

Cast of Characters

<u>SALLY</u>	9 years old. Clever. Conniving.
<u>JOEY</u>	Also 9 years old. Focused. Intelligent.
<u>OTHER GIRLS</u>	Three other girls. Aged 9-11.
<u>OTHER BOYS</u>	Two other boys. Aged 10-11.
<u>PARENT</u>	Offstage voice. Either a mother or a father.

Setting

A large tree in a quiet park, or at least a quieter section of said park. Just before sunset. Spring.

Time

The Present.

SCENE: The base of a big tree. It is quiet.

AT RISE:

Sitting on a lower branch of the tree is a girl, dressed entirely in black. She carries with her a messenger bag that clearly has something of great value in it - she is cradling it in her arms. She sits, on edge, looking every which way, waiting for someone, when that someone appears. A young boy with a large bag walks on stage, and the girl stands tall. He hasn't seen her yet.

SALLY
You're late.

JOEY
Ah! Don't sneak up on me like that.

SALLY
You got a lot of nerve showing up late.

JOEY
I know. I ran into some...opposition.

Opposition. SALLY

JOEY

There are some parties who would prefer this...transaction to not take place.

SALLY

Don't give me that. I know what will happen if we're seen here.

JOEY
Joey and Sally, sitting in a tree.

SALLY
K-I-S-S-I-N-G. I know the stakes.

JOEY

So do you have the goods?

SALLY

Of course. Why would I be here otherwise?

JOEY

You can never be too sure.

(She drops down from the branch. He walks forward cautiously and meets her center stage, by the trunk of the tree. She lifts up the flap, and inside the bag there is an incredible shine, a la Pulp Fiction. It lights up the boy's face, and he reaches greedily for it.)

SALLY

Payment first.

JOEY

No. Give me the -

SALLY

You KNOW how I do business. Payment. First.

(A beat.)

SALLY

Are you gonna pay or not?

JOEY

I'm thinking about it!

SALLY

We don't have 'til bedtime, Joey. Make up your mind!

JOEY

I'm THINKING about it!

(A beat.)

SALLY

What's the deal, Joey? Are you...

JOEY

Don't say it.

SALLY
...chicken?

JOEY
Take it back.

SALLY
Take what back? How you're a big, dumb chicken?

JOEY
Sally...

SALLY
Bok Bok.

JOEY
Don't do it.

SALLY
(more frenzied)

BOK BOK BOK BAAAAWK!

JOEY
Sally!

SALLY
(with accompanied arm flaps)

Bok bok bok bok BOK bok bok bok-

JOEY
Fine!

(He sets the bag down and nudges it forward. As he does so, the bag spills out, revealing lots of individually-wrapped candies.)

JOEY
You'll see they're all there.

(SALLY cautiously takes a couple steps forward and picks the bag up, rooting through what hasn't spilled out into the ground.)

SALLY
Where are the Snickers bars, Joey?

JOEY

What-what do you mean? You didn't say anything about Snickers bars?

SALLY

I said "Halloween Candy." And I meant all of it. How am I supposed to pay for goods like these when all that's in here is...

(she examines the bag again)

Smarties...popcorn balls...and are these Now & Laters? You disgust me!

JOEY

Hey, Smarties are good!

SALLY

Smarties won't get me doo-doo, Joseph. I need chocolate to keep up this business.

JOEY

There's some Almond Joys in there.

SALLY

What self-respecting kid makes deals with coconut filling? I thought you were serious about this offer, Joey. Now I know the truth.

(She makes to leave.)

JOEY

Sally, wait!

SALLY

You're finished on the playground, Joey. I'm going to tell all the girls about your cooties.

JOEY

You. Wouldn't. Dare.

(SALLY stops. She knows playing hard is working.
She turns around.)

SALLY

Well, what's it gonna be, Joey?

(The two stand facing each other. A soft breeze rustles the branches of the tree.)

JOEY

Fine. I've got the rest of the candy right here.

SALLY

Did you really think you could play me, Joey? You know I've always been the best at pretend.

JOEY

I'll give you that.

(He pulls out another bag from his jacket.)

It's all right here. Now give me the goods.

SALLY

I knew you would listen to reason.

(She strolls over to the first candy bag and picks it up and all the candy littered around it. JOEY never takes his eyes off her. She finishes picking up the candy and walks slowly toward him.)

JOEY

Give me the bag, Sally.

SALLY

Payment first.

JOEY

Bag!

SALLY

Candy times infinity!

JOEY

Bag times infinity plus one!

(A beat.)

SALLY

I just want to see the chocolate. Then you can have it all.

JOEY

Fine, you can see what's in the bag, but just remember what they say, curiosity killed the cat! Police!

