

BEGLEITER

by

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suggested in part by
Der Himmel über Berlin
by Wim Wenders
(with his blessing)

REVISED SHOOTING DRAFT
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<http://www.happy-the-dog.com>

- * 1 INT. OLD MAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY (BLACK & WHITE) 1 *
- The house is cluttered with a century's worth of memorabilia. Enough sunlight filters in through the cracks in the drapes to tell us it's past morning.
- HAPPY, a large Rhodesian Ridgeback, lies at the foot of the bed, curled in a ball. He stares up at his sleeping MASTER, a man in his 90s, waiting for the slightest sign of his awakening.
- 2 INT. BEDROOM - LATER (B&W) 2
- The light has changed enough that we can tell it's much later in the day. The old man still hasn't moved. The dog sighs with a whine.
- The dog's paws hit the floor. He pads out into the...
- * 3 INT. KITCHEN - SAME 3 *
- Happy finds his empty bowl on the floor, licks it. He goes to the back door, tries to turn the knob with his nose. He stares up at a tattered, black TRENCH COAT hanging by the door. He looks worried.
- * 4 INT. BEDROOM - SAME 4 *
- Happy climbs back up on the bed, stands over his master, sniffs his face. The old man isn't even breathing. Happy claws at the covers, pulling them down an inch or two. He gives up, lies back down, lets out another heavy sigh.
- 5 INT. BEDROOM / LIVING ROOM - LATER (B&W) 5
- [5A] Happy's ears perk up. He hears a KEY in the front door.
- [5B] A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN tumbles into the living room with an arm full of groceries. Happy bundles out right past her.
- 6 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS (COLOR) 6
- WOMAN (O.S.)
Happy got out again. You better call him. Dad?

The woman peeks in the bedroom. She drops her groceries. Her face turns white.

WOMAN

Daddy!

7 EXT. BEACH - DAY (B&W)

7

The waves crash and fall on the shore.

Happy steps into frame, takes a big whiff of the sea air. We hear dozens of random WHISPERS sailing on the wind.

Happy trots down the shore in solitude.

A young BOXER approaches Happy from behind, sniffs him.

HAPPY (V.O.)

What's to become of me? He never woke up.

Happy tangoes around and sniffs back at the Boxer.

BOXER (V.O.)

I got table scraps three days ago. Biscuits and gravy.

The Boxer jumps and bows to Happy. He wants to play. But Happy wanders off, into the ocean, disinterested.

A WHISTLE. The Boxer reacts, runs toward it. Happy watches the Boxer sit when he gets to his MASTER. The Master pats the Boxer's head and gives him a reward.

The Master gathers up his beach chair and other belongings. When he looks back down, he sees Happy sitting up, staring at him with a big smile.

MASTER

Aw, okay guy, I got another one.

Happy devours his treat.

8 EXT. BEACH PARKING LOT - SAME

8

The Boxer ambles into a Jeep. The Jeep drives away, revealing Happy, alone at the beach entrance, watching his new friends leave him behind.

* 9 EXT. SMALL TOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT - DAY (B&W)

9 *

Low angle, Happy struts down the sidewalk, sniffing like a detective.

SIDEWALK (V.O.)
(child's voice)
I dropped my ice cream here.

SIDEWALK (V.O.)
(dog's voice, panting)
I was here. I peed here. That proves it.

SIDEWALK (V.O.)
(man's voice)
Did I just step in something?

A MAN stops to pat him. Happy sniffs the man's shoes.

MAN (V.O.)
Stupid animal. If Muffins tries to get on the couch again, I'll kick her.

Happy keeps walking. A wave of FAINT WHISPERS bombards him as he approaches...

10 EXT. SIDEWALK CAFÉ - CONTINUOUS (B&W)

10

The whispers become louder and more distinct: "Cheeseburger." "French fries." "Fish tacos."

A sad woman, MARION, dines with a MALE COMPANION who jabbars incessantly. Happy sniffs Marion.

MARION (V.O.)
(in German, subtitled)
It's been three months. When will he call? When will he come back? I don't like dating. I don't like this man.

Marion notices Happy. Her mood changes. She smiles.

MARION (V.O.)
(in German, subtitled)
I don't need these fries.

As her hand reaches for a French fry, Happy's tail darts back and forth and he begins to drool.

Marion's Companion's hand stops hers and snatches what was going to be Happy's treat.

