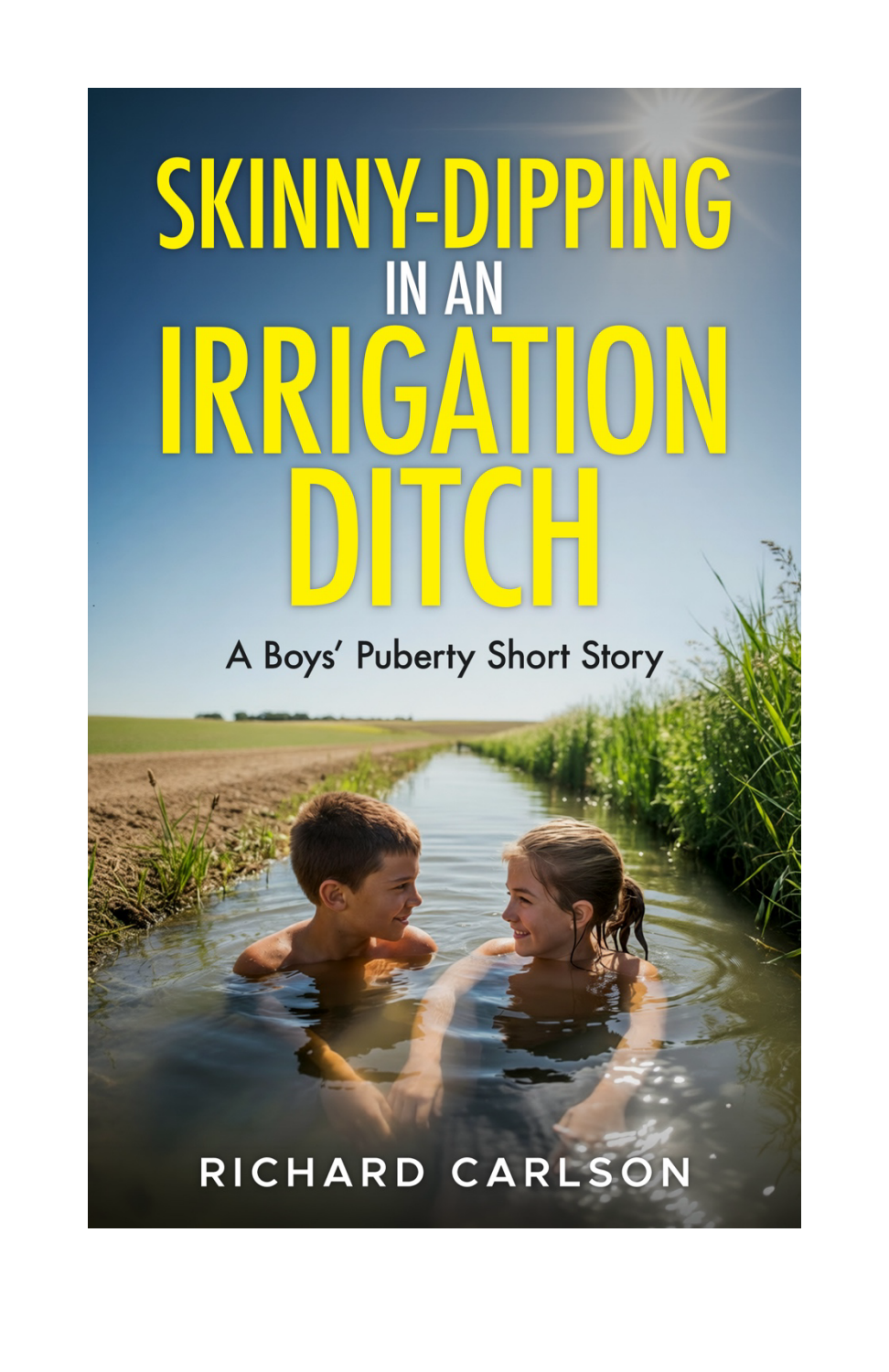


The background of the cover is a photograph of a boy and a girl swimming in a narrow irrigation ditch. The boy is on the left, looking towards the girl on the right. They are both smiling and appear to be enjoying the water. The ditch is lined with tall green grass on the right and a dirt bank on the left. In the distance, a flat green field stretches to the horizon under a clear blue sky with a bright sun in the upper right corner, creating a lens flare effect.

