

VET LIFE  
"PILOT"

Written by

Jade Rona

Los Angeles, CA  
718-902-5031

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- EXAM ROOM- NIGHT**

MARCUS (vet tech, 20s, male) and JESSIE (vet tech, 20s, female) stand in front of DANI (vet tech, early 20s, female) as they pile on protective gear over her scrubs.

DANI

Is this really necessary?

JESSIE

Oh, you're so innocent.

MARCUS

Remember, you just gotta get in there quick and wrestle him down.

JESSIE

Don't be afraid to really pin him cause he'll put up a good fight.

MARCUS

He can't see you coming. You have to be fast.

DANI

This is excessive.

MARCUS

He'll know you're there the second the door opens.

JESSIE

He can smell fear.

MARCUS

Jesus, Jessie.

DANI

This is a Pomeranian we're talking about right?

MARCUS

Never underestimate a patient.

Jessie solemnly nods her head staring off into the distance.

JESSIE

Never again.

DANI

Do I want to know?

MARCUS

It's best if you don't.

DANI  
(to camera)  
Welcome to the mad house.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- FRONT DESK- NIGHT**

An incredibly disorganized front desk with EILEEN (20s, female) currently on the phone scribbling down notes.

A clock shows it's 10 pm. A HANDFUL of OWNERS sit in the waiting room.

EILEEN  
(on the phone) Okay, so would you describe his meowing as simply loud or at more of a howling frequency?

Dani walks in wearing slightly damp scrubs.

DANI  
I've been peed on three times in the last hour and my mom will not stop trying to call me.

Dani looks around the waiting room and counts the number of people.

DANI (CONT'D)  
Not to look a gift horse in the mouth but aren't there usually more people at this hour?

Eileen lowers the phone.

EILEEN  
Another location just opened on Central Ave. Half of our clientele moved there.

DANI  
(to camera) So technically our hospital is part of a chain and technically we've been losing money for the past few years but no one talks about it.

DANI (CONT'D)  
Why would they do that? That's even farther from where most people live.

EILEEN  
They have a parking lot.

DANI

Shit.

EILEEN

Yeah. (back on the phone) Oh yes ma'am I'm still listening.

DANI

(to the camera) The special parking lot spot is the company's last ditch effort to up profits. And it might be what finally sinks us.

RONALD STEVENS (veterinarian, late 30s, male) walks in with a clipboard. He's in a rush.

RONALD

I need a competent tech so help me God.

DANI

(to camera)  
That's Doctor Ronald Stevens. We all call him Ronald McDonald behind his back but he doesn't need to know that. Yet.

RONALD

Eileen, where is Jake?

EILEEN

Jake is out sick this week. (on the phone) Yes, I promise I'm listening.

DANI

(to camera)  
Actually he was arrested for child endangerment but we'll get to that later.

RONALD

Dammit.

DANI

Yeah I heard it's pretty bad.

Muted YELLING can be heard coming from the phone.

EILEEN

So, sorry ma'am, yes I hear her, it is leaning towards a howl. I do think it's best you bring her in for examination.

RONALD

Well that's unfortunate. Someone needs to take this dog off my hands. I need someone to do bloodwork.

DANI

I can help.

Ronald seems to just notice she's here.

RONALD

Oh. Are you new?

DANI

I mean I've been here for-

RONALD

I don't actually care. Do you know how to do bloodwork?

DANI

Yeah.

RONALD

Are you sure?

DANI

Am I sure I can run basic tests?

RONALD

Yes, sweetie. A full panel preferably. CBC, Chem-

DANI

Lytes yes I know how to do a full panel. I've already done four toni-

RONALD

Great, you just earned a solo case.

DANI

(to camera)  
I'd bet you fifty bucks he doesn't even know my name.

He roughly hands over the clipboard chart then takes in the room.

RONALD

Aren't there usually more people?

DANI

A new location just opened.

Ronald gives an "and?" motion.

