

Molly

Genre: Family

Logline: He saved her life, then she helped him find his.

Registered Writers Guild of America west 1851198

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Joe Watts (who bears a striking resemblance to Bruce Willis) is a welder for ACE welding in Lincoln Nebraska, but his passion is riding Harleys. Joe is the leader of the Pistons—one of the most notorious Biker groups in the country apart from their archrival, the Jacks.

Although they never commit crimes, they are they are a tough bunch and love to party each year at the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis SD—near the Black Hills. Joe has an adult daughter somewhere Texas, but his self-absorbed biker life has always kept him from ever reaching out and getting to know her.

The McGuire's on the other hand live in the suburbs of Chicago. Dan owns a construction firm and his wife Samantha is a teacher in the public schools. They have a teenage son by the name of Steven and an 8-year-old daughter by the name of Anna.

The story begins in August when Anna's parents surprise her with a golden retriever puppy on her birthday. She names the dog Molly and tells her father how she can't wait for her dog to grow up and have more puppies like her. Her father downplays the idea, knowing that they will have Molly spaded shortly after their RV vacation to the Black Hills in week. After washing the RV and it's license plate that reads: THEMCGUIRES for the long journey to the Black Hills that night, he shows Anna a kennel that he bought for Molly—just for their vacation.

Meanwhile in Nebraska, Joe is finishing his last welding project on Friday afternoon. Working by the lathe machine, his fellow coworker and gang member Karl, hands him a pair of brass knuckles that he made himself on from some scrap brass and tells him it will come in handy in their rumble with the Jacks. Joe takes them and admires their handy work. Thanks he tells him—'I might need them, knowing what we did to them last year.' Karl smiles and walks out.

Living in a trailer home with a motorcycle shed out back, Joe is down on the garage floor that night fine-tuning his Harley. It is a black beauty with all the bells and whistles afforded such a hog. When Rocky, his next-door neighbor, makes his nightly visit, he finds Joe hard at work making some adjustments. Rocky a former boxer, in his late 50s, is a biker want-to-be and comes to hob nob with Joe as if to get his motorcycle fix by osmosis listening to more of Joe's stories of biker adventures—especially against the Jacks. Rocky then tells Joe a few of his own adventures against the bullies he faced in 5th grade at his elementary school in Philly. One time he actually told the biggest bully –this guy by the name of Apollo–that his shoes were untied before he was going to fight him at recess. 'It was the oldest

trick in the book—you know, when they look down you kick em where the sun don't shine and get a jump on em see?' he tells Joe boxing in the air.

'So what happened?' asks Joe tightening a bolt while lying on his back

'He looks down and sees that his shoes were really untied --so he bends over and ties em-- and when he realizes I didn't kick him while he was down, he thanks me for a fair fight.

'Yeah, so what happened after that?' Joe asks

'He whooped me,' replies Rocky. 'Hey, I was I was only a scrawny kid then, but the funny thing is we became best buds after that...he invited me over to his garage and everything man—it was a real man cave—it had everything this place aint got—you know class, they had a TV, a microwave, a refrigerator filled with all kinds of sodas and stuff, a pool table ...oh man now that was a cool pool table--slate marble top with them curly cue felt things on the pockets.'

'I bet it was,' says Joe says trying to tighten a bolt

'And then we'd watch Batman after school--you know Pow, Zap Kaboom,' Rocky says jabbing in the air...'yeah man it was like Batman taught me all my moves—go figure huh? ' Joe sarcastic...'yeah go figure.'

'Say Rocky, can you hand me a 8 millimeter socket there in the tool box?'

'Yeah, sure thing.'

When Rocky reaches for the socket, he knocks over the Snap-On toll box and all the tools fly across the floor. As Rocky is trying to pick up the mess, his wife calls for him to come home. Rocky lays a few of the sockets wrenches next to Joe and tells him he has to go, Joe tells him no problem and that he can find the socket himself--somewhere in the mess.

Finished for the night, Joe reaches in his pocket and pulls out his brass knuckles and tries them on—they fit perfectly and he smiles revealing a missing tooth then punches in the air making the same noises as Rocky: Zap Kaboom, Pow!

