

BAD PUSSY

Lester Mingo

(v.o.)
The story I'm about to tell you is true. You won't believe it, but I don't give a fuck. When your mother read you a bedtime story did you believe it? Of course you did. So think back to that time and listen to my story with an open mind. I don't recall when or where I was born. The only thing that's relevant now is that I was born five days ago.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE STRAIGN RESEARCH LABORATORY - EARLY MORNING

Larry drives into the parking lot where he meets his boss.

BEN
Stop by my office as soon as you clock in.

LARRY
Give me ten minutes.

BEN
Make it five. It's important!

LARRY
In that case I'll see you in four.

Four minutes later in Ben's office.

BEN
Close the door and take a seat.

Larry closes the door and sits down opposite Ben.

BEN (CONT'D)
You're my go to guy, so I'm letting you know first. It looks like I have to close this facility.

LARRY
You can't do that! I've got everything invested in this company. I'm buying a new house. What happened? The military contract is still in effect.

BEN
That's the problem. It will remain in effect only if we pass the next test.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

Congress is forcing cutbacks on all research related projects. It isn't over yet. If the chip passes it test we're home free.

Larry stairs at the floor.

BEN (CONT'D)

It's ready isn't it?

LARRY

I think so.

BEN

What do you mean you think so? You have to make it work!

LARRY

Can you give me another week? If the chip holds up through the load test we're home free.

BEN

They'll be here tomorrow.

LARRY

Animal testing is out of the question. I'm that close. This is more than military research. We're enhancing animal intelligence. Do you know what that means?

BEN

No, but I'm sure you're going to tell me.

LARRY

We'll be able to communicate with animals, almost any animal!

Ben walks around his desk and puts his hand on Larry's shoulder.

BEN

I believe in you son. You done some remarkable things. That being said the hand writing is on the wall. I don't have any choice. The chip's full capability has to be shown tomorrow.

LARRY

I don't think so!

BEN

What did you say?

LARRY

Can I show you something?

They walk down the hall to the research laboratory. Two janitors are joking with each other to past the time as they clean the lab.

JANITOR 1

I heard you caught your old lady
steppin out on you!

JANITOR 2

You heard wrong it was your mother!

They both laugh.

BEN

What's going on in here? You're
paid to clean up. If I wanted a
side show I'd go to the circus.

JANITOR 2

Sorry, we're finished. The room is
yours.

The janitors walk out and close the door.

BEN

Who hired those clowns?

LARRY

That's the building owners call. We
had nothing to do with it.

BEN

Ok, what do you have for me?

LARRY

Follow me.

They walk to the end of the lab. Larry points to a cage.

BEN

Is he my future?

LARRY

How did you know the sex of the
animal?

BEN

I didn't. I'd like to think the fate of this company rest in the hands of a male.

LARRY

If you say so. Back to business. We will implant the chip tonight. If it works he'll be ready for the military tomorrow mourning. He'll be able to take commands from us and respond to his environment in a way no animal has ever done before. In short he'll be an A.A.

Ben stairs at Larry.

LARRY (CONT'D)

An A.A. Is an Animal Analyst. Just imagine he'll be able to do things no Robot could ever do.

BEN

Make it happen or everybody here is going to respond to the new environment of not having a job!

INT. INSIDE RESEARCH LABORATORY - THE NEXT DAY

Ben welcomes the colonel.

COLONEL

Good afternoon Ben. How's the family?

BEN

Everyone's fine.

COLONEL

That's good to hear. Let's get down to it. I've been hearing things about this experiment. I don't believe a word of it. Animal agents!

Ben looks away.

COLONEL (CONT'D)

Don't worry about it. I've been proved wrong before. Now show me something!

Ben motions to Larry to take the cat out of the cage.

Larry puts the cat on a table in the center of the room and attaches a restraining collar around it's neck and upper back.

BEN

The micro chip that's implanted on the base of his neck is not an ordinary electronic device. Once it's activated we not only control his movements but his thoughts. This feline will become an autonomous unit that won't need instructions and will still make faster and more accurate decisions than any agent you have in the field.

COLONEL

Do you need me to drop my pants?

BEN

What?

COLONEL

I got a funny feeling I'm about to be screwed. I just want to be ready.

Ben smiles at the Colonel. Then turns to Larry.

BEN

Larry, it's time.

Larry attaches a cable from a computer to the chip on the back of the cat's neck.

LARRY

Prepare yourself Colonel. History is about to be made!

Larry hits the enter key. The cat meows and shivers for three seconds.

COLONEL

Are you kidding me? I missed an important meeting for a cat that does the shimmy?

BEN

We have more than one cat! All I need is one more week.

