

Pigeonhole Episode 13

[bright ambient music]

Introduction

CHORUS OF VOICES: Pigeonholed, pigeonhole, pigeonhole, pigeonhole, pigeonhole, pigeonhole, pigeonhole, pigeonhole.

This month: a micro-short documentary I made in 2017 with new filmmaker Jenni Funk. We planned, filmed, and edited the documentary in only a couple of days, and every time I watch it again, I'm still unsure how this is Jenni's first film. Since the larger film industry is so far from being accessible, independent projects like this are an ideal place for a nonspeaking filmmaker like Jenni to create work and truly shine. Thanks to Janique Robillard for introducing me to Jenni. Extra thanks to Joan Funk and Chris Roberson for your invaluable support with transportation, programming Jenni's narration with her into her ProLoQuo2Go, and for everything you did to realize this all-volunteer-made film. Here's *Stinky Chicken Dog* with Audio Description.

The film

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Text onscreen: Stinky Chicken Dog.

[chill background music]

JENNI FUNK (VIA A SPEECH GENERATING DEVICE): Hi, I'm Jenni Funk. I am 39 years old, and I had an illness when I was three, which left me with speech and mobility problems. I use a language board and a walker and do a little sign language.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: She taps images on an iPad with a fat pencil.

JENNI: I live in an apartment by myself, and sometimes it gets lonely even though I have providers and family stopping by.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: A small shrine to a late pet Chihuahua on the wall.

JENNI: I try to keep busy doing puzzles and just started making greeting cards. Still, it would be nice to have some companionship.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: At Oregon Dog Rescue shelter.

JENNI: Because of this, I decided to adopt a dog. We went to PetSmart where we met Barbara, who was showing dogs from Oregon Dog Rescue.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Smiling on the couch together.

JENNI: Barbara has been involved for many years in the rescue and is on the Board of Directors. She introduced me to Kali, a brindled Chihuahua. Kali had been abused but was adopted by an elderly lady who had to give her up because of health reasons. Because of this, Kali is extremely fearful of almost everything. Kali has a lot of struggles because of her being abused.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Barbara and Jenni hug and kiss

JENNI: Any loud noise like clapping or yelling will make her run. I really love Kali, and I know she loves me. But sometimes her fear gets in the way.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Jenni's mom holds the small dog.

JENNI: Sometimes I fall down, and sometimes I am loud, and this scares her. This hurts my feelings, but I understand.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Kali jumps down and runs off. Jenni frowns, looks away.

JENNI: When Kali first came home with me, she would run to me and even sit on the davenport behind me. Also, she would sleep in my bed at night. Since I am quite restless at night and often thrash about, I probably decked her, and now she doesn't.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Kali on her Oregon Ducks bed on a chair, settles her head down.

JENNI: Despite all of this, I really love her, and she really loves me. So, we struggle on.

[mellow music fades out into upbeat electronica]

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Kali eating a snack in her bed, Jenni walks up with her walker. Kali leaps off the chair.

JENNI: Kali will cautiously approach me and lick me nonstop, and I continue to pet and feed her.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Then, Jenni scooping food.

JENNI: I would like to take her for walks, but my hands don't work so well, and I can't get the leash fastened.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: They walk in a parking lot. Kali struts next to Jenni's walker, then skitters behind Jenni as they leave. Jenni holds up a sweatshirt with "My shelter dog rescued me."

JENNI: Kali always runs away from me. She is very frustrating with all her little quirks and bad breath, but she is my friend.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Jenni smiles. Then, Kali in bed, eyes darting, ears perked.

JENNI: Still, this is the saga of my struggles with my shelter dog, Kali.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Credits: Filmmakers Jenni Funk and Cheryl Green.

Featuring Jenni Funk, Joan Funk, and Barbara Roach.

Featuring Kali and a picture of her lounging in her Oregon Ducks bed on a chair.

Music: [Shiny](#) and [Tweetstorm Gathering](#) by Podington Bear from Freemusicarchive.org. Attribution-noncommerical 3.0 international license.

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Wrap-up

[bright ambient music]

Every episode is transcribed. Links, guest info, and transcripts are all at [WhoAmIToStopIt.com](#), my disability arts blog. I'm Cheryl, and...

TWO VOICES: this is Pigeonhole.

CHERYL: Pigeonhole: Don't sit where society puts you.