

INSERT BLACK SCREEN:

Slurping sounds and soft happy yelps blend with an oldie-but-goodie Elvis hit. A woman laughs.

FADE IN:

INSERT ECU OF A WOMAN'S FACE

(Note: The colors are vivid like in a fairy tale.)

Two canine tongues lick the face of a WOMAN laughing in her sleep. The more she laughs, the more they lick.

LAUGHING WOMAN (V.O.)
Cut it out you two. Got to get
moving. Yes, I love you too.

INT. PALM SPRINGS - LILLY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NEW DAY

LILLY SMARTELLI (49) springs to a sitting position in her bed and looks around. There are no dogs. It's just her lonesome self. She sighs... remembering her dream, she smiles and reaches out to her cell phone and shuts off Elvis.

Lilly jumps out of bed as if powered by a thousand volts of energy. From head to toe, she exhibits this bon vivant where food, wine, and laughter is what life's all about.

She breaks into the "Cella Luna" song in a crystal pure voice.

EXT. SOMEWHERE ON A PLAZA IN TUSCANY - NEW DAY

(Note: The colors are vivid like in a fairy tale.)

A big traditional Italian wedding is in full force.

Confetti whirls over the WEDDING CROWD as they eat, drink, laugh, and dance. The wine is bottomless. Jordan almonds and Italian pastry spill over the tables.

The wedding cake is a chocolate-glazed tower filled with cannoli cream and other layers of génoise and more cream. The espresso machine works non-stop.

The BRIDE and GROOM spin on the dance floor. BRIDESMAIDS and GROOMSMEN hurl flowers and hats up in the air.

"The Tarantella," "Finiculi, Finucula," and Volare" play on repeat.

Lilly's NONA (70's) is a hit on the dance floor.

NONA

So, Lilly, when are you getting married?

WEDDING CROWD

Lilly! When? Lilly! When?

Now barefoot, women go wild on the dance floor. Men join them and together they form an endless farandole.

INT. PALM SPRINGS - LILLY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lilly laughs out loud... comes back to reality... yet continues to dance toward the bathroom.

INSERT LILLY'S WILD MUSES BLOG ON A COMPUTER SCREEN

Lilly types her wide-awake dream of the big Italian wedding on her blogging site called LILLY'S WILD MUSES.

EXT. PALM SPRINGS - HOSPITAL - PARKING LOT - LATER

Lilly parks by a row of palm trees and leaps out of her car. She saunters toward the employees entrance of the hospital.

INT. PALM SPRINGS - HOSPITAL - HALLWAY/LOCKERS - CONTINUOUS

Lilly walks through the hallway toward the women's lockers where medical staff get ready for their shift.

LILLY

Good morning, everyone.

In unison, the WOMEN greet her.

Lilly walks to her locker where BECKIE (30's) passes around wedding and honeymoon photos.

LILLY (CONT'D)

Beckie! Welcome back!

She hugs Beckie.

BECKIE

I wish it could've lasted forever.

LILLY

What? The marriage's already over!

Everyone laughs.

BECKIE

I mean being on my honeymoon. Why come back to reality?

Lilly looks at the photos.

LILLY

Looks like a pretty good reality now with Mr. Right.

Lilly shows a photo of Beckie's husband. HANNAH (20's) examines the photo.

HANNAH

I wouldn't mind him being in my reality.

BECKIE

Hey, now, Hannah. Yours is a hotshot DJ.

HANNAH

Don't I know it.

BECKIE

Your turn, next, Lilly.

HANNAH

Yes, Lilly. What's a year at the hospital without a wedding?

BECKIE

It's on your bucket list, right?

LILLY

A big Italian wedding's number one on my list. Among many other things.

HANNAH

Yeah, yours is a mile long.

LILLY

Enough silly chatting, girls. Our patients need us. Let's do some good.

INT. PALM SPRINGS - HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - LATER

Lilly and Hannah checks the clipboards attached by the exam rooms. Lilly holds back a yawn.

HANNAH

Caught you. Looks like you're still burning the midnight oil at the dog rescue shelters.

LILLY

You bet.

HANNAH

Put in some overtime here instead and make the big bucks.

They turn into a long corridor lined up with patient rooms.

LILLY

Big bucks don't help my four-paws friends.

HANNAH

With big bucks, you could save all the dogs in the world... and get yourself a few of them.

LILLY

It's complicated, Hannah. I give them what I know and can -- love.

HANNAH

You're a good person, Lilly. See you at break.

Hannah enters a patient room and Lilly enters the one across the corridor.

INT. PALM SPRINGS - HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room holds four beds of which three are occupied.

-- BALD PATIENT, GEORGE (50's), plays a game on his tablet.

-- SPIKY HAIR PATIENT, MARIE (30's), reads a romance novel. Bandages cover the right side of her face.

-- TWISTED ROPE BRAIDED HAIR PATIENT, JEAN (40's), asleep, is connected to a dialysis machine.

GEORGE

Lilly. You're late.

LILLY
George, good morning. Beckie's
back. She showed us her wedding and
honeymoon photos.

GEORGE
Ah, young love.

MARIE
Young and short-lived.

LILLY
You'll find love again, Marie.

Lilly walks over to Marie and checks her vitals.

MARIE
Nope. Love's over for me.

LILLY
Love has a way.

MARIE
I'll stick to love with this.

She taps a finger on a romance novel.

MARIE (CONT'D)
Much safer than psycho boyfriends.

Lilly changes her bandages.

LILLY
You're healing nicely. A bit of
makeup, poof, your scars will be
invisible.

MARIE
You're way too nice, Lilly.

Lilly writes notes on Marie's chart and clips it to her bed.

MARIE (CONT'D)
Got any new pictures?

LILLY
Of course. Here.