The next morning the McGuires head out in their RV to the Black. Anna holds Molly, and when she wines, she tells her dad that she has to pee. They pull into a way side rest and Anna gets out with a leash and lets Molly pee in the grass. As the trips progresses, we see the RV pull over time and time again as Anna gets out and lets Molly pee. 'She's a smart little dog,' Samantha tells Anna. Anna Agrees. When they get to Wall Drug in Wall SD, Dan buys Molly a little name tag to go on her pink little collar that says "Molly" on one side and "Wall Drug" on the other and pays for it with a credit card. Steven is wearing his Cubs baseball hat and the cashier, a young man form Chicago comments on the Cubs and then asks if he is any relation to mark McGuire, the baseball player. Steven tells him no, but thanks for asking while all of the other shoppers admire Molly.

The next day, Joe, Karl and the rest of his gang ride to Sturgis. As they pass city after city, more Pistons join the caravan like tributary streams join the mighty Mississippi--and Joe is leading it all.

Meanwhile, when the McGuires get to their camp site in the Black Hills, Dan is all about making things comfortable and then starts grilling. Anna and her brother Steve explore the fast flowing river near their campsite and comment how beautiful it all is.

When Joe arrives at the Piston's campsite in Sturgis that night, more and more bikers greet him. He is the man, the leader of the group and a few of his fellow bikers tell him about the Jacks and their campsite according to a few scouting reports. That night the Pistons celebrate and beer is passed out and it is one big party. The next day they take their annual scenic ride to through the Black Hills, and as they are going through Sturgis en-route to the Black Hills, they pass the Jacks on the streets for Sturgis, who eye them contemptuously. Their leader, Hans Hogan, who strikes an amazing resemblance to Hulk Hogan, stands on the corner sharpening his knife and tips it as Joe passes by. Joe smiles.

As the Pistons ride through the scenic roads of the Black Hills they stop and rest at one of the local parks and Joe and a few of his guys go off to see the nearby river and wash their sweaty faces.

Meanwhile, Dan is grilling lunch as Samantha sets the table out side. When Steve and Anna decide to play Frisbee, Molly keeps getting in the way. Anna then takes her and puts her in the kennel outside while they throw to each other. Molly wines and paws the kennel door and suddenly it pops open. When a butterfly passes by, Molly gives chase and soon ends up down by the river. When the butterfly passes by once again, Molly paws at it near an embankment, then slips and falls into the fast flow flowing current.

Down stream Joe is washing his face and enjoying the scenery when he hears the whimpering of a dog nearby. Soon he sees Molly struggling in the river and jumps in to save it and is now caught in the fast flowing stream. Passing an overhanging branch, he grabs it and hangs on for dear life with one hand holding the dog with and hand as the other hand holds on to the branch. Soon Karl and others come to the rescue and fish them both out of the water.

When Dan calls them all to lunch at the picnic table, Anna goes to let Molly out of her kennel and sees that she is missing and suddenly the whole family goes on dog hunt, asking all of the adjacent neighbors, but no one has seen the dog.

Meanwhile as Joe and Molly are drying off, one of the bikers gives Joe his Pistons jacket and sees the pink collar and the nametag. Finding her owner will be like finding a needle in a haystack,' he tells Joe, 'Looks like you got yourself a dog.'

As they ride back through Sturgis to their campsite, Joe leads the pack with Molly tucked in his jacket with only her head showing. When they pass the Jacks along the streets of Sturgis, a few of them give sarcastic glares. Hans raises his knife again as Molly licks Joe's face.

Meanwhile the McGuire are posting reward signs with every park ranger they can find in addition to posting it at grocery stores and lampposts. That night beside the campfire Dan

holds his teary eyed daughter in his arms as she tells him how much she misses Molly and wonders if she is OK.

Meanwhile Molly is having a blast and is the bell of the Pistons ball—eating every piece of steak Joe and the boys offer her from the grill. Thick necked, tattooed, and burly bike riders are all coming up to say hello and going gaga over the pup. Even the biker ladies are coming in and petting it. When one of the bikers starts feeding it beer, Joe is quick to yell at him telling him it not good for dog. Drunk, the biker ignores Joe and continues to feed it beer. Angry, Joe takes him down. Disgusted the biker walks away, “all for a stupid pup!” he cries out, and then goes to his own tent. That night Molly is asleep in Joes arms and then starts to wine and go to the tent door. Joe lets her out and she goes pee then runs back into his arms and he takes her back into the tent...two hours later it is the same routine. At breakfast the next morning Joe looks tired...

