



"Swing Life Away"

A Short by  
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Based on *Spider-Man*,  
created by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko

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Monster Zero Productions

**"Swing Life Away"**

FADE IN:

EXT. PARKER HOME - BACKYARD

With the sun just about ready to set, MARY JANE sits inside of a TIRE SWING hanging from a tree, alone in the yard. The look on her face tells us she's in deep thought.

PETER (O.S.)

We haven't used that old thing in years.

PETER walks into frame. Mary Jane smiles faintly, but doesn't turn to face him.

MARY JANE

Sorry to barge in. I just needed to get away. My parents just had this huge fight. I just... couldn't be there. I had to get away. I didn't know where else to go.

PETER

It's alright. You know you don't need an excuse to be here.

Mary Jane spins the swing around toward him.

MARY JANE

I know you're probably tired of hearing my whining all the time.

PETER

You know that's not true. What happened with your parents?

Mary Jane thinks back, sighs.

MARY JANE

It's the same thing it always is. This time was different, though. My mom broke a glass. I just...

Peter notices her eyes beginning to well up with tears. He places a comforting hand on her shoulder.

PETER

Hey, come on...

MARY JANE

I just don't know what's going to happen to them. To me. What if...

MARY JANE (CONT'D)

(beat, wipes away tears)

What if they split-up? I don't know if I can handle that, Peter.

PETER

I know it's tough, but they're doing the best they can. I'm sure it's not what either of them want.

MARY JANE

I thought once my dad took this job, everything would be better. It sucks that he had to take it, but I at least thought it'd keep them from fighting so much.

(beat)

I guess it's more than money.

PETER

Usually is.

She looks up at him, wiping away more tears.

MARY JANE

God, look at me. I totally invade your backyard and then use you as my personal shrink.

PETER

I just wish I had more to say. This isn't exactly my area of expertise.

MARY JANE

No kidding.

(Peter cocks at eyebrow)

A joke. God, my humor sucks.

Peter grins.

PETER

You know, this is the first time we've actually talked in a while.

MARY JANE

Yeah, sorry I had to go and bring you down with the soap opera that is the Watson household.

PETER

I'm the one who should apologize. I've been so busy I've hardly been around at all.

MARY JANE

What have you been doing anyway?  
Eddie's got this whole conspiracy  
theory about you working for the  
CIA, investigating Wally.

PETER

Only Eddie would come up with that.  
(beat, laughs)  
No, I've just had so much on my  
plate. I've been helping Robbie out  
in my spare time. He's got this  
story he's working on, and...

MARY JANE

What?

PETER

Nothing, It's not important. Just  
very, very boring. Trust me, if  
yours is a soap opera, mine's  
public access TV.

Mary Jane laughs.

MARY JANE

What a pair we make.

PETER

Don't let Indy hear you say that.

MARY JANE

(laughing)  
Hey, you never know. Who ever saw  
Gwen and Eddie coming?  
(beat)  
Okay, bad example.

A moment of silence as Mary Jane twirls around on the tire  
swing slowly, finally coming back around to face Peter.

PETER

Hey, you wanna go to Dante's or  
something?  
(re: tire swing)  
No offense to old Melvin, but he's  
no match for an Inferno Burger.

Mary Jane looks at him, a hint of surprise crossing her face.

MARY JANE

Peter Parker, are you asking me  
out?

Peter pales.

PETER

What? No, I... I mean I was just asking if... I mean if you...

MARY JANE

Relax, I'm messing with you.

Peter breaths a sigh of relief.

PETER

Oh, good, because that would require money. Which I don't have.  
(beat)  
Which I... never have.

MARY JANE

You know, no offense, but those Inferno Burgers kinda lose their appeal after you serve them every day for a month.

PETER

(frowns)  
Oh. Right. Sorry.

MARY JANE

But you know what I could really go for right now? One of those smoothies like we used to make when we were kids. Remember them?

PETER

What is this, retro day?

Mary Jane hops out of the tire swing.

MARY JANE

Yep. Does that mean we get to play Cinderella?

PETER

Don't push your luck.  
(then)  
Wait, I thought it was Snow White?

Mary Jane laughs.

MARY JANE

Come on, Prince Charming. Our smoothies await.

They head towards the house.

MARY JANE  
Hey, Peter?

PETER  
Yeah?

MARY JANE  
Thanks.

PETER  
For what?

She looks over at him with a smile.

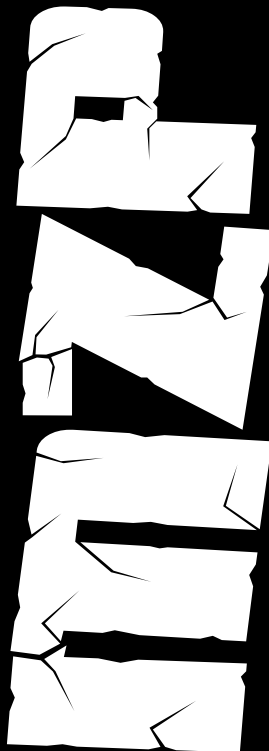
MARY JANE  
For being here.

Peter smiles as they continue their chat. We PAN UP and away from them, eventually coming upon a view of the setting sun.

As it sinks below the horizon, we:

FADE OUT.

**THE END**



spider-man  
**GIFTS & CURSES**

**Based on Spider-Man**  
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