Lilly unlocks her cell and pulls up photos of dogs in rescue
shelters. Marie flips through them.

MARIE
I wish I could have dogs. They'd
make better boyfriends for sure.
(MORE)

MARIE (CONT'D)

At least they won't slice you up with a knife. But I'm allergic to them.

GEORGE

Allergic to boyfriends or dogs?

Everyone laughs.

MARIE

Both, George. Playing it fair.

Lilly walks over to George and checks his vitals.

GEORGE

Count it as a blessing. Dogs are too much damn work. It's like having two-year old rug rats forever.

LILLY

True. Dogs aren't for everyone.

MARIE

Neither are boyfriends.

LILLY

(to George)

That's why so many end up in shelters.

GEORGE

Hey, don't blame it on me. Me, got no dogs.

LILLY

George, when you're out, I'll take you to some of the dog shelters. You'll see, it's amazing. These dogs, all they want, is to be loved -- unconditionally.

GEORGE

Me, out of here? Sure. In your dreams, Lady Lilly.

Lilly makes some notes on George's medical chart.

LILLY

You are getting out of here.

GEORGE

If I am, it ain't gonna be to visit dogs.

LILLY

You know, they can be the best medicine for people. They're more than animals, they're almost human - - except more generous and empathetic.

GEORGE

She's a smarty that Lilly, huh?

JEAN

Lilly's right. Dogs are good for your health. They can cheer up even the most hardened humans.

Lilly turns toward Jean who presses a button to sit up.

LILLY

If dogs ruled the world there would be nothing but peace and naps in the sun.

JEAN

Amen to that!

George grunts something incomprehensible and goes back to his game on the tablet. Lilly walks over to Jean.

LILLY

Jean. How are you feeling this morning?

JEAN

I'm okay. Any news on a donor?

LILLY

Not yet. I've reached out to some of my personal contacts. Have faith.

JEAN

Thank you, Lilly. You always make me feel good.

Jean squeezes Lilly's hand.

INT. PALM SPRINGS - LILLY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER

A Le Creuset bright yellow pot filled with tomato sauce boil on the hot stove: POT FOR LILLY is etched on the pot. A second Le Creuset bright yellow pot, called POT FOR PETS, is filled with meatballs and veggie stew.

As she sings the famous Figaro tune, Lilly stirs the two pots at the same time. She adds spices and other ingredients, and continues to stir. Every so often, she tastes each one. Pleased, she turns off the burners.

From a cupboard, she grabs a plastic food container. With two hands, she pours the content of the Pot for Pets into the container. She then stores the Pot for Lilly in the fridge.

EXT. PALM SPRINGS - CHARLIE'S DOG SHELTER - PARKING LOT -
LATER

Lilly, carrying the food container, enters the shelter.

INT. PALM SPRINGS - CHARLIE'S DOG SHELTER - OFFICE -
CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE JONES (50's), at a computer, uploads pictures of dogs on a website. Slow and precise is Charlie's motto. The pictures are perfect. In his world, nothing is out of place.

CHARLIE

Hey, Lilly. What's up?

He notices the plastic container.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Sweet. Dinner time. You didn't have to, really, Lilly.

LILLY

Aha, funny Charlie. Not for you.

CHARLIE

Yeah, I know.

LILLY

This food's good for humans too. So have a taste.

CHARLIE

Stealing from our pals. No can do.

Happy barking can now be heard in the back of the building.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

They know you're here. Better get moving or they'll tear this place apart.

Lilly laughs and walks toward the back door.

INT. PALM SPRINGS - CHARLIE'S DOG SHELTER - KENNEL -
CONTINUOUS

As soon as Lilly enters the kennel area, the dogs go crazy. They jump, spin, stand on their hind legs, begging for food.

LILLY
Hello, little guys. Yes, I'm happy
to see you too.

She places the container on the floor and grabs a ladle. In front of each cage is a food bowl.

LILLY (CONT'D)
How many of you today?

Her eyes scan the area as her lips count the number of dogs.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Okay. Twelve. Enough for everyone.

She leans down and pours one portion into the first bowl.

INSERT MONTAGE OF LILLY AND CHARLIE CARING FOR THE DOGS

-- Lilly pours food into the bowls and Charlie places them inside the cages. Soon, the kennel is very quiet as the dogs savor their dinner.

-- When the dogs have finished their meals, Lilly and Charlie pet the dogs, talk to them, and play with them. The dogs relish the TLC they may never have known before.

INT. PALM SPRINGS - CHARLIE'S DOG SHELTER - KENNEL - LATER

Lilly and Charlie clean up the cages.

CHARLIE
Why don't you have your own dog,
Lilly, if you don't mind me asking.

LILLY
With my erratic hours, as a nurse,
traveling from city to city. No,
not a life for a dog.

CHARLIE
You'll find a way.

LILLY
Yes. In another life. Besides, how
can I choose one over another?

CHARLIE

Dogs choose their humans, you know.
So you won't have to make the
decision. It's a fact. Just like
the right dog will bring you a
prince charming.

(winks at her)

Another fact.

LILLY

You're a funny one, dear Charlie.
Enough of this nonsense.

Lilly places her broom in the cleaning closet.

LILLY (CONT'D)

All done. I'll be back tomorrow.

CHARLIE

We're closed tomorrow.

LILLY

What do you mean, closed? Like
forever?

CHARLIE

Heaven no. There's a dog adoption
fair this weekend.

LILLY

Ah, that's great. I hope they all
find a home.

CHARLIE

Me too.

LILLY

Well then, I'll be back on Mon --

Lilly's cell phone goes off. She grabs it and unlocks it.

LILLY (CONT'D)

They need me at the hospital. Short
on staff tonight. See what I mean?
Not a life for my little friends.

As Lilly leaves, the dogs bark her a farewell.