision with her delinquent boyfriend puts both of their lives at risk.

## **Summary:**

This is a story of last chances and redemption. It is about Karen, a troubled teenager who has abandoned hope since her family moved from Boston to the suburbs of Raleigh, North Carolina and has fallen in with the wrong crowd since moving there. She plans on running away with her boyfriend when she turns eighteen, and after a night of partying with her 'friends', gets into trouble with the law. With two strikes against her in the juvenile legal system she is forced to perform community service at the local animal shelter where she meets Lola, a shy and abused dog. When she learns that Lola is about to be put down, Karen decides to foster Lola in order to save her life.

Karen blows off the responsibility at first, using it only as a way to get out of trouble, but as her co-worker, Andy, and her parents show Karen how to take care of Lola, and as Lola learns to trust Karen, she in turn learns how to truly trust in someone else. Karen begins to learn that she is not as much of a victim in her own life as she has made herself out to be, and focuses her time and energy into something other than herself. She opens up to her court-appointed psychologist about her anger and trust issues with her parents, and about the fainting spells that have plagued her for the past few years. She finishes her community service at the shelter and earns her privileges back from her parents.

When Karen sneaks out of the house to be with her delinquent boyfriend, Axle, Lola accidentally gets out and becomes lost. She is picked up in a neighboring town by a caring old couple who drop her off at their shelter the following morning. With no tags or identification, Lola has a 3-day window to be saved. Meanwhile, Axle has plans to get revenge on the cops that busted Karen, as their gang vandalizes police cars at the station as Karen watches on in horror. She wants nothing to do with it, but freezes in place while it happens. A car-chase with the police ensues, ending with Karen fainting in police custody and waking up in the hospital, hand-cuffed to the bed.

Karen finally embraces her responsibility, puts others before herself, and teams up with Andy and her parents to find Lola. After searching for two days to no avail and now believing that Lola is in the abusive animal shelter in the neighboring county, Andy and Karen race against the clock to save her. And it's here where Karen must choose to either break into the closed shelter to save Lola's life and risk going to jail or do nothing and risk losing Lola forever.

## **Setting and Scope:**

Based in North Carolina, this Family Drama script at 105 pages is meant to be low-budget.

## **Author:**

'RESCUE DOG' was a Top Ten finalist in the 2016 PAGE Awards, 2017 Screencraft Family Finalist (Top 5), and a 2018 Page Award Semi-Finalist. I have written seven additional feature screenplays and developed three TV pilots. I currently reside in Los Gatos, California.