DANI (CONT'D)  
It has a parking lot.

RONALD  
Shit.

HOWLING is heard from the back.

RONALD (CONT'D)  
Double shit.

He STORMS off to the back. Eileen hangs up the phone.

DANI  
Why must he work every Friday  
night?

EILEEN  
I don't know, probably the same  
reason you do. Also, get ready for  
a monstrosly loud blocked cat to  
arrive in about an hour.

DANI  
Can't Marcus or Jessie get on that?  
I'm tired of dealing with urine.

EILEEN  
They're currently wrestling with a  
husky to get an abdominal x-ray so  
no.

DANI  
And why can't you help?

The phone RINGS. Eileen sighs and picks up the phone.

EILEEN  
Hello this is-

YELLING once again comes through the phone.

DANI  
I'm just gonna leave you to it.

Dani slowly backs away from the desk.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- X-RAY ROOM- SECONDS LATER**

MAX the HUSKY is SCREECHING as Marcus struggles to hold it  
down. MAX'S OWNER (30s, male) watches this unfold.

MARCUS

Jessie, can you please hurry up?!

JESSIE

I'm trying my best but it's hard when you can't keep him still.

MARCUS

You try it then!

JESSIE

You're stronger than me that would make no sense!

She turns to Owner.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

You know most people give us flack for this.

MAX'S OWNER

Oh no, he's a pain in the ass. He screams over everything. I get it.

JESSIE

You are a gem, sir.

The husky SCREAMS again.

MAX'S OWNER

I'm gonna go wait in the lobby though.

MARCUS

Jessie!

JESSIE

I got it alright!

Owner sneaks away as Dani passes by.

DANI

Uh you guys good?

JESSIE

Oh yeah, we got this.

DANI

(to camera)  
Marcus and Jessie. No one's quite sure who showed up first but they're almost always together.

(MORE)

DANI (CONT'D)

Not in a coupley way, more in like  
a codependent twins from The  
Shining way.

The husky FLAILS free and Marcus gives up. The dog licks his  
hand.

MARCUS

I love my job. I love my job. I  
love my job.

JESSIE

What are you up to?

DANI

Well, someone just got their first  
solo case.

MARCUS

No way, congrats!

JESSIE

Godspeed.

DANI

Thanks guys. Yeah I have to admit  
I'm a little nervous but psyched to  
have the opportunity to-

She's interrupted by the husky YOWLING at Marcus.

MARCUS

No one's even touching you!

Jessie leans over to read Dani's clipboard chart.

JESSIE

Ronald hand this off?

DANI

Yep.

JESSIE

Prick. I wish Doctor Hall wasn't  
stuck in surgery.

DANI

Any idea how that's going by the  
way?

JESSIE

No clue but it's a rough case.

Dani's phone RINGS. "Mom" is displayed on the screen.

DANI

I can't wait until she goes to bed.



JESSIE  
You're not worried she's dying?

DANI  
Why would I think she's dying?

JESSIE  
Cause she's calling you for the  
third time since you got here.

DANI  
How do you know that?

JESSIE  
The constant ringing of a phone is  
an omen of death.

Dani looks to the camera for help then focuses back.

DANI  
You scare me.

JESSIE  
Death scares us all.

Marcus walks out of the x-ray room with the dog.

MARCUS  
Dani, I promise we're fine here.  
Jessie stop freaking her out. And  
Max please stop licking my scrubs!

The husky is really going at his leg.

DANI  
Best of luck to the both of you.

Dani walks off.

JESSIE  
Luck is for those-

MARCUS  
Please, for two seconds, just stop  
saying weird shit.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- STOCK ROOM- MOMENTS LATER**

Dani walks into the refrigerated stock room.

DANI

(to camera)  
I'm not messing up my first solo case. I mean, I shouldn't mess it up. Like I'm borderline incapable of failing so this should be...

She sheepishly realizes she's rambling.

