

FLOWERS IN THE DESERT

By **D. M. Larson**

JAMIE - A teen-age girl who has run from a conflict at home to stay with her Aunt Betty (MA) in order to have some time to think things out.

SAM - A fun loving teen-age girl who likes to be on top of things. She has a mischievous spirit and loves to joke around. She is madly in love with the neighbor boy (**JIMMY**).

PAULA - A simple teen-age girl who is very enthusiastic about religion and wants to help both people and animals. She tries to be a guiding light and a good example to others but her reasoning ability is sometimes impaired.

SHELLY - A self-declared teen-age beauty queen who appears very in love with herself on the outside, yet feels quite different on the inside.

TINA - An angry teen-age girl who finds reasons to hate everyone. She is good friends with Shelly but doesn't let anyone else get close to her.

JIMMY

Hey, Paula. I saw Sarge leaving so I snuck around. Where's he goin'?

PAULA

(Upset. Pause)

I told him, Jimmy.

JIMMY

(A thousand painful deaths run through his mind)

What?

PAULA

I told him about what we did.

JIMMY

(Wanting it to be a dream)

You did?

PAULA

I told Samantha too.

JIMMY

(He now knows he is dead for sure)

You did?

JAMIE

(Comes out with tea and toast for PAULA. Sees

JIMMY)

You better get out of here, Jimmy. Sam's on the warpath.

JIMMY

(Remembering to keep his cool)

I ain't worried.

(But he really is)

JAMIE

You should be.

(Front door dramatically flies open. IT'S SAM!)

SAM

Jimmy! You're dead meat!

JIMMY

Wait! I can explain!

(Jumps on JIMMY and start punching him)

JIMMY

(They are on the ground. SAM hits him. SHELLY and TINA enter to enjoy the fun. Tries to grab her arms.)

Stop! Aren't any of you gonna help me?

(Girls watch, enjoying the spectacle)

Help!

SAM

(Punch)

That's for me.

(Punch)

That's for Paula.

(Punch)

And that's just for fun.

(Picks him up and pulls him over to PAULA)

Now you say you're sorry to her.

JIMMY

(He tries to look hurt, like he is a victim)

I don't know what you mean.

SAM

(SAM slaps him in the head)

Say you're sorry or you'll be sorry.

JIMMY

(Pause)

Sorry, Paula.