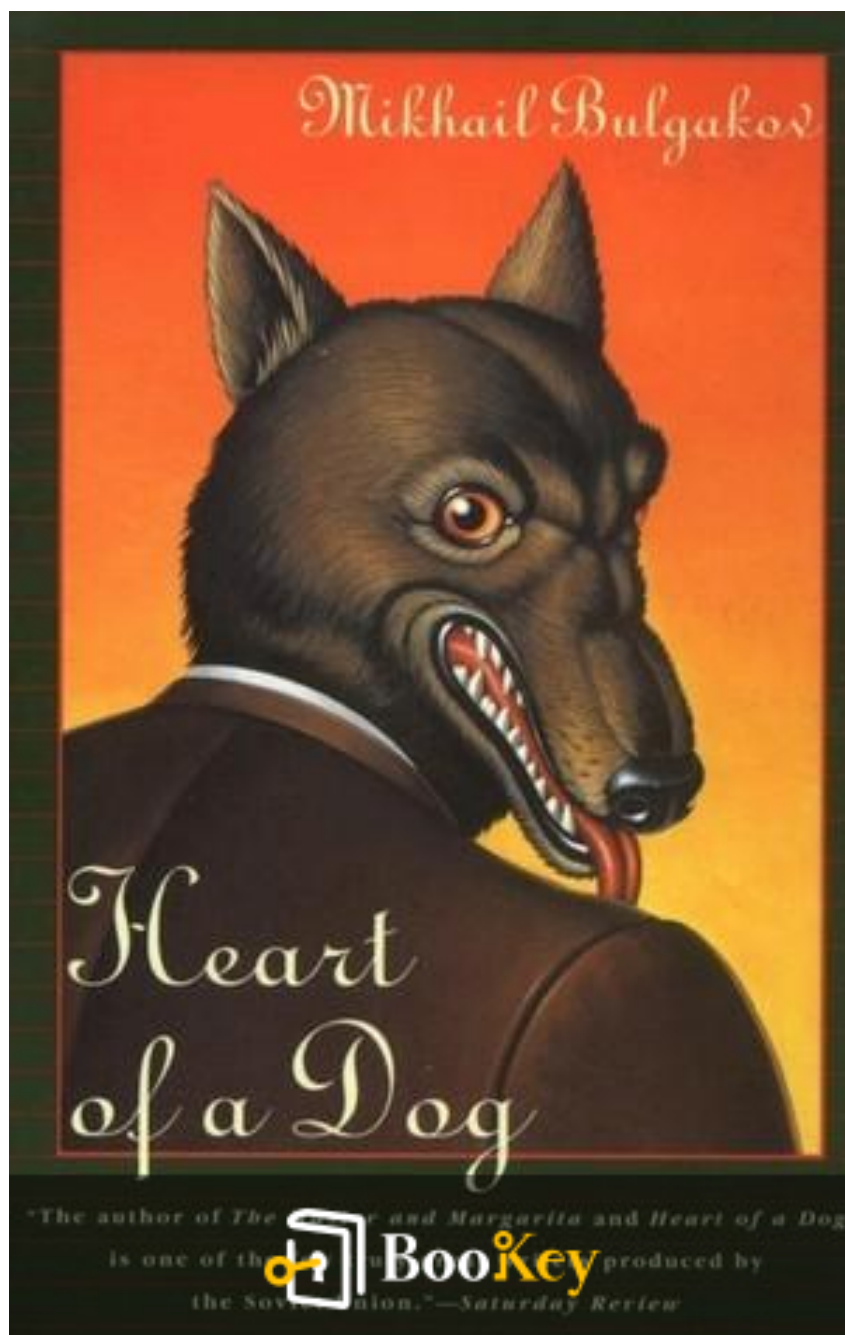


Heart Of A Dog PDF (Limited Copy)

Mikhail Bulgakov



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Heart Of A Dog Summary

The Perils of Playing God in Society.

