

Rescue from the Puppy Mill
By: Molly Weinfurter

PAGE ONE

Panel 1: Zoe is inside her apartment with her back to the front door. Three small dogs are at her feet (the breeds and appearances of the dogs are not important). Zoe is crouched down unhooking the leash off one of the dog's collars.

1 SFX (from door): Knock! Knock!

Panel 2: Zoe has opened the door and over her shoulder, Robby is shown. He has a concerned look on his face.

2 Robby: Hey, Zoe, can I come in?

Panel 3: Zoe and Robby stand in the entrance of her apartment. The small dogs surround Robby with their tails wagging.

3 Zoe: Hold on, Robby, I'll go see what guns I have for you today.

4 Robby: Actually, I'm not here for new guns today. I need your help on a mission.

5 Zoe: Wait, what? That's not my place, you know I'm just the gun dealer.

Panel 4: Robby is now holding one of the dogs in his arms and he is standing closer to Zoe. Zoe has a look of fear on her face, but Robby is simply looking adoringly at the dog.

6 Robby: But Zoe, the mission is to save dogs.

7 Zoe: Really? Why didn't you start with that? What is it?

8 Robby: Well, I'm a little confused about it myself. I'm not sure why someone needs this guy dead, but maybe you can explain it better.

Panel 5: This is a shot of Robby from the waist up so the dog in his arms can still be seen. Robby has a concerned look on his face.

9 Robby: Apparently there's some puppy mill in a nearby forest. I'm getting paid to kill the guy that's running it.

10 Robby: But isn't this guy just breeding a few dogs? What's the harm in that?

Panel 6: Zoe holds the collar of Robby's shirt tightly and stares him straight in the eye, giving him a death stare.

11 Zoe: **Just** breeding puppies? Robby, puppy mills breed dogs nonstop just for the money. They don't follow the laws for normal breeders.

12 Robby: I guess, but--

13 Zoe: Some dogs come out of puppy mills not even knowing how to walk. They fear humans for the rest of their lives! Many parents are killed in puppy mills if they can't breed anymore.

Panel 7: Zoe has now stepped away from Robby. Her arms are crossed, and she still appears angry. Robby scratches his head and frowns.

14 Robby: I'm sorry, I didn't realize. I can see how important this is to you.

15 Zoe: Look, I know you only take hits in order to help others, so please, let me help you with this one. Dog's lives are at stake.

16 Robby: Of course, let's go.

PAGE TWO

Panel One: This panel should take up about half the page. It is a shot of a small, shabby house with paint peeling. A faint light is on inside the house. There is a large fenced in backyard behind the house. The fence appears rusted and flimsy. In the foreground, the back of Zoe and Robby's heads can be seen facing the house.

- 1 Caption: A few hours later...
- 2 SFX (from backyard): Yelp! Howl!
- 3 Zoe: This is worse than I thought...
- 4 Robby: Poor dogs.

Panel Two: Zoe is shown trying to run forward, but Robby grabs her arm to stop her. Zoe has a determined look on her face while Robby seems concerned. Zoe has two dogs by her side: a German Shepherd named Duke and a Border Collie named Sammy. Zoe and Robby each have a small gun in their hands.

- 5 Zoe: We have to go save them right **now!** Come on, Robby!
- 6 Robby: Zoe, we have to be careful. We can't just rush into it, that's not the best way to go about this.

Panel Three: Zoe yanks her hand away from Robby's grasp. She is giving him an annoyed glance.

- 7 Zoe: I don't care how it's usually done. I know how to protect dogs so just let me do so!

PAGE THREE

Panel One: Zoe and Robby are now close to the backyard. They are both facing the fence. Silhouettes of cages and dogs can be seen, but the details of the other side of the fence are not clear yet.

1 Robby: This is horrible.

2 Zoe: I know. It looks like they're only breeding Rottweilers right now,

Panel Two: A close up of what is on the other side of the fence is shown, on four cages in particular. Two of the cages have a few adult Rottweilers in them, but the cages are so small that the large dogs really can barely even move. Their fur is filthy and they have a sad look in their eyes. The other two cages are filled very young puppies. All the puppies look confused and scared.

3 Zoe (Off Panel): These dogs sell for a lot, but they can be known to be aggressive.

4 Zoe (Off Panel): So, if this guy can't sell them as pets, these puppies could be sold to dog fights as they grow older.

