

## **Bumz**

### Characters:

CAT: DOG'S older sister. She is the family cat. She loves DOG but is easily annoyed by him. She is wise but doesn't know what grief is.

DOG: CAT's younger brother. Naive, energetic, and friendly. Doesn't know much about the world. Doesn't know what grief is.

BUMZ: A fly that accidentally flew through the window one day. Very quickly becomes DOG's best friend.

Setting: DOG and CAT's living room. There are windows upstage, one of which is open. There is a dog bed downstage right.

Bumz

**Scene One**

*(CAT is lounging in the living room. DOG is circling around her with a ball.)*

DOG

Wanna play wanna play wanna play?

CAT

Dog I already told you no. Now go away.

*(CAT turns over to take a cat nap. DOG is persistent.)*

DOG

Please. PLEASE. PLEEEASSSSEEE.

CAT

Dog!

DOG

Yeah?

CAT

Shush!

DOG

What does that mean?

CAT

*(Sighs.)* Alright, I'll play.

DOG

Ok ok ok. So all you have to do is throw this and then-

CAT

Not that. We're playing *my* game.

DOG

Ooh what's mygame?

CAT

Just follow after me.

DOG

Ok ok.

*(CAT turns back over to sleep. DOG follows. Beat.)*

Bumz

DOG  
What's next?

CAT  
Shhh.

DOG  
Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh....

CAT  
*(Harsh.)* Shh.

DOG  
*(Quietly.)* Ok.

*(A buzz comes from offstage. This causes DOG obvious discomfort. Like a dog whistle.)*

DOG  
Ow ow ow ow! What was that?

CAT  
What was what?

DOG  
Did they blow the whistle again? I didn't do anything wrong!

*(A fly runs around the stage, catching the attention of DOG and CAT.)*

DOG  
Whoa! What is that?!

CAT  
*(Excited.)* It's a fly! It's a fly!

DOG  
What's a fly?

CAT  
Flies are these things - bugs. And they move around really fast. And they're a lot of fun!

DOG  
*(Excited.)* Like a game!

CAT  
Yeah! Come here fly!

Bumz

*(The fly runs faster and starts humming. This sounds like a mix between a buzz and a hum.)*

DOG

What're they saying? What're they saying?

CAT

I don't know! Be quiet!

*(DOG and CAT go silent. FLY continues to hum.)*

CAT

It sounds like they're saying Bmmz.

DOG

Maybe that's their name! Okay fly, if your name is Bumz, keep flying.

*(BUMZ continues to run around the stage.)*

DOG

Aha! I figured it out!

CAT

Good job Dog.

DOG

Maybe we can play with them! Do you think we can play with them?

CAT

Let's see.

*(The frenzy of the last few pages dies down. BUMZ is still running/flying around the stage.)*

BUMZ

Whhhhheeeerrreee ammmmm IIIII?

DOG

You can talk?!

BUMZ

Whooooo areee youuu?

CAT

Hi Bumz. My name is Cat. This is Dog. We live here.

Bumz

DOG

Do you wanna live here too?

BUMZ

*(Lands. Stops flying.)* Sure! What do you do?

DOG

We play! Do you wanna play?

BUMZ

What is play?

DOG

Ok, so I-I run around and you run around with me and then we get special treats and then we wag our tails and then we run around again and-

BUMZ

*(Looks for a tail.)* I don't think I have a tail. But I want to play!

DOG

Yay!

*(BUMZ and DOG play while CAT takes a nap. Hours pass and BUMZ and DOG lay on DOG's bed to go to sleep.)*

DOG

Goodnight, Bumz.

BUMZ

Goodnight, Dog.

Bumz

## Scene Two

*(A few days have passed. BUMZ and DOG are now best friends. There is a significant change in BUMZ's age and maturity level. They seem very old now.)*

DOG

C'mon Bumz, keep up!

BUMZ

I'm going as fast as I can!

*(DOG continues running. BUMZ falls behind to catch their breath. DOG doesn't realize immediately.)*

DOG

Why'd you stop?

BUMZ

I don't think I can play chase anymore, Dog. I'm just not as fast as I used to be.

DOG

Oh, well that's okay. We can...do a talent show instead. Look!

*(DOG does a trick, BUMZ is impressed, but tired.)*

BUMZ

That was very good. But I don't think I can do that right now. Can we just take a nap?

*(DOG knows BUMZ isn't feeling well but is confused as to why.)*

DOG

Umm...sure! We can take a nap, I guess.

BUMZ

Thanks.

*(BUMZ and DOG lay down. DOG is restless but trying his best to hide it.)*

BUMZ

*(Sleepily.)* I promise, as soon as I wake up, we'll play chase all you want.

DOG

*(Settled, content.)* Okay.

