

INT. PALACE. LATER

The opulent PALACE DOORS swing open. Payne is awed by the marble floors, plush carpet and gilded... well, everything.

PAYNE
This is our barn?!

NIGEL
Our place of domicile, yes.

PAYNE
You know good words.
(embarrassed, aside)
Where do we, y'know... go? I held
it the whole time out there.

NIGEL
(sighs)
Abigail, show our newest the
grounds. Specifically, the garden.

Abigail smiles politely as Nigel exits. She turns to Payne.

ABIGAIL
Welcome home! Beats the heck out of
a barn, eh?

PAYNE
I was raised in a barn!

ABIGAIL
And don't you let anyone hold that
over you.

Abigail leads Payne through the palace in a SERIES OF SHOTS.

-- They pass the DOG SPA, with columns and claw-footed TUBS.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
We keep our coats clean and nails
neat. When was your last bath?

PAYNE
I fell in a puddle before I got
here.

ABIGAIL
We'll get you cleaned up, Nigel
runs a tight ship.

PAYNE
I don't think he likes me.

ABIGAIL

Nonsense! Nigel is just... Nigel.
Very traditional. He'll ride you
hard, but that's because he cares.

PAYNE

I hope he didn't see me scratching
my butt on the curtain. I get the
itchies sometimes.

ABIGAIL

We'll have both of those things
cleaned.

Abigail smiles politely and moves on.

Poe's head pops out of one of the tubs. He quickly SHAKES dry
and follows Abigail and Payne.

-- The KITCHENS are bustling with frenetic energy. Payne is
amazed at the fanciness of all the food being dished into
golden dog bowls.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

They'll make anything you like.
They'd practically chew it for you
if you asked.

PAYNE

One time I horked kibble my brother
ate first. No regrets.

Abigail is at a loss for words. She moves on.

Poe quietly STEALS snacks while the staff isn't looking.

-- The manicured GARDEN stretches out before them. It is
vibrant and well tended.

PAYNE (CONT'D)

I can just let it fly anywhere?

ABIGAIL

Anywhere private. And please, only
when you're off duty.

PAYNE

Off duty, secret dootie. Got it.

Payne notices a MARBLE STATUE of SIR BARKSALOT. Even as a
sculpture, it seems to be in motion.

PAYNE (CONT'D)
 (hyperventilating)
 Is that...

PAYNE & ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
 Sir Barksalot of the Round Bowl!

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
 You know your history.

PAYNE
 (VERY excited)
 He's kinda my hero. I'm gonna pee!

ABIGAIL
 (points)
 Over there.

Poe JUMPS in a pile of grass clippings that has just been collected by a GARDENER. He runs off before the gardener spots him undoing his hard work.

-- The DOG ROOM has a large fireplace and multiple raised wicker SLEEPING baskets. Payne sees his name on a PLAQUE.

Glittering suits of CORGI ARMOR decorate the room.

PAYNE
 Our armor! Oh boy, which is mine?

ABIGAIL
 Oh, the Royal Corgis haven't worn armor in a hundred years.
 (laughs)
 With that much scrap, you'd be abducted by the recycle crew.

At the end of the room stands a gorgeous display of Royal Corgi tradition: the KINGMAKER ARMOR.

PAYNE
 But it's beautiful! Like when you hit your motor spot and go...
 (thumps hind leg on floor)

ABIGAIL
 The corgi in the Kingmaker Armor used to pass the crown to the new king, but that hasn't been done in a hundred years. That's seven hundred to us. Outdated, yet still nice to look at... just like Nigel.
 (realizes what she said)
 Don't tell him I said that.