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.
BARRBARA
I think it’s working.

KEN
What’s working?

BARRBARA
I’m training him to drop things.

KEN
You’re training him?

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

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

BARRBARA
God, remember the popsicle stick?

KEN
The vet bill was what? 400 dollars?

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

KEN
So what’d she say?

BARRBARA
I told you I didn’t ask her.

KEN
I thought you -

BARRBARA
I mean about Freckles. Whether she died.

KEN
But what’d she say about Brewster?

BARRBARA
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
(intpatient)
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.