

UNDERSTANDING

*(Scene for two people.)*

*(In the following scene, RORY is a person. BONKERS is a dog. Throughout the scene, although RORY talks directly to BONKERS, RORY does not expect BONKERS to truly listen or understand – which means that, generally, RORY is really just talking to RORY. BONKERS, being a dog, is also really just talking to BONKERS. As the scene begins, BONKERS races in, stops, pants, looks around, smells the air, pants some more, and looks back. RORY enters.)*

RORY: I am so happy to be out of that house.

BONKERS: *(Eagerly looking around.)* I am so glad to be out of that house!

RORY: Everyone was really getting on my nerves.

BONKERS: *(Looking at Rory.)* Walkies!

RORY: You know what I mean? Sometimes you just need to get out.

BONKERS: *(Running ahead of Rory, then running back.)* I could go for walkies all day long.

RORY: Just leave everyone behind.

BONKERS: Walkies all day, every day.

RORY: And did you hear what Mom said to me? That really stinks.

*(BONKERS bends down and smells some object on the ground.)*

BONKERS: Wow. This really stinks. (BONKERS continues smelling the object on the ground.)

RORY: What difference does it make if I clean my room every day or not? It's just gonna get messy again.

BONKERS: (BONKERS looks up at Rory. Happy and excited.) Really, really stinks!

RORY: (Patting BONKERS on head.) You know, sometimes talking to you is the only thing that keeps me going. I know you really listen.

BONKERS: (Suddenly seeing a squirrel in a tree.) Hey you lousy squirrel! Come down here! Come down here!

RORY: Bonkers, no!

BONKERS: (To squirrel.) Wait til I catch you! You've got to come out of that tree sometime!

RORY: Bonkers, come! (RORY walks away from the squirrel.)

BONKERS follows after RORY.) Now what were we talking about?

BONKERS: Dumb squirrel. I wish I could climb trees . . .

RORY: You're so lucky you're a dog. You can do whatever you want.

BONKERS: . . . but I can't climb trees. I can't even go outside and pee whenever I want.

RORY: I wish I was a dog.

BONKERS: I wish I was a person.

RORY: (Looking at BONKERS.) But at least I have you.

BONKERS: (Looking at RORY.) But at least I have you.

RORY: You know what? You're the only one who really understands me.

BONKERS: I wish I could understand even one thing you say.

*(BONKERS and RORY look at each other fondly.)*

RORY & BONKERS: *(Simultaneously.)* I love you.

*(RORY turns and starts walking.)*

RORY: C'mon!

*(BONKERS runs after RORY. BOTH exit.)*

- END SCENE -