

EXT. JOSHUA'S BACKYARD - DAY

Joshua and Lisa make an arch out of mud... In the adjacent yard, Mrs. Pendergast, donning a large garden hat, trims her hedges... Mark is by her side and solemnly watches Joshua and Lisa playing next-door...

Gregory walks up.

JOSHUA

Hi, Gregory! We're making a jellybean thing like the one in Children's World.

LISA

See?... Look!

She holds up a plastic bag filled with jellybeans.

GREGORY

You're gonna need more than that. I'll look for some little rocks.

He gets down on his hands and knees and scours the area.

GREGORY

Crawls too close to Pendergast's yard. Suddenly, she's there in front of him. Startled, he stares at her shoes and legs.

GREGORY AND MRS. PENDERGAST

Gregory slowly looks up, starting from her legs, skirt, torso, and then finally, on her angry face, partially-hidden by her large sun-hat... He quickly scrambles to his feet.

{Start}

MRS. PENDERGAST

You're on my property, sonny!!

GREGORY

My name's not Sonny! It's Gregory!

MRS. PENDERGAST

Umph! It should be dummy!

GREGORY

I know who you are!

MRS. PENDERGAST

Who?!

GREGORY

You're the witch!!

MRS. PENDERGAST
Why you little rug rat! I ought to
box your ears off!!

GREGORY
And my dad will kick your boom-
boom!

MRS. PENDERGAST
My what?!

GREGORY
My daddy said you were a witch and
you are 'cause I saw you in
Children's World. You tried to
scare us and make us get lost.

She jabs her finger in his small chest.

MRS. PENDERGAST
You kids are nothing but little
liars! You all need your boom-
booms kicked!

GREGORY
You're the liar! You're mean, too!

He runs back into Joshua's yard. She gives chase, as:

MRS. PENDERGAST
Come here, you little scum-bum!
I'm gonna wring your dirty neck!!

In her haste, she blindly trips over the arch and FALLS down,
flat, on her prune-face.

JOSHUA AND LISA

stand nearby and giggle at her...

MARK

Walks over. He's embarrassed. He spots his mother's
eyeglasses on the ground and picks them up.

MRS. PENDERGAST AND GREGORY

Pendergast, lying on the ground, lifts up her head.

She sees Gregory's legs, firmly planted in front of her. She
looks her way up, past his torso, to his cherubic face...

GREGORY
I love you.

She squints her eyes, struggling to see.

MRS. PENDERGAST
What? What did you say?!

GREGORY
I said, -- I love you.

MRS. PENDERGAST
(getting up)
Why do you want to go do a foolish
thing like that?! I don't love
you!

GREGORY
You don't love anybody!

MRS. PENDERGAST
And I intend on keeping it that way
too! Nobody gets hurt!

GREGORY
But you hurt people.

MRS. PENDERGAST
I only hurt those who go around
sticking their noses where they
don't belong.

She brushes off her clothes and looks around on the ground.

MRS. PENDERGAST (CONT'D)
Now, -- where are my glasses?!

Mark eagerly steps up, holding out her eyeglasses...

MARK
Here they are, Mom!

She snatches the glasses out of his hand.

MRS. PENDERGAST
Umph! I thought I told you to stay
in our yard!

MARK
But you fell! I only came over --

Mrs. Pendergast points to their yard.

MRS. PENDERGAST
Get yourself back over there, and I
mean right now!!

With his head down, Mark dejectedly walks away, heart-broken.

GREGORY AND MRS. PENDERGAST

Indignant, Mrs. Pendergast hurries back to her yard...
Gregory follows, as...

GREGORY

Why do you hate him so? What did
he ever do to you?

MRS. PENDERGAST

He was born! That's enough!

GREGORY

That wasn't his fault!

MRS. PENDERGAST

It wasn't mine neither! I tried to
get rid of him, but he was too
stubborn, just like his no-good
father!!

GREGORY

How come he doesn't come see him?

She abruptly stops and angrily glares at him.

MRS. PENDERGAST

None of your business! You've got
an awfully big nose to be such a
little runt!!

She angrily stomps off again with Gregory right on her heels,
as:

MRS. PENDERGAST (CONT'D)

All his daddy did for me was to
leave me with a bulging belly and
an unpaid doctor bill. I don't
even know where he is now, nor do I
care. I hate him! It makes my
blood run cold just thinking about
him!

She makes a mean face to him then steps back on her side.

MRS. PENDERGAST'S BACKYARD

Mrs. Pendergast gets down on her knees and starts pulling out
the weeds and dead flowers in a flower bed. Gregory watches.

GREGORY

I bet you still love him.

MRS. PENDERGAST
 That's ridiculous, little boy!
 What do you know about love?!
 You're too young to know about such
 feelings. That's for grown-ups!

GREGORY
 I love my mom and dad.

MRS. PENDERGAST
 Love's a lot more complicated than
 what you're talking about.

GREGORY
 Only if you make it that way.

MRS. PENDERGAST
 (sternly)
 That's the way it is and always
 will be.

GREGORY
 When did you stop loving?

MRS. PENDERGAST
 A life-time ago! What's it to you?

GREGORY
 Why are you afraid?

MRS. PENDERGAST
 Afraid?! You must be dreaming! Go
 away and stop buggin' me!

She works faster, harder...

GREGORY
 In my dream, you were afraid too.

MRS. PENDERGAST
 Dreams aren't real; they're just
 shadows of the truth. Besides, I
used to love. I know what it feels
 like to have the music stop and
 you're left stranded on the dance
 floor without a partner. There's
 nothing left but the empty silence
 of your heart, beating, -- waiting
 for the music to begin again.
 Well, the music stopped for me a
 long time ago. I don't care if I
 never hear it again!!

GREGORY

If you did, you wouldn't be so crabby. Mark loves you; I love you. Even Joshua and Lisa love you.

JOSHUA AND LISA

Walk up and enthusiastically nod their heads in agreement.

MRS. PENDERGAST, GREGORY AND MARK

Exasperated, she stops and gets up... Mark comes closer.

MRS. PENDERGAST

(softening)

I used to dream like you, Gregory; so many wild and wonderful things. But now, -- I've lost my dreams. They don't mean anything anymore.

GREGORY

Don't you want to be happy?

MRS. PENDERGAST

It's been so long, I've forgotten how...

{END}

MUSIC INTRO: "I USED TO LOVE"

MRS. PENDERGAST (SINGS) (CONT'D)

(1) I used to love, I used to care
about things/ Believed in dreams, I
used to fly without wings/
Foolishly so, til the day came I
had to let go/ For all the pain I
had missed/ Came back to reminisce/
I took the blows

(2) I used to hope, I used to laugh
and not cry/ Dance with the wind,
and look beyond the blue sky
Then I closed my eyes and stopped
the feeling inside/ Because of too
many hurts/ Now the magic won't
work/ I missed my life

Bridge: There was a time, when I was younger than
When lovers loved to pretend and
summer was fun/ Then days grew
short, I had to grow up again/ The
pain of love began just when I felt
so sure

(MORE)