DANI (CONT'D)

(to camera)  
I'm going to shut up and focus on finding my stuff now.

She scans the shelves then grabs some BLOOD TUBES. She counts them and confusion takes hold.

DANI (CONT'D)

This is the third time in two months that we're running low on test kits.

She starts panicking looking for a test kit and finally, at the very back of a shelf she finds a stack hidden away.

DANI (CONT'D)

(to camera)  
Somehow this company has enough money to open up a second location on a plot twice our size but they can't afford to order the things we actually need.

JESSIE

You found the stash.

Dani JOLTS in surprise and SMACKS her head against the top of the shelf.

DANI

Jesus Christ Jessie! How are you so quiet?

JESSIE

Crocs. Silent killers.

Pan down to see her bare-feet in offensively bright green Crocs. Two Jibbitz read: "Pussycat lover" and "#1 Vet Babe".

DANI

Shouldn't you be helping Marcus?

JESSIE

X-ray showed a mass so he has to prep Max for a biopsy and doesn't trust me around clippers and sharp objects.

DANI

I'm going to ignore that last part. Why are people hiding tests?

JESSIE

Whenever corporate remembers to actually order tests we always request extra and hide some away for when they inevitably forget again. Like right now.

DANI

We need these tests every day.

JESSIE

I know that and you know that. I honestly think they do too but they just don't care.

DANI

They can't claim it's a money thing when they keep opening new locations.

JESSIE

Oh yeah, I heard the new one is really nice. Did you know they have/ a parking lot?

DANI (CONT'D)

/A parking lot, yes.

DANI (CONT'D)

Dr. Hall is one of the top vets in the country though. We're right down the street from the busiest train stop.

JESSIE

In a city where people mostly drive.

DANI

There's got to be something we can do.

JESSIE

Yeah, our jobs. Which speaking of I need you to leave.

DANI  
I was just about to but why?

JESSIE  
Marcus can just be a lot, you know?  
Gotta have a breather every now and  
then.

DANI  
He's a lot?

JESSIE  
Yes.

DANI  
(to camera) What a special person.

JESSIE  
Good luck with the case.

DANI  
Thanks.

A pause.

Dani walks carefully past Jessie before jogging away.

JESSIE  
Silence, my old friend.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- EXAM ROOM- SECONDS LATER**

Ronald examines a haggard-looking BORDER COLLIE. Dani walks in and puts out her materials: TEST KIT, 22 gauge butterfly, purple top (CBC), yellow top, green top (Chem & Lytes).

RONALD  
You found one, good. Took you long  
enough...

DANI  
You don't know my name do you?

RONALD  
Just focus on drawing blood  
alright?

DANI  
(to camera)  
You owe me fifty bucks.

RONALD  
You're gonna want to get an x-ray.

DANI  
Oh, sure. You know, I thought I was  
handling this case on my-

He completely ignores her.

RONALD  
I guarantee it's hemorrhagic  
gastroenteritis.

DANI  
How are you so sure?

The dog proceeds to have EXPLOSIVE DIARRHEA. Dani is  
horrified.

RONALD  
Yeah, that's going to keep  
happening for a while. A bath would  
be a good idea once it stops.

Ronald starts heading out.

DANI  
Do you want me to keep you updated  
or?

RONALD  
It's your case. Whatever you think  
is best.

DANI  
Right, thank-

RONALD  
But yes. I think that would be the  
right move.

Dani's frustration is reaching a breaking point.

RONALD (CONT'D)  
Try not to mess it up, Michelle.

DANI  
Not even close.

RONALD  
Dammit.

He leaves. The dog starts whimpering before emptying its  
bowels again.

Dani quickly sets up her testing kit and starts prepping the  
dog.

She gets another call from her mom which she quickly declines.

DANI

We are in for a rough night-

Checks the dog's chart. Looks confused.

DANI (CONT'D)

Bucket?

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- SECONDS LATER**

Ronald walks down the hall and snags Jessie as she's leaving the stock room.

