

## I DREAM OF A FAMILY

An Orf Story written by Victoria Petro-Eschler

Premiered as a collaboration between Plan-B Theatre Company's "In the Classroom" Program and Salty Cricket Composers Collective; performed as a short film by students in first grade at Wallace Stegner Academy in May 2019.

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DOG - Egg Shakers

CAT - Triangles

SHELTER WORKER - Sticks

BOY - Boomwhackers

GIRL - Buckets

NARRATOR - A Teacher

(EVERYONE sings and plays instruments to the tune of *Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star.*)

I dream of a family - one to love, who'll play with me!  
One who'll make sure I have food  
And pat my head when I've been good!  
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There are so many wonderful animals in our world, it's hard to choose which one is more special than another. However, it is commonly known that [DOGS] and [CATS] hold a special place in the hearts of [BOYS] and [GIRLS] everywhere. Sometimes, though, it can be hard for just the right [DOG] and just the right [CAT] to find just the right [BOY] and just the right [GIRL]. This is a story of just that!

In a cage at the animal shelter, a [DOG] is very nervous. In a nearby cage, a skinny, black [CAT] stretches. "Hey! Hey, [DOG]! Hey, [DOG]! I'm talking to you, [DOG]," meows [CAT]. "Who, me?" asks [DOG]. "Yes, you! Why do you look so nervous, [DOG]?" Asked [CAT]. Trying to put on a brave face, [DOG] sits up tall and speaks with confidence, "Who told you I was nervous? You don't even know me, [CAT]. I am very brave and very strong. I just... AH!" [DOG] shrank back as the [SHELTER WORKER] walked past. "Don't worry [DOG]; you don't have to be ashamed. People haven't been nice to you, have they?" Asked [CAT]. "How did you know, [CAT]?" Replied [DOG]. "Well," answered [CAT]. "When I was a little kitten, I lived outside. It was cold, I didn't have enough to eat, and people were nervous about a [CAT] without a home coming near them. There was a little [GIRL] who ran away from me, saying I looked scary. Once, a little [BOY] even threw a rock at me! Then, one day, the [SHELTER WORKER] found me and brought me here. I still dream of a day when I will belong to a special [BOY] or a special [GIRL] - but at least for now, I am safe and sound!"

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"Wow!" Said [DOG]. "When I was a puppy I lived with a family. They told me I was the cutest [DOG] they had ever seen. But, I would sometimes accidentally go potty in the house. So, they started making me spend all day and all night outside. Sometimes they would forget to feed me. They yelled at me a lot. One day, I was hungry, so I went outside the fence looking for something to eat. But, my family hadn't put a collar on me to show who I belonged to. A [BOY] and [GIRL] found me and brought me to the [SHELTER WORKER]. I'm really nervous I'm going to do something wrong and get yelled at. I'm not sure how to act around everyone! I would love a home of my own!" "Well," [CAT] said, "You're in luck! The [SHELTER WORKER] is the nicest! We always have food and toys and sometimes, we even get lessons so we can know how to live with a family and understand the rules better! Every weekend, the [SHELTER WORKER] invites all sorts of [BOYS] and [GIRLS] in to get to know us and see if we fit into their families!" "Wow! That sounds great," yipped [DOG]. "Do you think I will find a home?" "Sure!" Answered [CAT], "The [SHELTER WORKER] will make sure it's a good home, too."

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Not long after, a [GIRL] and a [BOY] came to the shelter with their parents. The [SHELTER WORKER] told them: "This guy is very special. He's a strong and smart [DOG]. If you teach him the rules of the house, he'll follow them. BUT, you must teach him. Also, he's a bit of a nervous little [DOG] - I think people might have been mean to him when he was little." [DOG] was so excited to hear the [SHELTER WORKER] help the family understand him - they all listened carefully and nodded. The [GIRL] answered saying, "I bet he's the kind of [DOG] that would explore the backyard with me and dig up buried treasure!"

Then, the [SHELTER WORKER] turned the family to the [CAT], saying, "This pretty [CAT] is the toughest one I've met. She's had to learn to take care of herself and still loves to cuddle and just be with people. She needs someone to spend time cuddling her and make sure she knows she's loved." [CAT] loved the idea of being with a family that would show her love every day, just the way the [SHELTER WORKER] described. The [BOY] spoke up, saying, "I bet she'd be a great [CAT] for cuddling up with while I do my homework. I bet I'd like doing my homework if I had a fluffy [CAT] to keep me company!"

The [BOY] and the [GIRL] and their parents followed the [SHELTER WORKER] to a small room with chairs. [DOG] and [CAT] were brought into the room after them and everyone got to know each other better. The [SHELTER WORKER] said, "It's great that you've come here today- it means you want to give a home to an animal who needs it. Now, you have to be sure you are going to give your pet a good home full of love and care. It can be hard sometimes - just

like humans, animals will make mistakes and it can be frustrating. But, just like humans, animals are great family members. I think this [CAT] and this [DOG] will make wonderful additions to your family! The [BOY] and the [GIRL] begged their parents to take the [DOG] and [CAT] home. And that's how a very special [DOG] and a very special [CAT] found a home with a very special [BOY] and a very special [GIRL] thanks to the work of a very special [SHELTER WORKER].

Now, we have a family - one with love, who'll play with me!  
One who'll make sure I have food  
And pat my head when I've been good!  
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END OF PLAY