

INT. DAIRI BURGER - DAY

At least a dozen Sweet Valley juniors crowd the popular hangout, among them BRUCE, WINSTON, and LILA.

A.J. MORGAN (17, tall, red-headed, dopey in a way that comes off as sensitive) enters with JESSICA. Or is it Elizabeth? Dressed modestly in a polo shirt and light blue Bermuda shorts, Jessica looks more like her twin.

Jessica attempts to steer A.J. to an empty booth, but Winston waves the couple over. With a smile, A.J. pulls a grimacing Jessica over to the rest of the gang, who size her up giddily, desperate to be in on whatever joke she's playing with this Elizabeth act.

LILA
(taunting)
How was "studying" Jess? Get much work done?

JESSICA
(smiling, gritted teeth)
Yes. I did.

Jessica turns to A.J. and adopts a saccharine tone.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Do you think you could get me a diet Coke?

A.J. shoves his chair back immediately, at her service.

A.J.
Sure, I'll be right back.

Jessica watches him until he's out of earshot. Then she turns back to Lila, transformed back to her typical self, snarling.

JESSICA
You can be such a pain, Lila. Why don't you just back off!

LILA
(feigned innocence)
Why, what do you mean, Jessica?

Lila takes a long, dramatic drag from her soda straw, sizing Jessica up.

LILA (CONT'D)
It *is* Jessica, isn't it?

Fuming, Jessica spins to Winston, who opens his mouth to retort.

JESSICA

*Don't say a word. I'm warning you,
Win --*

A.J. is suddenly back at the table. Jessica is instantly quiet as he hands her a soda.

A.J.

Here you go.

From across the table, Bruce and Winston grin at this bizarre version of Jessica. For her part, Jessica can't even look anyone in the eye, her whole ruse on the verge of collapse.

JESSICA (V.O.)

*I know I'm acting unnatural.
Everyone else knows it too. And
they're all trying to sabotage me.*

Jessica turns her gaze to A.J. She moons at him, as if realizing he's worth any amount of self-contortion. She tries to look studious.

A.J.

You're looking pretty serious.

JESSICA

*Oh, I was thinking about...about
nuclear war. You know...how
terrible it would be if ther were
one and everything.*

A.J.'s face drops. He takes a slow swallow of Coke.

A.J.

...You're right.