RONALD

You. With me.

JESSIE

Manners are important, you know?

RONALD

Eight-year-old orange tabby just arrived. Having trouble with urination along with some other symptoms which suggest blockage.

JESSIE

Slippery Sam time!

RONALD

Can you just call it a catheter, please?

JESSIE

Everyone says Slippery Sam, Ron-Doctor Stevens.

RONALD

First of all, never call me by my first name. Secondly,-

Jessie goes to interrupt him.

RONALD (CONT'D)

-don't lie to me and say you didn't almost call me Ron, and thirdly, I'll be in exam room two. Grab the elastics and everything and meet me in there.

JESSIE  
Sir, yes, sir.

Ronald groans then speed walks to the front.

RONALD  
(to himself)  
Deborah, you really need to finish  
up that surgery.

JESSIE  
Red rubber. Red rubber.

Jessie chants like the kid from The Shining as she skips off  
to collect catheter supplies.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- SURGICAL ROOM- AT THE SAME TIME**

DEBORAH HALL (veterinarian, 50s, female) in full scrubs with  
a team performing surgery on a ORANGE CAT. 2 VET TECHS huddle  
around her as she operates.

The room is quiet. All that can be heard is the steady  
beeping of the monitors.

DEBORAH  
Time?

TECH #1  
Twelve forty-six am Doctor Hall.  
It's been about one and half hours.

DEBORAH  
About or exactly?

TECH #1  
One hour and twenty-seven minutes  
Doctor.

Tech #2 leans over and whispers something in Tech #1's ear.  
Tech #1 GASPS.

DEBORAH  
Is something the matter?

TECH #2  
What? Oh no, everything's fine.  
Doctor Stevens has been asking for  
an update though.

DEBORAH

We don't rush these things. I will be available when my patient has been properly cared for.

Tech #1 whispers back to Tech #2. She's worried.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

What is going on?

The two techs jumps in fear.

TECH #1

Corporate opened a new hospital on Central Avenue.

TECH #2

It has a parking lot.

Deborah pauses. CLENCHES her jaw. She doesn't look surprised just... angry. She lets out a deep breath.

DEBORAH

Let's just focus on our patient.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- WET TABLES- LATER**

Marcus is shaving a section of the Max the Husky's belly.

MARCUS

See dude. There's literally no reason to make my eardrums bleed while I'm trying to help.

Dani walks in with Bucket the poop dog. They both look haggard.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

God, I could smell you coming.

DANI

He was a very good boy when getting his blood drawn so be nice.

DANI (CONT'D)

(to camera)  
That was a lie but this dog and I can't take any more losses tonight.

She carefully guides Bucket to a wash station and starts the bath.



MARCUS  
So, how's your first case going?

DANI  
Honestly, I was hoping it would  
entail more surgery less excrement.

MARCUS  
He get into something gnarly?

DANI  
Hemorrhagic gastroenteritis.

Marcus gives a low whistle.

MARCUS  
That sucks. I thought I had it  
rough with this guy.

As if on cue, Bucket SHAKES and sprays water all over Dani  
while Max the husky attempts to chew on the clippers cord.

Dani stands in defeat. Marcus rips the cord from Max's mouth  
and begins a game of keep away.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
You are going to electrocute us  
both.

DANI  
Yeah I don't think either of us are  
having a great time.

MARCUS  
In better news, it's looking like  
the cat Doctor Hall's working on is  
gonna make it.

DANI  
Wait, really?

MARCUS  
Yep. She works miracles I swear. No  
clue why she still works here. My  
ass would be at a private practice.

Dani goes to use more shampoo but it's run out and there are  
no new bottles in sight. Just more empty ones.

DANI  
You're telling me you don't want to  
work at this magical place forever?

MARCUS

It could be a lot worse.

DANI

(to camera)  
Marcus used to work at a vet  
hospital out in the boonies. It  
got... dark.

