

## Outline : Floyd & Mona: The Lovers Who Outrun Death (11-min)

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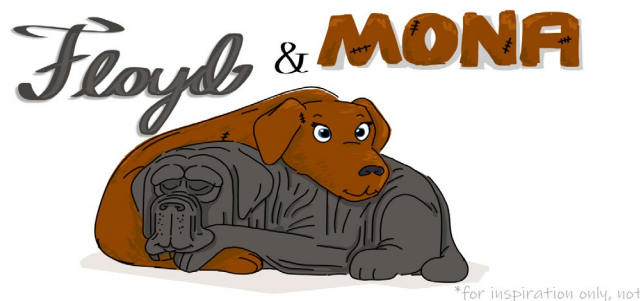
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### Act 1

Floyd. A gentle soul. A middle-aged Mastiff, Floyd is up for adoption at a shelter. It's a really nice small town shelter – bright colors, ample outdoor space, friendly workers – but it's still a shelter. Floyd's just a bit down on his luck, having been there for a while but not yet adopted. The shelter workers love him. But they can't spend all day with him. And he's lonely.

Enter: Mona. A stunning Ridgeback with a bit of an anti-authority streak. Shelter workers are bringing her in, but with a little trouble. She keeps dodging their attempts to corral her, sticking her tongue out at them. But she's also a little agitated. And a little hurt. Floyd notices some cuts. Looks like from a fight. With some trouble and a lot of gentle words, the caring shelter workers get her in a pen (next to Floyd). They try to calm her down with some food to no avail. She's still a bit jumpy. The workers leave her alone to settle in.

Floyd, ever the gentle soul, reaches out to Mona. She recoils. She's untrusting. And rightfully so – it looks like she's been through some tough times. But through patience (and through a montage), Floyd earns her trust. Brings her toys. Saves extra food for her. Mona starts opening up a bit. Showing more of her playful side – offering Floyd toys in return but then playfully denying him, etc. We see that, after some time, Mona has come to trust Floyd. The two are eventually put in an open pen together. They start napping next to each other. It's clear: Mona has come to love Floyd, and Floyd loves Mona.



One day, Mona wakes up and Floyd is gone. She curiously jogs to the shelter window, where she sees Floyd in the back of a minivan being hugged by a young girl. He's finally been adopted by a loving family! Mona is frightened. She is losing the one thing in life that has brought her solace. She panics. Breaks past the flimsy front gate of the shelter, bolts out the front door and runs across the street

chasing the miniva – SCREEEEEEEECH – flash to white.

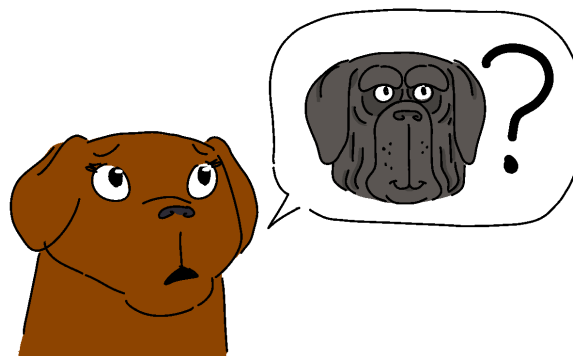
Fade from white to a sleepy Mona. She's just opening her eyes, as if from a nap. Reveal: We're in an entirely white space. No walls, no nothing. And standing across from her is Death.



## Act 2

Mona freaks out. WTF! Death! She growls at Death, but Death makes a "whoa whoa whoa it's all okay" gesture that calms her down. Kinda shrugs like "Hmm yeah, sorry. This kinda sucks. But..." Death gestures behind them, and Mona sees it: Dog Heaven! Dogs bouncing on clouds! Biscuits raining from the sky! Chew toys that never break! One dog even ACTUALLY CATCHES HIS OWN TAIL! (He yips in triumph while the dog audience claps for him.) Death gestures towards heaven like "They're waiting for you", and all the dogs in Dog Heaven usher Mona to come join them!

