

**THE DOG**

*(Scene for two people.)*

*(REESE is sitting alone on the floor, looking depressed. SAGE enters.)*

SAGE: What's wrong?

REESE: Nothing.

SAGE: *(Pressing the matter.)* What.

REESE: *(Angrily.)* Nothing!

SAGE: That's it? That's all you have to say?

REESE: That, and go away.

SAGE: Listen, I know.

REESE: You don't know anything.

SAGE: Sarah told me your parents are splitting up.

REESE: Sarah should learn to mind her own business.

SAGE: You want to talk?

REESE: Does it sound like I want to talk?

SAGE: Why do you always have to make it so hard?

REESE: Make what so hard?

SAGE: Make it so hard for people to be nice to you?

REESE: Is that what you're being? Nice?

SAGE: Trying. *(REESE shrugs. SAGE sits on the floor, next to Reese.)* Look, when my parents split up, no one wanted to talk about it. Not even them. I didn't have anybody to talk to.

REESE: It's not fair! I didn't do anything!

SAGE: Doesn't matter.

REESE: (*Angrily.*) It matters to me!

SAGE: No, I mean - it's not about doing something. You didn't do anything to make it happen and you couldn't have done anything to make it not happen. It's just . . . them.

REESE: You think so?

SAGE: I know so. It's like if you fight with your sister and the dog goes and hides. He thinks he did something, but he didn't. He didn't start the fight and nothing he does can stop the fight.

REESE: You're saying I'm the dog? (*Angrily.*) You're saying I'm the dog!?!

SAGE: (*Thinks a moment, then gently.*) . . . You're the dog . . . We're both the dog. You don't get to pick who you are. You only get to be who you are.

REESE: Is that supposed to make me feel better?

SAGE: I don't know. Do you feel better?

REESE: A little.

SAGE: Yeah.

REESE: (*Standing up.*) You want to go get some fries?

SAGE: (*Standing up.*) I don't have any money.

REESE: It's OK. Since my parents aren't talking, they both gave me my allowance this week.

(*SAGE and REESE start to exit.*)

SAGE: Silver lining, right?

REESE: Yeah, silver lining.

(*Exit.*)

- END SCENE -