

101 DALMATIANS *In Depth Plot Summary*

A shorter, picture led synopsis is also available for children to read and follow.

When you enter the auditorium, this is what the set looks like. There are steps up to the stage, but these are for the actors to use.

Please note: When the music starts, actors will enter through the auditorium, so watch out for them. This happens throughout the show, and sometimes even the puppet dogs enter and leave through the audience.



Act 1 (the first part of the show, which lasts for about 55 minutes)



Pongo has a red lead and Perdi has a blue lead. Here they are with their owners Dominic and Danielle.

A Dalmatian dog called Perdi is walking with her owner Dominic, they meet another Dalmatian called Pongo and his owner Danielle. Both couples fall in love.

Months later, Dominic and Danielle move into their first flat together, much to the approval of Pongo and Perdi. Despite his happiness, Dominic is aware that his work as an artist does not bring in much money, and he constantly worries about providing for himself and Danielle. Perdi tells Pongo that she is expecting puppies, but their owners have no idea what is causing their excitement!

Cruella De Vil arrives at the flat. **Please note:** There is a car horn before she enters. She is not a very nice lady and smells of pepper (that makes the dogs sneeze). Cruella asks to borrow Pongo and Perdi for a photoshoot, and it is Cruella who notices that Perdi is expecting puppies.



Cruella de Vil

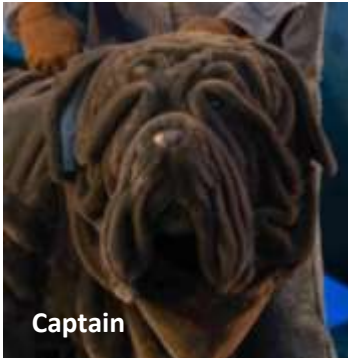
At the photoshoot, Captain (a stray dog) tries to warn Perdi and Pongo that they are in danger.

Please note: Cruella threatens Pongo and Perdi when they won't sit still, so Perdi bites her in self defence. Cruella then attacks the dogs with a stick. This might be a bit frightening.

BUT...Captain helps Perdi and Pongo escape.



Cruella's photoshoot



Captain

Captain introduces the pair to a group of stray dogs (**Please note:** some dogs enter through the bushes to the side of the theatre) who help Perdi and Pongo find their way home via the Twilight Barking: a network of communication between dogs to send messages when help is needed. **Please note:** there is a sound effect of dogs barking around behind the audience. Perdi and Pongo are reunited with their owners.

Cruella enters in a wheelchair (following the bite from Perdi) with her nephews Jasper and Casper (who are quite funny). She realises that her attack on the dogs has been videoed and has gone viral. Cruella's new controversial status earns her an invitation to the Black and White Ball: the most exclusive event in town. **Please note:** Cruella decides that, as payback for Perdi biting her, she will make a fur coat from her puppies' to wear to the ball. She sings a song about this, and is joined by dancers. There are some thrusting movements during this number.



Jasper and Casper



Dominic and Danielle with the puppies

Meanwhile, Perdi has given birth to a litter of 15 puppies. Cruella arrives uninvited whilst Danielle walks Pongo and Perdi. Cruella tells Dominic how much each puppy would be worth, if sold, and offers him £15,000 – a sum that would solve all their financial worries.

Dominic is in a dilemma, and sings a song. **Please note:** This includes one use of the phrase 'bloody well can't'.

Please note: We then see Jasper and Casper arriving through the audience into a pub. Because Dominic hasn't accepted her offer of money, Cruella instructs her nephews Jasper and Casper to steal the puppies instead. They sing a song about becoming criminals!

Pretending to be plumbers, Jasper and Casper go to Dominic and Danielle's flat and steal the puppies (you will see Dominic and Danielle leave the stage through the audience as they take Pongo and Perdi for a walk). Jasper and Casper know they shouldn't steal, but they are scared of what Cruella might do to them if they don't do what she wants.

Cruella watches herself be interviewed on television. She then sings a song. **Please note:** she sings about how she will turn the puppies into a fur coat, and she visualises what this might look like. This song might become a bit frightening.



Cruella singing about making her fur coat

Interval (This is a break in the show when you might like to go to the toilet, or have a drink or ice cream. The break lasts for 20 minutes).

Act 2 (the second part of the show, which lasts for about 50 minutes)

A group of dog owners are desperately looking for their missing Dalmatians: it seems Cruella needs even more puppies for her coat.

Meanwhile Jasper and Casper are at Hell Hall, an old animal testing laboratory where nearly 100 puppies are being kept in electrified cages. As they leave, Patch, Lucky, Spud and Button (four of Perdi's puppies played by children) escape their cage. Tabby, a cat, enters and the puppies try to persuade her to help them. Tabby overcomes her prejudice against dogs and tells them about the Twilight Barking.



Button in front of the cage

Back at home, Perdi and Pongo realise that the 'plumbers' who stole their puppies smelled of pepper - suspiciously like Cruella De Vil. They sneak out of the flat unseen by Dominic and Danielle to ask Captain for help.

On the roof of Hell Hall, Tabby encourages the puppies to bark for help. The puppies are heard by Farm Dogs, Faraway Dogs and Further Away Dogs who are all part of the Twilight Barking. The message reaches Captain who relays the message to Pongo and Perdi. They immediately set off to rescue their puppies.



Jasper and Casper admit to Cruella that they have lost four of the puppies. She is furious and sets out in her car (**Please note:** there is some car horn beeping) with her nephews to track down the runaway Dalmatians.

Please note: Tabby guides the puppies past many dangers, but they are suddenly attacked by a fox. Perdi and Pongo arrive just in time to defeat the fox and are reunited with the puppies.

As Cruella's car is heard approaching, the Dalmatians run back to Hell Hall to free the rest of their family.



Tabby and some fellow cats stall Cruella's car and attack her, and the car breaks apart. **Please note:** this is a bit noisy. Cruella starts having an allergic reaction to the cats. In an effort to provide an anti-histamine, Jasper gives Cruella a mysterious potion that they took from Hell Hall. Once she drinks it, Cruella gets a powerful sense of smell - just like a dog. **Please note:** Cruella turns into a green monster which might be frightening for some. She starts sniffing the air and sets off in the direction of Hell Hall, tracking the Dalmatians on their rescue mission. **Please note:** Cruella walks through the audience.



On their way back to Hell Hall with the escaped puppies, Perdi and Pongo notice Button lying in the snow. **Please note:** She is exhausted, which is upsetting, but revives when her family gather around her for warmth. The dogs vow to free every single puppy from Hell Hall, ensuring no-one is left behind.

Cruella arrives at Hell Hall, just as Pongo and Perdi are trying to open the cages. **Please note:** She throws both Perdi and Pongo against the electric bars and moves towards Lucky, Patch Spud and Button. Spud needs to go to the toilet and wees on the electrics, causing a short circuit. Jasper and Casper follow their kind hearts and rebel against their auntie Cruella by opening all of the cage doors and releasing the 95 trapped puppies. Cruella is backed into a cage and Casper re-activates the electric bars, trapping her there.



Back in their flat, Dominic and Danielle are miserable without their dogs. Suddenly Perdi and Pongo arrive, along with their litter and the other puppies. Dominic and Danielle agree to track down the owners of the other puppies and adopt those who need a home.

There is a big dance at the end of the show, and you can clap along.

The End (At the end of the show, you can clap all the actors as they bow).

It is then time to leave the theatre and start to make your way back home. You can use the toilet on the way out.