

The Cat, the Dog and the Alligator
(and what they taught us about love)

by Brian Marsh

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The stage is set with three boxes. These represent the houses of Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie.

There is a lectern for the Narrator. The Narrator enters.

NARRATOR

Good morning. Welcome to this year's play. This play is called 'The Cat, the Dog and the Alligator.' The play has a subtitle, too. The subtitle is: "And what they taught us about love." It is hard to believe that a cat, a dog and an alligator can teach us about love, but they do. Just watch.

Suddenly, there is a loud sound from the back of the chapel.

What is that sound? Who can be making so much noise. Hey! You guys! What's going on.

Jasmine and Melanie enter. They are having a very loud argument.

Oh, no, it's Jasmine and Melanie. If you haven't guessed, they don't get along.

JASMINE

I hate you.

MELANIE

Well, I hate you more.

JASMINE

Well, I hate you a lot more than you hate me.

MELANIE

Well, I hate you a zillion times infinity. And I don't like you either.

NARRATOR

Quiet, both of you. The play is starting.

Jasmine and Melanie quiet down.

Thank you. Let me introduce these two combatants.

JASMINE AND MELANIE

What did she call us? Combatants?

NARRATOR

That's right. I called you combatants. Because that's exactly what you are.

JASMINE

Oh, yeah. Well. That's not very nice, calling people names. I hate you.

MELANIE

Me, too. And I don't like you very much either.

NARRATOR

Well, everybody. Meet Jasmine and Melanie.

The Narrator points to Jasmine.

That's Jasmine. Say hello, Jasmine.

JASMINE (scowling)

'lo.

NARRATOR

That's Melanie. Say hello, Melanie.

MELANIE

'I.

NARRATOR

Jasmine and Melanie lived next door to each other.

Jasmine and Melanie take their seats on the boxes that represent their houses.

But, as you can see, they weren't very friendly. Usually, they were pretty rude to each other.

They stick out their tongues at each other.

NARRATOR

Girls, please. Be nice to each other.

JASMINE

Did you forget? We hate you.

MELANIE

And we don't like you very much, either.

NARRATOR (heard it before)

I know. I know.

Then, to the audience.

See what I have to put up with? It's hard work being the narrator.

Then, to Jasmine and Melanie.

But if you are very quiet, we'll bring in your animals.

JASMINE AND MELANIE

Yay! Hooray!

Jasmine and Melanie dance and make lots of noise.

NARRATOR

IF YOU ARE QUIET, WE WILL BRING IN YOUR ANIMALS.

Jasmine and Melanie are suddenly quiet. They sit on their boxes. But they whisper to each other.

JASMINE (whispering)

I hate her.

MELANIE (whispering)

Well, I hate her more.

JASMINE (whispering)

Well I hate her a zillion...

NARRATOR

And because Jasmine and Melanie were not quiet, no animals appear in this play!

JASMINE and MELANIE

No!

NARRATOR

Jasmine and Melanie became very quiet. They shushed each other.

JASMINE and MELANIE

Shhhhh!

NARRATOR

Although Jasmine and Melanie hated just about everybody, they did love their animals. Jasmine had a cat named "Pookie." There s/he is.

Pookie enters. S/he is a cute, furry creature with cat whiskers and a long tail.

Isn't Pookie cute? Say hello, Pookie.

POOKIE

Meow!

NARRATOR

Jasmine loved Pookie and gave her a hug.

She does.

She played with Pookie, dangling a string in front of her. For some reason, Pookie never got tired of that game. But sometimes Jasmine did, especially when Pookie scratched her accidentally.

She does.

JASMINE

Ouch! Pookie!

NARRATOR

But Pookie just smiled.

Pookie does.

After all, she was just a cat.

POOKIE

Meow.

NARRATOR

And Jasmine loved her. She forgave Pookie her indiscretions.

Jasmine and Pookie look at the Narrator.

JASMINE AND MELANIE

Huh?

NARRATOR

That means imprudence.