Panel Three: Zoe is close to the fence, but Robby keeps his distance. Both are looking into the yard. They appear sad at the sight of the dogs.

5 Zoe: Alright, I have to go save them.

6 Robby: Zoe, we can't rush into this. Plus, we're here to kill the guy responsible. We can worry about the dogs after, okay?

Panel Four: Zoe begins to climb the fence without looking back at Robby. Robby stays on the ground behind her, frowning.

7 Zoe: I'm not going to sit around and wait while there are dogs in danger!

Panel Five: A red light flashes nearby. Zoe is shown jumping back from the fence in fear. She lands beside Robby and her dogs.

8 SFX (alarm): Beep! Beep! Beep!

9 Robby: Now look what you did! You set off an alarm!

Panel Six: Zoe and Robby look as if they're about to run off, but a net is shown being shot toward them, casting a shadow over where it's about to land. They are both looking back at it in

fear. The small guns that they were holding in their hands appear to fall just outside of the net's faint shadow.

10 Zoe: Quick! Let's find a place to hide!

11 Robby: Oh no...

PAGE FOUR

Panel One: The net is on top of Zoe and Robby, stuck to the ground. Duke, The German Shepherd, is caught with them, but the Sammy, the Border Collie, can be seen running back toward the forest in fear. Zoe and Robby struggle to get out.

- 1 Zoe: I'm so sorry, Robby.
2 Zoe: I should've been more careful.

Panel Two: A guard approaches the net with a smirk on his face. He has a gun in hand. Zoe and Robby's guns can be seen on the ground outside of the net.

- 3 Guard: What do you two think you're doing? This is private property!
4 Zoe (whispering to Robby): Is this the guy we're looking for?
5 Robby (whispering back): No, looks like just a guard.

Panel Three: An angry look crosses the guard's face. He is now pointing a gun toward Duke. Zoe and Duke look scared, but Robby remains calm.

- 6 Guard: What are you guys even doing here?
7 Robby: Please don't shoot! We just came to buy some puppies, that's all.

Panel Four: A closeup on the guard from the waist up. He is now visibly angrier.

- 8 Guard: How dumb do you think I am?
9 Guard: Why would anyone try to scale the fence if they were just going to buy some puppies?

Panel Five: This is a shot of Robby and Zoe, still caught under the net. Zoe and her dog still appear scared. Robby is trying to remain calm, but a bead of sweat drips from his forehead.

- 10 Robby: Yeah, well, my friend here wanted to get a closer look at the puppies first.
11 Robby: I guess she didn't notice that there was a gate, so that's why she climbed the fence.

Panel Six: Both the net and the guard are shown again. The guard grips the gun tighter and holds it closer to Duke's head.

- 12 Guard: You better be telling the truth or I'm going to shoot this dog!

Panel Seven: This is a smaller panel with a close up of Zoe's face. She appears terrified.

13 SFX (from gun): Bang!

PAGE FIVE

Panel One: The guard is shown lying on the ground with a bullet hole in his head. Zoe and Robby stare at him in confusion.

1 Zoe: What just happened?

Panel Two: T Money is shown jumping out of some bushes alongside the house. A gun is in his hands. It is slightly larger than Zoe and Robby's guns were. A smirk stretches across his face. He is clearly up to something.

Panel Three: T Money is approaching the net now. Zoe smiles at him, but Robby is frowning.

2 Zoe: Thank you so much for helping us!

3 T Money: Help you? I'm not here to help you.

4 Robby: How typical of you, T Money.

Panel Four: A shot of T Money approaching the fence is shown. He is reaching for it, about to climb it just like Zoe was.

5 T Money: I was here for the reward, just like you two, I assume.

6 T Money: But I snuck all around this place and the target doesn't appear to be home.

Panel Five: T Money begins to climb the fence. His grin grows wider.

7 T Money: And then I realized, I could make much more money by selling these puppies myself.

Panel Six: T Money lands on the other side of the fence.

8 SFX: Thud!

9 T Money: Thank you guys for helping make this so easy for me.

PAGE SIX

Panel One: Zoe lands on the ground beside T Money with a proud look on her face. T Money is surprised.