COLONEL

Not one week not one more day, not even one more minute. I can't waste any more of my time. Maybe you can sell this experiment to china, I hear they like cats over there!

The Colonel laughs and walks away.

BEN

What just happened?

LARRY

There's no guarantee in this business. We needed more time.

BEN

That's not going to be a problem now. When words gets about what just happened we're out of business. Clean out your desk I'm closing up shop at the end of the month.

INT. INSIDE RESEARCH LABORATORY - THE NEXT MORNING

JANITOR 1

Did you hear what happened yesterday?

JANITOR 2

Yeah, I did. Why do you think I got this in my lunch?

He points to a bottle of Gin and Bourbon.

JANITOR 1

You know that's hard liquor?

JANITOR 2

This is a hard job! So slow down on the talk and let's speed up on the drinking before anybody else gets here.

JANITOR 1

Well I'll be!

JANITOR 2

What are you talking about now?

JANITOR 1

Look at that cat. He's sticking his paw out of that cage like he wants a drink.

JANITOR 2

I'm not giving any of my liquor to a cat. Let him buy his own!

JANITOR 1

Come on! Pour a little in a cup and let him taste it.

JANITOR 2

All right but this is coming out of your end.

Janitor 1 picks up a paper cup, cuts it in half and pours Gin into. He opens the cage door and puts inside.

JANITOR 1

Will you look at that. He likes it!

INT. INSIDE RESEARCH LABORATORY - TWENTY MINUTES LATER

Janitor 1 and Janitor 2 sitting on the floor after twenty minutes of drinking.

JANITOR 1

Don't you feel bad?

JANITOR 2

No, this is good liquor.

JANITOR 1

Not that! The cat.

JANITOR 2

The cat?

JANITOR 1

Yes the cat. He's all by himself. When this place closes you know what's going to happen to him. Well, I'll tell you.

JANITOR 2

You didn't give me a chance to answer!

JANITOR 1

They're going to drop him off at the pound and a month later he's going to be executed!

JANITOR 2

He's a cat. You down execute cats.

JANITOR 1

Well I'm not going to take that chance. I'm letting him go.

JANITOR 2

You can't do that!

JANITOR 1

What are they going to do? Fire me.

JANITOR 2

You got a point there. Before you do anything else you need another drink. As a matter of fact that cat needs another drink too. Help me up.

Janitor 1 stands up and helps Janitor 2 to his feet.

JANITOR 1

I just thought of something. We're breaking him out of jail! That's the perfect name.

JANITOR 2

Don't keep it a secret.

JANITOR 1

He's a Jailbird.

JANITOR 2

That's funny and weird at the same time. A cat name Jailbird. I'll drink to that cat!

Janitor 2 drinks from the bottle.

JANITOR 1

Don't drink all of it, some some for JB!

Janitor 1 takes the bottle from his friend. He pours the Gin into the cup sitting outside the cage. The cat jumps out of the cage while his drink is being poured. The drink hits the back of his neck and sparks come from the area of the implant.

JANITOR 2

Wow, that's not a real cat, he's electric!

JANITOR 1

Don't be stupid. Even I know they did something to this cat. Hold on a second I'm going to check him.

He attempts to pick up the cat.

JANITOR 1 (CONT'D)

I'm not going to hurt you. I'm just going to lightly grab you JB.

JB

Why don't you grab yourself?

JANITOR 1

Shut up, I'm talking to the cat.

JANITOR 2

Oh shit! Oh shit! It talked! I told you it was an electric cat.

JANITOR 1

I don't think so. They did something to this cat. JB, what the hell did they do to you?

JB

They stuck something on my back. I guess I'm lucky they didn't stick it up my ass.

JANITOR 2

That's it! I'm out a here. Keep the booze.

Janitor 2 runs for the door. The door opens Ben and Larry enter and JB runs out.

LARRY

Catch the cat!

BEN

Don't worry about that cat. He's got his own problems now.

JB runs outside of the building into the street.

EXT. BUS STOP TWO BLOCKS AWAY - TEN MINUTES LATER

At a stop light a young girl in the back seat of an SUV sees JB.

GRACE

Look at that cat, he's waiting on the bus.

FATHER

Well I'll be. It does look like he's trying to catch a bus. That's not possible.

MOTHER

Why is that?

FATHER

He doesn't have any pockets. How could he have exact change.

GRACE

That's not funny dad.

FATHER

Yes it is. When you're older you'll understand why.

GRACE

Can I have him?

FATHER

Absolutely not!

MOTHER

Why not?

FATHER

So it's two against one.

MOTHER

Just pull over the light's green.

He pulls over and stops in front of JB.

GRACE

Please, I'll take care of him.

FATHER

You mean like that turtle and frog you wanted so bad? After a week you didn't feed the turtle. I know you remember what with that frog.

