

EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - DAY

SPIDER-MAN swings through the cross-hairs of a rifle scope.

JENNY (OVER)

Bang! You're dead. It would be so easy. I'm amazed no one's ever tried it before. Just line you up in their sights as you swing by and BANG!

EXT. ROOF TOP

ECU. Jenny, 17, is looking through a rifle scope.

JENNY (OVER)

Not like you don't deserve it.

WIDER. Jenny holds a .22 Caliber rifle. She tracks Spidey with the rifle barrel.

JENNY (OVER)

Why couldn't you just mind your own business?

She lowers the rifle and watches Spidey swing off into the distance.

JENNY (OVER)

Why d'you always have to butt in where you're not wanted and play hero?

She starts to cry.

JENNY (OVER)

It was just a stupid robbery. What's it to you? No one was going to get hurt ... No one, until you came along.

She slumps against the wall and slides down into a sitting position.

TITLE: TEN DAYS EARLIER

Jenny is sitting in the same position on the roof. She's wearing different clothes.

Andrew paces back and forth, distraught. His face is swollen and badly bruised. His upper lip has been stitched and he has a bandage over one eye.

ANDREW

They're going to kill me, Jen. I know they are. They're gonna find me and put a bullet in my skull.

JENNY

But you said they don't know it's you who took the money. That's why you paid those guys to beat you up, right? You said they believed you when you said you were robbed.

ANDREW

I know, I know. But you don't know these people. I didn't know these people. They're not going to let it go. #*&#!, Jen, I didn't know it was the Kingpin's money I was runnin'. They're gonna go lookin' for the guys who did this, and when they don't find 'em, they're gonna put two and two together and they're gonna come lookin' for me.

JENNY

Can't you give the money back? Say you found the guys who took it and got it back.

ANDREW

The money's gone, Jen. We had debts, remember. Besides, I gave those guys two grand to do this to me. And it's not about the money any more. It's about the Kingpin. You don't steal from him and get away with it.

JENNY

Maybe there's a first time. C'mon, Andy, think!

ANDREW

Maybe you're right. Maybe if I can get my hands on another six grand I can give it back somehow. I can make the delivery and everyone's happy. Maybe they'll just break my legs or cut off a thumb or something. It's gotta be better than what they're gonna do to me when they find out it was me.

INT. WAREHOUSE

CLOSE UP

Two men, a couple of street punks, are bound back to back on a pair of chairs. They're beaten within an inch of their lives.

WIDEN ON SAME

In the foreground is a fist the size of a cider block. The knuckles are splattered with blood.

REVERSE ANGLE

The hand belongs to the KINGPIN. He stands over the pair of thugs with a very unhappy scowl.

A man in a dark suit stands a few feet behind him.

KINGPIN

Find him.

DARK SUIT

Yes sir.

EXT/INT. JEWELRY STORE - NIGHT

Andrew works on the back door with a crowbar. It's a smash and grab job.

The door cracks open.

Andrew slips inside.

It's a mom and pop jewelry store. Nothing big. But all together it might be enough to cover the debt.

Andrew smashes the glass counters.

He scoops everything into a gym bag.

He drops the crowbar and bolts out the back.

He runs into a spider web.

ANDREW

No! No!

He struggles frantically but only manages to tangle himself up more.

He stops struggling and breaks down into tears.

A figure drops down into the scene dangling on a thin web.

SPIDER-MAN

Don't tell me. You're working on a school project about the ten quickest ways to louse up your life?

Andrew looks up with bitter, angry eyes.

ANDREW

It's so easy for you, isn't it?

SFX: POLICE SIRENS

SPIDER-MAN

Actually, it is. All I do is press a little button on my palm and "Thwipp!" Out comes the web. And for the record, the third 'P' is silent.

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Andrew lies back on a bunk staring up at the ceiling.

A cop raps on the bars.

COP

Okay, kid. Up and at 'em. You're being transferred.

ANDREW

It's 3 A.M.

COP

The law never sleeps.

Andrew looks apprehensive.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Andrew is lead outside by the cop into an unmarked car.

INT. UNMARKED CAR

Andrew settles into the back seat next to the man in the dark suit.

Andrew looks sick, but totally resigned.

The car drives off.

INT. WAREHOUSE

Andrew is tied to a chair.

The Kingpin looks at Andrew's swollen face.

Andrew tries to be brave, but the tears are streaming down his face.

KINGPIN

Do you know what I hate?

ANDREW

(meekly)

When people steal from you.

KINGPIN

Well, yes, there's that. Obviously.
But do you know what I hate even
more than people who steal from me?

Andrew shakes his head.

KINGPIN

It's people who steal from me and
spend the money on something cheap
and classless like an American car,
or a MacDonald's hamburger. I feel
like I've been stolen from twice.

The Kingpin cracks his knuckles.

KINGPIN

Now, as I understand it, you paid
two thousand dollars for that face.
It's not bad, but hardly worth the
money. So, do know what I'm going
to do?

Andrew is crying like baby.