DANI (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

MARCUS

Don't be. I'm here now and while  
it's not "magical" I've gotten to  
know some pretty decent people.

Dani looks genuinely touched. Then Marcus decides to tease.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Plus the discounts for personal pet  
care don't hurt.

DANI

And there it is.

They both laugh a little.

DANI (CONT'D)

Too bad Central Ave is about to put  
us under.

MARCUS

Oh god everyone is losing their  
minds over this. We'll be fine.  
This place has gotten out of worse  
binds.

DANI

We're fully in the red, Marcus.

MARCUS

We'll be fine, Dani. This location  
has some of the best staff. We're  
loyal, we're stubborn, we're not  
going anywhere.

DANI

I can't lose this job. My family  
already think this is a mistake and  
the deal was-

Jessie RUNS in before Dani can finish.



DANI  
Neither is screwing one Marcus.

MARCUS  
Touché. I still can't believe  
Jake's in jail.

DANI  
Everyone else can.

MARCUS  
At least I got a great hoodie out  
of it.

DANI  
Does that really make it worth it?

MARCUS  
Yes.

DANI  
Fair.

Bucket SHAKES and sprays Dani with water again.

Marcus goes to speak but Dani holds up a finger.

DANI (CONT'D)  
If you say "karma" I'm going to  
throw a shampoo bottle at you.

Marcus LAUGHS.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- FRONT DESK- LATER**

CHARLIE ROTH (owner, 40s, male) looks disheveled and stressed  
pacing at the front.

EILEEN  
Mr. Roth, I can assure you I will  
call the second Doctor Hall is  
finished with the surgery.

CHARLIE  
I've had Sally for fifteen years.  
Fifteen years she's never been  
sick.

EILEEN  
She's in the best hands right now  
and it's late sir. You've been here  
for a while you'll have time to go  
home for a bit if you'd like.

CHARLIE

I don't want to leave her.

Ronald comes STOMPING in holding a folder under his arm while gripping his bleeding hand.

RONALD

Satan himself is in that cat.

Charlie looks horrified while Eileen speaks to chastise Ronald.

EILEEN

Doctor Stevens!

RONALD

Oh, apologies. Not your cat, sir.

He SLAMS the folder on the desk and starts going to the front door.

EILEEN

Where are you going?

RONALD

Urgent care. It's already swelling up.

EILEEN

We're already down a vet you can't just leave.

RONALD

I refuse to die of a bacterial infection from a cat named Bon Bon.

He dramatically swings the door open and leaves.

CHARLIE

Is he-

Ronald comes BURSTING back through the door.

RONALD

Don't let Courtney mess up Bucket!

He leaves again. Charlie startled and confused looks at Eileen.

EILEEN

He has absolutely nothing to do with the care of your cat.

CHARLIE  
That's comforting. Who's Courtney?

EILEEN  
I have no idea.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- WET TABLES- MIDNIGHT**

Max's Owner storms into the wet table area. Dani is drying off Bucket.

MAX'S OWNER  
What's taking so long? Wait, why are you shaving my dog?

MARCUS  
Dammit, Jessie. I'm sorry, my coworker was supposed to inform you that we saw a dark spot on the x-ray and decided on an ultrasound-

MAX'S OWNER  
No, I know. There's a mass and you have to do a biopsy I get that but, why are you shaving him? He's going to look ridiculous.

DANI  
Well, in order to perform the biopsy there has to be a clear-

MAX'S OWNER  
Was I talking to you?

DANI  
(to camera)  
Do you think the shaving is triggering to him because of his receding hairline?

MARCUS  
She was correct. We have to have a clear and clean site for surgery. As for your wait time we unfortunately are pretty understaffed-

MAX'S OWNER  
How is that my problem?

MARCUS  
It's not I'm just trying to explain the delay.

OWNER

Stop shaving my dog and hurry it  
up, okay?

Max's Owner storms off.

