



"Awesome Aussie"

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

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"Awesome Aussie"

FADE IN:

INT. MIDTOWN HIGH - CAFETERIA

Students move through the room, lunch trays hand. That familiar scene of a couple hundred hungry teens making use of their time to do everything else they can while eating.

We MOVE THROUGH the crowd, finally settling on a table with a few familiar faces. GWEN sits at a table with MARY JANE, her plate is piled high with broccoli and cheese, while Mary Jane has a burger and fries. Mary Jane looks down at Gwen's plate.

MARY JANE

Are you part rabbit?

Gwen grins, and wiggles her nose as she shoves broccoli into her mouth. Mary Jane rolls her eyes with a smile, but then notices EDDIE and PETER sitting together at a nearby table.

GWEN

You guys can drop this awkward routine anytime now. It's getting a little old.

MARY JANE

Ya think?

(beat, sighs)

I don't know, I mean I'm over it. I am, but I just...

GWEN

Don't want him to know?

Mary Jane gives her a confirming look.

GWEN

Been there. Just give him some time, he'll come around.

Eddie runs into frame, quickly taking a seat beside Gwen.

EDDIE

Did you tell her?

MARY JANE

Tell me what?

Gwen rolls her eyes.

GWEN

Nothing, Eddie being Eddie.

EDDIE
Hey! Pete saw it too!

MARY JANE
Saw what?

EDDIE
(to Gwen)
You didn't tell her?!

MARY JANE
Tell me what?

Eddie grins, leaning in to tell his story.

EDDIE
Okay, you have to promise to keep this under wraps. It's big. Like, top secret big. Area 51 big...

Mary Jane nods.

EDDIE
New X-Files movie big. I'm talking big like...

MARY JANE
Eddie. I get it.

Eddie shifts and moves closer to her.

EDDIE
All right. The other day, Pete and I were hanging out, talking about...
(off Gwen's look)
Well, we were talking, and we took the shortcut to Dante's...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RIVERSIDE - FLASHBACK

Peter and Eddie are walking along the river, a nice view of New York City in the background.

EDDIE
Come on, dude. I lived in a big city for most of my life until two years ago. Always heard the stories, but I've never seen one.

PETER

That's what they said about mutants
ten years ago.

EDDIE

That's different.

Peter looks at him with a wry smile.

PETER

How?

EDDIE

A mutant isn't a gator!

PETER

I'm telling you, dude, they're
here! In the sewers. People have
reported them to the police.

EDDIE

People report UFOs too, and I ain't
never seen a flying saucer!

PETER

You're one to talk, believing all
those stories about Wally.

Eddie reacts like a kid who's been told there's no Santa.

EDDIE

Those aren't stories, they're
epics, dude! All true!

Nearby, the river begins to bubble up. They stop, looking at
it strangely. It stops briefly, then continues to bubble.

EDDIE

What the hell is that?

Peter looks at it closely.

PETER

Probably an air pocket or
something. Vibrations from the
subway tunnel. Got to be.

The bubbles cease, and are soon replaced by a NECKLACE
floating to the surface. Peter looks on, slightly concerned.

EDDIE

(awe)
Dude...

Suddenly, a MAN bursts up from the water. Eddie and Peter scream and jump back. The man dives back down as quickly as he came up. Peter and Eddie watch for a second, freaked out.

EDDIE
Should we help?

PETER
How?!

After another few moments, head of hair breaks the water and the man slowly rises up out of it. It's WALLY, with a long thick knife in his mouth. He slowly swims forward, eventually reaching the shore, and pulling something behind him.

A GATOR!

EDDIE
Told you it was all true!

Wally drags the gator from the river, noticing Eddie and Peter, and giving them a friendly wave and a smile as he pulls the knife from his mouth.

WALLY
Hello, boys! How we doing today?

Peter and Eddie give slow, nervous, unsure waves back.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MIDTOWN HIGH - CAFETERIA

Mary Jane stares blankly at a smiling Eddie.

EDDIE
True story.

MARY JANE
Right...

EDDIE
No, seriously. It's all true, I swear!

Mary Jane looks to Gwen, who shrugs.

GWEN
Don't ask me.

Eddie is about to speak, but stops as he notices something ahead in the distance. He grins to himself.

EDDIE

Check it out!

They turn and find Wally approaching the table, a pleasant smile on his face, and carrying a metal can in his hand.

WALLY

You lads having a good one?

They all nod.

WALLY

Glad to hear it!

He reaches into his coat pocket and pulls out two necklaces, similar to the one we saw in the water before.

He tosses one to Eddie.

WALLY

There you go, Ed. A little souvenir.

Eddie holds up the necklace. It's a string of thin, green ROPE. Strung along the rope is a row of GATOR TEETH.

WALLY

Where's Pete? Got one for him, too.

EDDIE

He's over there. It's a long story.

WALLY

(smiles)

The best ones always are.

Wally walks off, heading to give Peter his gift. Eddie smiles at Mary Jane, as if to say 'told you so.' In fact:

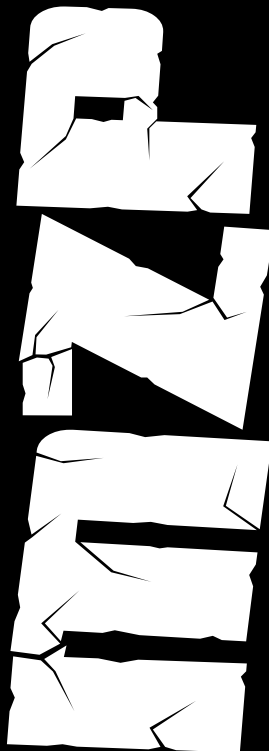
EDDIE

Told you so!

Off her incredulous expression:

FADE OUT.

THE END



spider-man
GIFTS & CURSES

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