

**A Dog Named Booger**  
*(with apologies to Earl Emerson)*

**by**  
**Louise Penberthy**

Louise Penberthy  
1101 Seneca St., #1102  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Home: (206) 748-0698  
Cell: (206) 849-4279  
louisep@wonderworks.com

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**Cast Breakdown (2W)**

Woman – middle aged or older, any race, any size, of some money and elegance

Attendant – about the same age, any race, any size, understanding and helpful

**Location**

The office of a crematory for pets.

**Time**

Present day.

**Running Time**

15 minutes

*(The office of a mausoleum for pets. Tastefully appointed, but with restraint. The ATTENDANT sits behind the desk. The WOMAN sits in one of the visitors' chairs.)*

ATTENDANT. And what was the dog's name?

WOMAN. Booger.

*(A pause.)*

ATTENDANT. Oh my.

That is – ...

How are you spelling that?

WOMAN. Like what one picks out of one's nose.

ATTENDANT. Of course.

*(The ATTENDANT writes on a form.)*

WOMAN. With two "O"s.

ATTENDANT. Of course.

*(A pause.)*

ATTENDANT. Pardon my –

WOMAN. I'm sure you –

*(They both stop.)*

ATTENDANT. Sorry, I didn't mean –

WOMAN. Sorry, I was just –

*(They both stop.)*

ATTENDANT. I was just curious why you  
have –

WOMAN. You must be wondering how I  
got –

*(At the same time:)*

ATTENDANT. – a dog named Booger.

WOMAN. – a dog named Booger.

ATTENDANT. Well...

WOMAN. My husband.

ATTENDANT. Ah.

*(The ATTENDANT looks at the form.)*

ATTENDANT. And what font would you like?

WOMAN. Font?

ATTENDANT. For the writing on the plaque.

WOMAN. Font.

What do you suggest?

ATTENDANT. Perhaps... Black Letter?

*(The ATTENDANT points to a sample on the form.)*

WOMAN. Oh... disproportionate.

ATTENDANT. Dignified.

WOMAN. Something less compensatory?

Her name was Booger.

ATTENDANT. Palatino?

This one.

WOMAN. Oh... too neat.

ATTENDANT. She was an... exuberant dog?

WOMAN. Messy. Even for a dog.

ATTENDANT. Free spirited.

WOMAN. Palatino is fine.

*(The ATTENDANT writes on the form.)*

ATTENDANT. And what would you like the plaque to say?

WOMAN. The obvious, I think.

"A Dog Named Booger."

ATTENDANT. "A Dog Named..."

WOMAN. "Booger."

ATTENDANT. "Booger."

Oh my.

Two "O"'s.

WOMAN. Yes.

*(The ATTENDANT writes on the form.)*

ATTENDANT. And what else?

WOMAN. What else?

ATTENDANT. Many customers like the date of birth, and the date of death.

WOMAN. I don't know her date of birth.

ATTENDANT. Date of death?

WOMAN. Not that, either.

ATTENDANT. Oh yes?

WOMAN. My husband.

In his care. She was.

ATTENDANT. Ah.

Perhaps a photo?

WOMAN. Of my husband?

ATTENDANT. Of the dog.

WOMAN. Oh. Well...

*(The WOMAN shows the ATTENDANT a photo.)*

ATTENDANT. Oh my.

WOMAN. Perhaps not.

ATTENDANT. But...

Well. Then.

The plaque will simply read... "A Dog Named Booger."

WOMAN. (*Echoing.*) "A Dog Named Booger."

Yes.

*(The ATTENDANT looks at the form.)*

ATTENDANT. And what kind of urn will you be wanting?

WOMAN. Oh. The plainest.

She was not a fancy dog.

ATTENDANT. You must miss... she must be missed, though.

WOMAN. A dog named Booger?

ATTENDANT. Families miss their dogs no matter what the name.

WOMAN. Do they?

The dog was all I got. In our divorce.

ATTENDANT. Divorce?

WOMAN. My husband and I.

ATTENDANT. Ah.

WOMAN. I wish that I had renamed her.

ATTENDANT. Renamed her?

WOMAN. Who wants a dog named Booger?

There are so many interesting names. For dogs.

ATTENDANT. ...and Booger is not?

WOMAN. Well...

Prince. Lassie. Rex.

ATTENDANT. Killer.

WOMAN. Killer?

ATTENDANT. We've had any number of Killers.

WOMAN. What do you – ...?

ATTENDANT. Dogs. Named Killer.

But a dog named Booger.

This is the first. Oh my.

*(The ATTENDANT looks at the form.)*

ATTENDANT. And how will you be paying for this?

WOMAN. Cash.

ATTENDANT. Of course.

*(The WOMAN hands over several bills of high denomination. The ATTENDANT looks at them.)*

ATTENDANT. That's most generous.

WOMAN. She ought to have some dignity. In life.

ATTENDANT. Or death.

WOMAN. Indeed.

Well.

She was rather a nice dog. In fact.

ATTENDANT. Good with children?

WOMAN. No.

Not particularly.

ATTENDANT. Ah.

Often it's children. Who give dogs unusual names.