DANI

Oh my god, Marcus did you know that  
it's late? Because I had absolutely  
no idea. Thank god he said  
something.

MARCUS

I really wish management would let  
us do something about people like  
him. Instead of us having to just  
sit and take it.

DANI

If I was his waiter I'd do  
unspeakable things to his food.

MARCUS

Dani!

DANI

What? Would that really be so  
wrong?

Dani finishes drying Bucket and puts a leash on him.

MARCUS

A walk would do him some good?

DANI

I know but he's been so stressed  
out all night.

She leans down and gives him some good pets.

DANI (CONT'D)

I think you need a little crate  
downtime. Does that sound nice,  
buddy?

He timidly wags his tail. Marcus smiles at the two of them.

MARCUS

You're pretty good at this.

DANI

I'm trying me best.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- MINUTES LATER**

Eileen in a power stance at the end of the hall.

EILEEN  
 Alright soldiers, midnight rush is  
 pouring in!

Everyone's heads poke out from various rooms.

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
 Prepare for things to get messy!

**INT. VET HOSPITAL****MONTAGE SEQUENCE:**

- 1) Dani puts a scared Bucket in a crate to recover. She's hesitant to leave him alone.
- 2) Ronald returns with a wrapped hand.
- 3) Jessie is running around carrying the CAT wrapped in a blanket burrito. It's SCREAMING its head off.
- 4) Marcus starts doing surgery prep for Max.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- HALLWAY**

Dani spots Ronald coming down the hall.

DANI  
 Doctor Stevens, I was wondering if  
 you had a moment to take a look-

His response is quick and gruff.

RONALD  
 Does it look like anyone has the  
 time right now? Figure it out. Next  
 time don't take on a solo case if  
 you can't handle it.

He leaves a dejected Dani in the hallway.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL****MONTAGE CONTINUES:**

We see all of them run through the same sequence of events over and over with VARIOUS PETS.



6) Dani gets BERATED by a customer. The night is starting to take a toll.

7) Ronald gets bit by CAT. Again.

8) Marcus wrestles a large GERMAN SHEPHERD in the x-ray room and gets repeatedly kicked in the stomach.

9) Dani once again tries to talk to Ronald but he holds up his hand as defense against chatting.

10) Jessie runs around with more catheter pieces continuing her "red rubber" chant.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- CRATES**

Dani stands in front of Bucket's crate. She checks to see that it's clean.

Her breathing is heavy. Her eyes glassy.

She's panicking.

DANI

We're find. Right, Bucket? We're both doing fine. We got this.

She pets him. Neither seem very convinced.

DANI (CONT'D)

I got this.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- SURGICAL ROOM**

Deborah is packing up her sharps. No patient in sight. She is alone. The room is totally silent. She looks at the clock.

DEBORAH

Not bad Hall, not bad at all.

She smiles to herself and leaves the room.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- HALLWAY- EARLY MORNING**

Ronald, Jessie, Marcus, and Dani all stand in the hall catching their breath. Dani faired the worst.

DANI

Thank god it's finally qu-



Beat.

DANI  
(to camera)  
I promise it's not usually this  
depressing.

RONALD  
I need to sit in a dark room for a  
moment.

He goes to leave but stops.

RONALD (CONT'D)  
Dani?

The trio is shocked he got it right.

DANI  
Yeah?

RONALD  
How's Bucket doing?

DANI  
Stable for right now.

RONALD  
You should take him out on a walk.  
Make sure he's a hundred percent.

DANI  
Already planning on it.

RONALD  
Good... good job, tonight.

He leaves the group cradling his mangled hand.

Dani stands shocked.

MARCUS  
I'm gonna go sweep up all the hair  
by the wet tables. Jessie, Dani you  
guys need help with anything?

Dani just shakes her head "no".

JESSIE  
I told Eileen I'd help her with  
paperwork.

MARCUS  
When did you talk to Eileen?

JESSIE

Huh. Must've been a dream. I guess  
I'll go offer my help in this  
reality now.

