

The outcasts

Preview clip

"Unicorns and Space Fairies"

FADE IN:

EXT. MIDTOWN HIGH - FRONT COURTYARD

The courtyard in front of the large high school is crowded with students. Their chatter and the sound of passing cars fills the air but not one single conversation can be made out until we --

PUSH IN to an acorn tree near the corner of the courtyard where *GWEN STACY* and *MELANIE HAELSTROM* stand in front of one another. Melanie leans against it with her arms crossed over her chest, her temple against the trunk.

MELANIE

The missing Senator? Isn't he that looney-tune that says mutants are destroying our society's foundation?

GWEN

And that they should stop being mutants because they're disgusting abominations against God.

(mocking)

Christianity is law in this religiously free country, you know.

MELANIE

Why waste your time on an article about him, though? Why not write about something people *actually* care about. Like the discovery of unicorns and space fairies in the Amazon or something?

Gwen raises an eyebrow and grins.

GWEN

People prefer their news to be true and reliable.

MELANIE

You've never picked up a Weekly World News mag, have you?

GWEN

Are you kidding? I read their blogs.

(MORE)

GWEN (CONT'D)

They did one last week on how Spider-Girl is a princess of an ancient tribe located deep in the Peruvian jungle, where she got her spider powers as a gift from the Gods for sacrificing her soul in a pagan ritual. But I don't buy it.

Melanie is quiet and pushes her lips to the side of her face. She angles her chin down towards the ground slightly and her expression twists in disbelief at the stupidity she's just heard.

MELANIE

(under her breath)

What?

She shakes her head, but when she notices Gwen looking at her funny, she grabs the back of her neck with her hand and rests her wrist on her shoulder. She tries to change the subject.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Oh, uh, you wanted to talk?

Gwen looks down, suddenly looking really anxious. She bites down on her bottom lip and chews thoughtfully before a small smile tugs at the corners of her mouth. She looks back at Melanie.

GWEN

(nervously)

Do you...uh...wanna go to the Hayden Planetarium with me tonight? They're doing a really cool, um, meteor shower exhibit.

(beat)

They're open until midnight or something like that because it's the last night I think. I've been meaning to go but...

Her cheeks flush a bright pink.

GWEN (CONT'D)

I wanted to ask you to come with me, 'cause you're into this stuff and all. I thought it'd be really cool for us to, uh, you kn--

Realizing what's going on, Melanie gently grabs her hand and leans her upper body closer to the blonde. It distracts her from her rambling.

MELANIE
(with a smile)
That would be *awesome*.

On Gwen's excited relief, we --

ANGLE OVER to find MARY-JANE standing amongst a group of students a few feet away.

PUSH IN on her face as she frowns and looks down. On her apparent defeat, we --

FADE OUT:

THE OUTCASTS RETURNS

FLASH CUT TO:

THIS FEBRUARY

BLACKOUT:

END OF CLIP