

NO MORE SPIDERS

FADE IN:

EXT. UNDEVELOPED CITY LOT - 1968 - DAY

Two girls, both eleven-years-old, ride their bikes swiftly through a field. JESSIE CALLAHAN is tall for her age and pretty, but insecure. She lacks coordination, but makes up for it with determination. MARY ELIZABETH "IZZY" CARTER has shoulder length ratty hair, with a dark tan and worn clothes. Izzy is clever, but compulsive and boyish.

When they ride onto a sidewalk, they pick up speed.

The sidewalk ends at a tall set of steep stairs that lead down to the block below. There is a narrow dirt trail that runs alongside of the stairs.

Jessie arrives there first, stops her bike and looks down the trail, which is not safe to ride on.

Izzy laughs at Jessie, whips by her and then takes on the trail. After Izzy begins her descent, she realizes that it wasn't the best idea and tries to not to cry out.

As her bike slips on the loose dirt and hits several bumps; she struggles to keep her balance, and to keep from flying over the handlebars. Miraculously Izzy makes it to the bottom, still on her bike and without having fallen over.

Izzy continues on her way and raises one trembling arm to show off her success. Jessie rolls her eyes, picks up her bike and carries it down the stairs.

JESSIE

(to herself)

Crazy brat! Why can't she fall like everyone else?

(yells at Izzy)

Hey wait up!

Izzy brakes and looks back at Jessie.

IZZY

What are you doing? Aw, come on! The trail is . . . exuberating!

Jessie reaches the bottom of the stairs and then remounts her bike.

JESSIE

Exuber-whatting? What the heck does that mean? That you're happy when you crap in your pants?

Izzy laughs and starts peddling again.

IZZY

Like my dad always says, nothing like a good dump!

JESSIE

You're talkn' like a boy again. You can't win just because you're willing to die.

IZZY

(mockingly)
Oh you're just worried that your true love, Jeffrey Levin, might hear us.

Jessie has almost caught up to Izzy.

JESSIE

(indignant)
Jeff Lev . . . Do you know what that boy does with his snot?

IZZY

(scoffs)
He writes, "I love Jessica Callahan" on the bathroom wall.

Jessie pulls a bag of Sugar Babies from her pocket and starts hurling them at Izzy.

IZZY

Ouch! Okay, Okay . . .

Izzy rides over a raised section of the sidewalk where a large tree root has grown under it. She pops an unintentional wheelie. She almost loses control of her bike and blames the near accident on Jessie.

IZZY

(angry)
Hey, maybe I'll tell him why your mother has to hang that yellow sheet from your window every morning.

Realizing the consequences of what she said, Izzy peddles away as fast as she can.

JESSIE

(outraged)
That's my brother Mark's sheet, and you know it!

The girls continue racing down the street.

NARRATOR (V. O.)

Izzy and Jessie were best friends even though they seldom agreed on anything. They enjoyed a good argument.

They drive past a group of NEIGHBORHOOD BOYS who are sitting on a curb. A handful of Sugar Babies that Jessie hurls at Izzy, misses her, but hits the boys. The boys complain.

NARRATOR (V. O.)

They had a mutual disdain for most boys, and hated having to wear dresses.

Izzy drives right through a hopscotch game being played by two girls, who are wearing dresses and bows. Jessie drives around them. The two prissy girls stand with their hands on their hips.

PRISSY GIRL #1

How rude!

PRISSY GIRL #2

Mary Elizabeth knows nothing of being a lady.

NARRATOR (V. O.)

Izzy often told Jessie that men invented dresses just to slow women down.

Izzy jumps off of her bike in front of Jessie's house and runs into her yard. Jessie parks her bike and runs after Izzy.

NARRATOR (V. O.)

Izzy couldn't think of a single boy she liked, but didn't like being a girl either. Jessie had a crush on a different boy every week.

Izzy grabs the lowest branch of a tall plum tree that is growing right next to Jessie's house. She pulls herself up into the tree with ease.

Jessie climbs up a ladder made of rope and wood.

MARK, Jessie's younger brother, runs into the yard; followed by FRANK, Izzy's older brother; and another neighborhood boy, JEFFREY LEVIN.

MARK

(to Jessie)

I'm telling! What did you throw at me?!