When the Pistons ride into town the next morning Molly is tucked into Joe’s jacket with her head sticking out. He takes her everywhere, stopping now and then to let her go to the bathroom. When she poops on main street, one of his tough biker buddies hands him a plastic potato chip bag, Joe winces from the smell, turns it inside out and scoops up the poop and throws it in a nearby trash can under the careful supervision of a nearby officer who knows all to well who Joe is and the trouble he can start with the Jacks.

When a verbal altercation erupts between members of that Jacks and the Pistons, the officer is quick to put an end to it. But as the Jack’s are leaving Hans yells out to Joe that they will see them at the OK corral tonight...this aint over...We will be waiting says Joe

As the boys are preparing for battle that night, Joe tries on his brass knuckles. A few of the biker ladies try to convince them it is all in vain. But their cries go unnoticed. Joe rounds up his boys and they head for the corral and wait. One of the ladies by the name of Sally is left holding Molly and Joe tells her to take good care of her. After the Pistons leave, Sally gets on her own cycle with Molly to see the event at the corral.

Under torchlights and motorcycle lights, Hans meets Joes out in the middle of the field and both sides are looking to square off like two opposing armies. As the ladies watch from the sidelines, Molly gets loose and rushes to Joe. He picks her up and she licks his face as Hans just stands there watching. ‘Golden retriever?’ Hans asks Joe, I think so, might have little lab in her--see the nose?’ Hans nods. ‘Yean, mind if I hold her?’ he asks. ‘Go ahead.’ Joes says hand him the dog. Soon Molly is licking Hans face. ‘Cute little dog,’ he says... got a name? Yeah Molly—it’s on the collar..

As they talk the two gangs are getting impatient...We come here to fight or pet the dog one of the Jacks yells out.

Hans turns around stares him in the face and says ‘we’ll fight when I’m good and ready to fight and on my signal—you got that?’ the other biker shakes his head and gets back in line. Hans then raises his hand and the fighting starts while he and Joe continue to talk about dogs.

'I used to have a dog name Molly. Best dog I ever had,' he says handing Molly back to Joe while the fighting rages around them like the scene from Star Wars and Pirate of the Caribbean with knives flying and fists swinging almost hitting them as they continue to talk in the quiet eye of the storm.

'Nice brass knuckles,' Hans tells Joe. 'Mind if I see them?'

'No,' says Joe and hands him the brass knuckles...

'Fine work,' says Hans. 'Yeah real nice.'

'My buddy made em special.'

Joe asks him to remind him why they are fighting again and Hans tells him it all started 28 years ago when some of your guys stole grandpa Jack's hog

'Oh that's bad...one of the Pistons huh?' asks Joe

'Yep,' replies Hans

'That must have been before my time ...so did he ever get it back,' asks Joe

'Yeah--in bones and the hide and all the teeth were missing,' states Hans

'The hog?' ask Joe

'Yeah the hog,' replies Hans

'The Harley hog?' Joe asks

'The what?' replies Hans.

'The Harley hog...you know what they call Harleys?' states Joe

'No,' replies Hans. 'I'm talking about the hog roast for grandpa's 65th birthday Pistons came up the night before and stole it right from out under us'

When the fighting stops, both sides lay exhausted then get on their bikes. Hans and Joe shake hands and say goodnight. and ride to their respective camps.

The McGuires however have exhausted their avenues for finding Molly and Anna has given up all hope. On their quiet trip back home, Anna is in tears. Dan sees a sign for free puppies and turns in to see them but Anna doesn't want to. She is heart broken over the loss of her dog.

The next day as Joe is going to town, he sees a little girl holding her puppy and it reminds him of the stray dog his daughter found years ago. Sitting around the fire that night he tells Karl that he won't be going home with them the next morning. He is going to look for the dog's owner. He tells Karl that when his little girl lost her dog after a few months, he never took the time to find it because it wasn't important enough to him at the time. Looking back, he always wished he had. Now he wonders what has become of her.

When the group is getting ready to break camp the next morning at breakfast, he shakes hands with Karl and the rest of the Pistons

The next scene is Joe rolling down the highway with Molly tucked in his jacket and smelling everything in sight. It is slow going as he stops by the side of the road and lets her pee. He then stops at the Wall drug in Wall SD and asks who might know if they remember a family that bought this collar. The store clerk--a young man--recalls the dog and how he had pet it. 'Did they pay cash? or credit?' Joe asks and the young clerk tells him it was a credit card. Joe asks if there is any way he can get that information from about a week ago, but his manager intervenes and tells him it is all confidential.

