

Duke Barkin, Suncoast Transporter:  
Hot Houndette

By

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Panel	Description	Dialog
1.1	<p>Interior view of an old 1985 Suburban. Duke, a very large (but not fat) 10-year old red and white basset hound is sitting on the front passenger seat looking bored. Duke has a white head and red ears, with a heavy scar on one ear. Out the windows (which are open) the view is of the parking lot of a Cracker Barrel restaurant. Two people are talking, but we can only see them below the face. (Artist's note: we never see humans' faces unless they are so far in the distance that they are unrecognizable. Their characteristic shoes help us tell them apart.)</p>	<p>Caption: Duke has been waiting forever for The Man to finish whatever business he had in this parking lot. He had promised a drive, and that's what Duke liked: wind in his ears, the feel of the engine roaring under his belly and the road flashing by in streaks, too fast for him to get more than a quick look into the other cars--cars with hounds, cars without hounds. He preferred the kind with.</p> <p>THE MAN (off panel) HA, HA, HA! Slowing down a bit, you know, hasn't broken a door in years, but he's still full of drool and vinegar.</p> <p>DUKE The Man is clearly insane.</p>
1.2	<p>The Man is walking around the side of the Suburban. Duke is watching him with a little bit of hope in his face.</p>	<p>DUKE Finally!</p>
1.3	<p>The loading door of the suburban is visible, now, and we are seeing it from Duke's pov. A large crate is being loaded, but we can't see what's inside. We can see that Duke's ears, which were low before, are perked up. The Man is visible, tucking the crate in.</p>	<p>DUKE What's this? We're not at the box store.</p> <p>THE MAN Sorry, you'll have to stay in there for the duration. Duke's not really a sharing kinda guy.</p> <p>DUKE No, I am not. Why should I be?</p>

Panel	Description	Dialog
1.4	The Man has come around and opened the passenger door. We see Duke from his pov. Duke looks flabbergasted.	<p>Caption: Duke has a rule: do not get out of the vehicle until the trip is over. The Man knows the rule.</p> <p>THE MAN (Off Panel) Come on, old man, just once, come on out. You'll want to take a look at this!</p>
1.5	Duke is climbing out of the Suburban reluctantly. We can see The Man's shoes, which are a pair of fine, old wingtips. The polish is covered with dust, which is the way they usually look.	<p>DUKE I doubt it very much.</p> <p>THE MAN (Voice fading at the end) It's our first transport, Duke. Don't you want to see?</p>
1.6	The Man is holding out his arm toward the crate, through which we can vaguely see a small, tricolor houndette. She is beautiful, but her attitude is tired and scared.	<p>Caption: So this was the package.</p> <p>THE MAN Want me to open the crate, Duke? You can take a better look!</p>
1.7	The whole character of the art changes here. Now it should be sleek, high-contrast, hyperreal. The Man is wearing a dark, mechanic's jumpsuit, but the same shoes. The Suburban is now a BMW X5 SUV. Duke is now young, fit and sleek, but still has the scar on his ear. He is wearing Prada Tom Ford James Bond 007 sunglasses. He is on his hind legs with one foot on the BMW. He is looking at the "camera," IOW, at the reader, potentially breaking the fourth wall.	<p>Caption: Duke Barkin, Suncoast Transporter.</p> <p>DUKE I have a rule: never open the package!</p>