

A Collie for Christmas

Jules Abrams





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A COLLIE FOR CHRISTMAS

By Jules Abrams

CAST

NARRATOR

JULIE: Wants a pet dog, strong willed.

ANITA: Julie's friend, just trying to help.

GINGER: Another friend, very opinionated.

ELLIE: Another friend, steady, level headed.

DR. CRANE: A veterinarian with a big heart.

All the characters are retired and in their senior years. Dr. Crane can be played either by a male or female.

NARRATOR: Before we begin, we want you to know all the characters are fictitious but that the story is true.

SCENE ONE

NARRATOR: Scene One. Time, the present. We are in the home of Julie. Ginger, Julie and Anita are having a heated discussion.

JULIE: (*excited*) I don't care what anyone says...I'm determined to get a dog! The only question is not when, but what kind.

ANITA: Take it easy, Julie! You're gonna have a heart attack if you keep this up.

GINGER: You're right! Your blood pressure must be going through the roof by now!

JULIE: My health is perfectly fine...no thanks to you.

GINGER: We're just trying to enlighten you!

JULIE: Enlighten me? I'm pushing 73...I don't need to be enlightened! What I need is support from my friends!

GINGER: *(with authority)* Julie, sit down!

JULIE: *(surprised at her tone)* What?

GINGER: I said sit down!

NARRATOR: Julie sits.

GINGER: *(quietly)* Now, just listen. Believe it or not, we are your friends. We just don't want to see you make any foolish mistakes. A dog is an enormous responsibility. Are you up to walking him two or three times a day?

JULIE: I have a fenced-in yard...he can do his business there and I'll clean it every day. Besides I love to walk.

ANITA: Oh? Well, what about when it snows...and rains?

JULIE: I told you...I have a fenced-in yard. Jim built it himself!

NARRATOR: There is a knock on the door.

JULIE: That must be Ellie. Now, she knows about dogs!

NARRATOR: Julie crosses to door; Ellie enters.

ELLIE: How is everyone?

JULIE: Hi, Ellie. I'm so glad you could come...Ginger and Anita have been driving me nuts!

ELLIE: Is that true? Have you been bugging our friend Julie?

GINGER: Sure, I have! And what's more, I intend to keep on bugging her until I knock some sense into her!

JULIE: See, I told you she was driving me nuts!

ANITA: *(interrupting)* Now, hold on just one cotton-picking minute here. Ginger was just trying to give some very important advice to Julie. It's unfortunate that Julie is so stubborn she won't listen to a word anybody is saying!

JULIE: That's not fair! We're just having a difference of opinion!

ELLIE: Hey, let's cool it girls! Okay...just quiet down. Now what the heck is going on here?

GINGER: Julie has lost her mind. She thinks she wants a dog!

JULIE: That does it! Once you start calling me senile, you've gone too far!

ELLIE: That's enough! Now I don't want a peep out of any of you until I ask for it. Have you got that?...I said have you got that?

NARRATOR: The women nod their heads silently, indicating they understand.

ELLIE: Julie wants a dog. Ginger, what's the problem?

GINGER: It's just that as much as I love Julie, I think having a dog is for a younger person. Dogs love to fun and play...I don't know if Julie is up to it.

ELLIE: Uh huh...Anita?

ANITA: A dog is a tremendous responsibility! Julie enjoys traveling. You can't take a dog to Rome, for cryin' out loud! And they're messy. Just look at this house...you could eat off the floor! Dogs shed! They make mistakes and poop on the carpet! They chew up the furniture when they get bored and eat you out of house and home!

ELLIE: Julie?

JULIE: I didn't make this decision five minutes ago...I've thought about it a great deal. Jim and I always had a dog and I want one again. These days you can hire someone to feed and walk your dog while you're away, or if it suits you, take it to a pet hotel!

ELLIE: What about the other things Anita said...about dogs being messy and eating up the furniture?

JULIE: I know how to train a dog, and besides, I fully intend to take him or her to dog obedience school.

GINGER: Oh, for Pete's sake!

JULIE: What's that supposed to mean?

GINGER: You're free as a bird now. Why do you want to tie yourself down?
Having a mutt is like having a baby!

JULIE: Ginger, we've been friends for better than 50 years but I've just about had it with you.

ANITA: But Julie, Ginger is right...you should take some more time to think about this.

JULIE: Okay...that's it. If I can't get some kind of support from my friends, then who in blazes can I count on?

ELLIE: All right! That's enough! What's wrong with you people?

GINGER: Ellie is right. The argument has gone too far. I'm sorry, Julie.

