

The Old and the New

a play in one act

Characters:

PENNY, *beagle puppy, newest addition to the OLD LADY'S family*

CHLOE, *beagle, the OLD LADY'S first dog*

OLD LADY, *Owner of PENNY and CHLOE*

Scene--Inside the OLD LADY'S household. The set depicts a family room containing two couches with pillows, one orange carrot shaped chew toy placed under the cushion of one of the couches, TV, remote, carpet, light stand (turned off), and two large dog bowls, one filled with dog food and one with water. At stage center are the couches where PENNY and CHLOE will sit upon. At stage right is a large door. Placed at various places around the set's floor are torn up newspaper, couch cushion stuffers, and dog food.

As the stage light comes up to cue the action, PENNY is seen chewing on some newspaper on the floor while CHLOE is attempting to sleep on one of the couches but is visibly having difficulty. PENNY is wearing a white and brown dotted dog costume while CHLOE is wearing a plain, grey dog costume. CHLOE is an old dog while PENNY is a newly born puppy.

CHLOE: [*angrily*] Can you not? The Old Lady will only be gone for one hour and I need my nap!

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PENNY *continues to chew the newspaper energetically, refusing to pay any attention to*
CHLOE. CHLOE *buries her head into the couch's pillow then quickly turns her head back*
towards PENNY.

CHLOE: [*shouting*] What's your deal? Ever since the Old Lady brought you here you've given
me nothing but problems! [*throws a pillow at PENNY'S head*] Look at me!

PENNY *is hit in the head with the pillow, lets the newspaper fall from her mouth, and turns to*
look at CHLOE.

PENNY: [*complaining*] Why did you throw a pillow at me? This is the best newspaper I've had
in days!

CHLOE: [*irritated*] I threw the pillow at you because you're being too loud. Do you even hear
yourself when you wreak havoc?

PENNY: [*perplexed*] Hat-vick? What's a hat-vick? And why does the hat have to be smelly?

CHLOE: [*lowering her head into her paws*] God why her?! Why her?!

CHLOE *buries her head into the other pillow on the couch that was not thrown and attempts to*
sleep once more. PENNY, confused yet full of compassion walks on all fours over towards
CHLOE.

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PENNY: [*timidly placing a hand on CHLOE*] What's wrong Chlo Chlo?

CHLOE: [*annoyed*] Don't call me Chlo Chlo. I'm not your pet. [*turns to face PENNY*]

Remember when we went over this? You are to call me--

PENNY: [*giggling quietly*] I know, I know. I'm sorry your majesty. [*laughing*] Forgive me.

CHLOE: [*defeated*] Can you please leave me alone now? [*turns back to face the couch*]

PENNY: [*apologetically*] Okay, okay. I'm sorry for real. [*stoops her head low*] I just wish we could have fun together sometimes.

PENNY walks on all fours back over to her newspaper but doesn't play with it anymore. She pushes it away and sadly looks to the ground and closes her eyes. CHLOE notices the silence and turns to check on PENNY and sees her somber state of being.

CHLOE: [*gently*] Penny. Come over here. I want to tell you something.

PENNY ignores CHLOE and walks over to the TV, grabs the remote, and puts on a show. The show that plays is Dog TV, where dogs are seen playing in the grass together. A projector will emit the show on the back wall so that the audience may see as well.

PENNY: [*bitterly*] Must be nice. [*turns off the TV and throws the remote to the side*]

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CHLOE: [*sympathetically*] C'mon Penny, this is important. I'm really sorry and I have some explaining to do.

PENNY *hesitantly looks back at CHLOE but quickly jerks her head back, sits down, and folds her arms across her chest.*

CHLOE: [*looks up to the sky*] I can't believe I am going to do this, [*sweetly*] P Swizzle?

PENNY: [*joyfully*] You remembered my nickname!

PENNY *runs on all fours towards CHLOE and tackles her with a big hug. CHLOE holds her for a couple seconds then quickly shoves PENNY off of her.*

CHLOE: [*regretfully*] It's time I told you of how dangerous the Old Lady can be.

PENNY: [*confused*] What do you mean? I've been here for a week and she's been fine.