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About the book

In Mikhail Bulgakov's satirical novella "Heart of a Dog," the boundaries of nature, morality, and humanity are provocatively blurred as a stray dog named Sharik undergoes a shocking transformation into a human being, Professor Preobrazhensky's experiment in a post-revolution Russia. Through this fascinating and darkly humorous tale, Bulgakov explores the chaos of a society grappling with its newfound ideals while simultaneously questioning the essence of what it means to be human. As Sharik navigates his bewildering new existence marked by absurdity and existential crisis, readers are invited to delve into the realms of identity, society's preconceptions, and the often grotesque interplay between civilization and primal instincts. This thought-provoking narrative not only entertains but challenges us to reconsider the fundamental traits that truly define us, making "Heart of a Dog" an essential read for anyone intrigued by the complexities of humanity.

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About the author

Mikhail Bulgakov was a prominent Russian writer and playwright, best known for his satirical and often fantastical works that grappled with the socio-political landscape of early 20th-century Russia. Born in 1891 in Kyiv, Bulgakov initially pursued a career in medicine, which influenced his writing, particularly in his most famous novel, "The Master and Margarita." A critical observer of the Bolshevik Revolution and its aftermath, he faced continuous censorship and repression from the Soviet government, leading to a complicated relationship with his own literary identity. His novel "Heart of a Dog," written in 1925, explores themes of transformation and the absurdities of societal change, showcasing his keen wit and profound insight into human nature.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

In the opening chapter of "Heart of a Dog" by Mikhail Bulgakov, we are introduced to Sharik, a pitiful stray dog who is suffering from severe injuries after being scalded by a cook's boiling water. Sharik is left alone in the cold, deep in thoughts of his painful existence and the disdainful way humans treat him. His scalded side festers, and he worries about the possibility of dying abandoned in the street, lamenting that he has not had proper food for days.

Despite his suffering, Sharik's observations about the human world around him reveal a deep understanding of social class and cruelty. He reflects on the hardships of the working class, like the typist he notices, who is struggling to maintain a sense of dignity and survive alongside her lover's demands. His thoughts shift quickly to his own suffering, establishing the stark contrast between his plight as a homeless dog and the struggles of people around him.

Amidst a fierce snowstorm, a well-dressed gentleman named Philip Philipovich appears. Sharik recognizes him as someone with a privileged status, not like others who might insult or physically harm him. The man seems to possess a kind and generous demeanor, contrasted with the cold indifference of society that has regularly mistreated Sharik.

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As their paths intersect, Sharik, driven by desperation, crawls towards the gentleman, hoping for a morsel of food. The man, noticing Sharik's suffering, responds compassionately by offering him sausages, demonstrating his softer side amidst the turbulent backdrop of the city. Sharik, overjoyed at the unexpected kindness, obediently follows Philip Phillipovich, determined to show his loyalty and gratitude.

This chapter brilliantly sets up themes of compassion, social disparity, and the canine perspective on human nature. It captivates through Sharik's voice, filled with both humor and pathos, portraying a poignant commentary on survival, class, and the bond between humans and animals. Sharik's loyalty, despite his pain, and his encounter with the gentleman hint at a transformative journey ahead, raising questions about identity and humanity.

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Chapter 2 Summary:

In Chapter 2 of "Heart of a Dog," we dive deeper into the life of Sharik, a stray dog navigating the bustling streets of Moscow. The chapter begins with a humorous look at how dogs can learn to read through colors and scents, given their keen sense of smell, as Sharik discovers the signs for butcher shops and food stores. His adventures take a turn when he mistakenly enters an electrical goods store instead of a butcher's shop, leading to a painful lesson about reading signs correctly.

Sharik's journey continues when a mysterious gentleman, Philip Philipovich, takes him into a luxurious apartment. Here, Sharik experiences a new world filled with warmth and human comforts, but soon realizes he is being taken to a consulting room for treatment. Panic ensues as he misunderstands the intentions of these humans, fearing he will be hurt. In a wild attempt to escape, he wreaks havoc, knocking over glass and creating chaos while trying to find a way out.

Once trapped, Sharik is sedated and later awakens bandaged but relieved that his pain seems to have disappeared. As he regains his senses, he finds himself in a strange environment with Philip Philipovich and the doctor he had bitten. Here, he learns that kindness rather than terror is key to dealing with animals, a belief upheld by Philip Philipovich.

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As the chapter unfolds, we witness Philip Philipovich interacting with various patients, ranging from eccentric visitors to those seeking medical treatments in humorous yet absurd situations. This highlights not just the variety of people in Moscow but also the changes taking place in society. Philip Philipovich's confident demeanor contrasts sharply with the chaotic and often ridiculous situations that unfold, showcasing his authority and ability to handle matters with a mix of sarcastic wit and genuine concern for his patients.