ANDREW

No, please ...

KINGPIN

I'm going to get my money's worth.

EXT. EAST RIVER - DAY

Police and other emergency vehicles are parked by the side of the river.

A hoist is raising a body from the water.

It's Andrew.

EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

Jenny sits as we left her earlier, her eyes red with tears.

EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - NEW DAY

INT. HIGH SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY

PETER PARKER is writing an equation on the blackboard.

Suddenly, his spider sense explodes.

He spins around in a near panic, eyes scanning the classroom.

He's expecting to see Doc Ock or the Green Goblin. Instead, he sees Jenny taking her seat near the back of the class.

Peter watches her, unnerved. His spider sense burning. He feels Jenny's hatred. He feels her threat.

He stares at Jenny.

Jenny stares at him.

JENNY

What? You want me to go to the
office an' get a late slip?

Peter hesitates. His spider sense doesn't abate.

PETER

That's all right, Ms. Hill. I'm ...
I'm sure you'll catch up.

He turns back to the blackboard and tries to write but his hand is shaking uncontrollably.

EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - DAY

Afternoon rush hour.

EXT. ROOF TOP

Spidey swings through the cross hairs of the rifle scope.

Jenny tracks him with the rifle.

She squeezes the trigger.

SFX: CLICK!

JENNY
BANG! You're dead.

She drops the rifle and cries into her hands.

She doesn't see or hear the soft landing of padded feet on the roof behind her.

Spider-man watches Jenny for a moment. He looks at the rifle.

Jenny wipes her tears away. She reaches for the rifle.

She stands up. She turns.

Spider-man is gone.

Jenny drags herself and the rifle to the stairs.

EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - MORNING

EXT. ROOF TOP

Jenny sits with the rifle in her lap waiting.

She looks at her watch. 8:54 AM.

She looks around. No Spider-man.

Jenny grabs the bolt of the rifle. She gives it a jerk up and back.

A bullet ejects from the chamber.

It lands on the tar.

Jenny picks it up and puts it in her pocket.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL, WASHROOM CUBICLE - DAY

Peter is throwing up in a toilet.

He walks slowly out of the stall.

He splashes water on his face.

He exits the bathroom.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL, CLASSROOM

Jenny sits in her seat brooding. She's playing with something in her hand.

PULL BACK

Peter stands outside the classroom door looking in at Jenny through the window. His spider sense is burning.

He's looking at the tiny object in her hand.

It's the bullet.

EXT. CITY STREET - AFTERNOON

Jenny is walking home, looking glumly at the pavement.

A car pulls up ahead of her. A man (HUGH) jumps out. He's a big thug. He grabs Jenny and throws her in the car. It speeds off.

ANGLE ON SPIDER-MAN

Spidey clings to the side of a building. He fires a web and swings after the car.

INT. CHEAP HOTEL

Jenny is hustled into a squalid hotel room and thrown on the bed by her abductor, HUGH. She starts to get up but a hand slaps her back down.

ORVAL (O.S.)

Stay down!

ORVAL, a skinny, balding man in a sweaty shirt and tie stands over her.

HUGH

You okay for a minute? I gotta take a leak.

ORVAL

We're fine. Aren't we, Jennifer?

Hugh walks into the bathroom and starts to urinate without shutting the door. He's not using the toilet.

Jenny lies on the bed staring at Orval.

JENNY

Who are you? Why ...

He takes a swing at her but only catches air.

ORVAL

Shut up! Did I tell you to speak?
Did I ask you a question? No I did
not. So shut your hole and listen.

Jenny curls up on the bed against the wall.

Hugh walks back into the room.

ORVAL

God damn ... Do you know who I am?
Do you?

JENNY

No, I just said --

ORVAL

Shut up! Did I ask you what you
just said? Did I?

HUGH

Do you want me to kill her?

ORVAL

No, I do not want you to kill her.
I want to kill her. I told you I
want to kill her. I told you to
bring her here so I can kill her.
Did I not tell you that?

HUGH

You told me that.

ORVAL

(to Jenny)

Do you know why I want to kill you?

JENNY

No.

ORVAL

Because you and your boyfriend, you
know, the one they pulled out of
the East river... have screwed me
royally. Roy-a-lee. You and him are
like the King and Queen of Let's-
Screw-Orval Land.

HUGH

What does that mean?

ORVAL

Shut up and give me your gun!

Hugh hands Orval a gun.

HUGH

C'mon, let me wack her, okay? You shouldn't even be here. You want someone hurt or killed, that's my job. Is that or is that not what you pay me for?

ORVAL

Your job is to shut the hell up.
(to Jenny)
Listen. I'm the guy your boyfriend owed the money to, see? Four grand. He pays me the money, which is great, only it's not his to give, which is not great, see? Turns out the money belongs to the freakin' Kingpin. Now how long do you think it took him to trace the bread to my pocket? And what do you think I'm going to do? Do you think I'm going to say, "Hey, Mr. Fisk, I didn't know it was your money? Sorry, pal. Tough noogies." No, I am not. I am going to pay Mr. Fisk the four thousand dollars that belongs to him, and as a gesture of good will I'm going to pay him the additional two thousand dollars he says your boyfriend stole. So Mr. Fisk is happy, and I'm still alive. Except for the fact that instead of being out four grand, I'm out six! So you can appreciate the serious state of displeasure which I am now in.

