

LOGLINE: *The Barking Spider*, a screenplay by Lois & Robert Gately; inspired by true events; A feature as well as a short.

Depression hits Joe pretty hard after his wife died but, when his addicted and pregnant daughter appears on his doorstep a year later, his sedentary life is about to disappear forever.

SYNOPSIS: *The Barking Spider*, a screenplay by Lois & Robert Gately; inspired by true events; A feature as well as a short.

For some, *The Barking Spider* is a rare sort of story that entertains, inspires and captures the love of humanity, maybe at a time when the thoughts of the dignity of mankind are at an all-time low.

Meet Lana, a high school track star about to run the most important race of her young career. As she prepares for the race, she reflects on the hardships of her childhood, and the love of the grandfather who guided her to this point in life. Seventeen years earlier Lana's mother, Dixie, stands on her father Joe's doorstep – nine months pregnant with Lana in her belly, and strung out on drugs. Joe's grieving the loss of his wife, a Nana Lana never knew, and he's full of guilt for never taking his wife on her dream trip to Paris. Money issues always seemed to get in the way. And he's in no condition to host a wayward child. More to the point, Dixie's in no condition to raise a child, even if she were willing. After Lana's born, Dixie's substance abuse problems worsens until she's arrested and sent to prison, leaving a reluctant Joe with his infant granddaughter. He sues for custody of the child, and sets out to raise her alone.

What follows is a deeply moving story told in flashback – Joe and Lana growing older together, facing the simple pleasures and heartaches of life, all the way to the finish line: with more than a few “hurdles” along the way. Joe introduces Lana to the trees, the birds, and the wind, everything there is to see and feel. She learns the value of ‘twinkle thinking’ and cherishes heroes like ‘Thing One’ and ‘Thing Two’ who help her grow up. He nurses her through a terrible sickness, and saves her life when she chokes on a coin.

He learns the value of parenting late in life as he tutors her during their evening meals. She takes dance classes, plays basketball and runs track, and Joe sees to it that there are more to these activities than just developing a talent. Life's lessons are found in everything she does. Even when she farts, there's humor in blaming *the barking spider*.

In return, Joe's life becomes full of love and hope, and it doesn't matter that his retirement fund keeps falling. Money, all of a sudden, doesn't have the same meaning as it did in the past. But the new company signs a 10 picture movie deal with Disney and he becomes a multi-millionaire in the process. Just when he learns of his good fortune, as fate would have it, he has a stroke and becomes paralyzed and unable to talk right, or take care of himself.

Dixie comes back into the picture and files for custody of Joe – or more to the point, custody of the new multi-million dollar estate. Lana, now 16, faces the problem head on, and after a failed attempt to get custody of Joe herself, she takes him to Paris for the trip he never got to take. She also finds a doctor in France who, as it turns out, may just find the treatment Joe needs to declare himself independent, the very quality he has valiantly taught Lana, our real hero, who adds a new meaning to the adage *all's well that ends well*.