

THE HEAD OF A PIN

by Su Friedrich

Script Notes:

C is Cathy Quinlan

S is Su Friedrich

B is Barbara Epler

CL is Claudia Steinberg

M is Mark Plesent

J is Jeffrey Young

The notes in italics indicate the scene that comes directly before the new shot of the spider (during which one hears the dialogue) but sometimes it indicates the (non-spider) shot that has dialogue running under it.

In the car

C: Okay, what do you think?

S: What?...Well, slow down!...Like, what was that?

C: It was a driveway!

S: (laughs) I know, but...

C: Well, what does she say on the thing? Does it say Tongas Road?

S: Yea, it's just that the sign might be set in or something....

C: This might be...

S: No, 'cause it's on the right...There...Look at that! Jesus!

C: Okay, what's our next direction?

S: Well, it's gonna be on the left...

In the house

B: There are some other victims wrapped up there on the top... (whispers)...Here it comes to visit again...Oh, spooky....Claudia, it's worth seeing!

CL: Yea?

B: Yea, it's life and death drama.

C: When it was first on the floor with it, I thought it had a chance!...But it didn't.

After the bird house

S: And it's so big, you know.

B: It's a big prey...It also looks like something that could sting...Oooh, drawing it into the thick of it...Oooh...Look, its little feet are tied together—poor thing!...Oh I feel for it, I feel like we should take it out of there.

CL: Barbara, this is impossible! The spider needs to eat too... You want to feed it some..?
B: Peanut butter!
CL: Peanut butter (laughs)...Exactly!
B: Put a little piece of bacon in there...Oh, it's kind of turning my stomache.

During the butterfly

C: Some of them must get away from it, mustn't they?
S: I would think... I mean if the web isn't strong enough, or if...
C: Yea...
S: ...it's too big, you know, it's big enough to...

(cut to spider)

C: The spider doesn't even look as big as it did a moment ago--it had kind of pumped itself up and looked so fierce...
S: Hmm
C: Oh, ooh...
S: Wow.
C: It's trying--it does try to stay away from it, doesn't it? From the front...
S: Hmm.
C: Ooh...it's really working with it, oh my god!

After the white canoe

C: Ooh, it's trying to get the arms...
S: Mm hmm...One of its arm seems pretty caught; the other one is fairly free.

While Cathy looks at flower book

C: Oh, this says it's chamomile!
S: Huh!
C: That's interesting...
S: It looks so much bigger than the chamomile that we...
C: Yea, well, it's a kind of chamomile, not the same as this, that's the tea, but this doesn't say anything about whether (yawns)...doesn't say anything about whether you eat them or anything like that or use them in any way....Raised, ten to twenty (she counts petals)...There's twenty-one, so it can't be it...maybe.... oh wait a minute, hmm...maybe it's more this, chrysanthemum...twenty to two hundred...oh, fifteen to thirty, okay...

(cut to spider)

S: This could go on for hours!
C: I guess it could.

After shoes out in yard

S: Oh!
C: Oooh, that was not a good move, I don't think.
S: No.

C: The spider really strengthened his part.

After going down to river to swim

S: I just...I don't understand why it keeps... like, if you said it was spinning around before, why it can't do that again to sort of, because...

C: I don't know if it was spinning around, it might have like just been making its web a little stronger, you know, like this one piece a little thicker...like it was sort of spinning around right above it.

S: Oh....

At the river, seeing the eagle

M: Do you have your glasses? Bald eagle!

J: Oh yea! Bald eagle! Wow, maybe it'll turn around...

M: Another bald eagle! Jesus! Wow...Double sighting!

C: Yea...Wow, look at the light on its back!

(cut to spider)

C: They touch each other sometimes, don't they?

S: Yea.

C: Hmm...I suppose the spider kind of recognizes where the thing could bite it or...It probably, like, has pretty good insect knowledge.

While seeing the house windows at night

S: I guess theoretically the spider could give up and then the other thing could sort of walk down or something, I don't know...

C: I don't think it could, I think it's sticky.

S: Yea, but it is walking, it's sort of moving...

C: No.

S: No, sometimes it's...

C: Uh uh...

S: Not moving up but sometimes...

(cut to spider)

C: No, it's totally, like, it's got a leg that's completely wrapped around...

S: Oh, really?

C: ...it never gets moved away from that.

S: Oh.

Flying egret

S: It's really weird how it's silent also—like, is it silent to them?

C: Well, you could put some background music to it.

(cut to spider)

(song)

Wherever you are, love won't leave you stranded,

*Wherever you are, love won't let you hide,
Wherever you are, one of these days baby, we'll be walking side by side...
All it takes is some time and some destiny
A little courage for those days when all we see....*

S: Yea, it's not looking so good now.
C: (laughs) Well, when was it looking good?

While women lie on grass

C: Hello? Uh, no, he's not here. He should be back in about an hour, though...Uh, no., it's Cathy...Hi...Okay, okay, and you're Bob? Is he picking you up? Okay. Okay, bye.

(cut to spider)

C: Anything happening?
S: No...

While seeing the planet Mars

S: Can you see it?
J: Yea, it's right there.
S: Wow!
J: It's incredible
S: Wow!
J: Oh, I wish we had a telescope!
CL: Kitty, come here!
C: That is amazing!...To me, it does not look red.
J: You have to look at it from the side, not directly, and there's a red tint.
C: Uh huh...

(cut to spider)

S: Well this could go on, I mean, this has already been about fourteen minutes.
C: Hmm

After the hummingbirds

C: I don't know if the spider can give a death blow or not, if it can get in.
S: But I guess, I mean...
C: Some do, I think
S: But, uh, theoretically a thing that gets caught in their web could kill them, couldn't it?
C: I don't know.
S: God, what we know about the natural world...
C: Right...
S: We could put on...
C: ...the head of a pin! (laughs)

After the river at twilight

M: I'm not gonna ask...

S: It's this spider that was...

M: Oh...

S: ...fighting with this huge winged thing this morning...It was a long fight and now it's got it.

M: It's over.

S: It's over...exactly.

Tail credits:

Shot and edited by Su Friedrich

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For Robert

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