JASMINE and POOKIE

Oh.

Jasmine and Pookie shrug.

NARRATOR

But Jasmine patted Pookie, who purred loudly and fell asleep.

Pookie yawns loudly and falls asleep purring.

Melanie had a dog named Bruno.

MELANIE (CALLING)

Bruno! Bruno! Here, boy. Now where is that dog? Bruno!

NARRATOR

Bruno was a very lazy dog. He fell asleep all the time and everywhere. In his doggie bed. But also: Outside. In the car. In the street (which was very dangerous). In the park.

In the football field, where he was once run over by several football players. He had to go to the dog hospital and get several stitches. But there were two words that would always get his attention. Two words would always make Bruno wake up. The first word was...

MELANIE

Dinnertime!

NARRATOR

Suddenly, there was a loud bark.

BRUNO

WOOF! WOOF!

NARRATOR

And Bruno ran immediately to Melanie. Because Bruno was a dog who loved food and wanted to thank Melanie, he jumped up and panted loudly.

He does.

But Melanie told him to sit or he wouldn't get any dinner.

MELANIE

Hear that, Bruno? Now sit.

NARRATOR

Bruno whimpered.

He does.

But he sat down, because didn't want to miss dinner.

Bruno whimpers again.

Or anything else. Right, Melanie?

MELANIE

Right. Unless you behave, you won't get dinner. Or cookies!

NARRATOR

And that was Bruno's other favorite word.

Bruno reacts to the word "cookies." He springs to life, starts dancing and yelling.

BRUNO

COOKIES. COOKIES. COOKIES. I LOVE COOKIES. Oh, boy. Oh, boy. Oh, boy. Where are the cookies?

NARRATOR

Melanie thought she had made a big mistake mentioning cookies to Bruno.

MELANIE

Oh, no. What have I done?

NARRATOR

But she decided to give Bruno a cookie if he promised to behave.

MELANIE

Promise?

BRUNO (nodding vigorously)

Yah Yah Yah Yah YAH.

NARRATOR

So Melanie gave Bruno a cookie. He ate it with gusto.

He does.

And then, what do you think he did?

Bruno yawns.

Right. He fell asleep.

Bruno does.

NARRATOR

Well, there are the animals. Jasmine's cat, Pookie and Melanie's dog, Bruno. Because the animals were asleep, Jasmine and Melanie decided to go out to play. They headed out together.

Jasmine and Melanie exit.

But of course they had to say.

JASMINE AND MELANIE

I hate you. No, I hate you. Well, I hate you more.

NARRATOR

Oh, my. Well, then. There is another creature we need to meet. I hesitate to call him an animal. I think you'll see what I mean. But first, we need to meet the creature's owner. His name is Eddie.

Eddie enters.

EDDIE (to the Narrator)

Excuse me?

NARRATOR

Yes?

EDDIE

I prefer Edward. Or Ed.

NARRATOR

Very well, Edward. Edward had a very unique pet. This pet was so unique it was the only one of its kind in the entire town. It was very original. Even though it sometimes frightened other people, Eddie...uh... that is – Edward - loved it.

EDDIE

I love my pet.

NARRATOR

But I have to warn you, this pet can be a bit frightening.

EDDIE

I think it's time we introduced him.

NARRATOR

Oh, all right. Bring him in.

EDDIE

Come on down, Ace!

Ace enters. S/he is an alligator. But this alligator is very well dressed. He is very dapper, walks with a swagger and is generally pretty pleased with himself.

EDDIE

That's my boy, Ace.

They high five each other and knuckle punch.

NARRATOR

I told you he could be scary. But what alligator isn't?

Ace reacts to this, giving the Narrator an angry look and putting his hands on his hips.

Eddie comes to Ace's defense.

EDDIE

Listen. Ace is an alligator of peace. He wouldn't hurt a fly. Say hello to everybody, Ace.

Ace waves to the audience.

ACE

YO!

NARRATOR

When they heard Ace say “yo”, Pookie and Bruno woke up. Pookie began to hiss and make fierce cat noises. Bruno began to bark and growl.