Amid these interactions, Sharik observes the world of human relationships, scandal, and the absurdity that seems to permeate society. Philip Philipovich expertly navigates challenges posed by his visitors, particularly the meddlesome house management committee intent on disrupting his life. This confrontation underlines themes of authority, the personal versus the bureaucratic, and the struggle between societal expectations and individual needs. Sharik, caught in this whirlwind, is both a spectator and participant, delighting at the cleverness of his new human companion while grappling with his own identity.

The chapter concludes with an intriguing sense of anticipation as Sharik, now acclimated to his new environment, begins to trust Philip Philipovich. His journey from a stray dog to potentially becoming part of this rich, complex world adds depth to his character and hints at the transformative nature of their relationship and the provocative themes of the novel that

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explore identity and societal change.

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Chapter 3:

In Chapter 3 of "Heart of a Dog" by Mikhail Bulgakov, the scene opens in a lavish dining room filled with delicacies like salmon, eel, cheese, and caviar on a marble table, and vodka in crystal decanters. Philip Philipovich, the host, eagerly discusses the menu and his strong opinions on the quality of vodka. His friend, Dr. Bormenthal, listens with amusement as Philip Philipovich expresses his views on food etiquette, recommending against discussing certain topics at dinner and sharing experiences about the effects of reading newspapers on health.

A humorous exchange follows as Philip Philipovich feeds Sharik, the dog, from his plate, asserting that food is a refined art. The interactions reveal Philip Philipovich's character: he is a comical yet insightful doctor, full of grandiose opinions about himself and the world around him. At the same time, Sharik enjoys the abundance of good food, overwhelmed by a newfound sense of comfort and warmth in Philip Philipovich's care, which starkly contrasts with his former life on the streets.

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Chapter 4 Summary:

In Chapter 4 of "Heart of a Dog" by Mikhail Bulgakov, the narrative unfolds around an ambitious and unprecedented experiment conducted by Professor Preobrazhensky. He undertakes a radical surgical operation on a male mongrel dog named Sharik, replacing the dog's testicles and pituitary gland with those from a recently deceased human male. This operation aims to explore the effects of such transplants on rejuvenation and potential transformations within the host organism.

Initially, Sharik is in a precarious state, struggling through the recovery process with fluctuating health signs. He shows periods of deterioration and slight improvement, with medical interventions including adrenaline and camphor to stabilize his condition. As days pass, Sharik's recovery accelerates and his physical transformation becomes evident. He gains weight and undergoes dramatic moulting, becoming nearly hairless while simultaneously developing human-like characteristics.

By January 1st, 1925, Sharik surprises everyone by beginning to speak, vocalizing words like "Nes-set-a", which is interpreted as a playful utterance for "delicatessen." His abilities evolve rapidly; he can walk upright, dress himself, and forms coherent sentences by January 9th. However, this newfound intelligence is accompanied by a profane vocabulary picked up from the streets, showcasing the clash between his canine origins and new

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human experiences.

The professor's assistant, Dr. Bormenthal, chronicles these transformations with a mix of fascination and concern. The dog, now resembling a rudimentary human, exhibits strange behaviors, appropriating human language and social interactions but often defaulting to vulgar expressions. Amidst the chaos of Sharik's humanization, the consulting practice faces mounting pressures—rumors spread, reporters flock to their door, and even local house committees become involved, highlighting the societal unease toward this aberration.

As the experiment progresses, Preobrazhensky reflects on the implications of his work. He had anticipated rejuvenation but concludes that the surgery leads to complete humanization, thus radically altering the creature's identity. The chapter portrays a blend of humor and horror, challenging the moral and ethical boundaries of scientific experimentation and transforming a dog into a bizarre caricature of humanity. The interplay of progress and chaos underscores themes of identity, evolution, and the consequences of playing god—asking the reader to ponder what it truly means to be human. Overall, this chapter is a compelling exploration of transformation, steeped in satire and social commentary.