The trio split up. Dani heads towards the crates.

DANI

(to camera)  
My mental health hinges on this dog  
taking a solid shit.

**EXT. BOSTON STREETS- MOMENTS LATER**

Dani is walking Bucket the poop dog. Both trying to destress.

DANI

See buddy wasn't this great? Some  
fresh early morning air is just  
what we need to cap off a horrific  
night.

Her mom calls again.

DANI (CONT'D)

(to camera)  
This is going to suck.

After a brief pause, she picks up.

DANI (CONT'D)

Hi Mom.

DANI'S MOM

Hi? I tried calling you all night  
and all I get is "Hi Mom". I  
thought you died!

DANI

I told you I'm working tonight.

DANI'S MOM

Tonight? It's tomorrow Dani. What  
kind of hours is this thing?

DANI

It's an emergency hospital. Mom  
we've been over this. I'm not full-  
time yet so these are the hours I  
could get-

DANI'S MOM

Normal jobs have normal hours.

DANI

This is not an abnormal job. Every small child has thought about being a vet at least once.

DANI'S MOM

But you're not a vet, you're still in school.

DANI

I am aware Mom.

DANI'S MOM

You know your father's coworker says he has an in at UPenn's med school-

DANI

Mom don't do this.

The emotions of the night are catching up to Dani.

DANI'S MOM

Just remember our deal. No job, no more vet school. Why deal with this nonsense? You can try to do something more-

DANI

Mom! Enough. I'm sick of hearing this every week. I love what I do. It's hard and it's terrible like eighty percent of the time but I want this. I don't want to be a doctor and I'm never going to be a doctor. I don't understand why you can't just support me.

*Beat.*

DANI'S MOM

This is not a serious career path.

DANI

It is to me.

Dani starts jaywalking with the dog.

DANI'S MOM

Just think about-

DANI

Mom. Please.

DANI'S MOM

Fine.

Her mom hangs up on her.

Suddenly Bucket stops moving and starts to WHIMPER. Dani confused turns to look behind her at the dog who is now having liquid diarrhea in the middle of the street.

Oncoming traffic starts heading towards them.

DANI

(to camera)

This cannot be happening.

As the dog continues to relieve himself a COP CAR pulls up to the pair. The COP rolls down the window and lets out a whistle.

COP

Damn. That sucks.

The cop laughs as he drives off. The dog whimpers and finally finishes.

DANI

It's okay buddy.

Cars start HONKING at them.

DANI (CONT'D)

We're gonna be okay.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- FRONT DESK- MOMENTS LATER**

The waiting room is mostly empty. Dani TRUDGES through with Bucket.

Eileen is packing up her things at the desk.

EILEEN

(to Bucket) How was your walkies?  
Did you have fun?

DANI

He diarrhea'ed in the middle of the road.

EILEEN

Oh. Not a fun walkies.

DANI

I will be washing him again.

EILEEN

By the way, Doctor Hall is out of surgery. She was looking for the patient's chart, can you drop it off for me?

DANI

Sure.

Eileen goes to say more but Dani rudely leaves with Bucket.

EILEEN

Someone is not a morning person.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- HALLWAY- EARLY MORNING**

Deborah Hall is looking over some papers. A soaking-wet Dani holding a chart approaches.

DANI

Excuse me, Doctor Hall, I think this is the chart you were asking for.

DEBORAH

Yes, thank you, Danielle.

Dani just stares at Deborah.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Was there something else, Danielle?

DANI

You've been doing this for a while right?

DEBORAH

As in working at this particular hospital or veterinary work in general?

DANI

In general.

DEBORAH

Close to 20 years, yes.

DANI

Why?

DEBORAH

I'm not sure I understand the question.

DANI

The hours are harsh. We get paid nothing. We get bit and scratched and literally shat on. We get no money from corporate cause all they do is spend it on damn parking lots and half the time the people we're helping actively hate us. So, why?