COMPANION
That's not good for him.

MARION
It won't hurt him.

COMPANION
It's not even good for you.

MARION
You're right.

She shoots Happy a look of apology.

Happy's attention is diverted to a BUSBOY carrying plates of unfinished food back inside. Happy follows the food with his hungry eyes.

The door closes in his face. Happy can't get in. He trots off around the corner.

11 EXT. ALLEYWAY BEHIND CAFÉ - SAME 11

Happy waits behind the restaurant. He sees the Busboy come out, dump a trash bag into a dumpster, shut the lid, then go back inside.

As Happy approaches the dumpster, we are overwhelmed by LOUD WHISPERS, too many to make out.

Happy puts his front paws on the edge of the dumpster and tries to open the lid with his nose but he can't because his paws keep pushing down on it and he can't figure it out. He WHIMPERS.

* 12 OMITTED 12 *

* 13 OMITTED 13 *

* 14 EXT. PARK - NIGHT (B&W) 14 *

Happy sniffs a large TREE.

TREE (V.O.)
(female dog's voice,
seductive)
Leave me a message, big boy!

Happy lifts his leg to reply to the message, then sets off on the trail of the scent.

A JOGGER comes by and trips over Happy.

JOGGER
 (to Happy)
 Where did you come from? Are you
 lost? Are you hungry?

Happy recognizes the word "hungry." He sniffs the jogger.

JOGGER (V.O.)
 My dog passed away. I miss her
 so. I still have her food.

JOGGER
 (to Happy)
 Follow me, buddy.

Happy follows the Jogger home.

15 INT. JOGGER'S HOUSE - NIGHT (B&W)

15

Happy sticks his nose in a bowl of dry dog food as the Jogger bends down to place it on the floor for him.

DOG FOOD (V.O.)
 (overlapping)
 Chicken meal... Brewers rice...
 Corn gluten meal... Dried beet
 pulp... Dried egg product...
 Riboflavin... 24% protein...
 14% fat... 4% fiber... Stale...

The words become muffled as Happy chows down.

16 INT. JOGGER'S HOUSE - SAME

16

The Jogger channel surfs from a sofa. Happy sleeps at his feet. The TV clicks off. Happy looks up to see what's happening.

JOGGER
 Come on, buddy boy, I'll show
 you to your room.

17 INT. CRATE - SAME

17

Happy is nudged into a dog crate. He looks back in despair only to see the gate shut tight on him like a jail cell door. The light goes out.

Happy sniffs around the cage. In the far corner lies a plush SQUEAKY TOY.

TOY (V.O.)
 (older female dog's
 voice, overlapping)
 I feel safe. I'm twelve and a
 half. I'm bored. There's no way
 out. I'm lonely.

Happy settles down with a sigh. The light comes back on. Happy jumps to his feet. The door opens.

JOGGER
 Almost forgot the routine. You
 need to go out and make pee-pee?

* 18 EXT. JOGGER'S HOUSE - SAME

18 *

A patio light comes on. Happy ambles out the back door. The back gate is unlatched. Happy pushes it open and takes off.

19 EXT. JOGGER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS (COLOR)

19

The Jogger, in a bathrobe and furry slippers, takes a few steps toward the gate.

JOGGER
 Hey, where ya going, buddy? You
 just gonna eat and run?

* 20 EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT (B&W)

20 *

Happy approaches a sign. He stops to read it:

SIGN:
 "You must do the thing that you
 think you cannot do." - Eleanor
 Roosevelt

Happy continues on toward a figure leaning on the side of the bridge, lost in thought, picking up a familiar scent as he approaches...

MARION (V.O.)
 (in German, subtitled)
 If that's the way he wants it, I
 don't care. I'm the one who
 wanted to give you a French fry.

Marion almost loses her balance as Happy nudges her arm with his nose in recognition.

MARION
 Huh?

She sees Happy and catches herself. She laughs and pats his head.

MARION (CONT'D)
 I remember you.

