

## **Jason Matthews**

### **"For Pete's Sake"**

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I found him down on Red River Road, hungry and  
crying and cold  
Just another throw away pup someone left to die  
I wrapped him in my Carhart coat, let him have the rest  
of my Coke  
The burger that I bought for lunch and the rest of my  
french fries  
I knew dad would disapproved but all he had to say  
Was "What ya gonna call that mutt for Pete's sake"

So I named him Pete with the one black eye  
Corkscrew tail and funny underbite  
He became my closest friend, just like a brother to me  
And I slipped food underneath the table  
Took the heat for that chewed-through cable  
And I threw that tennis ball 'til my shoulder ached for  
Pete's sake

We'd go to town on Friday nights, Pete was just another  
one of the guys  
Hanging out of my backseat window howling at the  
moon  
Every time we passed a sno-cone stand, he would bark  
'til I pulled in  
And those girls would feed him rainbow ice until his  
tongue turned blue  
He always had to chaperone when I went on a date  
I let a couple cat lovers go for Pete's sake

And I leaned on Pete when my grandpa died  
And for the next three weeks he never left my side  
The way he looked at me, somehow he understood  
And I had dreams out in Music City  
So I left home and brought my biggest fan with me  
Got a place next to a park with plenty room to play for  
Pete's sake

But the years turned Pete's eyes cloudy and his big  
nose gray  
His old hips gave out he couldn't get around, I couldn't  
watch him hurt that way

And I told him, "Pete, up in Doggie Heaven  
There's lotsa rainbow ice and tennis balls for fetching  
And you won't hurt anymore, now, you be a good boy,  
ok?"  
And I said, "Doc, go ahead and do it  
Before I change my mind, before I lose it"  
And I did the hardest thing I've ever had to do that day  
for Pete's sake

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