ANITA: Me too. I guess we meant well, it just got out of hand. Please forgive me, Julie.

JULIE: Well...I don't know...

ELLIE: Julie!

JULIE: All right, all right. I forgive you.

ELLIE: Good. Now let's all sit down, and since we have all decided to support Julie in her decision, maybe we can take the next step.

JULIE: The next step?

ELLIE: Where will you adopt this dog and what breed would be best for you?

GINGER: Well, Ellie, since you're the peacemaker, why don't you suggest something before we all get crazy again?

ELLIE: I think Julie should get a dog at the pound.

ANITA: Really?

JULIE: Of course I will. That's just what Jim and I used to do.

GINGER: How come?

JULIE: Those poor dogs are so happy to get a home; it's like they've been waiting for you to show up all their lives.

ELLIE: And they get good care at the pound. By the time you get to take your pet home, it's been bathed, de-flea'd and medically checked out.

ANITA: Sounds pretty good to me.

JULIE: And they check you out too.

GINGER: What?

JULIE: They want to know if you have the time to care for the animal...if you can afford to take it to the vet when it gets sick...they even come to your home to see if there's a fenced-in yard.

GINGER: For goodness sake...

JULIE: Well, now that you two are beginning to sound reasonable, would you like to go over to the pound with me? I know you would, Ellie.

ELLIE: You bet I would!

ANITA: Gosh...I've never even seen the inside of a dog pound. It's probably pretty depressing.

GINGER: Tell you what...We can make a whole day of it. First we can do some Christmas shopping, then we can go over to the Italiano Paradiso for lunch, then we can go over to the pound and pick up a poochie for Julie!

ELLIE: Look, ladies, this is serious business. Forget lunch and shopping. Julie, you need to get a dog that's not too active, preferably housebroken, and kind of small.

JULIE: Yes...I can appreciate that.

ANITA: Maybe a Pekingese?

GINGER: I think Cocker Spaniels are cute.

JULIE: Is everybody free Thursday afternoon?

GINGER: Hold on...Let me check my appointment book.

ELLIE: Yes, I know I'm free.

ANITA: Thursday afternoon is fine as long as I can get home by four-thirty...don't want to miss *Days of Our Lives*.

JULIE: Then it's all set. Be here at about one o'clock...I'll fix a light lunch for us, and we'll be on our way!

GINGER: Okay...we'll be here.

ELLIE: Do you want me to bring anything?

SCENE TWO

NARRATOR: Scene Two. It is Friday, the day after the women visited the animal shelter. Ginger is talking to Anita on the phone.

GINGER: Imagine...after all the discussion we had about choosing a small dog. It's incredible!

ANITA: And I distinctly remember Ellie warning her to get a dog that wasn't too active. How she could wind up with a collie is beyond me!

GINGER: Well, she hasn't got it yet. The vet has to check out the dog, and someone from the shelter will be looking at her backyard.

ANITA: Oh, Julie will get the dog all right. Her yard is big enough for the Washington Redskins to play in.

GINGER: Yeah, you're right. It must have cost a fortune for that fence.

ANITA: Well, I'll let you go...Rosie O'Donnell comes on in a few minutes.

GINGER: Really, I didn't realize it was so late. I'll turn on my TV. Talk to you later.

NARRATOR: Now we hear Julie and Ellie on the phone.

ELLIE: Julie, Julie, Julie...I don't know what gets into you sometimes.

JULIE: (*laughing*) I know...isn't it awful?!

ELLIE: Good heavens, Julie...a collie?

JULIE: Okay, okay...so I got carried away. I couldn't help myself. Here's this gorgeous animal, looking as sad as can be, staring at me. Every time I walked away, he would bark for me to come back. When I petted him through the bars he licked my hand. (*laughing*) I tell you it was love at first sight!

ELLIE: Good grief!

JULIE: When that young volunteer told me that he had been left there by a poor woman whose husband walked out on her and two babies, and that she would have to work full time and couldn't afford to keep the collie anymore, I knew somebody upstairs had chosen me to take this glorious doggie home.

ELLIE: So what are you going to call him?

JULIE: Misha...he looks like a sad Russian czar.

ELLIE: When will you pick up this noble doggie person?

JULIE: Probably sometime next week. First the vet has to check him out; then someone from the shelter will see if I really do have a fenced-in yard.

ELLIE: Well, sweetie pie, if you ever need a dog sitter, call Ginger! (*they both laugh*)

END OF FREEVIEW

You'll want to read and perform this show!