

ESP

A BENCH IN A DOG PARK - SUNDAY MORNING.

BARBARA, 25, CASUAL DRESS, SITS ON A BENCH, A DOG LEASH ON THE BENCH BESIDE HER.

AS THE LIGHTS COME UP, WE HEAR "HOW SWEET IT IS" BY MARVIN GAYE.

KEN, 25, CASUAL DRESS, ENTERS AND SITS NEXT TO HER.

KEN

Hi.

They kiss lightly.

BARBARA

I think I solved our problem.

KEN

What problem?

BARBARA

With Brewster.

KEN

He has a problem?

BARBARA

Him eating everything.

KEN

Oh, *that* problem. Great. What should we do?

BARBARA

Well I was talking to Marnie -

KEN

(interrupts)
Who's Marnie?

BARBARA

You know her.

KEN

No I don't.

KEN AND BARBARA TOGETHER

Brewster!

Ken exits to get something out of Brewster's mouth. Returns.

KEN

A lollypop stick. Got it.

Barbara nods approvingly.

KEN (CONT'D)
So you were saying...?

BARBARA
Well, I was talking to Marnie -

KEN
(interrupts)
Who's Marnie?

BARBARA
You know her. My size, red hair.

KEN
I don't know her.

BARBARA
Sure you do. She has Freckles.

KEN
Lots of freckles?

BARBARA
No, Freckles is her dog.

KEN
Freckles is her dog?

BARBARA
Well it's not *her* dog. She's her
sister's. She takes Freckles when
she's away.

KEN
When she's away?

BARBARA
But I think she's gone now.

KEN
She's away now?

BARBARA
No, I think she died.

KEN
Marnie's sister died?

BARBARA
No, Freckles! I think Freckles
died.

KEN
The dog died?

BARBARA
I think so. At least I haven't seen
her in a while.

KEN
I've never seen her.

BARBARA
Sure you have.

KEN
So what did Marnie say?

BARBARA
I didn't ask her.

KEN
I thought you asked about Brewster.

BARBARA
I mean about Freckles. If she died.

KEN
Oh.

BARBARA
She probably did though. She had
tumors. Anyway I haven't seen her.

KEN
I've never seen her.

BARBARA
Sure you have. Pretty red hair.

KEN
Marnie has red hair?

BARBARA
Who'd ya think I meant? The dog?

KEN AND BARBARA TOGETHER
Brewster!

Ken exits to get something out of Brewster's mouth. Returns.

KEN
Candy wrapper. He dropped it. On
command too.

BARBARA
I think it's working.

KEN
What's working?

BARBARA
I'm training him to drop things.

KEN
You're training him?

BARBARA
You act surprised. I taught him to roll over.

KEN
I just didn't know you're training him to drop things too.

BARBARA
God, remember the popsicle stick?

KEN
The vet bill was what? 400 dollars?

BARBARA
We thought it might puncture his stomach. But he crunched it up. No problem.

KEN
So what'd she say?

BARBARA
I told you I didn't ask her.

KEN
I thought you -

BARBARA
I mean about Freckles. Whether she died.

KEN
But what'd she say about Brewster?

BARBARA
Well, we were in the park this morning and -

KEN
You and Marnie?

BARBARA
No, I was with Brewster.

KEN
But when did you talk with -

BARBARA
(interrupts, impatient,
wants to tell it her way)
- So Brewster and I were in the
park and he ate a Kleenex. And this
man, Alex something -

KEN
Who?

BARBARA
Alex. His last name begins with W.

KEN
But what about Marnie?

BARBARA
(impatient)
Walpole. That's his name. Alex
Walpole. He saw it and said -

KEN
Where'd Alex come in? I thought you
were talking to Marnie.

BARBARA
Know something? I don't care for
your tone.

KEN
My tone? What tone?

BARBARA
Your "impatient" tone.

KEN
My "impatient" tone?

BARBARA
It's annoying.

