

BARNEY AND THE.....?

Written by

Ben Marshall

For Create50 "the Impact"

DRAFT 4

ACT II

INT. FAMILY CAR - DAY

In the car boot, squashed between bags and belongings, sits BARNEY the DOG. He stares through the rear window. Sad eyes.

The car pulls a hard left, slamming Barney off balance. He turns to his human family for sympathy...

BARNEY'S P.O.V FOR REST OF SCENE - BARNEY NOT IN SHOT

MR COSGROVE (40s) drives frantically down a backstreet. Into a dead end. MRS COSGROVE (40s) panics in the passenger seat.

MR COSGROVE  
You said next left!

MRS COSGROVE  
I said try! You wanted a short cut!

2 BOYS (8,10) in the backseat are oblivious, glued to their IPADS and HEADPHONES. The family ignore Barney.

Mr Cosgrove wraps his arm round the passenger seat, turning his head for an abrupt reverse. He eyeballs Barney and nods him out of the way. Barney ducks down, into darkness...

...but can't resist stretching his neck and peeping out.

The car reverses at speed into an oncoming car and brakes.

Barney smacks the glass. HORNS blast.

Barney turns to see Mr Cosgrove opens his door and jump out angry. Barney eyes a chance. Scrambles over the seat.

EXT. SUBURBAN BACKSTREET - DAY (CONTINUOUS) NOT P.O.V.

Through Mr Cosgrove's open door bounces Barney, fleeing.

He stops. Looks back. The boys gasp through the rear window. Mrs Cosgrove's head springs out of the passenger side.

MR AND MRS COSGROVE AND BOYS  
(in chorus)  
Barney...Barney...Barney!

Barney with his abandoned lead trailing behind disappears.

EXT. MONTAGE SEQUENCE FROM BARNEY'S P.O.V AS BEFORE - DAY

Abandoned food VAN. Bags on the curb. A bird pecks at loose SAUSAGES. Barney races towards it. Passes by. Uninterested.

Barney runs through a deserted playground. Skips over a dropped ICE-CREAM, cone up. Just melting. Uninterested.

Still in the park, Barney weaves through bushes and leaps over a couple of frolicking JOGGERS, half dressed.

Barney, slower and panting, exits the park towards a HOMELESS MAN. The man winks with a warm toothless smile and pulls Barney back by the trailing lead, turning Barney round. The man goes in for a friendly pat. Barney BARKS fiercely at him - any hope of companionship obliterated.

Barney finds a second wind. He hurtles by a freshly painted FENCE. All white. "WET PAINT" signs are on the floor every few metres.

The newly painted section ends. The words "OH SHIT" are scrawled in white paint on the unpainted fence.

A spilt paint pot blocks Barney's path. He scuttles through.

EXT. COSGROVE HOME - FRONT - MOMENTS LATER - NOT P.O.V.

The driveway is empty but for abandoned belongings scattered. Signs of a rushed getaway.

In the centre of the drive is a large blue RUBBER BONE. In the distance, down the street, Barney heads it's way.

A new spring in Barney's step as he hits the home straight. White paint paw prints track his path.

He bounces up to the bone. Jumps over it and round the side.

EXT. COSGROVE HOME - BACK - MOMENTS LATER - NOT P.O.V.

Barney leaps onto his KENNEL with a "BARNEY" sign. It's positioned under the back window and he BARKS! BARKS again!

He stands on his back legs and taps his white painted paw at the glass and tilts his head - pleading eyes.

On the other side of the glass up jumps BETSY, the cosgrove CAT. She perches on the window sill. Her wet nose sparkles at Barney's wet nose.

Betsy's tail dances and Barney's tail wags.

Their paws almost touch, separated by glass.

The sky turns red.