- 21 INT. MARION'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT (B&W) 21
- Marion pulls a pair of pajamas from a drawer. She starts to undress, notices Happy watching her from the bed. She turns her back to him, then laughs at herself, turns back around, and resumes changing in front of Happy. Happy doesn't care either way.
- 22 BATHROOM - SAME 22
- Happy follows Marion to the bathroom and watches her brush her teeth.
- 23 BEDROOM - SAME 23
- Marion gets into bed. Happy is already curled up at the foot, fast asleep. Marion picks up a book and starts reading, but stops to listen to Happy's rhythmic snoring. She smiles.
- Happy's legs start to twitch like he's running in his dream. He starts to bark in his dream. Marion watches him in amazement until the muffled barks cease.
- 24 INT. MARION'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MORNING (B&W) 24
- Marion eats a piece of toast. She notices Happy staring at her. They have a staring contest. Happy wins. Marion busts out laughing and tosses him a piece of her toast.

* 25 EXT. MARION'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY (B&W) 25 *

Marion walks Happy. Up ahead, they see a NEIGHBOR walking an AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD. The Neighbor stops to pick up the Aussie's mess. Happy speeds up to greet the Aussie with a mutual butt-sniffing session.

26 EXT. MARION'S NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS (COLOR) 26

On Marion and the Neighbor, eye level.

NEIGHBOR

Another stray boyfriend, Marion?

MARION

Yes. I think this one will never leave me.

NEIGHBOR

It's true love then, no?

MARION

Yes.

* 27 EXT. MARION'S NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS (B&W) 27 *

On Happy and the Aussie, dog-eye level.

AUSSIE (V.O.)

I dropped a big one, mate. A beauty! Sheila saved it in a plastic bag. I wonder what they do with it?

HAPPY (V.O.)

Who can figure them out? They wash their scent out of their clothes. They dominate us because they can get all the food. If I had thumbs. If I had thumbs. I could open doors. I could make myself a sandwich whenever I wanted.

The Aussie cocks his head at Happy's crazy thoughts, then barks at him. They continue on their separate ways.

* 28A EXT. PET STORE - DAY (B&W) 28A *

Marion walks Happy out of a small Mom & Pop pet store tethered to a brand new leash. She carries a 5 lb. bag of dog food and a new bowl under one arm.

* 28B EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY (B&W) 28B *

As they pass the open door of a small Mom & Pop bookstore, Happy hears the AMPLIFIED SOUND OF A BAGEL hitting the floor inside. He pulls so hard to follow the sound, Marion loses hold of the leash and everything else she's holding falls to the ground.

* 29 INT. BOOKSTORE - SAME 29 *

Happy plows through a small crowd of CUSTOMERS queued up for a book signing and scarfs down the fallen bagel at the feet of KEN OSMOND, who is signing copies of his autobiography. Marion runs in to retrieve Happy.

MARION

I'm sorry. He got away from me.

KEN OSMOND

It's my fault. I must have knocked my bagel down. You can't blame him.

MARION

Hey, don't I know you?

(sees his book)

Ah, yes, I watched in Berlin, you know.

(as Eddie Haskell)

"Sie sehen sehr schön aus Heute, Frau Cleaver."

KEN OSMOND

That's great!

(crouches to pet Happy)

And what's his name?

MARION

I don't know.

KEN OSMOND

(to Happy)

I had a puppy just like you once. I called him "Compañero."

Ken holds out his hand. Happy raises his paw. They shake.

KEN OSMOND (CONT'D)
Happy to make your acquaintance,
sir. You like bagels, do you?
They're pretty tricky to master.

Ken reaches for another bagel from the table.

KEN OSMOND (CONT'D)
You balance it with one hand,
slice with the other. You can't
put your finger through the hole
or you'll slice it off. But you
learn these things. Like riding
a bicycle or driving a car. And
it's worth it, *compañero*. It's
worth it.

Ken breaks off a piece of the bagel and tosses it to Happy. Happy catches it.

MARION
I should call him "Begleiter."

KEN OSMOND
Bagel eater?

MARION
Begleiter. It's German, for
"compañero." Let's go.

Marion picks up Happy's leash and leads him out of the store.

* 30 INT. MARION'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT (B&W) 30 *

Marion sits at a small writing table paying bills. Happy pushes her hand with his nose while she's trying to write a check.

MARION
Stop it.

Happy walks away for a second, then comes back with a ball in his mouth, which he drops in Marion's lap.

MARION
Not now. I'll play with you
later.

She throws the ball out into the living room. Happy retrieves it and drops it in her lap again. He sits and smiles at her. She laughs.

MARION
So that's how it is, huh? Okay,
Mister Bagel Eater.

She tosses the ball again. Happy retrieves it. She tosses it again.