1 Zoe: Not so fast. You're not taking these dogs. They need to go somewhere safe!

2 T Money: Wait, how did you...?

Panel Two: The net is shown, but it down has a hole under it that Duke dug. Robby and Duke are now standing outside of the net. The dog has muddy paws and Robby is reaching down to grab his gun.

3 T Money (Off Panel): No way!

Panel Three: Zoe pushes past T Money and runs toward the cages. T Money looks angry.

4 T Money: Give it a rest, Zoe! You don't even have enough space for all these dogs.

5 Zoe: Of course, I do! Stop acting like you know me so well!

Panel Four: Zoe is shown next to some of the cages with adult dogs in it. She has opened the cage, but the dogs just stay put.

6 Zoe: Come on out, Sweeties. It's okay.

7 SFX (from dogs): Whimper.

Panel Five: Robby is shown next to the fence. He looks puzzled.

8 Robby: Hey, guys? You might want to get out of there. I thought I heard something.

Panel Six: A shot of Robby outside the fence and Zoe and T Money inside the fence is shown. A bright light shines on them and they all look at it in fear.

PAGE SEVEN

Panel One: A car is shown pulling up to the small house. The man inside does not seem to see Robby, Zoe, or T Money.

1 Robby (Off Panel): That's the guy we're looking for.

Panel Two: Zoe, T Money, and Robby are all on the outside of the fence now. They are sneaking away from the car.

2 Zoe (whispering): What do we do?

3 T Money: **We?** I'm not a part of this. You guys go chase him and I'll get back to figuring out what to do with these purebred puppies!

4 Robby (whispering): T Money, be quiet. If we don't be careful, then none of us will get what we want.

Panel Three: This is a shot of Zoe hugging Duke. She has a concerned look on her face.

5 Zoe: Please help us, T Money. There are so many ways that you can get some extra cash without harming innocent dogs.

Panel Four: T Money is shown with his arms crossed. He is frowning ever so slightly.

6 T Money: Fine, but only if I get the reward in the end.

Panel Five: All three of them are shown looking back toward the car. They all have a small hint of fear in their eyes.

7 Breeder (Off Panel): Hey! Is someone there?

8 Zoe: What should we do?

9: T Money: Let's get him.

PAGE EIGHT

Panel One: T Money is shown running forward with a gun in hand, pointed forward.

1 T Money: That reward is mine.

Panel Two: A shot of T Money running toward the breeder is shown. Zoe and Robby follow behind. The breeder appears very shocked.

2 Breeder: Who the hell are you?

Panel Three: The breeder is running into the woods, extremely far in front of T Money. T Money begins shooting his gun toward the target, but all the shots miss.

3 SFX (T Money's gun): Bang! Bang!

Panel Four: Robby, Zoe, and T Money are standing outside the wooded area. The breeder is nowhere to be found.

4 Zoe: Wait, where did he go?

5 T Money: Come on, he's in there somewhere! No need to stop.

Panel Five: A close up of Robby is shown. He appears to be thinking.

6 Robby: Why don't we split up to look for him? That way at least one of us will be able to find him.

Panel Six: All three of them are shown again. T Money appears to be shrugging.

7 T Money: Alright, whatever. Let's just do it.

PAGE NINE

Panel One: Zoe is running in the wooded area with Duke by her side. She has a gun in her hands, and she looks scared.

1 Zoe: Duke, do you see anything?

Panel Two: Zoe stops running and looks around. There is still a frown on her face. Duke is sniffing the ground.

2 Zoe: I have no idea where we are. Can you smell the breeder?

3 SFX (from Duke): Sniff. Sniff.

Panel Three: Duke runs in the opposite direction and Zoe is shown trailing behind.

4 Zoe: Duke! Wait up!

Panel Four: Duke comes to a stop in front of the fenced in yard again. He and Zoe are shown from the back, looking toward the yard.

5 Zoe: I don't understand. This is where we came from.

Panel Five: A close up of the fence is shown. There is a gate on one side of the fence, and a figure is walking up to it. It is the breeder.

6 SFX (from Duke Off Panel): Grrr.

Page Six: This is a close up on the breeder's face. He looks angry and he is looking in Zoe's direction now.

7 Breeder: What was that?

PAGE TEN

Panel One: This is a wide shot of Zoe and Duke looking at the breeder. Zoe has her gun pointed toward the breeder and Duke appears to be growling.