They do.

NARRATOR

Jasmine and Melanie heard Pookie and Bruno. They rushed in to find out what was going on. When they saw Ace the Alligator, they began to scream.

JASMINE and MELANIE

Oh, no. An alligator. Help! Run for your lives.

NARRATOR

Jasmine, Melanie, Bruno and Pookie began to run around in circles.

They do, but in slow motion so as not to hurt themselves. If a strobe effect is possible, here would be a good place to use it.

But Ace remained calm, cool and collected through all of this. He watched the goings on with mild interest. He even chuckled.

He does.

He studied his fingernails. He cleaned his sunglasses. And he applied suntan lotion to his, er, hide. Finally, Eddie had had enough. He signaled to Ace.

EDDIE

Ace?

ACE

Yo?

EDDIE

I think we've had enough of this.

NARRATOR

Ace nodded to Eddie. He adjusted his sunglasses, held up his hand, er, scaly paw and say VERY LOUDLY!

ACE

YO!

Jasmine, Melanie, Pookie and Bruno stop immediately.

NARRATOR

Jasmine, Melanie, Pookie and Bruno wondered who said “yo”?

JASMINE and MELANIE

Who said that?

POOKIE

Meow?

BRUNO

Bow wow?

NARRATOR

Edward was forced to explain.

EDDIE

My Alligator, Ace, said “yo.”

JASMINE

Your alligator said “yo”? What is that, alligator talk.

Eddie and Ace look at each other. They nod in agreement.

EDDIE

Go ahead, tell them, Ace.

ACE

Yeah. Yo.

EDDIE

That's alligator for yes.

NARRATOR

Jasmine, Melanie, Pookie and Bruno didn't quite get it.

MELANIE

Something is lost in translation.

NARRATOR

This was undoubtedly true. The animals couldn't make themselves understood very clearly. Pookie could only say "Meow". Bruno could only bark. And Ace. Well, we know what Ace can say.

ACE (giving two thumbs up)

Yo.

NARRATOR

But they had plenty to say. They talked loudly in their own language

ANIMALS and REPTILE

Meow meow meow. Bow wow bow wow. Yo yo yo.

NARRATOR

It was hard to understand. Because only they could understand their language. They were sad. And spoke sadly in their own languages.

ANIMALS and REPTILE (sadly)

Meow meow meow. Bow wow bow wow bow wow.

NARRATOR

This is bringing me to tears. Ok. Quiet you guys. Come over here.

The animals and the reptile huddle with the Narrator. They have whispered conversation that sounds a lot like "buzz buzz buzz buzz..."

Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie seem confused by all this and stand around scratching their heads.

NARRATOR

Ok, then. It's decided. Ladies and gentlemen, from now on, by order of the Narrator – that's me – all the creatures here present will be granted voice. That means, they can talk. And I think they are ready.

ANIMALS and REPTILE

We are!

NARRATOR

They were all very proud. They walked back to the stage with great confidence. They said hello to their owners:

POOKIE

Hi Jasmine.

BRUNO

Hi Melanie.

ACE

Yo! Hey, Eddie.

NARRATOR

Jasmine and Melanie promptly fainted. But Edward...

EDDIE

Look, Ace, you called me Eddie. I prefer Edward.

ACE

Yeah, well you forget I am an alligator. Catch my drift?

EDDIE

Right. Anything you say, Ace.

ACE

I knew you'd see it my way, Eddie.

NARRATOR

Pookie and Bruno helped revive Jasmine and Melanie. Then the animals assembled themselves on stage. They had lots to say to their owners.

ANIMALS and REPTILE (sternly)

So listen up!

EDDIE

I can't believe we're going to listen to them – they're just animals!

JASMINE

Yeah! And he's a reptile!

ACE

I beg your pardon!

NARRATOR

The animals took umbrage at this.

EVERYBODY (turn to the narrator)

Huh?