Grace looks out her window at JB.

FATHER (CONT'D)

I was about to take a dump when something leaped out of the toilet. It looked a flying turd. That thing nearly scared the life out of me. And you want another animal?

GRACE

Please dad. Look at him he needs a home.

FATHER

He could be one of those trained cats. I bet he's really is waiting on the bus.

MOTHER

That's enough! We're going to pick up the cat. Grace you better take care of it.

Grace gets out of the car and picks up JB and they drive off.

FATHER

Don't make me the bad guy. I got this thing about cats. When I was a kid a friend of mind threw a cat at me, his claws scratched me from my neck to my belly button. After that I never trusted them.

MOTHER

That was a long time ago.

FATHER

You can look at it that way, but I'm telling you cats have been a problem since history began. It's not a fairy tale that cats are around when there's trouble brewing. Look at the witches in Salem. What did they always have around? Cats. And you know they carry disease.

JB

Al right, cut the shit!

The father slams on his brakes and looks in the back seat. Grace points at JB.

JB (CONT'D)
Is there a problem?

The car speeds away with JB sitting on the curb.

EXT. THE BARE MINIMUM GENTLEMEN'S CLUB - TEN MINUTES LATER

JB follows music he hears from a distance.

JB
Is this what its all about? I'm
running into one knuckle head after
another.

Lady Marmalade is playing in the background. JB walks through the back door. He repeats the words to the song as walks into the dressing room.

JB (CONT'D)
He met Marmalade down in old New
Orleans struttin her stuff on the
street! I like that!

One of girls walks in after she finishes her routine.

SHIRLEY
Who's in here? I heard you talking.
You better show yourself before I
get somebody to throw you out.

Shirley sees something move underneath an open window, JB walks toward her.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)
How did you get in here? Did you
smell some food. All I got is a
candy bar and I'm keeping it for
myself.

She looks at the window.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)
I think you should go out the same
way you came in.

JB circles Shirley while rubbing against her leg.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)
Ok, you're a male cat. I'm having
enough trouble with men now, I
don't need another one in my life.

JB meows and jumps on the makeup table.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

You're one of those guys. You don't leave until you get what you want. Have it your way. I'll give you a trial run. It's time to go. If you follow me to my car you have a home tonight.

She changes her clothes picks up her purse and walks to her car. JB runs to the passenger side of the car.

EXT. PARKING LOT - TWO MINUTES LATER

SHIRLEY

How did you know which car is mine? What's going on here? It's been a long day when I expect you to answer. I actually expected you to answer.

Shirley walks to the passenger side of the car and opens the door for JB. He jumps in the car. She returns to the drivers side. JB reaches for the seat belt.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

What the! Are you trying to put on that seat belt? I get it you're one of those trained cats. I guess If you have a smart phone why not smart cats. Don't worry I'm a careful driver you're not going to need a seat belt.

JB

Meow.

SHIRLEY

One last thing. I have a female friend at home. You've got to get along with her or you're out of here before it get's started. Do we understand each other?

JB

Meow.

SHIRLEY

I don't believe this, I'm having a conversation with a cat! I'm turning into my Aunt.

She drives out of the parking lot.

EXT. OUTSIDE APARTMENT DOOR - TWENTY MINUTES LATER

Shirley opens the door and lets JB in.

SHIRLEY

Go on. Don't hesitate now.

INT. INSIDE SHIRLEY'S APARTMENT - ONE MINUTE LATER

JB walks in and looks around.

SHIRLEY

How do you like it? Don't answer
you haven't met Izzy.

She walks into the hallway and brings a cage with a cockatoo
in it. JB snarls as his back arches.

IZZY

That's a bad pussy, bad pussy!

SHIRLEY

Calm down you two!

Shirley takes Izzy back into the hallway.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

You guys have to do better than
that.

INT. BEN'S OFFICE - TEN MINUTES LATER

Ben is talking to Larry about what happened earlier after the
test with JB.

BEN

There's going to be a final
accounting on this matter. Bring
that Janitor in here before he gets
off today.

LARRY

I'll do that right now.

INT. BEN'S OFFICE - FIVE MINUTES LATER

JANITOR 1

You wanted to see me?

BEN

Take a seat. It's been a little hectic around here. We just have a few more questions for you.

JANITOR 1

This is my last day. I was going to leave a little early.

BEN

This won't take long. By the way where's your partner?

JANITOR 1

I haven't seen him since the cat.

BEN

Since the cat what?

JANITOR 1

Nothing.

BEN

You were going to say something. So say it!

JANITOR 1

Since he ran out the door. I felt responsible for that. I let him out of the cage.

BEN

Is that it?

JANITOR 1

Yes.

LARRY

Nothing else happened? Say something!