1 Zoe: Stop right there.

Panel Two: The breeder is shown making a run for it. Zoe and Duke are far behind him, clearly not going to catch up.

Panel Three: This is a close up of the breeder from the waist up. Sammy, Zoe's Border Collie that ran off earlier, is jumping out of the bushes at the target. The breeder is looking at Sammy in fear.

2 Breeder: What the hell?

3 Zoe (Off Panel): Good job, Sammy!

Panel Four: Sammy has pinned the breeder to the ground. He is staring his target down with a snarl. The breeder appears to be struggling to escape.

4 Breeder: Get off me, stupid dog.

5 SFX (from Sammy): Grrr!

Panel Five: Zoe's back is shown, and she is facing the breeder. Her gun is now pointed straight at his head.

6 Zoe: Any last words?

Panel Six: A close up on Zoe's face is shown. She appears confused, as if she's not sure if she should kill him or not.

7 Zoe: Wait...

PAGE ELEVEN

Panel One: Zoe is shown standing her ground with her gun pointed forward. Duke is beside her with a snarl on his face. Zoe is looking down at him as if she's thinking.

Panel Two: Zoe and Duke are shown from the side, both looking forward in the direction of the breeder. Zoe has now lowered her gun.

1 Zoe: Duke, Sammy... finish him.

Panel Three: Duke is shown running forward with an angry look in his eyes. The breeder is shown in front of him, looking terrified. Sammy is still on top of him, giving him a death stare.

2 SFX (from Duke and Sammy): Grr!

3 Breeder: No! Please don't hurt me!

Panel Four: Zoe is standing in the distance with her arms crossed. She has an evil smirk on her face. The fenced in yard is shown behind her with some of the Rottweiler's watching in awe.

4 Zoe: Revenge has never felt so good.

Panel Five: Zoe is shown approaching the fenced in yard. She is reaching toward the gate. Some of the Rottweilers that she let out of the cages before are sitting near the gate, but they are cowering.

5 Zoe: It's okay. I'm here to help you.

6 Zoe: I won't let anyone hurt you again.

PAGE TWELVE

Panel One: Robby and T Money are running out of the wooded area. They look confused.

1 Robby: Zoe! What's going on?

2 T Money: We thought we heard something!

Panel Two: Robby and T Money have paused at the sight of the breeder's body. Their backs are shown facing the body, which is placed a bit in the distance.

3 T Money: Wait, Zoe killed him? But she's not even a hitman! She should've called us over to do it!

4 Robby: Don't be ridiculous. I think she did a great job.

Panel Three: A shot of Zoe is shown. She is standing near the fenced-in yard with her arms crossed proudly. Duke is sitting beside her with his tail wagging and Sammy is leading the Rottweilers out of the yard.

5 Zoe: I didn't do it, my dogs did! That way, he got what he deserved.

6 Zoe: Now, come on. We need to get the rest of the dogs and get out of here!

Panel Four: Zoe is inside the yard, opening another cage. Robby is now beside her with a confused look on his face.

7 Robby: Alright, Zoe, but what are you going to do with all these dogs?

8 Zoe: They can stay with me for a while, of course. You know I have a lot of space and I have friends that can help watch them as well.

9 Zoe: But obviously, I can't keep them all. I'll find a good home for each of them, don't worry.

Panel Five: T Money is still standing outside the yard. He is shown with his back facing out and he is staring into the yard. Zoe and Robby are looking back at him in confusion.

10 T Money: Well, I'm getting out of here. My work here is done.

11 T Money: But, just to be clear, I'm still taking that reward.

12 Zoe: T Money, wait.

Panel Six: Zoe and Robby are now standing closer to T Money. Zoe has a smile on her face, but T Money looks confused.

13 T Money: What do you want now, Zoe?

14 Zoe: I just wanted to say thank you for helping us today. Of course, you can take the reward. All I wanted was to save these dogs.

15 Robby: Yeah, thank you.

Panel Seven: A small smile appears on T Money's face. He is shown next to Zoe and Robby still. Zoe and Robby have a big smile on their faces. The dogs around them are slowly wagging their tails.

16 T Money: On second thought, let me help you guys get these dogs out of here.