NARRATOR

Umbrage means you disagreed with what Eddie said, that you were just animals.

ANIMALS and REPTILE

Right. We do disagree.

EDDIE

But you are only animals. What do you know?

NARRATOR

This made the animals – and the reptile – angry. They began to hiss, growl and...What do alligators say?

ACE

YO!!!

NARRATOR

But this got Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie's attention. They sat down and listened to the animals.

ACE (fearsome)

And you'd better listen carefully.

JASMINE, MELANIE and EDDIE (scared)

Oh, we will.

NARRATOR

So the animals – and the reptile – told their owners about what it means to love. They pantomimed hitting, biting and scratching. They told their owners this was not appropriate. They told their owners that saying they hated each other was also inappropriate. Jasmine and Melanie looked at each other. They began to laugh. They laughed a lot. Ace wondered what they were laughing about.

ACE

Hey, what's so funny?

MELANIE

I can't believe it. You animals and that reptile are talking about – LOVE?

JASMINE

Yeah, what do you know about love?

Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie laugh loudly.

NARRATOR

Suddenly, there was a loud noise. And a very loud voice was heard.

GOD

Who is that laughing over there? Who are you.

NARRATOR

The laughter stopped right away. Everybody, human, animal and, yes, reptile looked out to see none other than...

GOD

GOD! THAT'S ME.

God enters. He is followed by seraphim and cherubim, all dressed appropriately.

God carries a couple of thunderbolts and brandishes them. He and His minions cross to the stage.

NARRATOR

God entered. He and His seraphim and His cherubim crossed onto the stage. And they

were not pleased. Not a single one.

SERAPHIM

We are not pleased.

CHERUBIM

Not a single one.

NARRATOR

God asked them again.

GOD

Who was laughing?

NARRATOR

But Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie were too scared to answer. God got very angry, then. He brandished His thunderbolts. Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie screamed.

They do.

God reminded them that He could see everything. He knew everything and they'd better come clean.

GOD

Come clean, guys. I really don't want to use these. Now, then, who was laughing?

NARRATOR

Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie slowly raised their hands.

They do.

God thanked them. But He wondered why they had been laughing.

GOD

Well...WHY?!

EDDIE

Well, because they are animals...And they were talking about...love.

Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie start to laugh again.

NARRATOR

This made God very angry. He got ready to throw his lighting bolts.

GOD

Ok. You people need to be taught a lesson.

NARRATOR

The Seraphim and Cherubim told everyone this wasn't going to be pretty.

SERAPHIM and CHERUBIM

This won't be pretty.

SERAPHIM ONE

You can be sure of that.

NARRATOR

God lifted up his thunder bolts. Pookie, Bruno and Ace shook with terror.

They do.

But Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie thought it was funny. They couldn't stop laughing. They pointed at the thunder bolts. They thought God was kidding.

EDDIE

I mean, look at those thunder bolts. They couldn't hurt anyone.

Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie laugh louder.

NARRATOR

This made God very angry. He took one of his thunder bolts and handed it to his faithful Seraphim and Cherubim.

GOD

Here, take this. You know what to do.

NARRATOR

The Seraphim and Cherubim knew exactly what to do. They ran out to do as God had

bidden. Seraphim One approached Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie and told them what to expect.

SERAPHIM ONE

This will be big. Very big.

NARRATOR

Then he left to join the others. Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie laughed, but their laughter began to fade as it became darker and darker. Strange sounds were heard.

Perhaps a few chords from "Thus Spake Zarathustra."

And suddenly, there was a loud noise. Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie screamed in terror. So did Pookie, Bruno and Ace.

HUMANS, ANIMALS and REPTILE

Help. Help. Save us. Please.

NARRATOR

God decided to take pity on His creation.

GOD

Ok. Let's give them a chance at salvation.

Humans and Creatures heave a sigh of relief.

NARRATOR

And God said:

GOD

"Let there be light."

NARRATOR

God called back his faithful Cherubim and Seraphim.

GOD

Come on, guys. Good work.

