

THE GIRL SCOUT COOKIE CONSPIRACY

by Edith Weiss

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A Comedic Duet

by **Edith Weiss**

SYNOPSIS: Lissa is a teenager whose family has financial problems. Her solution is to bake and sell Girl's Scout cookies, hoping people don't realize they're not Girl Scout cookies until after they've paid. Riley comes up with a plan that doesn't involve fraud and strengthens their friendship.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female, 1 either)

LISSA (f)A cheerful, enthusiastic girl with a problem she is trying to solve. *(58 lines)*
 RILEY (m/f).....Lissa's friend, rather serious and lacking in social skills. *(58 lines)*

PROPS

- notebook (for Cornell style notes)
- ruler
- pencil
- note in notebook stating: "LISSA—EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. YOUR FRIEND FOREVER, RILEY."

AUTHOR'S NOTES

Lissa and Riley are polar opposites, and should be played realistically. Although I wrote this to be done on Zoom, it could be done with 2 actors sitting at a table in one of their houses or a table at a library.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Cornell method is a very specific way of laying out notes: a 2 and 1/2 inch column on left side of the paper with the word 'cues', a 2 inch footer at the bottom with the word "Summary", a header for the date and topic, and the rest of the page is lined.

AT START: LISSA, enthusiastic and cheerful, is explaining to RILEY, her rather serious classmate, who is working with a pencil and ruler in her notebook. They are communicating by device on video chat.

LISSA: Are you ready, Riley?

RILEY: (*Showing notebook.*) Yes. I was just setting up my notes.

LISSA: Wow. Fancy.

RILEY: It's the Cornell method.

LISSA: Cornell method?

RILEY: Yes. It's what I use in my organic chemistry and physics classes.

LISSA: Okay. Great. Well, this shouldn't be nearly as hard as organic chem and physics! (*Laughing.*)

RILEY: No, I don't see how it could be.

LISSA: It was just kind of a joke, really.

RILEY: Got it.

LISSA: Okay! So we go up to the door-

RILEY: (*Writing.*) —we go up to the door-

LISSA: —and we say—

RILEY: Lissa, wait.

LISSA: What?

RILEY: The door's not open. Don't we have to get them to open the door?

LISSA: Well, of course. We either ring the bell or we knock.

RILEY: What if there's a No Solicitation sign?

LISSA: We ignore it. We're not soliciting, we're selling cookies.

RILEY: Okay. So we're standing there, clipboards in hand.

LISSA: And we say (*Sing song, high pitched.*) hi-i! Notice how I made it two syllables long? Hi-i! It makes it friendlier. You try it.

RILEY: (*Seriously, in a too-low voice.*) Hi.

LISSA: Two syllables. Hi-i!

RILEY: (*Still seriously.*) Hi-i.

LISSA: Not bad. Hi-i. Try it again. Hi-i!

RILEY: Hi-i!

LISSA: Okay, that was a little scary. Don't be so intense! Light! Airy! Hi-i!

RILEY: (*Writing and speaking very seriously.*) Not intense. Light. Airy.

LISSA: Maybe I'll just do the talking at first. I'll say "Hi-i. Would you like to buy a box of girls cout cookies?" And they'll say yes, and you say, "Would you like to buy a case?"

RILEY: A case? Why would they buy a case?

LISSA: It's a sales technique.

RILEY: That doesn't seem logical.

LISSA: Cookies have nothing to do with logic. It's called upselling and all good salespeople do it. Now please repeat after me: "would you like to buy a case?"

RILEY: Would you like to buy a case?

LISSA: Smile when you say it.

RILEY: (*Big fake smile.*) Would you like to buy a case?

LISSA: Maybe I'll just do all of the talking. No offense.

RILEY: It's okay. I know I have limited social skills. At every single parent teacher conference in elementary school, the teachers would say: "very bright, but doesn't play with others." It's not that I didn't play well with others, I just didn't play with others.