CHARLIE

Doctor Hall?

Charlie interrupts. He's even more disheveled and is out of breath.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

They called to say the surgery was done but they didn't say anything specific. Is- um, is she?

DEBORAH

Sally is just fine Mister Roth. We managed to get everything out-

She's cut off by Charlie hugging her.

CHARLIE

Thank you.

Deborah hugs him back and then politely pats his back. He lets her go. He's crying a little.

DEBORAH

No need to thank me. It's my job.

CHARLIE

Am I allowed to see her?

DEBORAH

Absolutely. She's been placed in a crate for recovery. Jessie, who's right there down the hall, can take you to her. Keep in mind she's still coming off the anesthesia.

CHARLIE

But she's alright?

DEBORAH

Yes, Mr. Roth. A little loopy but perfectly fine.

CHARLIE

Thank you. Really, thank you.



He practically RUNS down the hall.

Deborah gathers herself and the chart then starts walking away to the front.

DANI  
You didn't answer.

Deborah halts and slowly turns to Dani.

DEBORAH  
Danielle, if that wasn't enough of an answer for you then I'm afraid you're in the wrong profession.

DANI  
It's just... hard.

DEBORAH  
Of course it's hard. Anything worth doing is hard. Parking lot or not, this job is hard.

She walks back to Dani and places a hand on her shoulder.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)  
We take the wins where we can. We take it day by day, an hour or twenty minutes at a time. We do what we can and hope it's enough. Because it has to be.

She retracts her hand and heads down the hall. She shouts back one last thing.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)  
Good job on your first solo case. Hemorrhagic gastroenteritis is rough.

Dani smiles wide then sheepishly looks at the camera before walking out of frame.

**INT. VET HOSPITAL- FRONT- AT THE SAME TIME**

Ronald catches Eileen as she's about to leave.

RONALD  
Eileen! One sec.

EILEEN  
Doctor Stevens, my shift just ended.

(MORE)

EILEEN (CONT'D)

I can hear my bed calling out to me. It's begging for me. Please make this quick.

RONALD

Do you know if the Central location is hiring?

It's like a slap in the face.

EILEEN

You're not seriously asking me that right now.

RONALD

Oh, come on. We all know we're toast here. I have a family to take care of.

EILEEN

And no one else here has stuff they're worried about?

RONALD

You know that's not what I-

EILEEN

We have to stick together. They want us to give in. To just lie down and take it but you know what? We're the highest rated location they have. Not just in the city, in the entire state! They won't just bury us. They can't if we-

RONALD

Stick together?

EILEEN

They gave Hall an offer before they opened. Did you know that?

RONALD

What did she say?

EILEEN

Well, is she here or there right now?

Ronald uncomfortably shifts.

RONALD

I- I was just asking to see- to see if-

EILEEN  
Get a grip, Ronald.

She swings the door into his face and leaves.

RONALD  
Dammit!

He clutches his face in pain. Then SMACKS the door in anger but accidentally uses his mangled hand.

RONALD (CONT'D)  
Dammit!

**EXT. VET HOSPITAL- EARLY MORNING**

Jessie and Marcus wait outside bickering as Dani walks out of the hospital.

MARCUS  
That wasn't too bad.

JESSIE  
Not at all. I had time to pee so that's always a win.

Dani joins them.

MARCUS  
She lives another day! Your first solo case has been completed. Have we lost you yet?

DANI  
No, not yet.

She gives an "I'm alright" wink to the camera.

The trio starts walking off.

DANI (CONT'D)  
Anyone get bit?

MARCUS  
Nope.

JESSIE  
No.

DANI  
Another win.

MARCUS  
Dani and I had a fun time with a couple owners. Anyone decide to berate you, Jessie?

JESSIE  
Only my own thoughts.

MARCUS  
Partial win.

DANI  
Gotta take them where you can.

They continue to walk.

FADE OUT.

**END OF EPISODE.**