The Janitor looks down at his chair.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Alright I'm going to let you in on a little secret. That cat was programmed to do some amazing things. He records everything he hears, his thought process is ten times faster than any other animal.

JANITOR 1

And he talks!

LARRY

What did you say?

JANITOR 1

I didn't believe it either. That cat talked back to me! What did you do to him?

LARRY

Nothing, our experiment didn't work. We've got to get him back. He's the key. Where did he go?

JANITOR 1

Don't look at me! It's your cat.

BEN

Finding him won't be a problem. Right about now he's wondering who and what he is. He'll be back.

LARRY

You might be right. I still think we should look for him. What if he gets run over by a car?

JANITOR 1

Only dogs get hit by cars.

BEN

Enough of this. Janitor you're on the payroll for another week. When we get that cat we'll find out exactly what makes him tick.

INT. INSIDE SHIRLEY'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Shirley walks to the kitchen and opens a cabinet.

SHIRLEY

It looks like I don't have anything that could be called cat food. If you like bird seed I could come up with something.

JB snarls.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

I didn't think so. I'll get my coat and we'll take a walk to the corner store.

She walks to her bedroom closet and picks up a coat.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

Let's go.

JB follows her to the front door. As she reaches for the door knob someone knocks on the outside of the door.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)

Who is it?

TRACEY

Tracey.

SHIRLEY

I knew I should have put a peep hole in this door.

TRACEY

You going to let me in or what?

SHIRLEY

I'm thinking the or what.

TRACEY

Come on. You have to come out this way. You might as well talk to me.

SHIRLEY

Ok, just for a minute.

She opens the door. Tracey walks in.

TRACEY

You know I miss you.

SHIRLEY

Is it me or the money you miss?

JB snarls.

TRACEY

That's a new one, a guard dog cat!

SHIRLEY

What do you want? If it's money I don't get paid until the end of the week.

TRACEY

You get tips every night.

SHIRLEY

I don't believe you. You want my tips. I think you should leave, now!

TRACEY

I'm not going anywhere until I get
what I came for.

JB snarls again and leaps on Tracey's back. Tracey falls to the floor. He reaches around his back grabs JB and throws him against the coffee table. JB yells out and falls to the floor motionless. Shirley jumps Tracey biting and scratching. Tracy flips her over and raises his right clinched hand.

TRACEY (CONT'D)

I try talking to you and this is
what I get! I'm not going to lie,
this is going to hurt!

Jb wakes up sees Shirley under Tracy and jumps on his back. Tracey tries reach around again to throw JB to the floor. JB slides under his arm and meets face to face.

JB

Do you feel a little pain? Don't
move. Your life depends on it! My
right paw is a half inch from your
larynx. That's the location of your
vocal cords. Do you understand what
I'm telling you?

TRACEY

Yes.

JB

Good. We're going to play a little
word game called what type of
animal am I. I ask the questions
all you have to do is answer. Are
we on the same page?

TRACEY

Yes.

JB

Shirley, move aside.

She takes a seat on the sofa.

JB (CONT'D)

Do I have to tell you your answers
have to be truthful.

TRACEY

No.

JB

First question. Do you prefer a one night stand or a long relationship?

A trickle of blood rolls down Tracey's neck.

TRACEY

One night stands.

JB

Good! I think you're getting the hang of it.

JB (CONT'D)

Question two. Do love Shirley?

TRACEY

No.

JB

I'm going to ask a third question even though I know now what type of animal you are.

Tracy squirms.

JB (CONT'D)

Don't move! It's almost over. This is the third and last question. Think before you answer. Are you coming back to this apartment ever again?

TRACEY

No!

JB

I didn't think so. Now get the hell out of here before I change my mind!

Jb pulls his claw out of the neck of Tracey. Shirley opens the door just as Tracey runs past her.

SHIRLEY

I don't know if I should follow him or not. You talked!

JB

Yes I talk. Please don't ask me if I'm an electric cat.

SHIRLEY

What?

JB

Never mind. I'm as much in the dark about this as you. As far as I know I was born today! I got to find out if I'm human or a cat.

SHIRLEY

This may not be the right time, but I just found out you could talk.

JB

Is this going to be an intelligent question?

SHIRLEY

I'd say more of a question that I have to ask. I feel awkward saying this.

JB

I'm listening.

SHIRLEY

Do you prefer to do it doggy style?

JB

What the?

SHIRLEY

I'm just asking.

JB

Do you prefer to do human style?

SHIRLEY

Point taken. I'm sorry I had to ask. I'm hungry and I know you are.

JB

I got to get back to that lab. I'll see you a little later.

JB walks towards the door

SHIRLEY

You're not such a bad Pussy after all.

THE END