JENNY

(sobbing)
But why are you going to kill me?

ORVAL

What? Are you deaf? Didn't I just explain to you?
(to Hugh)
Didn't I just --?

HUGH

Yeah. Great speech. Like Christopher Walken, man.

ORVAL

Really? Christopher Walken? Wow. So it's her, right?

HUGH

Totally her.

ORVAL

Ah, who the hell cares if she understands? Let's just get it done.

Orval grabs a pillow from the bed and shoves it in Jenny's face. He tries to press the gun to the pillow but Jenny is too strong and pushes him away.

Orval falls back on the floor.

Hugh laughs.

Jenny tries to run for the door.

JENNY

Help! Somebody --

Hugh belts her. She slams back against the wall.

Hugh shoves her down on the mattress and covers her face with the pillow. Jenny beats and kicks with her arms and legs but Hugh is too strong.

HUGH

(to Orval)

Okay. You gonna plug her or what?

Orval gets up and walks over with the gun. He points it at the pillow.

HUGH

Hey, watch it man. Point it at the pillow, not my arm. Stick it right in there and shoot her in the head.

Suddenly the window next to them implodes as Spider-man swings in.

SPIDER-MAN

Is this a private party, or can any one join in?

HUGH

Goddamn!

He grabs Orval's hand with the gun and swings it towards Spidey, squeezing off several shots.

ORVAL

Ow! My hand! You're breaking my fingers! Ah! Stop!

Spidey easily dodges the bullets and fires a string of webbing into the barrel of the gun.

Hugh shoves Orval at Spidey and breaks for the door. Spidey flips Orval aside and snags Hugh's foot with some webbing.

Hugh slips head first into the door. He struggles to rise. Spidey grabs him by the collar.

SPIDER-MAN

Let me give you a hand with the door.

Spidey opens the door into Hugh's face, knocking him unconscious.

SPIDER-MAN

Oh! Clumsy me!

He looks past the door into the hall. A couple of kids are standing there with their jaws hanging open.

SPIDER-MAN

This is where you run home and call the cops, okay?

He closes the door.

He turns back. Orval lies unconscious on the floor.

SPIDER-MAN

(to Jenny)

You okay?

Jenny leaps off the bed into his arms. Spidey flinches for a moment, then realizes his spider-sense is not tingling. He hugs Jenny to him. She sobs into his chest.

JENNY

I was so scared they were going to kill me ... if you didn't ... I'd be ... oh God!

SPIDER-MAN

Hey, it's all right. It's all right.

JENNY
(into his chest)
I hate you. I hate you. I hate you.

SPIDER-MAN
Yeah, I know the feeling.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY

The class is empty but for Peter and Jenny. They sit at the back of the class far from the door. Both their eyes are downcast. Jenny holds the bullet in her hand.

JENNY
He didn't even know what he did.
All he thinks is that he stopped a robbery or saved my life. That's all it is to him. A couple of stills from a movie. He doesn't get to see the whole flick so he doesn't know how it ends or even where it started.

Peter sits in silence. He is deep in thought.

PETER
You know, Jenny, years ago ...
(he pauses, uncertain)
I've never told anyone this before, okay? Not even my family.

JENNY
Okay.

PETER
But years ago, when I was your age, seventeen, Spider-man had the chance to stop this guy in a hallway. He was just some two bit thief who made off with some cash. Spider-man could have tripped him up without thinking, but he didn't. Who knows why? But a few days later the guy Spider-man let go murdered my uncle. My father, really. My own parents died when I was young.

JENNY
Did you hate him for not stopping the guy?

PETER

Spider-man? Yeah. I blamed him for a lot of things. I still do. But the point is this, Jenny. Spider-man ended up catching the guy and he realized what he'd done. He didn't just see the stills. He saw the whole picture and I know it tore him up inside. You see? I've got to live with what Spider-man did. But so does he. It must be so hard, trying to do the right thing all the time. We really can't imagine.

Jenny pulls the bullet out of her pocket and looks at it.

JENNY

It was stupid, my wanting to kill him. Wasn't it?

PETER

Maybe. I can understand it. You were grieving.

JENNY

They said ... My friends, kids, you know ... They said you were cool. They said I could talk to you.

PETER

Thanks.

Jenny hands Peter the bullet.

JENNY

Here. I don't want this. Can you ... get rid of it for me?

PETER

Gladly.

Jenny gets up.

PETER

You're going to be all right, Jenny. Really.

JENNY

You got a feeling?

PETER

Yeah. I got a sense.

She exits the classroom.

WIDE ON CLASSROOM

Peter sits alone gazing out the window, wondering, the bullet held loosely in his hand.

THE END