

SUNFLOWERS

BY U0709082

(MS2201 SCREENWRITING)

FADE IN:

EXT. DENSE FOREST - DAY

Dense foliage obscures the view. In the distance we hear: LAUGHTER getting closer. The foliage is pulled aside to reveal the face of MARCUS (15). He stops laughing and stares ahead with a look of awe. SIMON (10) pushes into view beside him, also laughing. He stops and also stares, his mouth open.

SIMON

Woah!

EXT. DENSE FOREST -DAY

SIMON and MARCUS stand at the top of a slight decline at the edge of the forest. They are silhouetted against a huge glowing SUNFLOWER FIELD that stretches on seemingly endless.

MARCUS

(grinning)

Come on!

Marcus scrambles down the embankment towards the SUNFLOWER FIELD, whooping. Simon hurries after him.

EXT. SUNFLOWER FIELD - DAY

MARCUS and SIMON seen from the side, walking through the SUNFLOWERS, each flower at least as tall as both boys. MARCUS trails his hand amongst their stems as he passes.

Simon stops walking and wipes the perspiration from his head. He holds his hand over his eyes as he squints up at the sun beating down. Overhead is a clear blue sky. He continues walking, finding he has lost sight of Marcus.

The track becomes narrower. The tall sunflowers are leaning over Marcus, their dials looking down at him. He glances around nervously. Close up of a SUNFLOWER.

SIMON

Mar?

There is no answer.

SIMON (CONT'D)

(strained)

Come on, where are you? It's  
not funny.

There is still no answer, Marcus looks around  
desperately, sunflowers are on all sides.

Suddenly Marcus bursts out between the Sunflowers.

MARCUS

There you are! Come on, it's  
this way.

SIMON

Mar I don't like this.  
S'creepy.

MARCUS

Don't be daft. Race ya,  
chicken.

Marcus sprints ahead down a new track through the  
SUNFLOWERS. SIMON follows hesitantly.

SIMON

Wait up!

MARCUS

(laughing)  
Come on slow coach!

EXT. SUNFLOWER FIELD - DAY

View of the field from above. We see two figures  
moving fast through the field along one of the tracks  
between the SUNFLOWERS.

There are other tracks in the field, arranged like  
spokes on a wheel. There are also some connecting  
tracks. The overall impression is of a spider's web.  
There is something dark at the centre of the field.

CUT TO:

SUNFLOWERS obscure the view. In the distance we hear: LAUGHTER getting closer. The foliage is pulled aside to reveal a CLEARING with a thatched COTTAGE at its centre.

EXT. CLEARING - DAY

MARCUS and SIMON emerge from the field of SUNFLOWERS. Simon brushes sunflower debris from his trousers.

Marcus approaches a window in the side of the COTTAGE. It is a little high for him to reach.

MARCUS  
(reaching for the  
window ledge)  
Give us a boost.

Simon interlocks his fingers, creating a stirrup for Marcus to step up on. Marcus has almost reached the window when -

OLD MAN (O.S.)  
My your nosey eh?

Simon spins around, momentarily forgetting to hold Marcus who falls on top of him. The old man looks down on them.

MARCUS  
(Scrambling to his  
feet)  
I-I'm sorry mister, we were  
just-

OLD MAN  
(chuckling)  
S'all right son, why don't  
you come have a drink. I bet  
you're parched.

BACK TO SCENE

The boys follow the old man round to the front of the house. It is a rustic design, with a framed wooden

deck at the front. There is a rocking chair and table, and a water barrel. On the table there are two glasses.

The old man reaches into the water barrel and pulls out a large brown glass bottle, stoppered with a cork. He walks over to the table.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)  
(As he fills the two glasses)  
Here we are. Drink up, you won't have tasted better.

Simon licks his lips. The boys take a glass each. Inside is a semi-transparent orange liquid.

MARCUS  
Thanks mister.

SIMON  
Thanks.

Both boys gratefully gulp down the juice. Marcus finishes his glass first.

MARCUS  
(Smacking his lips)  
Aah!

The OLD MAN turns towards the field of sunflowers. He places his hands on his hips and breathes in deeply, letting it out slowly.

OLD MAN  
Do you like my sunflowers?  
Aren't they beautiful? I know each and every one of them.  
They're all unique-

Marcus can be seen in the background as the old man is talking. He suddenly clutches his belly and doubles over in pain.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)  
Sure they grumble now and then, but just look at them in the sunshine-

Simon rushes to Marcus' aid as he thrashes around on the ground. The old man continues talking.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)

It's taken a lifetime but  
it's worth it. They're happy  
here, every one of them.

Simon turns Marcus over. We see that Marcus' face has become blackened and his hair is falling out, the clumps becoming petals. Simon recoils in horror.

The old man slowly turns around, advancing towards Simon. Simon turns to run.

Puzzled, Simon finds he can't move. He looks down. His feet have become roots, burrowing into the soil.

We see Simon frantically struggling to break free as more and more of his body changes. His face also darkens and petals sprout from his head. He raises his hands to his face. They have changed into dark green leaves. Simon screams.

The old man retrieves a muddy spade from the cottage. The screaming abruptly stops.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)

(Smiling)

Now, where to put you I  
wonder?

The old man looks down at the two new SUNFLOWERS.

FADE OUT