As Marion waits for Happy to come back, the PICTURE TRANSITIONS TO COLOR. She wonders what's taking him so long. Then she hears him BARK wildly. She gets up.

* 31 INT. MARION'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS (B&W)

31 *

Happy barks his head off at an intruder (NICK) standing in the open doorway, a key in his hand, frozen in a face-off with the dog.

MARION
Nick?

NICK
Does he bite?

MARION
I don't know.

NICK
Do you think he'll let us talk,
then?

MARION
(to Happy)
Stop barking. He's a friend.

32 EXT. MARION'S NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT (COLOR)

32

Marion and Nick walk Happy, on leash (out of frame).

MARION
When I saw him again that same
night, I knew he was abandoned.
Like me.

NICK
He could have been lost.

MARION
Like me, also.

* 33 EXT. MARION'S NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS (B&W)

33 *

On Happy. Happy sniffs a fire hydrant.

FIRE HYDRANT (V.O.)
 (Aussie's voice,)
 G'day, mate. 'Member me?

Happy's nose travels all around the fire hydrant, studying it.

FIRE HYDRANT (V.O., CONT'D)
 (Aussie's voice)
 We met this morning. This here's
 my favorite spot. I mark it
 every day.

Happy lifts his leg and overwrites the message.

34 INT. MARION'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (B&W)

34

Happy looks up at Marion with puppy dog eyes.

So does Nick.

NICK
 What do you say, baby?

Marion looks into Nick's eyes for a long moment. She starts toward the bedroom, then stops and gestures with her head for Nick to follow.

Happy follows, too.

STAY ON BEDROOM DOOR as Marion leads Happy back out. She skips to the kitchen. Happy follows. They both return.

MARION
 I'll be fine. You have the whole
 rest of the apartment. Here.

She holds out a dog biscuit. Happy ignores it and just stares at Marion. Marion places the biscuit on the floor.

MARION (CONT'D)
 Good night.

She closes the door. Happy lays down in front of the door, ignoring the biscuit.

FADE TO BLACK

In the darkness, we hear amorous giggles coming from inside the bedroom, followed a few seconds later by the CRUNCH, CRUNCH, CRUNCH of Happy giving up and chewing his biscuit.

35 EXT. BEACH PARKING LOT - DAY (B&W)

35

Happy's head sticks out the passenger side window of a pickup truck as it pulls up to the beach entrance. Nick is driving. Happy is happy. Random whispers hit his face.

The truck stops. Nick leans over and opens Happy's door. Happy starts to exit, but hesitates, looks back at Nick.

NICK

Go on, have fun.

Happy still doesn't move.

NICK (CONT'D)

Okay, I'll be honest with you.
You're not coming back. We had a
talk, Marion and me, and she
doesn't need you anymore. She
has me. So don't make a fuss.

Nick throws a ball out of the truck. Happy climbs down with his tail between his legs. He lays down in front of the ball as Nick drives away.

BALL (V.O.)

(Marion's voice)

So that's how it is, huh? Okay,
Mister Bagel Eater.

He picks up the ball and mopes away.

36 EXT. BEACH - SAME

36

Happy reaches the shore and drops the ball.

The Boxer comes up to him and sniffs him, but Happy pays no attention.

HAPPY (V.O.)

Today I will have a conversation with someone. I will tell them what I want and they will understand me perfectly. I will read the newspaper and watch television and it will all mean something to me.

A wave rolls in over their paws. The Boxer backs away from it. When the water recedes, he continues sniffing.

HAPPY (V.O., CONT'D)

I will open a door and walk into a restaurant and sit in a chair and drink water from a glass. And a waiter will bring me a basket of bread and ask what other food he can fetch. And I will drive a car and I will call a girl on the telephone. I will do all these things today.

The Boxer watches Happy trot into the ocean. The Boxer looks closer at the sand. He tilts his head. Happy's more distant paw prints are replaced by HUMAN FOOT PRINTS!

37 EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS (COLOR)

37

On the empty, blue ocean. Happy is not in sight. A wave washes the ball ashore.

Then Happy emerges from the water IN HUMAN FORM. He walks toward the shore on two legs. He is completely naked and he doesn't care.

The Boxer runs away. Other people on the beach stare at the naked man, shocked, embarrassed, amused. A mother tries to shield her children from looking.

Happy takes in a deep breath. He sniffs the air. He looks all around, blinded by the brilliant colors he sees for the first time. He shakes himself dry, like a dog.