FRANK

(to Izzy)

What'd dad say about throw'n your bike on the ground? Hey, this is my bike!

Jessie climbs up to where Izzy is. Izzy quickly starts pulling the ladder up.

JESSIE

(to Mark)

It was just Sugar Babies . . .

IZZY

Yeh, Sugar Babies for babies. Waaa . . . !

Jeffrey jumps up and tries to get a hold of the ladder, but he just misses the bottom rung. Frank and Mark look at one another.

FRANK AND MARK

(hopeful)
Sugar Babies?

Izzy bites into several plums without eating them, until Jessie stops her.

JESSIE
What's wrong with them? Why don't you eat them?

MARK (O. C.)
I'm telling mom you're not sharing . . .

IZZY
Okay, okay, we'll give you all that we have!

JESSIE
(to Izzy)
I don't have any more.

Izzy winks at Jessie.

IZZY
(to the boys)
But you can only eat what you catch in your hands.

FRANK
(trying to be -
sensible)
My mom always says not to pick things up off of the ground.
It starts to rain half-eaten, squished plums. Most hit the ground, but some bounce off of the boys.

JEFFREY
Hey, we weren't ready yet!

One extra juicy one splatters on Frank's head. Mark looks at a purple wet spot on his shoulder; and Frank pulls his plum out of his hair. Mark and Jeffrey look at Frank's plum and then quickly move out of range.

Frank looks up at his sister.

FRANK
Aren't there any good ones?

Jeffrey grabs Frank by his shirt and pulls him away from the tree. Izzy and Jessie laugh and jeer at the boys.

The girls climb higher and then take a seat on a sturdy branch.

NARRATOR (V. O.)
Here in this old plum tree, Izzy and Jessie could sit hidden within its

leaves and blossoms, and spy on the neighborhood. They made their best plans here.

JESSIE
My dad's gonna be mad.

IZZY
What's new. You're dad's always mad.

JESSIE
Yah, but without him I wouldn't have my Aunt Teddy.

IZZY
True. So, what did she bring you this time?

Jessie tries to withhold a smile, but doesn't succeed.

INT. JESSIE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Izzy and Jessie sit on the floor next to Jessie's bed. They are admiring two new Barbie dolls that are wearing evening gowns.

JESSIE
(proudly)
This one is Barbie and this is her friend Midge.

IZZY
Wow, bet they cost a lot. So . . . where are their play clothes?

Izzy picks up Midge and has her do a karate kick with sound effects.

JESSIE
What are you talking about?

IZZY
Please! They can't climb a tree, swim or even run in these clothes.

JESSIE
Of course not. They don't want their evening gowns getting torn or dirty.

MINUTES LATER

Izzy holds Midge; Jessie holds Barbie. The dolls are naked. Izzy has the look of a concerned doctor; Jessie is thoroughly embarrassed.

Izzy reaches out and puts her hand on Jessie's shoulder to prepare her.

IZZY

You do realize that they're not normal.

JESSIE
I feel sorry for them.

IZZY
I think I can help.

INT. INSIDE JESSIE'S CLOSET - LATER

Izzy takes a seat and then takes out a long metal file from her pack. Jessie cringes at the sight of it. Izzy smirks at Jessie.

IZZY
That's right. You faint at the sight of blood don't you?

Jessie flashes Izzy a look of disdain.
JESSIE

Get on with it.

Izzy picks up the dolls and looks into their eyes.

IZZY
Don't worry ladies, you're malformaties will be taken care of.

Izzy begins filing down one of the doll's chests.

MINUTES LATER

Izzy and Jessie are redressing their dolls. As Jessie pulls a dress down over Barbie's body, she takes a closer look at the bodice of the dress. The dress still sticks out where the breasts used to be. She pokes her finger into the bodice.

JESSIE
Now the dresses don't fit right.

IZZY
Yeah, Midge is a normal person now, but her clothes don't work for her.

Izzy brings Midge close to Barbie and then speaks for her in a low voice.

MIDGE (IZZY)
Barbie . . . aaa Private. I need to recruit you to go on a top-secret mission.

BARBIE (JESSIE)
Secrets? I love secrets. Is it dangerous?

Midge covers Barbie's mouth with her hand.

MIDGE (IZZY)

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For the complete script please contact Jennifer Brooks at
info@filmmakers.com