LISSA: Now that you're my best friend, we're going to change all that. I'll be like to be your life, slash sales coach. Because I think that life and sales have a lot in common. If we're up, positive, cheerful people—people will come to us. Employers, boyfriends, husbands, cookie buyers—we'll have no problem.

RILEY: Well, it seems to work for you. Lots of friends, no problem in social situations.

LISSA: Exactly!

RILEY: Maybe I should join your Girl Scout Troop. They teach all that stuff, right?

LISSA: Yeah, but you don't need that. You've got me. I am teaching you everything the Girl Scouts know. Goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills. We'll really concentrate on the people skills.

RILEY: Do you not want me to be in your Girl Scout Troop?

LISSA: It's not that.

RILEY: So what is it?

LISSA: (*Pause.*) I'm not in the Girl Scouts.

RILEY: But—you're selling Girl Scout cookies.

LISSA: No, actually, we're going to be selling Girl's Cout cookies.

RILEY: That's what I said.

LISSA: Not Girl Scout cookies. Girl's Cout cookies.

RILEY: Girl's Cout cookies? What the heck is that?

LISSA: They're cookies we're going to bake.

RILEY: But you want people to think we're selling Girls Scout cookies?

LISSA: Well of course. Everybody loves Girl Scout cookies! I figure we'll sell Sa-Monas, Thinny Mints, and Drag a Longs. Those are the most popular. It's genius.

RILEY: Sa-Monas and Thinny Mints? Drag A Longs? Are you kidding? It's deceptive.

LISSA: Not deceptive! That's why I changed the names, so it would not be deceptive.

RILEY: But there's not enough difference between Girl Scout cookies, and Girl's Cout cookies, which, you have to admit, sound exactly the same.

LISSA: We're quibbling about semantics here.

RILEY: We're not quibbling about semantics, we're talking about honesty. And what happens when we deliver these cookies and people see they're not the real thing?

LISSA: They've already paid for them so it doesn't matter.

RILEY: Lissa, that's—

LISSA: Besides, we'll make them delicious, and we'll price them lower than the real Girl Scout cookies, we could even end up putting Girl Scout cookies out of business!

RILEY: Look, Lissa, I don't know if I can do this. What you want to do it sounds like a scam. And if I go along with this, I could be tried for conspiracy.

LISSA: We're two teenaged girls selling cookies. Who's going to prosecute us? We're too young to fail.

RILEY: And we're too old to sell cookies. The only Girl Scouts I see doing this are like eight or ten years old.

LISSA: Good point. We have to find a really cute elementary school girl, or a very short middle-schooler, and-

RILEY: No. No, Lissa. I will not let you recruit an adolescent into a life of crime.

LISSA: We're selling cookies, we're not criminals!

RILEY: This is like a gateway crime. We get away with this, the next thing you know we'll be selling worthless shares in a Ponzi scheme!

LISSA: What? What are you talking about?

RILEY: My dad's a trader. (*LISSA looks mystified.*) He buys and sells stocks? And he's an honest one, which not all of them are.

LISSA: Well, my dad's honestly unemployed. I am just trying to help out my family. (*Upset.*) We're broke. We could lose our house.

RILEY: Oh, no. I'm so sorry.

LISSA: We'll be homeless. Where will I put my clothes? I won't even have a closet.

RILEY: If you're homeless, the lack of a closet is the least of your problems.

LISSA: Is that supposed to make me feel better?

RILEY: Uh- no. Sorry. I was just stating a fact. Not a good time?

LISSA: No, Riley, bad time. You should be saying something comforting.

RILEY: (*Pause.*) I've got nothing.

LISSA: Nothing?

RILEY: I don't want to say something that's comforting but ultimately empty. I'm not going to say "You won't lose your house" cause you might.

LISSA: (*Weakly.*) Thanks a lot.

RILEY: I'm sorry! I have no social skills. Listen, it's beyond your control, Lissa. Selling cookies under false premises isn't going to save your house. And think how much your utility bill will go up from all that baking.

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