

The Chocolate Sauce Incident

a short film
by Daniel Bloomberg

A tall, blonde girl stands in the cafeteria food line at a high school cafeteria. She chats easily with fellow students on the line and serving staff alike. The blonde glances with brief dis-ease at a shorter brunette next to her. The brunette makes no eye contact, seeming to exist, unnoticed, in the shadow cast by the pretty blonde. The line passes the serving-platters with food. The pretty blonde has a little of each while the brunette passes these options with disdain. The brunette is eying the jell-o cubes which stand at the end of the line. When finally they reach the jell-o, there is only one portion left. The blonde takes the last bowl of jell-o casually and places it on the brunette's tray. The blonde smiles at the brunette generously, but the brunette responds with a brief, suspicious glance, preoccupied by the bowl of jell-o itself. The blonde's smile fades.

The blonde moves stridently out of the line and into the seating area. Her smile returns as she greets a student. She passes a large, bulk-sized can of chocolate syrup on a shelf. A woman appears from a door next to the shelf, carrying a fresh serving-platter of jell-o. The woman replaces the empty jell-o platter in the line. As she passes back through the doorway, carrying the empty platter; the chocolate syrup is gone. The brunette moves slowly past the empty shelf, toward the seating area looking intently at her bowl of jell-o.

The blonde flitters through the room, sitting at a table of fashionable, peppy girls. She begins conversing instantly with the table's occupants, but her eyes pass back to the brunette.

The brunette walks very slowly, staring fixedly at the bowl of jell-o cubes. With each of her steps the jell-o cubes jiggle. A girl walks past in the opposite direction. The passing girl stops dead in her tracks, then turns and walks back from where she came. Behind her, seated students also notice something and they leave the dining hall as a dark shadow passes over the room. The brunette's attention is not disturbed from her jell-o. She continues her steady pace, eyes locked onto the tray as the shadow grows behind her.

At the pretty blonde's table, people are also turning and leaving. The blonde runs to the brunette and pulls her forward and away from the encroaching shadow, sending the brunette reeling. The blonde then rushes heroically into the growing darkness.

The brunette is sent sprawling. She is lying face-down as the shadow passes over her. The shadow departs and she turns around to peer behind her.

The room is peppered with students draped over tables and chairs and limp on the floor. Nearest to her, the blonde girl lies perfectly still, on her back. The brunette rushes to the blonde, lifting the girl's head into her lap. The brunette gazes into the blonde's closed eyes and then to her stomach, where there is a dark stain. The blonde opens her eyes and looks into those of the brunette. She then looks at her wound. She touches the dark stain and tastes some of the black liquid. She find it tastes good and smiles up at the brunette. The brunette smiles back, and all around them students start getting up off the ground and smiling in new-found wonder.