

RAW PROVOCATIVE HUMANE PLAYS

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Puppy Love
by Becky Sterling Rygg

Lights up on a living room decorated for Christmas. There is a lit Christmas tree in the back corner. There is a couch and a coffee table with a manila envelope. The room looks empty except for massive amounts of decorations. There are two stockings hanging from the mantle with a B on one and a J on the other. There is a doorway leading off to a bedroom or kitchen. There is a front door with men's shoes scattered around the doormat. Enter BILL McCAFFREY through the front door in a hurry with a large wriggling wrapped box with a bow on top.

Bill Honey! I'm home!

The present nearly flies out of his hands. He juggles it, then sets it on the coffee table. The box moves on the table.

Bill (cont'd) Shhhh. Sparky, be quiet. Don't ruin it, buddy. Babe? You here? I got something for you that just can't wait! And it's not what you're thinking! Babe?

Enter JENNIFER McCAFFREY from the hallway. She has a winter jacket on.

Jennifer Hi Bill. You're late.

Bill There you are!

Bill goes to hug Jennifer. He kisses her hard on the lips. She pulls away forcefully. The box tips over and a puppy wanders out onto the table.

Bill (cont'd) No, Spot, no! Ha ha ha! Merry Christmas, honey!

Bill picks up the puppy.

Bill (cont'd) Jenn, meet Spanky, Spanky, Jenn.

Jennifer Bill.

Bill (to the puppy) Here's a little boo boo. (to Jennifer) Take him, honey, he's yours.

Jennifer Bill, I can't. I only have a few minutes.

Bill Where are you going? It's Christmas Eve. With a puppy. Hi puppy puppy puppy. Take your coat off J. Stay a while.

Jennifer Bill, I'm leaving. I want a divorce.

Bill You can't have a divorce. I got you a puppy.

He tries to give her the puppy. She won't take it.

Jennifer Bill, you knew I was leaving. Why did you get me a dog? Why did you decorate?

Bill It's Christmas! You love these decorations. I did them just like you. And you always wanted a puppy. Little Sparky spoke to me at the pet store, didn't you little guy?

He tries again to give her the puppy. She won't take it.

Jennifer I wanted a puppy five years ago. I wanted a baby three years ago. I haven't decorated for the last two because you haven't been here. Love doesn't live here anymore and neither do I.

Bill Don't go, Jenny. I'm here. We're here. I'm sorry. I had work. I always have work, but it's for you, Babe. For our future.

Jennifer What future, Bill? You are never in the present. I want a life now with you. Or I did.

Bill Ok! No time like the present! Get it! Present. Christmas..Poochy!

He holds the squirming puppy up and she finally takes the dog.

Jennifer I can't take you seriously!

She puts the puppy on the floor.

Bill I'm sorry. I was playing. Lightening the mood. I'm here, Jenn. I am. I am ready to start on us. Let's do it. Let's make a family now.

Jennifer It's too late.

Bill It's not. I'm only working on one story. And it's a big one, but I have time again for you and us. I want to make the time. I have to. I need you, Jennifer.

Jennifer I can't start over again. With you.

Bill You can! It'll just be like old days. You know...getting it on in the kitchen. Let's make a baby! Don't you think so, Pup Pup?

The puppy sits on the floor chewing on his Christmas bow.

Jennifer I've met someone else.

Bill No you haven't.

Jennifer I have. I love him. He loves me.

Bill Yeah right.

Jennifer It's true, Bill. I'm going to him now.

Bill Ok. Who is he? Do I know him?

Jennifer No. Of course not. It doesn't matter.

Bill It matters.

Jennifer He's no one. Don't worry about it. I'm sorry, but I have to go. I brought you food. It's in the fridge. The divorce papers are under that box.

Bill Jenn, stop.

Jennifer No. I'm going. Merry Christmas.

Bill Jenn, no! Stay.

Jennifer Send the papers to my lawyer.

Bill But I have little Buck here.

He picks up the puppy and holds him out to her again.

Jennifer Bye, Bill.

Jennifer leaves. He chases her and yells out the door.

Bill I bought you a fucking puppy!

He returns and slams the door.

Bill *(cont'd)* Fine. Leave. Bitch! Leave! Merry Christmas!! Merry Fucking Christmas!!

Bill puts the puppy on the coffee table and starts to tear down the decorations and throwing them at the door.

Bill *(cont'd)* Love don't live here anymore! It never did, you fucking uptight bitch! You're the one who would never open your legs! How could we have a kid if we never fucked! Fuck you, Mrs. Claus!

The puppy cowers in the corner during Bill's tirade. Bill picks up the papers, looks at them and sets them back on the table.

Bill *(cont'd)* Fine. That's just fine.

Bill notices the puppy cowering in the corner.

Bill *(cont'd)* Hey little guy. It's ok. It's ok. We don't need her, right? Come here, Rover.

Bill picks up the puppy. He walks around hanging up a few decorations. He hangs up the stockings.

Bill *(cont'd)* It's Christmas! So we're going to have Christmas!

Bill keeps walking around the apartment talking to the puppy.

Bill *(cont'd)* Now what do we do on Christmas? Bill pops the popcorn and Jenny picks the movie!

Bill and the puppy sit on the couch.

Bill *(cont'd)* So, what's it gonna be this year, little J? I know, I know...it's your favorite. You'll shoot your eye out! *(baby talk)* Yes, you will. Yes, you will.

Bill turns on the TV. Lights down.

END OF PLAY.