

MILES

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM. OLD VET SHOP - NIGHT

The room is so small, you could barely fit a small chihuahua in there. The ceiling's paint job is falling down because of the rain, causing humidity to take big chunks of painting off.

MARTY (35), the veterinarian, is sitting down on the edge of his desk, looking outside a window to the streets of Chicago, where people passes by, wearing their raincoats and holding hands.

He's tall and somewhat weird looking, with long legs and arms, and short black hair. He's wearing a brown sweater with grey pants. Nothing about him pops up, except his height.

The shop has been empty for most of the day... For most of the week. And Marty is just thinking about closing the shop and going away from his career as a vet.

The vet shop serves also as a shelter for stray dogs. We can hear barking coming from another room at some point. Marty knows his dogs so well, he can distinguish the sound they make. The barking just continues.

MARTY

Don! Stop! You're gonna agitate
your brothers. What do you want?

The dog barks a couple of times again, and shuts up.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Fine, Jesus.

Marty stands up from the desk and walks out of the room. We can see what Marty has been looking. The streets, filled with lights and people.

We can hear the door opening from Don's cage, and the sound that dog's food makes when it hits the plate. Meanwhile, something outside the window happens.

A woman steps out of a cab, holding a small puddle on her arms. She closes the door by pushing it with her hip and walks to the entrance door of the shop.

We hear the doorbell as we...

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM WITH CAGES. OLD VET SHOP - NIGHT

Marty is pouring food in another cage, and he looks up as the doorbell rings. He's surprised.

Marty puts down the little bowl for serving food and slowly walks to the door.

INT/EXT. ENTRANCE DOOR. OLD VET SHOP - NIGHT

Marty opens the door. Outside, a young woman stands, with water pouring down on her as her dog is unconscious on her arms. Marty looks at her for a brief couple of seconds that drag like years.

WOMAN

Hello?

MARTY

Yes? Yes! Come inside, please.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM. OLD VET SHOP - NIGHT

Marty and the woman enter the room. She puts the poor dog on the table and Marty gets down to it.

MARTY

I'm so sorry, there are clean
towels inside that closet.

The woman opens up the closet and cleans herself up.

WOMAN

Thank you.

MARTY

Give me one of those while you're
at it, please?

The woman takes a towel and gives it to Marty. As she does it, they both look in the eyes. She's short, with wavy dark brown hair and a skin as pale as it gets.

MARTY (CONT'D)

What happened to him?

WOMAN

He just started coughing hard, and
then fell down on the floor,
breathing so fast I thought he had
a car engine inside him.

MARTY

How old is he?

WOMAN

He's fourteen.

Marty opens up the dog's eyes and puts a tiny flashlight in front of them.

MARTY

What's his name?

WOMAN

Miles.

MARTY

Hey, old champ. Hey.

Marty caresses Miles' furry head, as the dog licks his hand.

MARTY (CONT'D)

He just had a minor heart attack.

WOMAN

Oh my God...

The woman puts her hands on her face.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I-- I mean, he's old and
everything. I know. It's just...
he's been with me his whole life.
It's just.

MARTY

I understand, don't worry.

Marty injects the dog with something. As he puts down the
needle, he starts caressing the dog's head again.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Sorry, what's your name?

WOMAN

Rose.

Marty looks at Rose, as she gets closer and starts touching
Miles' paws.

ROSE

What now?

MARTY

I just gave him something to ease
his pain and also to make stabilize
his heart. But we should just wait.
This is very common in old males
like Miles.

ROSE

I understand.

MARTY

We should just wait for a bit.

Marty and Rose keep caressing little Miles' fur.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM. OLD VET SHOP - NIGHT

Marty and Rose are sitting on the edge of Marty's desk. They're both looking outside the window. The rain has stopped, and now the sky is clear, with some stars showing their face after the hard storm.

MARTY

How you got him?

ROSE

Huh?

MARTY

Miles.

ROSE

Oh. Ehm... he was a gift from my husband.

Marty now looks at Rose with attention. He didn't expect that.

ROSE (CONT'D)

I married so young. Anyways, he left me like three years ago. Miles if all I have left that reminds me of him.

MARTY

Oh, I'm sorry.

ROSE

Don't. Never been happier. I mean, I work a lot from home and almost miss two out of four seasons by being hidden in my small little cave. I don't go out that much. When you do that, people start getting away from you, as if that's repulsive or anything... fuck. You asked me about Miles and I'm giving you the outline of my fuckups and failures.

Rose smiles, and Marty smiles with her.

MARTY

It's ok. I'm mostly speaking dog all day. It's good to share, even if it's the saddest things of our lives.

ROSE

What about you?

MARTY

This is it, pretty much. I've owned this shop for as long as I can remember. It was my father's, and my grandfather's before him. Now it's mine.

ROSE

Probably will pass on to your son or daughter, I'm guessing.

MARTY

I don't know.

Rose and Marty look at each other in the eyes, for long quiet seconds, with just the sound of the cars passing by outside.

Marty tries to end the silence, but so does Rose, and they get interrupted.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Sorry, go on.

ROSE

Do you have a bathroom I can use?

MARTY

Sure. Down the hall to your left.

ROSE

Thanks.

Rose stands up and exits the room. Marty is left there alone. For a minute, he just sits there, thinking about Rose and what has happened. He stands up and looks in a small mirror he has hanging on the wall. He fixes up his hair.

A harsh gasp followed by Miles' heavy breathing startle him. He goes to where the dog is. His eyes are wide open, and his tongue is out.

Marty injects the dog with something, and tries massaging his chest.

MARTY

(to himself)

Come on... come on boy...

Marty keeps massaging the dog's chest. In a moment, the dog stops breathing. Marty keeps pumping the little dog's chest. But it's just futile.

Marty just stands there, looking at Miles' lifeless body. Under the door's frame is standing Rose, looking at Marty and at her dead friend.

ROSE

Hi.

Marty is startled by Rose. Marty turns around to face her.

ROSE (CONT'D)

How is he?

MARTY

He's complete-- completely sedated.
I want him to stay overnight, so I
can check on him.

ROSE

Oh... ok.

Marty and Rose stand there, facing each other. Rose looks at him, thankful. She hugs him.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Thank you.

MARTY

We-- we have to wait to see if he
gets better.

ROSE

For talking to me and opening your
door, so late, in such a difficult
time.

MARTY

Don't worry.

Marty and Rose keep hugging. At some point, they separate.

ROSE

I should go. I'll come back
tomorrow morning.

MARTY

Good. Go rest.

Rose smiles at Marty, looks at Miles and goes away.

Marty stands there, and looks at Rose through the window, as she walks away in the middle of the night.

When she's out of sight, Marty sits on the table. Just looking at nowhere. He slowly lays down on the table where Miles is. He cuddles him, like father and son, and falls asleep, with the dead dog surrounded by his arms.

EXT. LINCOLN PARK - NIGHT. ONIRIC

All the dogs from the vet shop are out, unleashed. They're walking side by side, accompanied by Rose and little Miles. Marty looks at them, and follows.

INT. OLD VET SHOP - DAY

Marty is woken up by the knocking on his door. When he opens it, he sees her.

ROSE

I gave it a lot of thinking and, I
just believe that putting down
Miles would be the best thing to
do. I-- I don't want him to hurt or
suffer anymore.

Marty looks at her.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM. OLD VET SHOP - DAY

Marty injects something into Miles. Rose has the little dog craddled on her arms, as tears fall down her cheeks. Rose takes a hand out of Miles' furry body to hold Marty's hand.

FADE OUT.

THE END.