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Chapter 5 Summary:

In Chapter 5 of "Heart of a Dog" by Mikhail Bulgakov, we find ourselves in the disordered and tense environment of Professor Philip Philipovich Preobrazhensky's apartment. It's a winter afternoon, and the scene contrasts the warmth of the room with the chaos ensuing due to a new resident—Sharikov, a former stray dog who has been transformed into a human through an experimental surgical operation. Philip Philipovich is exasperated, dealing with the aftermath of his unorthodox experiment and Sharikov's unsophisticated behavior.

The chapter opens with a humorous and somewhat chaotic backdrop filled with various notices posted around the apartment, such as banning sunflower seeds. In this cluttered setting, the professor reads an irritating newspaper article about illegitimate sons, which contributes to his growing frustration. Meanwhile, Sharikov, a wild character with a garish beard and flamboyant clothes, represents the disruptive force in Philip's life.

As their contentious relationship unfolds, we see Sharikov's lack of understanding of societal norms contrasted with Philip's refined sensibilities. Philip reprimands Sharikov for his childish behavior—sleeping in the kitchen, wearing a garish tie given by Darya Petrovna, neglecting cleanliness, and behaving rudely. The professor's attempts to instill manners are met with resistance, leading to heated exchanges filled with sarcasm and



defiance.

The themes of social class and identity become increasingly evident. Sharikov's disdain for what he perceives as bourgeois values highlights the conflict between his crude upbringing as a stray and Philip's cultured lifestyle. As Sharikov stubbornly demands to be registered formally—with a name—he pushes boundaries, asserting his rights as a citizen despite the ridiculousness of his situation. This sets in motion a series of disagreements about his identity and how he should be recognized legally.

The chapter crescendos into chaos when Sharikov locks himself in the bathroom, which leads to a comedic disaster involving the overflowing bathtub and chaos in the apartment. The laughter and absurdity clear the air momentarily, showcasing Bulgakov's satirical look at societal norms and the struggles between different social classes. In the midst of this chaos, the professor's anguish and weariness illustrate his helplessness against the wild consequences of his own scientific ambition.

As Philip Philipovich grapples with the fuming mess and the antics of Sharikov, the reader is left with a sense of the absurdity of the situation and the poignant exploration of identity in a rapidly changing society. The chapter effectively combines humor, chaotic interactions, and philosophical musings on humanity, making it both entertaining and thought-provoking.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The struggle between societal norms and individual identity

Critical Interpretation: In the chaotic interplay between Professor Preobrazhensky and Sharikov, you are reminded of the eternal conflict between adhering to societal expectations and embracing one's true self. This chapter inspires you to reflect on your own identity—how often do you conform to the norms imposed by society, sacrificing your individuality in the process? Like Sharikov, who challenges the status quo with his outrageous behavior, you may find that embracing your uniqueness can lead to personal fulfillment, even amidst confusion and disorder. This invites you to question what it means to fit in while encouraging you to celebrate your differences as a vital part of the human experience.

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Chapter 6:

In Chapter 6 of "Heart of a Dog" by Mikhail Bulgakov, the dynamics between Philip Philipovich, the professor, his assistant Bormenthal, and the transformation subject, Sharikov, build tension and reveal societal themes. The chapter opens with a comical and frustrating dinner scene, where Bormenthal tries to impose table manners on Sharikov, who is resistant and defiant.

Sharikov's manners, or lack thereof, become a focal point. He clashes with Bormenthal over vodka, revealing his increasingly erratic behavior influenced by his newfound human nature following his transformation from a stray dog. As he struggles to adapt to human customs, Sharikov displays a blend of ignorance and audacity, mocking traditional decorum and flaunting his rudimentary understanding of social behaviors.

The conversation shifts towards his reading material, which turns out to be a correspondence between Engels and Kautsky—a point of satire on how Sharikov, despite claiming to read, misunderstands the content and its

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Alex Walk

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Chapter 7 Summary:

In Chapter 7 of "Heart of a Dog," the story takes an intriguing turn as we observe the ongoing tension between Philip Philipovich, the surgeon, and Sharikov, the transformed dog-turned-man. Philipovich seems at a loss regarding how to address the problems arising from Sharikov's behavior, creating a catalyst for comedic chaos. After a week of simmering conflict, an encounter between Sharikov and members of the house committee escalates the situation. Ironically, as Sharikov gains a semblance of legal status with new residential papers, his arrogance and impudence grow, leading to heightened tensions in the flat.