Mona smiles. Starts walking towards Dog Heaven. But has a thought and stops. She barks a single bark. A question, which we see as a picture in a word bubble:



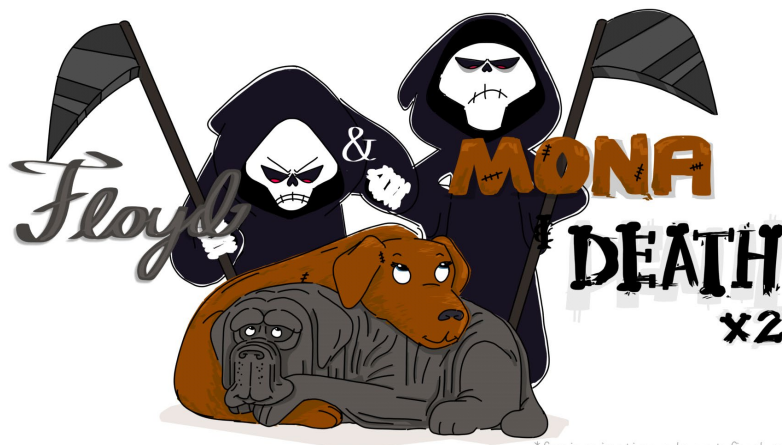
meaning, "Is Floyd here?" ... Death shakes their head, no. But gestures again to Dog Heaven, welcoming Mona. Mona sighs and resignedly starts walking towards Dog Heav-**ZIP!**– She bolts in the opposite direction, mouth open tongue flapping full sprint. Running towards blackness. Towards the unknown. Death gives chase and we stay on Mona as we fade to black on her panting face...

...and Mona wakes up in the real world. Back on the street outside the shelter, minutes later. **WHOA.** She's back in the real world! The celebrates! But it's short lived: she notices that the minivan with Floyd is gone. A couple workers from the shelter run out to see if Mona is okay, but Mona runs away before they can get to her.

Mona walks around town, asking if anyone has seen Floyd. She asks street dogs... street raccoons... street rats... even street cockroaches (or whatever is funny)...but no one has. Suddenly, Mona looks over and **OH CRAP!** It's Death! They're running up to Mona with finger outstretched, trying to touch Mona! **GAH!** She blows Death a raspberry and runs away and it looks like she's gonna get away but –**TOUCH!**– and Mona's back in the white space, just outside Dog Heaven. Death's like "Mona. Geez, c'mon! Heaven is waiting..." but **NOPE** Mona runs away again, rasping as she leaves! Death sighs and chases.

Back in the real world, we do a bunch of gags of Mona running away from Death. Death hikes up their skirt to run faster, revealing goofy bony legs. Death in various disguises, trying to surprise Mona (a fake mustache?! dressed as a butcher!? pretending to be a tree?!) and catch her. Sometimes Mona gets away. Sometimes Mona gets touched, but then she's right back in her body again running away from Death. Just pure Act 2 silliness and physical comedy.

Finally Mona loses Death around a corner. She takes a moment to breathe, and she spots Floyd! He's walking around asking if anyone has seen Mona! Mona is **OVERJOYED!** She barks to Floyd, who notices her! And Floyd barks back! **THEY ARE REUNITED!** But then she spots something: Floyd has his own Death chasing him! And now her Death has caught up to her!



\*for inspiration only, not final art style.

Floyd and Mona run towards each other to embrace with their own Deaths in chase. We do more gags of their Deaths touching them, then Floyd & Mona popping back in the real world. Finally, after some time and lots of "deaths", they reach each other and embrace!! The two Deaths catch up to them and –TOUCH–...

### **Act 3**

Floyd and Mona wake up in the white space again. Both Deaths are staring at them like "Are you DONE WITH THE NONSENSE!?"... Floyd and Mona look up and chuckle. Deaths gesture towards Dog Heaven. Floyd and Mona look at each other. They nod. With a satisfied smile, they start walking towards Dog Heaven together when – ZIP!– they bolt in the opposite direction again, both raspberrying death as they run. One of the Deaths goes to give chase. But the other Death stops them. "C'mon, let's let them have this one," they seem to be saying. Okay, fine. Just this once...

Back in the real world. Floyd and Mona spend happy lives together. Floyd's human family takes them both in. They take walks together. Steal steaks together. Have puppies together. And grow old together.

We stay on old Floyd & Mona as they embrace and slowly close their eyes. Fade to white.