

POOCHINI

"THE SERVANT"

Episode: 023-2 (2/2/00)

Written by Ariel Alexander Prendergast

INT. WHITE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Walter is stretched out on the couch happily watching TV. He is wearing a bathrobe. Both his hands and feet are wrapped tightly in gauze, rendering all four appendages totally useless.

WALTER

Aaaaahhhh! This is the life!

Wendy walks into the room. Walter's happy expression suddenly changes to agony and he moans pathetically.

WALTER (CONT'D)

(dramatically)

Oooooooooohhhhhhhh!!!

WENDY

Oh Walter, what hurts now, your hands or your feet?

WALTER

(fake crying)

All four-hor-horrerrrrr!

WENDY

This is your worst injury yet, Walter. I want you to promise me you'll never go bowling again!

WALTER

Sorry, honey. No can do! Bowling is the sport of champions, and yours truly is one of the great-

The phone rings from O/S, interrupting Walter. Wendy pats Walter on the head and then walks O/S to answer it.

WENDY

(patronizing)
Yes, Walter...I just don't want
you to get hurt. Besides, you've
still got shuffleboard!

Walter crosses his arms and scowls.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Wendy comes back into the room.

WENDY
Walter, that was my Aunt Hutney on
the phone-

Walter's morose expression turns to panic at the mention of
Aunt Hutney.

WALTER
No! Absolutely not! She is banned
from this house and that's-

WENDY
(angry)
Walter!

Walter falls silent at Wendy's sharp tone.

WENDY (CONT'D)
(calmly)
She's not coming over here. Billy
and I are going to her house for
lunch.

INT. BACKYARD - MORNING

Poochini is snoozing on the lawn when Wendy picks him up.
Poochini awakens in Wendy's arms and smiles groggily at
her.

POOCHINI
(wistfully)
Aaaahhhh, Wendy! How nice it is to
awaken in your kind embrace!

WENDY

Good morning, Poochini! Billy and I are leaving for a while, and I want you to look after Walter while we're gone.

POOCHINI
Of course! Anything for the lady of the house!

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

CUT TO:

Walter and Poochini sit still on the couch watching the same program, except that now, Walter has sagged in his seat and looks extremely bored and worn out. Poochini yawns.

POOCHINI
(yawn)

The Financial Newsmen drones on about the stock market.

FINANCIAL NEWSMAN (V.O.)
...going down 237.546 Points to 452.765, market analysts are worried about the future of adult diapers. Could it be we have just outgrown them? We have our team of experts-

POOCHINI
(big yawn)

Walter suddenly breaks out of his catatonic state and begins searching desperately for the remote. Poochini looks tired and uninterested.

WALTER
I can't stand it anymore! Where's the remote control?

POOCHINI
I'm sure I don't know.

Walter looks up towards the TV.

WALTER'S POV - TV SET

The remote is on the floor next to the TV set.

WALTER (V.O.)

**Oh no! It's all the way across the
room!**

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Walter leans back down in his seat on the couch. He looks defeated. He turns to Poochini.

WALTER

(wistfully)

**I wish you could retrieve that
remote Poochini!**

POOCHINI

**It would be my pleasure, Walter! I
am here to assist you in your time
of need!**

Poochini jumps off the couch and retrieves the remote.
Walter can't believe it.

WALTER

**Poochini! You understood me!
Thanks, boy!**

POOCHINI

**You're very welcome, now I will
retire for a little nap.**

Poochini settles down on the couch to nap.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Walter is still sitting in the same place, with Poochini
sleeping peacefully next to him. Walter nudges Poochini.

POOCHINI

(groggy)

Huh-wha? Where-

WALTER

**Man I'm hungry! Poochini, I wish
you were smart enough to fetch me
a sandwich!**

Poochini sighs and gets up and off the couch.

**POOCHINI
(sigh)**

Poochini walks O/S for a beat and returns with a loaf of bread. He drops it on the floor and walks O/S again. After another beat he returns with jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly lodged in his mouth. Walter is ecstatic.

**WALTER
Poochini! You're a genius!**

Poochini is pleased by the compliment.