WOMAN. No. No children.

Car accident.

ATTENDANT. I'm so sorry.

WOMAN. They were his.

Previous marriage.

ATTENDANT. Stepchildren.

And – ... the dog was so distraught...

WOMAN. What?

ATTENDANT. ... That your husband died. And the children.

WOMAN. No.

ATTENDANT. I thought...

WOMAN. The same time.

Roughly.

They died at roughly the same time.

ATTENDANT. Ah. Somehow, the dog just knew.

WOMAN. Car accident.

ATTENDANT. At the same time?

WOMAN. Yes.

ATTENDANT. How horrible.

WOMAN. Same accident.

ATTENDANT. Your husband killed his own dog?

WOMAN. By accident.

I would have divorced him. Had he not died.

ATTENDANT. So, it was fortunate.

WOMAN. In a way.

ATTENDANT. You inherited, as it was.

WOMAN. Just a dog.

ATTENDANT. A dog named Booger.

WOMAN. Exactly.

ATTENDANT. Earlier you said...



WOMAN. Yes?

ATTENDANT. ... that all you got in the divorce was a dog named Booger. Yet also...  
You said you *would* have divorced him.

WOMAN. Confusing.

ATTENDANT. Very.

WOMAN. How could I get anything in a divorce...

ATTENDANT. ...

WOMAN. ... if I *would* have divorced him...

ATTENDANT. Meaning you hadn't yet.

WOMAN. Well. He was divorcing me.

ATTENDANT. Preemptive.

WOMAN. He wanted to keep the dog.  
I'd grown fond of her. Despite myself.

ATTENDANT. Ah.  
Earlier you spoke...  
... of not liking the dog.

WOMAN. I did?

ATTENDANT. You did.

WOMAN. I did.  
Merely dismissive.  
Of loving a dog named Booger.

ATTENDANT. I see.

*(The ATTENDANT looks at her form.)*

ATTENDANT. And when will you be bringing the ashes?

WOMAN. Ashes?

ATTENDANT. Of the dog.

WOMAN. Oh.

Well.

She isn't ashes.

Not yet.

ATTENDANT. The... body?

WOMAN. She's not... that is – ...

ATTENDANT. She's... still alive?

Oh my.

Pre-arrangements are unusual.

WOMAN. Not for a dog named Booger.

ATTENDANT. Even so.

WOMAN. I was speaking hypothetically.

ATTENDANT. Hypothetically.

You're being preemptive. Yes? Planning for the future.

WOMAN. One does. Occasionally.

It is considered prudent.

ATTENDANT. But still unusual.

Planning for the future for, for a future, in which...

... in which your dog is dead.

Your dog has been hit by a car.

WOMAN. My husband's dog.

ATTENDANT. So you said.

And also...

... in which...

... your husband is dead.

WOMAN. It will happen.

ATTENDANT. It will?

WOMAN. Inevitably.  
Everyone dies.  
That's all. That's all I meant.

ATTENDANT. Your husband is dead.  
His children are dead.  
The dog is dead.

WOMAN. An accident.

ATTENDANT. Which you have planned.

WOMAN. No. Oh no. No no. Merely planning.  
Planning *ahead*. Planning *ahead*.

ATTENDANT. What *will* be ahead. Planning what you will do.

WOMAN. No no no... (*Repeat until interrupted.*)

ATTENDANT. And you gave...

WOMAN. ...gave...

ATTENDANT. ...a large donation.

WOMAN. For dignity. As you said.

ATTENDANT. A large donation.

WOMAN. Only a donation. For dignity.

ATTENDANT. Much too large. Why?

WOMAN. For dignity.

ATTENDANT. Why? Was it a donation?  
Or...

WOMAN. A donation. Merely a donation.

ATTENDANT. Or was it perhaps...

WOMAN. No, no, no, a donation, merely a donation, no... (*Repeat ad lib. until interrupted.*)

ATTENDANT. So.

WOMAN. Well.

ATTENDANT. So.

WOMAN. What do you want?

ATTENDANT. What do I want?

WOMAN. Yes.

ATTENDANT. What do I want.

Your dog.

I want your dog.

WOMAN. You want a dog named Booger?

ATTENDANT. Yes.

I want a dog named Booger.

WOMAN. You want a dog...

ATTENDANT. ... named Booger.

Yes.

WOMAN. Yes.

Well.

She's yours.

ATTENDANT. How lovely.

How very lovely.

WOMAN. But... why?

ATTENDANT. All creatures deserve to be loved.

Lovely. Oh my.

Well.

And when will you be bringing Booger?

WOMAN. Oh.

5:00?

ATTENDANT. 5:00. Yes.

WOMAN. 5:00.

I'll bring her at 5:00.

ATTENDANT. Lovely.

Oh my.

Will there be anything else today?

WOMAN. No.

Nothing else.

ATTENDANT. Well.

It's been a pleasure serving you.

WOMAN. Thank you.

ATTENDANT. I'm so sorry for your loss.

WOMAN. My loss.

Yes.

A dog named Booger.

My loss.

*(The WOMAN and the ATTENDANT look at each other. Fade to black.)*