CHLOE: [*dismayed*] Let me show you. [*she jumps off the couch and is about to walk on all fours towards the other couch but stops*] Who am I kidding? [*she then stands up on two legs and walks the rest of the way*]

PENNY: [*perplexed*] You never take naps on that couch. Why?

CHLOE *lifts one of the couch cushions to reveal a carrot squishy chew toy that is torn and dirty. The toy is labeled "Chloe" and CHLOE looks upon the toy with a soft smile but then with sorrow.*

CHLOE: [*reminiscent*] I once was like you know? My first week in the Old Lady's house was a blast. I did whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted. I felt like a queen in a castle. [*looking back at her toy sadly*] But when she stopped tolerating the messes I made, I learned that newspaper wasn't just used for peeing.

Lights fade to black. Spotlight appears on CHLOE.

CHLOE: [*coldly*] I remember like it was yesterday.

PENNY: [*steps into the spotlight excitedly*] Ooooo scary!

CHLOE: [*pushes PENNY out of the way*] Anyways. I was playing with my favorite chew toy and I admit that I had made a large mess as well. Pee was all over the floor, the couch was torn up, my food sprawled about, [*closing her eyes and clenching her fist*] it was glorious. However, when the Old Lady got home, she screamed out of rage and grabbed some newspaper. But this wasn't just any old newspaper, it was wrapped up real tight with a band of rubber tied at each end. [*pauses*] It was a creation of evil. She came closer and closer and closer and then [*looks*

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away in fear then looks back] she hit me in the butt over and over again. After she unleashed all her anger she put me outside until dark. [*shaking*] I never want to feel that pain and fear again.

Lights come back on. PENNY is seen hiding her head in her knees, rocking herself back and forth. CHLOE walks over to PENNY and places a hand on her shoulder.

CHLOE: [*gently but urgently*] That's why we can't mess around anymore. I need to be careful or maybe I won't just get the newspaper. [*pauses*] Maybe she'll get rid of me for good. I know she brought you in because my time here is running out. She's always resented me since that horrid day.

PENNY [*looking up and eyes growing wide*] Chloe! We need to clean up this mess! There's pee, food, water, trash, and couch everywhere! Oh no, we're going to get the evil newspaper. Oh no, oh no, oh no.

CHLOE *rubs PENNY'S back reassuringly.*

CHLOE: [*calmly*] Don't worry Penny. The Old Lady won't be back for another twenty minutes we'll have some --

Car engine sound-effect plays louder with each second. The sound finally comes to a stop. Car locking sound rings signifying the OLD LADY has arrived home.

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PENNY [*freaking out*] It's over, it's over, I'm dead. [*grabs and shakes* CHLOE] I'm too young to die!

CHLOE *pauses, calmly picks up her carrot chew toy and puts it back under the cushion.*

CHLOE: [*smiling*] I don't want you to ever experience the pain I felt. My time's coming anyway P-Swizzle. Now go on. Run over to the Old Lady's bedroom and pretend to be asleep on her bed. She'll love it. I'll take the fall. I've done it before.

Footsteps sound effect plays softly.

PENNY: [*frantic*] But you can't! [*hugging* CHLOE *and crying softly*] You can't do this, she'll take you away.

CHLOE: [*warmly*] It's the only way she'll treat you well in the long term. I can't have you endure the same life I did. I just can't. [*pushing* PENNY *away*] Now go!

PENNY runs on all fours towards stage left and pauses briefly to look at CHLOE then continues on to leave out behind the curtain.

CHLOE: [*chuckling*] Out with the old, in with the new right?

Door opens.

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OLD LADY: Oh Penny I missed Y--

OLD LADY *looks in horror at the destruction inflicted on her household. With her mouth dropped to the floor, she does not speak but rather edges slowly towards CHLOE.*

OLD LADY: [*grinding her teeth*] You. [*pauses*] It's always You!

CHLOE *attempts to run away on all fours but OLD LADY picks her up and she flails about.*

OLD LADY: [*shouting*] This is the last time you'll ever do this again!

OLD LADY *rushes out the door with CHLOE. PENNY runs back onto the stage as the door closes.*

PENNY: [*full of tears*] Wait! No wait! [*pounding on the door*] It was me! It was me! [*curling up next to the door full of dismay*] It was me...

BLACK OUT