A tattered, long black TRENCH COAT falls from the sky and lands on Happy. Happy notices everyone staring at him. He puts on the trench coat. People stop staring and go back to whatever they were doing. Happy smiles to himself.

* 38A EXT. PET STORE - DAY (COLOR)

38A *

Happy practices walking down the sidewalk on his two feet. He stops and stares at his thumbs. He wiggles them and studies how they work.

He hears CHILDREN GIGGLING. He looks toward the laughter and sees a LEMONADE STAND in front of the pet store.

A CUSTOMER comes out of the pet store.

LITTLE GIRL
Lemonade, mister?

CUSTOMER
How much?

LITTLE GIRL
Fifty cent donation to the
Humane Society to help abused
animals.

Happy watches the Customer dig some change out of his pocket and drink the lemonade.

Happy digs into his own pocket and is surprised to find a few coins. He's even more surprised that he can hold them. He practices picking them up out of his hand.

Happy approaches the lemonade stand and hands the money to the little girl.

HAPPY
Is it enough?

It's not, but she nods "yes" anyway and pours him a cup.

Happy sniffs the drink first. It doesn't seem to tell him anything. He laps up a taste with his tongue.

HAPPY
What color is this?

LITTLE GIRL
Yellow.

HAPPY
And that?

He points to a second pitcher filled with pink lemonade.

LITTLE GIRL

Pink.

HAPPY

And this? (his trench coat)

LITTLE GIRL

Black.

HAPPY

(sticks out his tongue)
And this?

LITTLE GIRL

(laughing)

Red.

HAPPY

Red. Good. Thank you.

Happy tests drinking the rest like a human. He puts down his empty cup, picks up a Humane Society flyer, still practicing using his new hands. He practices reading as he walks away.

LITTLE GIRL

Bye bye.

* 38B EXT. BOOKSTORE - SAME

38B *

Happy recognizes the book store. He pulls open the door with a tremendous sense of satisfaction and goes inside.

* 39 INT. BOOKSTORE - SAME

39 *

Happy leafs through a book, amazed by its contents.

His peculiar actions catch the attention of the STORE MANAGER.

HAPPY

Words. Sentences. Paragraphs.
Pictures. I understand.

STORE MANAGER

Uh huh.

HAPPY

Where is the man who was sitting
at the table yesterday?

STORE MANAGER

You mean Mr. Osmond? Moved on to the next city, I suppose.

ANOTHER EMPLOYEE

Actually, he's downtown at another store today. Here.

The Employee hands Happy a flyer advertising Ken Osmond's in-store appearances.

HAPPY

Thank you.

* 40 EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY (COLOR) 40 *

Happy walks down the sidewalk engrossed in the flyer. A CAT dashes up a tree to avoid him.

Happy looks up in the tree, opens his coat, lifts his leg, and relieves himself.

41 INT./EXT. MARION'S APARTMENT - DAY (COLOR) 41

Someone's arm shoves Nick out the front door. The door slams in his face.

NICK

Marion, you're overreacting, as usual. (pause) I won't come back this time.

The door swings open.

MARION

Good!

Marion dives into Nick's pocket and extracts a set of keys. She struggles to get her key off his key ring.

NICK

It's just a dog.

MARION

He wanted to stay.

NICK

It wasn't even your dog. Be reasonable, Marion. Sooner or later his real owner...

The key drops to the ground. Marion stomps up and down on it repeatedly.

NICK

That's my mailbox key.

She hurls the rest of the keys as far as she can.

MARION

Keep them. I'll change the lock.

She slams the door again. She sees the dog bowl on the floor and her anger turns into tears.

* 42 INT. DOWNTOWN BOOKSTORE - DAY (COLOR)

42 *

Ken Osmond finishes signing a book. The next person in line approaches. Ken notices bare feet sticking out of a long black trench coat.

Happy sticks out his hand. They shake.

HAPPY

I'm Happy.

KEN OSMOND

The bagel eater?

(Happy nods)

I'm happy to see you, too.

HAPPY

It's my name. Happy.

KEN OSMOND

That's great, Happy. I'm Ken Osmond. How does it feel to have thumbs?

HAPPY

Wonderful. I know how to use them.

He demonstrates by picking up a copy of Ken's book.

HAPPY (CONT'D)

And I can read.

KEN OSMOND

Good!

Happy puts the book back down.

HAPPY

But I don't have money to buy
your book.

