

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. KAREN WILKES (17), a troubled teenager, 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 delinquent boyfriend, AXLE CROSS (18) 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 to save her life.

Karen blows off the responsibility at first, using it only to get out of trouble, but as her co-worker, ANDY KERNS (21), and her parents show Karen how to take care of Lola, both Karen and Lola learn to trust in each other. 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 on something other than herself. She opens 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 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 in horror, frozen 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.

With two strikes against her, Karen 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 believing that Lola is in the overcrowded 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 and go to jail to save Lola's life or do nothing and risk losing Lola forever.

Setting and Scope:

Based in North Carolina, this Family Drama script at 97 pages is intended to be low budget.

Author:

'RESCUE DOG' won Silver at PAGE in 2020 and is a two-time top ten finalist in other competitions. I have written twelve additional feature screenplays (including eight top ten finalists in PAGE and Screencraft competitions) and three one-hour TV drama pilots. I currently reside in Los Gatos, California.