

TINDER DOG BY LAURIE CROMPTON

Waiter delivers drink to CATHERINE sitting at restaurant.

CATHERINE

Thanks. I'm meeting a guy I matched with on Tinder.

Holds up phone with photo of man in dog costume.

WAITER

Oh wow. He's dressed like a dog in his profile pic.

CATHERINE

Yeah, well, I'm ready for a guy who doesn't take himself too seriously.

QUENTIN walks in wearing head-to-toe dog costume. Waiter reacts, looks at Catherine and gestures Quentin to her table.

WAITER

Anything to drink? Water dish?

QUENTIN

(rolls eyes) Never heard *that* one before. I'll have a Blue Moon IPA.

Waiter exits, Quentin sits.

CATHERINE

Quentin? Wow. You actually wore a *dog costume* on our date.

QUENTIN

See, I'm the kind of guy who looks *exactly* like his profile picture when he shows up on a date.

CATHERINE

Heh. Guess I should've worn the dress I had on in *my* picture.

QUENTIN

You said it. I didn't. Just saying.

Waiter brings Quentin's drink and looks back and forth.

WAITER

I'll... give you two a minute.

Waiter backs away and Catherine squints at Quentin's hood.

CATHERINE

Let me guess. Hiding a bald spot?

QUENTIN

Nope. *Fantastic* head of hair. I just like wearing this dog costume.

Quentin shows hair, holds up drink in 'cheers' motion. After a pause Catherine picks up her glass and drinks.

CATHERINE

So, Quentin, how long have you been in New York?

QUENTIN

Born and raised on Lawng Eyeland. Live in Chelsea now. And you?

CATHERINE

Oh. Well, I grew up in Pittsburgh, moved here as soon as I turned 18.

QUENTIN

The BURG! Yunz is awesome! Go Pens!

They both chuckle a moment and smile at each other. Catherine stops and shakes her head like she's waking up.

CATHERINE

Okay, so... is the dog costume some sort of sex thing?

QUENTIN

Ew. No! Why would your brain even go there, Catherine?

CATHERINE

Sorry. Okay, um, well, what do you do for a living, Quentin? Gotta pay for kibble, *amIright?*

QUENTIN

I don't eat kibble, Catherine. I'm a grown man. I manage a bookstore in Brooklyn. And you? Your profile just said *writer*.

CATHERINE

Yeah. I've been working on my first novel. It's stupid...

QUENTIN

No! Good for you! So many people are afraid to pursue their passion.

CATHERINE

*Thanks!* I've always dreamed of being an author. (sips) Your profile said you went to St. John's. What'd you study?

QUENTIN

Law. I passed the bar, but didn't care for being a lawyer.

CATHERINE

So... was the dog suit something that started *after* you quit practicing law? Or...

QUENTIN

Okay, look. Yes I did wear the dog suit when I was a lawyer and yes it probably *did* affect the outcome of my cases. But I *like* the way the dog suit makes me feel.

CATHERINE

I want to understand, Quentin.

QUENTIN

*Everyone* smiles at me in this dog costume. Well, I mean, besides my old clients. But *most* of the time, *this* makes people so damn happy.

CATHERINE

Well, I guess that's why I swiped on your photo. You seem--whimsical.

QUENTIN

That's it! Here's to putting more whimsey into the world.

They toast and share a tender, emotional moment.

CATHERINE

So how do you think *I'd* look in a dog costume?

Quentin considers for an uncomfortably long time.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Ugh forget it. I'll have dinner to go. (agressive) In a *doggie bag*.

QUENTIN

(fake laugh) Bite me.