**POOCHINI
(proud)
Thank You! It really is elementary
for a dog of my intelligence.**

Poochini jumps back on the couch and curls up to resume his nap.

CUT TO:

A close-up of Poochini snoozing peacefully when a huge glob of Peanut Butter lands on his head. Poochini looks up blinking his eyes. Suddenly a glob of Jelly splats in his face.

CUT TO:

Walter making a huge mess with the Peanut Butter, Jelly and Bread. Walter had been trying to make his own Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich, but his bound hands make it impossible.

**WALTER
(struggling)
Poochini if you had hands I'd ask
you to make this sandwich!**

Poochini gets up wearily from the couch and heads once more O/S.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Poochini heads to the refrigerator. He opens the door by pulling the towel on the door with his mouth.

He looks around in the fridge and sees a plate with a deli sandwich on it. He picks up the plate.

POOCHINI
(looking in fridge)
Hmmmmmmmm hmmmmmmmm
hmmmmmm...aaahhh!

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Poochini returns with the sandwich. Walter is a mess; he's covered in Peanut Butter and Jelly and has a piece of bread stuck to his hat.

WALTER
A deli sandwich! Poochini you're a
marvel! How did you learn to make
sandwiches?

Poochini tries to look modest. He brushes off Walter's accolade.

POOCHINI
Oh, it was nothing, really! I'm
just an above average dog living
in an average world!

WALTER
Wow, this is great! I thought I
was going to have to try to do
everything myself while Wendy was
gone, but now I've got you to do
it for me!

Poochini looks at camera with a panicked "what did I get myself into?" expression.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Poochini is once again fast asleep, this time on the kitchen floor. Suddenly he is rudely awakened by Walter's voice from O/S.

WALTER
(annoying voice)
Oh Poochiniiiiiiii!!!

CUT TO:

A montage of Poochini performing various tasks for Walter around the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

First Poochini is adjusting Walter's pillows. Walter complains about them.

WALTER
These pillows are really bad for
my sensitive back, Poochini!

The phone rings.

WALTER (CONT'D)
(dismissively)
Get that, would you, Poochini?

Poochini runs O/S to answer the phone.

Cut to Poochini barking into the receiver which is lying on the floor.

POOCHINI
(into receiver)
Bark Bark Bark!!

PERSON ON PHONE
Hello? Hello?

Suddenly Walter is heard O/S calling again for Poochini, but now he is also ringing a handheld service bell.

WALTER (V.O.)
Oh Poochiniiiiiiiiiiii!!!

Poochini runs O/S, leaving the phone off the hook.

Poochini runs into the room carrying Wendy's pink bunny slippers. Walter is still calling him and ringing his bell when Poochini arrives.

WALTER (CONT'D)
**Oh Poochiniiiiiiii-oh, there you
are, boy! Right on time, heh heh!**

Poochini drops the slippers at Walter's feet, then frantically runs back O/S.

EXT. MR. GARVEY'S BACKYARD - DAY

Mr. Garvey is napping in his lawn chair. Next to him on the table is a tray with a giant umbrella drink. Poochini sneaks into screen and grabs the tray in his mouth. He leaves undetected with the tray.

MR. GARVEY
(snoring)

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cut to Walter holding Mr. Garvey's umbrella drink and ringing his service bell.

WALTER
**Oh Poochiniiiii! Let's pick up the
pace, boy!**

Poochini comes into screen dragging a bag of ice cubes. He lays them on Walter's feet.

WALTER (CONT'D)
That's the ticket! Aaaaahhhh...

CUT TO:

Poochini sleeping again on the kitchen floor. Walter once again wakes him up with his call and service bell. Poochini puts his hands over his ears and tries to ignore Walter.

WALTER (V.O.)
Oh Poochiniiiii! Oh Poochiniiiii!

POOCHINI
(desperate whine)

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cut to Walter on the couch ringing his bell.

WALTER (CONT'D)

(whining)

**I called you and you didn't come!
Where were you?**

POOCHINI

**I-I'm sorry! It won't happen
again!**

WALTER

**The mail must be here by now,
would you...**

Cut to Walter once again ringing his bell frantically. Poochini comes into screen, holding a stack of envelopes and a small package in his jaws.