KEN OSMOND

It's my gift. You'll need some
cash, too.

Ken slips a couple \$100 bills inside the book and
slides it to Happy.

Ken picks up a bagel and takes a bite.

KEN OSMOND

So where's the fräulein?

HAPPY

I don't need her anymore.

Ken waves the bagel around as he speaks.

KEN OSMOND

Happy, just because you're not
dependent on someone to open a
can of food for you doesn't
mean... What am I saying? I
sound like Mr. Cleaver. You'll
figure it all out for yourself.

Ken notices Happy following the bagel with his eyes,
not sure if he's listening.

KEN OSMOND (CONT'D)

Would you like one?

He offers Happy a fresh bagel. Happy instinctively
reaches for it with his mouth. Ken pulls it back and
Happy realizes he should use his hand.

KEN OSMOND

Thumbs. Takes some getting used
to. Took me a couple days.

HAPPY

You?

KEN OSMOND

Oh yeah. There's lots of us. And
you can do anything you want.
Look at me. I was a TV star. I
was a cop.

Happy chews his bagel and stares at Ken in a new
light.

KEN OSMOND (CONT'D)
 But Hap, you'd better get some
 clothes first.

HAPPY
 I will.

Ken turns his attention to the next FAN in line.

FAN
 Mr. Osmond, I just love you and
 all your brothers and Donny &
 Marie...

Ken cocks his head at her like a dog.

43 EXT. MALL - DAY (COLOR)

43

Happy emerges from a Hot Topic clothing store decked
 out in new Sk8er Boi garb.

He folds his old trench coat over one arm and the
 Humane Society flyer falls out of the trench coat
 pocket. Happy picks up the flyer and reads it.

* 44 INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - DAY (B&W)

44 *

A fat CHIHUAHUA and a bored LABRADOR hang out in a
 pen. The Labrador gets up to greet a new visitor:
 Happy. The Labrador sniffs him.

HAPPY (V.O.)
 When I find a home, I will come
 back and get all of you and take
 you there and I will play with
 you all day and feed you as much
 as you can eat. I'll never scold
 you or abandon you. I am your
 friend.

* 45 INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - DAY (COLOR)

45 *

A VOLUNTEER escorts Marion to the pen where Happy
 still watches the dogs.

VOLUNTEER
 Here's all the recent arrivals.
 Your bagel eater one of 'em?

MARION
 No.

VOLUNTEER

Sorry.

The Volunteer notices Marion mesmerized, watching the dogs and leaves her alone, lost in thought.

HAPPY

Did you lose a dog?

MARION

Not really.

Happy cocks his head.

HAPPY

But you were...

MARION

It's a long story.

Long, awkward silence. They watch the dogs stalk each other.

MARION

I don't know why I'm here. I'm not allowed to keep pets where I live.

Marion looks like she might cry. Happy embraces her. He towers over her. Her head is against his chest. She hears his HEART BEAT as fast as a dog's. And it may be her imagination, but she also hears a MUFFLED BARKING coming from inside Happy, like when he was dreaming.

Marion pulls away and composes herself. Happy sticks out his hand.

HAPPY

I'm Happy. It's my name.

MARION

(shaking his hand)
I'm Marion.

HAPPY

Marion.

MARION

I have to go.

She starts to leave. Happy turns back to the dogs. His head hangs low. Marion turns around.

MARION (CONT'D)

I didn't see another car out there. Do you need a ride?

Happy jumps to life when he hears the word "ride."
Marion is startled by his peculiar reaction.

46 EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER - SAME

46

Happy and Marion walk to the only car in the parking lot. Happy works the handle on the passenger door like it's the first time. Marion gets in the driver's seat. Happy gets in and sits up, tall and proud. Marion starts the car and looks over at Happy's weird grin.

MARION

Who are you?

Happy reaches into the pocket of the trench coat still folded over his arm and produces THE BALL. He drops it in Marion's lap.

Marion's eyes widen. She looks at Happy who is staring at her with a big smile.

HAPPY

I like bagels, Marion.

Happy's true identity fully registers on Marion's face.

47 EXT. ROAD - SAME

47

Marion's car weaves down the road toward the camera. As it gets closer, we see Happy is driving. His head sticks out the window, his mouth open, his tongue wagging in the breeze. Marion laughs and grabs the wheel to correct Happy's steering. They are both very happy.

FADE OUT