The dialogue is laced with confrontations and humorous one-liners, showcasing the escalating hostilities between Sharikov and his caretakers, especially with Doctor Bormenthal, who has clashed with Sharikov multiple times. The pair exchange insults, and Sharikov's demand for proper treatment only exacerbates the already strained atmosphere. Amid this chaos, intrigue develops when Sharikov drunkenly returns home with two mysterious characters, launching a series of thefts and raucous behavior that leads to alarm and confusion.

The chapter is rich with character development, especially highlighting the changing dynamics between Philipovich, Bormenthal, and Sharikov. Philipovich's patience is tested, and he grapples with the consequences of his

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experiment, reflecting on the moral and ethical implications of his actions. The ludicrous situation peaks when a scandal breaks out: Darya Petrovna, a housemaid, confronts Sharikov about his inappropriate behavior while drunk. This confrontation, laden with embarrassment, exposes the absurdity and tragedy of Sharikov's existence as a failed human experiment.

As the chapter winds down, Philipovich's frustration culminates in a profound realization: even though his scientific aspirations led to this disaster, he remains committed to maintaining his integrity and craft. The underlying themes of the chapter focus on the absurdity of social constructs, the moral dilemmas of scientific intervention, and the inherent flaws of both man and his creations. Sharikov, while gaining human traits, embodies moral and ethical degradation, prompting Philipovich and Bormenthal to question the nature of humanity itself.

Overall, this chapter deftly blends humor with a sense of impending calamity, setting the stage for further exploration of what it means to be human, and the chaotic consequences of tampering with nature.

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Chapter 8 Summary:

In Chapter 8 of "Heart of a Dog," chaos ensues after Bormenthal realizes Sharikov has vanished from the flat, sparking a frantic search. Bormenthal is frustrated and curses himself for not locking the front door properly, expressing disdain for Sharikov, wishing he would fall into misfortune. Philip Philipovich waits in worry, imagining the trouble Sharikov might be causing outside. When Bormenthal returns after searching the house committee, where tensions run high due to Poligraph's misbehavior, they discover he has left early in the morning with various belongings, including a bottle of alcohol.

After several days of anxious silence marked by numerous patients and an impending conversation with the police, Sharikov makes a dramatic entrance back into their lives, looking significantly different in a shabby, second-hand uniform from the Moscow Cleansing Department. He informs them he has found a new job — unfortunately one that entails killing stray cats, an act that sickens the two doctors. An awkward encounter erupts as Bormenthal, irritated by Sharikov's behavior, forcefully makes him apologize to Zina and Darya Petrovna for his recent drunken misconduct.

As Sharikov adjusts back to life in the flat, he surprises everyone by announcing his plan to marry a girl he brought home, indicating a new chapter in his life. However, this newfound relationship quickly turns sour



when Philip Philipovich learns of Sharikov's deceit and manipulation, culminating in an embarrassing confrontation where the girl, heartbroken, accuses him of lying about his past. Tensions escalate between Sharikov and Bormenthal, leading to threats that reveal the volatile power dynamics in their relationships.

As the chapter progresses, it closes with signs of looming trouble. A visitor seeks out Philip Philipovich, warning him about Sharikov's erratic behavior and counter-revolutionary sentiments, formally logging complaints that paint Sharikov as a dangerous figure. This marks a turning point where the rebellious and oppressive nature of Sharikov, now entangled deeply in the bureaucracy and politics of his new role, leads to tensions that threaten to unravel both his and the doctors' lives. Overall, themes of identity, social upheaval, and the consequences of radical change pervade the chapter, showcasing the chaotic outcome of Sharikov's transformation.

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Chapter 9:

In Chapter 9 of "Heart of a Dog" by Mikhail Bulgakov, tension escalates dramatically as Poligraph Poligraphovich, also known as Sharikov, finds himself confronting Philip Philipovich in a chilling scene. The chapter opens with a sense of foreboding as Poligraphovich returns home, feeling anxious but unaware of the impending confrontation. Philip Philipovich, surrounded by smoke and an icy calm, drops a bombshell: he orders Sharikov to collect his things and leave the flat immediately. This unexpected demand stuns Sharikov, who is baffled and unwilling to comply, insisting on his rights to the space he believes he occupies.

