

## PUPPY LOVE

FADE IN:

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

An SUV pulls into the driveway and turns off the engine. A moment later CARL steps out of his car and walks around the vehicle. A PUPPY with a bow tied around its neck, hops down from the car full of life and runs around the front of the car passing Carl.

Carl smiles watching the puppy run around the front yard sniffing everything in sight. Carl continues to the back passenger door and opens it leaning inside to get the gifts from the back seat. Carl's attention is drawn away as the puppy pushes his knees in from behind. Carl turns to look at the puppy.

INSERT POV: CARL

The Puppy bounds around Carl's feet full of energy.

RETURN TO SCENE:

The puppy barks happily and then runs off once again. Carl returns to the car and a moment later emerges with a towering stack of wrapped gifts for his little girl. Carl neatly taps the door shut as he turns to head up the walkway oblivious to the whereabouts of the puppy.

As Carl nears the middle of the walkway he is stopped dead in his tracks.

A car speeds up heading down the street.

An earsplitting yelp cuts through the air as the car speeds away.

A moment of silence, then an odd whistling sound begins to grow louder as if something is quickly approaching Carl.

CUT TO: MID SHOT - MAN'S FACE

Carl eyes bulge with horrified disbelief as time slows and he turns his head seeing the puppy flying towards him. A copious amounts of blood flows in a steady river behind the

small dog. The puppy twists and turns cartwheeling through the air in front of Carl.

FREEZE FRAME:

GFX OVERLAY: PUPPY LOVE (SPELLED OUT IN THE BLOOD)

NORMAL TIME RESUMES:

Carl flinches as he is doused in the excessively bloody wake of the puppy.

CUT TO:

The puppy hits the ground and bounces forcefully. He smacks against the door, sticks for an instant, then tumbles back onto the stairs. Slowly the puppy comes to a stop sitting on the stairs with his head resting on the top step.

CUT TO:

An excited squeel can be heard from inside the house, as well as small footsteps heading towards the front door. Carl, with visibly less blood on him than before, flings the gifts into the air and rushes to the injured puppy. He manages to scoop him up off the stairs just as the front door opens and a small girl, SARA, comes out of the house.

A distraught Carl freezes holding the puppy as if to present it to the child who looks from Carl to the puppy and then back to her Dad. Carl unblinking opens and closes his mouth unable to explain what has happened to the little pooch.

Carl, with even less blood on him, recoils in an attempt to get the puppy away from Sara. Carl realizes a moment later that something isn't right and looks at his empty hands. Then he turns back to his daughter in horror as the puppy is nuzzled by his daughter as if it were a cherished teddy bear. Completely frozen in shock, Carl looks on as his daughter vanishes back into the house.

An instant later she returns rushing past him out into the neighborhood dragging the body behind her. Carl blinks his way back to the world around him and takes off after her.

CROSS FADE: