

Walking Molly

by

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WALKING MOLLY

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

PEOPLE'S LEGS and FEET are seen walking home on a BUSY SIDEWALK on the Upper West Side in Manhattan. Rush hour. Early fall. Mid-1980s.

In the crowd, MOLLY, a BLACK SCOTTISH TERRIER DOG, is being walked. Urged around by a LEASH, she stops occasionally to sniff the SIDEWALK or receive a pat on the head by A STRANGER.

EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY

HEAVY TRAFFIC, from the perspective of a dog, is seen with usual HIGH VOLUME STREET NOISE and COMMOTION. As MOLLY and HER OWNER wait for the LIGHT to turn, Molly looks up at the building next to her.

EXT. MODERN BUILDING - DAY

A SLICK, MODERN BUILDING with LARGE PICTURE WINDOWS on the first and second floor, revealing a VERY BUSY HEALTH CLUB. The windows display the AFTER-WORK CROWD, socializing with each other or desperately trying to make themselves attractive.

In one of the windows, A VERY MUSCULAR MAN is working out at one of the WEIGHT MACHINES. His very skimpy T-shirt and tight shorts advertise the stuff that wet dreams are made of.

INT. HEALTH CLUB - DAY

The WEIGHT ROOM of the HEALTH CLUB. The room is populated mostly with HANDSOME, YOUNG MEN who appear to be interested only in themselves. There is A SCATTERING OF WOMEN, but they are largely ignored. The young men's concentration is broken occasionally by the presence of an exceptionally handsome man.

One of those exceptions is FRANK MARCHETTI, the MUSCULAR MAN who is working out near the WINDOW. Frank's dark Italian good looks epitomize the perfect image of a man. His body GLISTENING with hard-earned sweat, Frank completes his workout, fully cognizant of the desirous glances of the men around him.

Frank loves the attention that he gets from the other men and he plays with them by sensually wiping his body down with his SWEAT TOWEL.

As Frank makes his departure from the weight room with an air of cockiness, he smiles and acknowledges the parting glances of some of the men.

EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY

The TRAFFIC LIGHTS turn. The HEAVY TRAFFIC comes to a SCREECHING halt and the PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK becomes suddenly visible as if the Red Sea has parted. MOLLY looks both ways on CENTRAL PARK WEST to make sure that it is safe to cross. In defiance to the NOISY IDLING of the POWERFUL ENGINES that surround her, Molly leads her owner and the PARADE OF PEDESTRIANS across the street toward CENTRAL PARK.

In the middle of the street, one of the MOTORISTS suddenly RACES HIS ENGINE. MOLLY stops and BARKS as if she's warning it to knock it off. The vehicle resumes idling and Molly and THE PEDESTRIANS continue their journey across the street.

INT. SHOWER ROOM - DAY

The STEAM-FILLED SHOWER ROOM of the health club. It is crowded with NAKED YOUNG MEN showering and talking amongst themselves. They discreetly glance at each other, comparing each other's equipment.

As FRANK swaggers into the shower, heads are turned toward him and a brief moment of silence is held to honor his presence. Fully aware of the penetrating stares from the men around him, Frank flashes a sexy smile and playfully lathers up his muscular body.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

With its WORN BENCHES and DUSTY TREES, the perimeter of CENTRAL PARK is a BEEHIVE OF LATE AFTERNOON ACTIVITY with JOGGERS, WALKERS, and OTHER DOGS with THEIR OWNERS.

Making her entrance, MOLLY swaggers into the park with HER OWNER following behind. SEVERAL PEOPLE stop and admire her. She rewards their attentiveness by getting on her hind legs to beg.

The OTHER DOGS in the park notice MOLLY and the attention given her. Several of the DOGS turn their heads to look and BARK at her. But this doesn't phase her. She keeps her stride.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The MEN'S LOCKER ROOM of the health club bustles with YOUNG MEN in various stages of dressing or undressing. There is the usual locker room talk and discreet glances.

In his Wall Street attire, FRANK admires himself in the mirror as he finishes dressing. A handsome YOUNG MAN hesitantly comes up to Frank and hands him his BUSINESS CARD.

YOUNG MAN

My number is on the back. Call me?

Frank doesn't acknowledge him at first and then looks him over, smiles, and takes the card.

FRANK
What do you say?

YOUNG MAN
Please?!

FRANK
Maybe.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

MOLLY is busy sniffing at every scent and watching OTHER DOGS in the park.

JOHN O.S.
Come on Molly. Find a spot and just do it.

Molly stops and looks up the legs of her owner, JOHN SULLIVAN, mid-30s. With his WIRE-RIMMED GLASSES, John is dressed as if he has just returned from a day at the office; his tie is loosened and he looks as if he needs a stiff drink.

Molly continues to sniff, forgetting her outside responsibilities. Even though John is very patient, he is about to lose it.

JOHN
Don't pretend you don't know what I'm talking about because you do. Now let's go.

Molly looks up as if she doesn't know what he's talking about.

JOHN O.S.
Oh come on. You've been doing it now for at least three times a day for the last four years. So what's taking you so long?

Molly ignores him and continues to sniff.

JOHN
Huh?! In New York, one spot smells the same as the next.

Molly looks up at him and then finds a promising stain on the curb.

JOHN
(continuing)
At times like this, I wish I had gotten a cat.

Molly looks up briefly and GROWLS.

JOHN

(continuing)

I do. All you have to do is throw some sand in a box!

Molly BARKS at John and continues to sniff.

JOHN

(continuing)

So...you've got to clean out the box once in a while. Big deal.

FRANK walks by, carrying his BRIEFCASE and GYM BAG. He looks over and notices JOHN. Suddenly, something happens inside of Frank and he ponders for a moment. For whatever reason, Frank is drawn to John and stops to investigate.

John continues his conversation with MOLLY.

JOHN

(continuing)

I would have a lot more time if you would cooperate. But no. We've got to revisit every spot, every tree and hydrant in a four block radius....just to make sure you're not missing out on any action.

After several moments, John suddenly realizes that Frank is looking at him and feels very self-conscious.

JOHN

(continuing)

Molly...don't look now but there's this man...standing behind us.

Molly looks up and over to Frank.

JOHN

(continuing)

Which one?!

John tries to point at Frank without pointing.

JOHN

(continuing)

The attractive one that's standing over there.

Curiously, Frank looks back at them and smiles.

JOHN

(continuing)

Do you see him? Well...what do you think?

Molly couldn't care less and resumes sniffing.

JOHN
 (continuing)
 They all look the same to you?
 They do not!

Confused, Frank shakes his head in disbelief and walks away. John turns to look at Frank, but he's gone.

EXT. WALL STREET - DAY

Next morning. Dressed in an very expensive suit, FRANK gets out of a TAXI and pays the DRIVER. Because of his strikingly good looks, SEVERAL PEOPLE on the SIDEWALK stop and gape him. Frank ignores their glances as he struts to his office building. The MASSIVE FRONT DOORS of the building suddenly open as he approaches the building's entrance.

INT. SUBWAY - DAY

During the morning rush hour, the PASSENGERS are packed like SARDINES in the SUBWAY. JOHN is being crushed in the middle of TWO IRRITATED PASSENGERS. As the SUBWAY DOORS OPEN, he squeezes himself out of the subway and speaks to the Passengers on both sides of him.

JOHN
 It was really great getting to
 know you. Lets keep in touch.

As the doors close, the two Passengers look puzzled at each other and then at John. John smiles and waves at them. To his surprise, the two Passengers wave good-bye back to him as the subway pulls away from the station. John turns and starts to walk toward the exit.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELLEVUE HOSPITAL - DAY

JOHN walks down the sidewalk toward the HOSPITAL. A HOMELESS MAN approaches him and begs for money. John reaches into his POCKETS and gives him all of the CHANGE that he has.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

Sitting in at his desk, FRANK works at COMPUTER, conversing with a client on the TELEPHONE. SEVERAL OFFICE CO-WORKERS walk by and convey their "good mornings" to him. Without losing his professional mannerism, he smiles, waves at them, and mouths a "good morning" back.

CUT TO:

INT. BELLEVUE HOSPITAL - DAY

JOHN is visiting one of his clients, a YOUNG HISPANIC MOTHER in the MATERNITY SECTION.

The NURSE brings in her newly born INFANT and hands it to John. Gushing like a new father, John gently holds the baby as the young mother lovingly looks on.

CUT TO:

INT. EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT - DAY

In the midst of EXPENSIVE BUSINESS LUNCH, FRANK sits at table, conversing with a CLIENT, a man in his mid-50s. Poised and in control of the situation, Frank discusses a possible business investment. By the agreeable looks and reactions on the Client's face, Frank scores well on the pending venture.

CUT TO:

EXT. MINI-PARK - DAY

The MINI-PARK is a flurry of activity of PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN playing, their MOTHERS watching them and visiting with other mothers, and WHITE COLLAR WORKERS from the nearby office buildings having their lunch.

In the midst of this activity, JOHN sits alone, eating his SACK LUNCH and enjoying the people around him. A BALL is suddenly rolled toward him. He picks it up and gently throws it back to the nearby CHILDREN.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

With the exception of WORKAHOLICS and the CLEANING CREW, the office is quiet and empty. With his TIE LOOSENEED, FRANK finishes a report on the COMPUTER.

On his way home, MR. HUNTER, the managing partner, an overworked man in his early 50s, startles Frank.

MR. HUNTER

I spoke to Don Stevens tonight. He was very impressed with the financial analysis that you did for him on the Harris-Fairfax venture.

FRANK

I'm glad.

As Mr. Hunter leaves.

MR. HUNTER

Keep up the good work.

Frank looks at his WATCH and resumes working.

CUT TO:

EXT. WALL STREET AREA - DAY

With the exception of the STRAGGLING, RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC, the streets become deserted. Hungry and alone, FRANK looks up and down the street for a TAXI CAB. He sees a CAB coming and flags it.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

A BRIGHT AUTUMN Saturday afternoon. CENTRAL PARK is filled with an assortment of RUNNERS, JOGGERS, AND WALKERS. FRANK is among them, jogging and cruising at the same time. He sees JOHN and MOLLY and makes a detour through the crowd of people to them. His appearance takes John completely off-guard. Molly turns around and starts to BARK at Frank as he walk toward them. John turns quickly around.

JOHN

Oh God! I think he's coming toward us.

John bends down, picks up Molly by her front legs, and looks at her, face to face.

JOHN

(continuing)

Molly...whatever you do, hold it and don't do it now.

Molly looks at Frank and then at John.

JOHN

(continuing)

I know...I know. But nothing turns off a man's interest quicker than having a dog take a dump in front of him.

Frank stands close to them.

FRANK

Hi.

Frank, not getting a response, walks closer.

FRANK

(continuing)

Hello. Is anyone home?

JOHN

Oh...you mean...me?!

John stands up and Molly looks at both of them.

FRANK

Who else would I be talking to?
Your dog?

JOHN

You'd be surprised by the number of strangers who come up, start talking to her and ignore me.

FRANK

Excuse me?

JOHN

All she has to do is get on her hind legs, bark and wag her tail.... and people fall in love with her. If I tried a stunt like that, do you know what would happen to me?

FRANK

No. I give up.

JOHN

Well...I would probably be arrested and.....

FRANK

You don't say. All I said was "Hello."

Frank starts to walk away.

FRANK

(continuing)

Some people....

John calls after Frank.

JOHN

Excuse me. Could we try that again...please?

Frank stops and turns around.

FRANK

Try what again?

JOHN

The "hello". It isn't everyday that I get a hello from someone...like you.

FRANK

I don't think so....

JOHN

I promise I'll do it right this time.