WALTER

**Ah! Right on schedule! Let's see
what Dirt and Bunk and Mr. Garvey
have in their mail today?**

Poochini drops the mail on the ground and passes out.

POOCHINI

Oooooohhhh...

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Poochini is dragging Walter's laundry over to the washing machine, when Walter begins calling and ringing his bell.

WALTER (V.O.)

Oh Poochini!

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Poochini runs up to Walter at the couch.

POOCHINI

Yes? What is it?

WALTER

**I need some help getting to the
bathroom, Poochini!**

Poochini grimaces.

POOCHINI
(disgusted whine)

INT. OUTSIDE OF BILLY'S BATHROOM DOOR - DAY

Walter reaches up to the doorknob and opens the door.

WALTER
Just in time, boy!

Poochini runs O/S.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Poochini is pouring soap into the washing machine when he hears the kettle whistling. He jumps off of the machine and runs O/S, the whole box of soap falls in.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Poochini runs into the kitchen where things are out of control. Several pots are cooking and boiling over on the stove, the iron is burning through the ironing board, and the phone is ringing off the hook.

EXT. WHITE'S FRONT DRIVEWAY - DAY

Wendy and Billy pull into the driveway to find Dirt, Bunk and Mr. Garvey waiting for them. Mr. Garvey walks right up to Wendy's car window and presents her with his mail. It has been opened and is covered in drool.

MR. GARVEY
Wendy, I have tried to be patient
with your husband, but this time
he has gone too far!

Bunk pokes his head in the window on Billy's side and voices his protest.

BUNK

**Yeah! He doesn't even have the
guts to steal our mail himself
anymore!**

Wendy's concerned expression turns to anger.

WENDY

**Well I'm sure there's some
reasonable explanation.**

Billy points towards the house.

BILLY

Mom, look!

Full shot of house as smoke is seen pouring out of the windows.

INT. BILLY'S BATHROOM - DAY

Cut to Walter on the toilet, sighing contentedly. He reaches for the toilet paper.

Walter tries to take some toilet paper off of the roll, but can't because of his bandaged hands. He fumbles with it pathetically, even trying to take some off with his teeth, but nothing works.

WALTER

Dang! Ohhhh Poochiniiii!!!

INT. OUTSIDE OF BILLY'S BATHROOM DOOR - DAY

Poochini skids to a halt in front of the door. Walter is calling and ringing his bell from inside the bathroom.

WALTER (V.O.)

**Oh Poochini! Ohhh
Poochiniiiiiiii!!!**

Poochini begins slowly backing away, shaking his head back and forth.

POOCHINI

No! This has gone far enough!

Poochini turns and runs away and O/S.

INT. KITCHEN/DOGGIE DOOR - DAY

Cut to Poochini sneaking out the back door. Walter is still calling and ringing his bell from the bathroom.

WALTER (V.O.)
Ohhh Poochiniiiiiiii!!!

EXT. WHITE'S FRONT DRIVEWAY - DAY

Wendy and Billy are out on the driveway when the fire truck arrives.

WENDY
They're here, Billy! Thank goodness!

EXT. WHITE'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

The firemen rush to the front door and begin chopping it down with their axes. Wendy intervenes and opens the door using the doorknob.

WENDY
Ahem. Pardon me, gentlemen.

INT. WHITE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Wendy and the firemen enter to find the pots on the stove smoking and boiling over, suds from the washing machine pouring out of the garage, and the phone ringing off the hook. The iron is burning a hole in the floor. Walter is still calling from the bathroom.

WALTER (V.O.)
Ohhh Poochiniiiiiiii!!!

EXT. BILLY'S BATHROOM DOOR - DAY

The firemen rush to the bathroom door and begin chopping at it with their axes.

WALTER (CONT'D)
Who's there?...

EXT. TRAINYARD - EVENING

The last shot is of Poochini running for a freight train.
The Hobo lifts him up into the train car.

THE END.