KEN
I don't mean to be annoying. I'm
just... Okay, tell me about Alex.
Or Marnie. Or whatever.

BARBARA

So we're in the park, Brewster and I, and I opened his jaws and got the Kleenex. And -

KEN

(interrupts)

Your training didn't work?

BARBARA

Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Now, please let me finish.

So I got the Kleenex and Alex was sitting on a bench watching. He had a little pug, Mr. Pips, curled up in his lap. He was so cute.

KEN

Alex or the dog?

BARBARA

The dog of course.

KEN

Just checking.

BARBARA

Sometimes...

KEN

May I ask a question?

BARBARA

If you're polite.

KEN

May I politely ask about Marnie?

BARBARA

What about her?

KEN

Didn't she tell you about Brewster?

BARBARA

Of course.

KEN

So...

BARBARA

So I told *Marnie* that I asked Alex if Mr. Pips gobbles up whatever he finds. And he said he used to eat anything and everything.

Not Alex, Mr. Pips. Alex was in great shape. But that he worked with a trainer. And the trainer, Sheila something, was wonderful.

And now Mr. Pips will walk past a chicken wing without even looking at it. Believe that? A chicken wing! He said she's a miracle worker and did I want her number. So she asked what he looks like.

KEN

Who?

BARBARA

Marnie of course.

KEN

Marnie asked what Alex looks like?

BARBARA

Because she may have seen him too. And I said about 40, grey hair, well built and she said -

KEN

(interrupts)

You do realize he was flirting with you, right?

BARBARA

Who?

KEN

Alex.

BARBARA

He wasn't flirting with me.

KEN

Sure he was.

BARBARA

How do you know?

KEN

Cause that's what men do.

BARBARA
Is that what you do?

KEN
Of course not.

BARBARA
But you just said men flirt.

KEN
With attractive women, yes.

BARBARA
I didn't look attractive this morning.

KEN
You did. You looked great.

BARBARA
I didn't even have makeup on.

KEN
Well you still looked darn good.

BARBARA
I thought you said I looked great. Now I looked good. There's a big difference between great and good.

KEN
I said *darn* good.

BARBARA
Okay, you get a reprieve.

KEN
So tell me what Marnie said.

BARBARA
No.

KEN
You're not going to tell me?

BARBARA
No.

KEN
Why not?

BARBARA
First, you rushed me. Then accused me of flirting with a stranger.

KEN

I didn't accuse *you*. I accused *him*.

BARBARA

Same thing.

KEN

No it's not.

BARBARA

Is too.

KEN

Is not.

BARBARA

"Is not." "Is too." God, we sound like third graders.

KEN

Well you looked darn good this morning.

BARBARA

Okay, I didn't look *bad*, but I certainly didn't look *good*.

KEN

Honey, how 'bout you just tell me what Marnie said.

BARBARA

I told you, I'm not going to.

KEN

Why not?

BARBARA

When you're in this kind of mood?

KEN

What kind of mood?

BARBARA

I have to tell you? Really?

KEN

I don't know what you're talking about.

BARBARA

Seriously?

KEN

Okay, okay, let's call a truce. How 'bout we eat out tonight?

BARBARA

Well... I'm always up for that.

KEN

Pizza sound good?

BARBARA

Italian sounds better.

KEN

Okay.

BARBARA

At a restaurant with a nice table and cloth napkins. Not a counter where you gulp it down.

KEN

Deal.

BARBARA

Okay.

KEN

And *then* you'll tell me what Marnie said?

BARBARA

Then I'll tell you what Marnie said.

KEN

See, we really are on the same wavelength.

BARBARA

We are, huh?

KEN

No wonder we get along so well.

BARBARA

Yeah. No wonder.

He starts to kiss her. At first she puts him off but then kisses him back and they smile at each other.

KEN AND BARBARA TOGETHER

Brewster!

Together they run off stage to get something from the dog.

THE END

BLACK OUT. WE HEAR "HAPPY TOGETHER" BY THE TURTLES.