FRANK

Do what right? What are you talking about?

JOHN
 You know...the "hello".....back to
 you. I promise I won't screw it up.

Unbeknownst to Frank, Molly meanders around Frank and her
 LONG LEASH becomes wrapped around his legs. She sits down
 and watches him.

FRANK
 (thinks for a moment)
 I don't think so.

Frank turns to run away but trips on the leash. He falls
 flat on his face on the ground. John is horrified.

JOHN
 Oh my God!

As Frank lifts his face off the ground, he comes face to face
 with Molly. They lock eyes. Molly BARKS.

John hurries over and helps Frank off the ground.

JOHN
 (continuing)
 I'm sorry. Are you okay?

Frank gets up and dusts himself off.

FRANK
 Yeah...I'm okay.

JOHN
 Are you sure?

FRANK
 Yeah...I'm sure.

Frank looks over at John and smiles.

FRANK
 (continuing)
 Hello there.

John smiles back at Frank.

JOHN
 Hello.

FRANK
 (laughs)
 That was better.

JOHN
 Thanks. I knew I could do it
 right if I tried.

FRANK
You're cute. A little
neurotic..but cute.

JOHN
Yeah...well...one out of two isn't
so bad.

Frank stares down at the dog. Molly glances up at him and then over to John.

FRANK
What's your dog's name?

JOHN
Molly.

FRANK
Molly?!

JOHN
She reminded me of a Molly.

FRANK
A "Molly"?

Frank looks at Molly closely, who is busy SNIFFING. Molly looks up at Frank and GROWLS. Frank looks over and catches John smiling at him. They both laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

FRANK LIMPS into work Monday morning. SEVERAL CO-WORKERS stop to inquire what happened to him. Without stopping, Frank continues on his way to his DESK.

FRANK
It's nothing. Just an old
football injury, that's all.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSING PROJECT-EAST HARLEM - DAY

Afternoon. JOHN sits in a clean, but ratty living room and takes down information on one of his clients, a YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTHER, in her early 20s. As John attentively listens to her misfortunes, a YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICAN BOY, around the age of three, lightly bounces on his lap. Five of the Young Boy's BROTHERS AND SISTERS, ages two to seven, cling to their mother.

CUT TO:

INT. CORPORATE MEETING - DAY

Afternoon. On the TOP FLOOR an EXQUISITE WALL STREET BUILDING overlooking lower Manhattan, a very STUFFY CORPORATE MEETING is being held. A pretentious, but BALDING YOUNG MAN is making a presentation.

CUT TO:

A bored FRANK is in attendance. While other staff takes notes, Frank half-heartedly listens to the presentation and DOODLES on his NOTEBOOK PAD.

CUT TO:

We see a PRIMITIVE ILLUSTRATION of a SCOTTISH TERRIER and the name of MOLLY written several times. Suddenly, Frank looks at his doodlings in disbelief and starts to cross out the word, MOLLY.

CUT TO:

A NOSEY WOMAN, sitting next to him, leans over and tries to see what he is doing. Glancing over, Frank realizes what the Woman's trying to do and abruptly closes his notebook. To Frank's satisfaction, this makes her even more indignant.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSING PROJECT-EAST HARLEM - DAY

Dressed in his work clothes with his BRIEFCASE hung over his shoulder, JOHN helps an ELDERLY AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN with a WALKER. He listens attentively as she tells him a story. Several MALE TEENAGERS hurry by them, waving at John as they pass by. Being friends with John, ONE OF THE YOUNG MEN stops, runs back, and gives him "five". This makes the Elderly Woman laugh with delight.

CUT TO:

EXT. UPPER WEST SIDE STREET - DAY

Showered and all pumped up, FRANK leaves the HEALTH CLUB and almost collides into JOHN and MOLLY, coming back from their walk. Upon seeing Frank, Molly starts to BARK.

FRANK
(surprised)

Hi.....

?

(continuing)

Hello.

?

(continuing; points
to the dog)

Molly.....isn't it her name?