Paige Johnson's

Barney's Way Home
Welcome Home, Barney!

It's wonderful, isn't it? You have your own bed...

*Woof!*

...Plenty of squeaky toys...

DELICIOUS food and homemade treats — yes, I make them myself...

...And other neighborhood dogs to play with!!

Aww... are they teasing you? Well, I'm sure Modeline, Rudo, and Pixie will love you once they meet your personality.

Wanna go say hello to them?
Well, Barney, we don't like mixed breed mutts like you. In this neighborhood, we're all pure bred and perfect.

Hi! I'm Barney.

So you best leave this neighborhood and let your owner, Maya, get a dog that actually fits in. Now SCRAM!

But...

Rudo? Pixie? You're buying this? That's so unfair! Just because I look different doesn't mean I can't be friends with you!

Yeah! What Madeline said!

Go away!

*sniff*
Come on, my purebred English springer spaniel and perfect Scottish terrier friends, follow me, the amazing purebred standard poodle!

Hey, Barney, you feeling OK?

No, Maya, I'm not. I would tell you, but you wouldn't understand.

Maybe you miss your pals at the adoption center? I know what will cheer you up! How 'bout some dinner?

Wanna play?

OK, I'll let you nap...
Two Days Later

Barney, let's go! There's a pause in the rain, so we should go on a walk now!

Ugh, I don't want to be teased by Madeline, Rudo, and Pixie again.

Oh, no! What is Madeline gonna do once she sees I'm still around?

Hey!

Um, Madeline told me to tell you that if you don't follow her threat and leave, we'll make you!

What?! I have the same right to live in this neighborhood as you. I'm not leaving, Maya!

Everything OK, Barney?

*Sigh*
Well, guys, looks like we have a rebel on our paws. We warned you, Barney! Follow me and get him out of our neighborhood!!

"Uh oh..."

"Bark!" 
"yip, yip!"
"Grr..."

"No! Barney, come back!!"

"Where am I?"
I call it the City. A Side Street of Chicago, to be exact.

w-what? Who said that?!

Me. You new around here, pet? You don't look scrappy enough to be a stray like me. Where ya from?

Ooh, wait. Lemme guess. That fancy peppered town?

Um... yeah.

Really? You don't seem snobby enough. Ooh, Is that why you came here?

Well, it's a long story...

I've got time.

Ok, well, first I was adopted at a pet shelter by Maya, my used-to-be owner. She brought to that neighborhood and named me Barney...
...and since I wasn't purebred or perfect — hey, you aren't a purebred either! — they chased me here.

Wow. Madeline, Rudo, and Pixie were disrespectful.

That's not the only bad thing. Now I'm lost and I can't fend for myself...

Did you help me?

Of course I can, but... you want everyone to be happy, don't you? Yeah.

Then what about your owner Maya? She'll be devastated without you....

I see where you're going but there is no way I'm going back.

But if you don't, Madeline and her crew will keep getting away with treating other dogs cruelly, too. You don't want to be a stray. You'll be hungry, cold, and tired all the time.

I guess...

Staying here isn't helping anything. Fine, I'll go back — on one condition. You'll come with me.
Oh, you poor thing. You look like a stray. You wanna be Barney's new brother? Buzz?

BARNEY!!

Oh, you poor thing. You look like a stray. You wanna be Barney's new brother? Buzz?

BARNEY!!

Aww... you bought a friend! Come in, both of you!

Barney, you're such a good, good boy!

This is it. My home.

I missed you so much!

you ever been a pet?

used to. When my family moved away, they left me here.
I'll take that as a yes! Welcome to the family... Trudy!

Just as I suspected!

Let's talk some sense into Madeline, Rudo, and Pixie!

They're just gonna tease us and that doesn't feel good. Trust me, I know.

Don't worry, I have a plan for that...

Ugh. Look who came back. And with a mixed-breed friend.

That's ok, but the way you three acted toward Barney wasn't.

you're jealous of us, aren't you?
Oh.

Sorry, Barney and Trudy. Can we make it up to you? Wanna be friends?

We're sorry. I acted wrong.

Of course. We can be friends. Let's be a pack! In the end, we're all the same on the inside.

THE END