The atmosphere grows darker as Sharikov's defiance escalates. In a moment of complete desperation, he threatens Philip Philipovich with a revolver, leading to chaos. Bormenthal, the surgeon, reacts quickly, tackling Sharikov and overpowering him. The ensuing struggle is intense, with the consulting-room transforming into a scene of panic and violence.

Bormenthal's impulsive decision to suffocate Sharikov signifies a shift in power dynamics and portrays the dire consequences of Sharikov's

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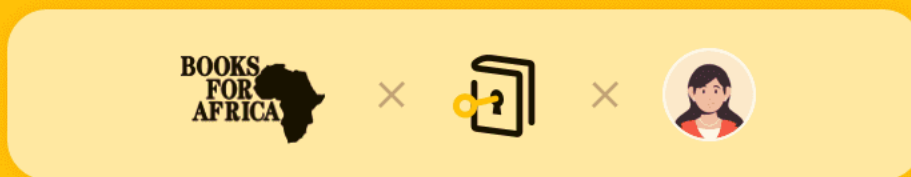
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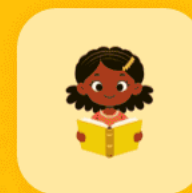
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Chapter 10 Summary: Epilogue

In the epilogue of "Heart of a Dog," we encounter a tense situation ten days after the chaotic events in Professor Preobrazhensky's consulting room. The story opens with a sudden ringing of the doorbell, and the professor is confronted by a group of police officers accompanied by various characters from his life. The police arrive with a warrant to search his flat and to potentially arrest him, citing charges related to the murder of Sharikov, who had been a dog but was transformed into a man through the professor's controversial experiment.

Philip Philipovich, appearing healthier and more composed than before, is perplexed by the accusation. He questions the identity of Sharikov, initially thinking of his pet dog before realizing the gravity of the situation. The police are taken aback when he insists that Sharikov is alive and challenges the charges against him, leading him to call upon Doctor Bormenthal to present Sharikov.

Tension mounts as Bormenthal brings out Sharikov, who now resembles a dog in a bizarre state of half-transformation. The ragged and confused creature displays remnants of his human capabilities but starts exhibiting primitive behaviors, astonishing the gathered crowd. The police, particularly the man in civilian clothes, struggle to process the absurdity of the situation as they witness a dog that can stand on its hind legs and talk, albeit



increasingly less so.

Philip Philipovich delivers a calm but firm explanation regarding the failure of his experiment, emphasizing that he tried to elevate an animal to a human state but has only resulted in a confused being reverting to its primitive instincts. Amidst this, Sharikov's unexpected bark causes one of the officers to faint, adding to the chaotic atmosphere. The reactions range from disbelief to absurdity, highlighting the surreal undercurrents of the situation.

As the scene unfolds, there's a mix of humor and horror, with Sharik's muddled thoughts revealing his internal struggle between dog and man. He reflects on his life, feeling grateful yet confused about his identity. The professor and his colleagues display a mix of compassion and frustration, licking old wounds of scientific ambition gone wrong.

The narrative ends on a note of melancholy and absurdity as the professor resumes his practice and humming, encapsulating the themes of transformation, identity, and the unpredictable nature of ambition. The blend of surreal elements, mixed with the harsh realities of life and the eccentricity of the human (and animal) condition, leaves readers pondering the implications of experimentation and the essence of what it means to be human or animal.

Element	Details
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Element	Details
Setting	Ten days after the chaotic events in Professor Preobrazhensky's consulting room.
Initial Situation	Professor confronted by police officers with a search warrant.
Accusation	Charges related to the murder of Sharikov, who was transformed from a dog into a man.
Professor's Reaction	Perplexed, initially thinks of his pet dog, later defends Sharikov's existence.
Bormenthal's Role	Called upon to present Sharikov.
Sharikov's Condition	In a half-transformed state, resembling a confused creature with primitive behaviors.
Police Reaction	Struggling to process the absurdity of a talking dog with human traits.
Professor's Explanation	Clarifies the failed experiment leading to Sharikov's confused identity.
Key Themes	Transformation, identity, ambition, absurdity.
Ending Tone	Melancholy and absurd; Professor resumes practice, reflecting on lessons learned.

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