As Joe and Molly are sitting among the statues in the Wall Drug foyer, the clerk comes out and tells him the name was McGuire like Mark McGuire, the baseball player and he wore a Cubs hat and were from Chicago and were driving an RV to the Black Hills. Joe tries to slip him a 20 but the clerk refuses. 'Just find the owner,' he tells Joe.

Joe takes a trip to Chicago and begins going through the phone book there are a million McGuires...he starts with a few pubs and asks if anyone knows of a little girl who had a dog that traveled to the Black Hills about a week ago. No one seems to know but invite him for a beer. Tavern after tavern he gets treated to beers and then he starts crossing off the list. At night in their mice infest motel, Molly has to go potty and she wines by the door. He can't get there in time and she poops on the carpet. From his hotel room, he calls every McGuire in the book but non answer then realizes the phone book is 5 years old ...great just great...

When he checks out, the hotel clerk asks him if his stay was OK...he tells him the carpet smell like poop when you first go in there, you might want to check it out. They give him a fee night for the inconvenience and he takes it.

At the end of his rope, he calls Rocky...I need a favor. Look, I'm trying to find a McGuire in the Chicago area with an RV. You got any ideas? Yeah Adrian is great with this stuff, she used to be a librarian...I'll see what we can do on Google or...or that business thing...Linked out ...Linked in Adriane tells him overhearing his conversation... 'Whatever,' he replies.

While Dan is working at his construction site, he gets a call that that someone has been inquiring about a McGuire with a golden retriever puppy --one of the guys remembered about your dog... came into the pub yesterday with a golden retriever puppy asking to the where about of a McGuire--'It's got to be your dog Dan.'

Dan phones Samantha and they tell Anna that someone is trying to find them. As they get in their car and start driving around, they just miss Joe who has tucked Molly inside his jacket riding past them on his motorcycle....'what are we going to do mom Anna asks. 'We are just going to drive driving around and let the good Lord lead us,' she replies.

Then Dan starts going to every McGuire's pub around and asks if any one has left their number or any other information. But none of them do.

When Joe checks into another hotel, he calls Rocky for any updates and Adrian has a few of the areas and she punches it into his cell phone and his GPS leads him on a wild goose chase...exhausted, he passes by a neighborhood and sees an RV. 'THEMCGUIRES' it says on the license plate.

'I think this it,' he tells Molly and pulls up and stares across the street. When he finally sees the McGuires pull up on their van, he sees Anna get out of the car holding the little empty kennel. When Anna breaks down and cries, Joe sees Dan take her into his arms, as he should have done with his own daughter years go. As tears stream down the sides of his face, he sees their family all coming together in their grief--and for the first time he begins to realize what he has been missing all these years. Once the family goes inside, Molly starts to whine. He kisses her and then carefully goes up to the RV and opens the door and puts her inside. As he starts to walk away, the dog begins to bark and Anna runs out and finds her in the RV and yells to the rest of the family. Suddenly she sees Joe just standing there by the curb. Are you the man who found my dog?

'Yes,' Joe replies.

As Dan and the rest of the family come out, Anna grabs Joe by the hand and brings him to her father 'This is the man that found my dog!' she cries. Can we give him one of Molly's puppies? she asks her father. Dan nods. "Yes,' he finally replies.

'So how...how did you find us and why?' ask Dan

'It's a long story and I just wanted to do the right thing,' Joe says, 'something I haven't been very good at most of his life.'

'I'm sorry, I didn't even catch your name...I'm Dan McGuire, he says extending his hand.

'I'm Joe Watts,' he says shaking hands.

'From Chicago?'

'No from Lincoln Nebraska,' Joe replies

'Joe, I cant tell you what this means to me and our family,' says Dan. 'What do I owe you?'

'Your a good father,' Joe says, 'that's enough.'

Dan invites him to stay but Joe is reluctant. 'No,' he replies, 'I have a daughter to find.'

Two months later we see Joe pulling up beside a modest house and simply sits there. When a car pulls up, a young woman gets out with a small little boy.

'Tiffany?' Joe yells...Dad?' she replies

The movie ends

As the credits roll, the screen darkens. Two years later comes across the screen. Joe is polishing his Harley, when the McGuire's RV stops in front of his trailer home. He looks up confused. Soon the door opens and out walks Anna holding a golden retriever puppy. As she walks up to Joe, Molly runs out and licks him