(He draws a water pistol out of the bag and squirts her.)

SALLY

AH! It was a sting!

JOEY

Yes! It was a sting! Gimme the contraband, Sally Jones! You're coming with me to time-out whether you want to or not!

SALLY

You'll never take me alive!

(She darts behind the tree JOEY roars after her.)

JOEY

It doesn't have to be like this, Sally!

SALLY

Don't give me that dookie!

JOEY

If you come easily, we can get you a lighter sentence. Tell us where you're getting the contraband!

SALLY

I'll never talk, you pee-brain!

JOEY

Naughty words will only get your desserts taken away!

SALLY

You wouldn't DARE!

JOEY

Uh huh!

SALLY

Nah uh!

(The two circle the tree two or three more times before SALLY suddenly turns and pushes JOEY to the ground. In the confusion, he drops his water pistol. She pulls a water pistol from the messenger bag.)

SALLY

I knew this offer was too good to be true-the Boys and the Girls never offer a peaceful deal. But you always pull the biggest hauls every Halloween, Joey. It was too good to pass up. Looking back, though, it all makes sense, I guess. You always were a momma's boy, Joey, but I never expected you to actually be working with the parents. What did they offer you? Bedtime at 9:00? Smaller helpings of brussels sprouts? I bet it was an extra hour of playtime, wasn't it? Wasn't it?

JOEY

I'm not telling you anything.

(Sally holds the pistol over him.)

SALLY

It won't matter anyway, because I'm taking this candy and you're gonna get soaked!

JOEY

That's what you think! NOW!

(Suddenly, a large assortment of pine cones falls from the tree and onto SALLY. She screams in fury, batting them all away. In the confusion, JOEY rolls over to his pistol and grabs it.)

JOEY

I knew you wouldn't play easy, Sally. That's why I brought backup.

(Two meaner looking, older boys descend from the tree, each holding a couple pinecones and their own squirt guns.)

JOEY

Thanks, guys.

BOYS

Anytime, boss.

BOY ONE

Should we just take everything and go?

JOEY

Yeah. Pack it up. Pack it all up. We got her.

BOY TWO

I've been waiting since first grade for this day, Sally.
You're really gonna get grounded now.

BOY ONE

Yeah, Sally. Have fun in your room for the next bazillion days.

(Sally laughs cruelly.)

SALLY

You really think I'd let this go so easily boys? I've got you right where I want you. GIRLS!

(Three more girls appear, presumably from other trees. One has a briefcase and a baby doll, the second has a couple Barbie dolls, and the third has a massive dart gun.)

GIRL ONE

(waving briefcase)

Hey boys, who wants to play house? I'll be the mommy, but I need someone to play daddy and bring home the bacon to me and the baby!

GIRL TWO

Does anyone wanna play Barbie with me?

GIRL THREE

GET WRECKED, LOSERS!

BOTH OTHER BOYS

(terrified screams)

(All heck breaks loose, as all of the children are fighting as best as their eight-year old souls can. The boys scream "Pew! Pew!" The girls throw pine cones and make explosion sound effects. At the end of the fray, dolls lie strewn about the stage, in multiple pieces each. Most of

the boys are out of breath and covered in darts, and all of the girls are out of breath and wet from all the squirt guns. The only two that are moving are JOEY and SALLY. They have climbed the tree and are on the bottom branch. SALLY is nearer the trunk, grinning maliciously and pointing her squirt gun at JOEY. His squirt gun lies across the stage, out of reach and out of water.)

JOEY

Sally, don't do this...

SALLY

It's too late, Joey. You don't mess with girls. And now you've learned your lesson.

JOEY

Sally, no!

SALLY

It's naptime for you, Joey.

(She squirts him. JOEY loses his balance and falls.)

JOEY

Aaaaaaaaaaah!

(He lands on the ground, but is not actually injured.)

Oh.

(He gets up.)

That wasn't so bad.

SALLY

Nooo, Joey, you're dead!

JOEY

Oh yeah! Auuuugh!

(He "dies" very dramatically. SALLY laughs and climbs down the tree. She is about to take all the candy, when from offstage...)

PARENT

KIDS! The hot dogs are ready! Come and eat!

(ALL KIDS ad lib screams of pleasure and joy. All of them run off, except Joey, who is left with the candy bags and the messenger bag with the "goods." He walks over to the bag and takes out the prize - A massive package of Silly Bandz. He giggles, pockets it, and goes over to the second bag, where he pulled out his squirt gun. He pulls out a fun-size Snickers bar, eats it, and puts the bag back in his jacket and walks off in the same direction as the rest of the kids.)