Seraphim and Cherubim reenter.

NARRATOR

The Seraphim and Cherubim thanked God.

SERAPHIM and CHERUBIM

Thank you, God.

NARRATOR

It is always good to thank God. The Seraphim and Cherubim knew that very well. There were others, however, who were not so good at it. That reminded God...

GOD

That reminds me.

NARRATOR

God pointed to Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie. God told them to listen very carefully.

GOD

And I am going to make sure you remember this.

NARRATOR

He told Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie to sit down. Then, he told them to do something they had never heard anyone tell them before. He told them to listen to their animals.

ACE

Yo! And...?

NARRATOR

Yes, God told them to listen to Ace the reptile, too.

GOD

Listen to Ace, too.

ACE

Yo! Thanks, God.

NARRATOR

But Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie were confused. They whispered together. Finally, Eddie stood up and addressed God.

EDDIE

Uh...God...Sir...

GOD

Yes, Eddie.

EDDIE

I know you want us to listen to our animals and Ace. But...

GOD

But what, Eddie?

EDDIE

They're like...only...just...animals.

NARRATOR

God was beginning to lose his patience. He called for Cherubim Number One.

GOD

Cherubim Number One.

CHERUBIM NUMBER ONE

Here, sir.

*Cherubim Number One crosses to God. He is carrying lots of thunder bolts.
God selects one.*

NARRATOR

God held a thunder bolt so that Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie could see it. They began to shake. They knew what those thunder bolts could do. Even Pookie and Bruno began to shake. Ace pretended to be cool.

ACE

Yo! I am cool.

NARRATOR

Finally, God had their attention. Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie sat down quietly and prepared to listen to their pets. God explained why He wanted them to listen carefully to their pets.

GOD

Because they get it and you don't. I get very frustrated when animals get love and you don't.

NARRATOR

God went on to explain that He created the world out of love. Pookie, Bruno and Ace all had their Bibles ready. Their owners were shocked.

JASMINE, MELANIE and EDDIE

We're shocked!

NARRATOR

Clearly, their pets were considerably advanced. God was very proud of them.

GOD

They are wonderful creations.

NARRATOR

Ace read verses from Genesis. (Chapter 1: verses 24-28. The Cherubim and Seraphim acted out the creation of the world.

Cherubim and Seraphim pantomime the creatures that are created.

ACE

“And God said it was good.” Then He created alligators.

GOD

Ace?

ACE

Well, didn't you?

GOD

Yes. I guess I did.

ACE

Yo. Cool.

NARRATOR

Jasmine, Melanie and Eddie gained new respect for their pets. And for God. They had much to learn, but they promised to do their best. After all, if their pets, one of whom was a dangerous alligator, could practice love of God and his neighbor, they should be able to practice love, too. Pookie, Bruno and Ace wrote a song for their owners. They gave them the song.

JASMINE, MELANIE and EDDIE

You wrote this for us?

NARRATOR

They were very moved.

JASMINE, MELANIE and EDDIE (weepy)

We love our pets.

PETS

And we love you.

ACE

Yo! So sing already.

JASMINE and MELANIE and EDDIE (singing)

Listen to the voice of God
Listen to what He says
Embrace the word of God
Because it is all you need.

I hear the voice of God
In the words He speaks to me
I hear his voice most clearly
When I hear His words of love.

Let me always hear His voice
In the sounds of love around me
In the voices of my friends,
In the love I give to God.

Listen to the voice of God
Listen to what He says
Embrace the word of God
Because it is all you need.

The singers take a bow.

NARRATOR

And God was very pleased.

GOD

Very pleased indeed.

NARRATOR

Jasmine and Melanie stopped hating each other, which was a major achievement. (they smile at each other) God was pleased and the entire host of heaven, the Cherubim and Seraphim embraced Jasmine, Melanie, Eddie, Pookie and Bruno. They high fived and knuckle punched Ace because, well, he is a reptile.

Curtain call.

Everyone sings the "Voice of God" Song.