*(A few hours pass. DOG wakes up.)*

Bumz

DOG

*(Excited.)* Bumz! Bumz! *(Realizes BUMZ is still asleep, whispers.)* Oh, sorry.

*(DOG gently taps BUMZ to wake them up. Nothing. DOG stretches, moves around, and waits for BUMZ to get up. Nothing. DOG is confused. DOG taps BUMZ again, this time a bit harder. Nothing. CAT walks in.)*

DOG

Cat, Bumz isn't waking up.

CAT

Maybe they just need to rest.

DOG

Yeah, but we've been asleep for forever. It's time to wake up now.

CAT

Dog, sometimes flies need more rest than dogs do. You need to be patient-

DOG

-And Bumz needs to wake up. Bumz always wakes up when I wake up.

*(DOG nudges BUMZ again. Nothing. DOG gives CAT a confused look. CAT saunters over to BUMZ and tries to wake them up, DOG gives her the space to do so. Nothing. DOG is confused. CAT knows.)*

CAT

Dog...

DOG

What? *(Excited, runs to BUMZ.)* Did you wake them up? Are they awake?

CAT

Dog...

DOG

What?

CAT

Do you remember when you first met the humans?

DOG

Yeah...?

CAT

And do you remember what you thought the first time they left?

Bumz

DOG

I thought they wouldn't come back.

CAT

Did they?

DOG

Yes...*(beat)* What does that have to do with Bumz though?

CAT

Well, sometimes things don't come back.

DOG

What do you mean?

CAT

Sometimes we meet a human or another dog or a cat-

DOG

*(Excited, distracted.)* Or a fly! I love meeting flies!

CAT

Or a fly. And most of the time they come back. The humans leave for a bit but then they come back-

DOG

And when they come back, I get food!

CAT

Yes. When they come back you get food. But there are times when someone or something doesn't come back.

DOG

What does this have to do with Bumz? They didn't go anywhere. Look they're right here. Right Bumz? *(Nudges BUMZ. Nothing.)* Right? *(Nudges BUMZ again. Nothing. DOG is getting frantic.)* C'mon Bumz, the talent show is later. You gotta agree with me right now. Bumz?

CAT

Dog.

DOG

Bumz, wake up! We gotta play chase. Bumz c'mon!



Bumz

CAT

Dog.

DOG

They promised we'd play chase. C'mon Bumz, tell her! It's time to play! It's time to play!

CAT

Dog. Bumz isn't going to play.

DOG

*(Frantic.) Why not?!*

CAT

Because Bumz is somewhere else.

DOG

*(Aggressive.) Bumz is right here.*

CAT

Dog, Bumz isn't going to wake up.

DOG

No, no, no, no. Bumz has to wake up/ Bumz has to wake up.

CAT

*/I'm so sorry, Dog.*

*(DOG lays down next to BUMZ, protective. CAT goes to DOG to comfort him.)*

Bumz

### Scene Three

*(A few days later. DOG and CAT are still grieving. BUMZ is not on stage. DOG is talking about grief. He doesn't know how to say he's grieving, he just knows he doesn't feel happy. His demeanor has shifted.)*

DOG

Cat why doesn't playing feel like it used to?

CAT

What do you mean, Dog?

DOG

I- I don't know. It just hurts.

CAT

Playing hurts?

DOG

No, not- I hurt. Like inside. What's happening, Cat?

CAT

Is it because you miss Bumz?

DOG

I don't know. I think so.

CAT

That's love, Dog.

DOG

Love?

CAT

Love. *(Beat. DOG doesn't understand.)* It's why you and Bumz would play for hours without getting tired. It's why the flowers looked brighter when Bumz landed on them. Why you slept better when Bumz was next to you and gave up part of your bed for a fly you barely knew.

DOG

*(Frustrated.)* So why does it feel bad?! None of those things feel bad! *(to CAT)* You're making me hurt! Why are you making me hurt?!/ I hate it! I hate it! I hate it! *(Throwing a tantrum at this point.)*

CAT

*(Obviously distraught, letting her mask slip.)* I don't know! I don't know everything, Dog! I don't know why it hurts! All I know is that it doesn't and then it does.

Bumz

DOG

I feel- I- (*Angry.*)

*(Beat. CAT soothes DOG.)*

CAT

I want them to come back too.

DOG

They didn't say bye. The humans always say bye. And come back. And Bumz didn't come back.

CAT

*(Like she's giving condolences.)* I'm sorry.

*(Long beat.)*

DOG

*(Sincerely apologetic.)* I'm sorry.

CAT

For what?

DOG

You don't make me hurt.

CAT

I know.

*(Long beat. CAT passes the ball to DOG, an offer to play.)*

DOG

You feel like every day. Because every day I sit in here. With you. And I feel okay. And-and that feels good. Cat?

CAT

Yeah?

DOG

I think that's what love is.