SKINNY-DIPPING IN AN IRRIGATION DITCH

A Boys' Puberty Short Story

RICHARD CARLSON

**Skinny-Dipping in an Irrigation
Ditch: A Boys' Puberty Short
Story**

Richard Carlson

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About the story: Twelve-year-old, sensitive, smart, and handsome Anthony skinny-dipped with Sue Anne, a beautiful girl he really liked, in an irrigation ditch on his grandparents' farm. A fictitious short story that takes place in rural Missouri, USA, summer of 1983.

About the author: Richard

Carlson is an author of children's and coming-of-age books. He is a highly sensitive person, or HSP.

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My name is Anthony. When Sue Anne and I were both twelve, we schemed and schemed about

doing something really fun
together in secret. I really, really
liked her; I wanted to be her
boyfriend.

It was the summer of 1983, in
our small farming town in rural
Missouri, and we clandestinely
rode our bicycles down a dirt road
along an irrigation ditch on my
grandparents' farm. The road was
rarely traveled on, so no one
would catch us, I thought.

Sue Anne was beautiful. She had brownish hair and beautiful green eyes. She was special. She was sensitive, like me, and had a fun, winsome personality. Just being with her made me smile.

I was a smart kid. I did very well at school, and I read a lot. I kept a journal, which I wrote in every day. My great-grandfather, who fought in the Confederate infantry during the Civil War, kept

a journal, which is now in a museum.

Grandma and Grandpa's farm used to be a plantation that worked Black slaves up until the end of the Civil War, when emancipation was enacted by President Lincoln. Today, the farm is run by family and farmhands hired by Grandpa.

Sue Anne and I lay our bicycles down on the side of the

irrigation ditch. I had never seen a naked girl in person before, and today was going to be the day. My stomach quivering, I undressed first, facing her. She watched with a grin. I left my clothes and cowboy boots next to our bicycles. Then, she stripped, facing away from me, turning around once she was completely naked.

She was so, so beautiful! I loved seeing her body! She was a

babe! Her breasts weren't developed yet, but were still very beautiful.

Sue Anne was petite and had beautiful petite bare feet. I really liked girls' beautiful bare feet. Hers were so very, very beautiful.

I could see that she was well into puberty, as she had a bush of pubic hair; I only had some pubic hair.

I had become very attracted to beautiful girls' bodies, like Sue Anne's. I often thought about her and having sex with her. I had been thinking about having sex more and more lately. But I knew that sex was something adults should have only when they are in a loving and committed relationship.

We walked into the irrigation ditch water, which cooled our bodies, as it was a hot and humid

summer day in Missouri. The water was about four-and-a-half feet deep.

Now up to our shoulders in water, we looked into each other's eyes, giggling and giggling. I reached out and held her hand. Her beautiful green eyes made me want to date her.

Still holding her hand, I leaned close to her face, and we kissed on the lips, which made

my chest tingle and tingle with love for her; it felt exhilarating to be so close to a girl. It was my first kiss. Was it hers, too? I wondered.

“Have you ever been kissed by a boy before?” I asked, gripping her hand to show her I really cared about her feelings and wanted us to be happy together.

“You’re my first,” she chimed, making my chest tingle with delight.

“You are my first, too,” I shared, smiling at her. “This is a lot of fun,” I said. “We should do it more often.”

She smiled and winked at me; she really liked me!

“You are very beautiful,” I exclaimed, making her smile even more.

“You are very cute and handsome,” she said. “I’ve had a

crush on you ever since I can remember.”

Her revelation made me love her even more. What a wonderful feeling, to know that a female was in love with me.

I let go of her hand and bear-hugged her from the side, and she bear-hugged me back.

“Would you be my girlfriend?” I asked with a big smile as I hugged her. My chest tingled with

excitement at the thought of having my first girlfriend. I wanted to grow up and marry Sue Anne.

“Yes!” She smiled widely.

I felt so much tingling in my chest. My insides felt so great! Now I had a girlfriend!

I bear-hugged her side again, and she bear-hugged me back. We just looked into each other’s eyes, so in love. I felt like making love to her. I imagined us losing

our virginity to each other after we got married, when we were older.

I wanted to lose my virginity after I was married, or at least when I was older. I wanted her to be the mother of our children. I'd love to be a dad and her be the mom of our kids.

Then, it happened. A car or truck was driving down the dirt road on the side of the irrigation ditch we were in.

“Just stay down. They’ll drive on by,” I whispered. We quietly stayed in the water up to our necks, waiting for the vehicle to hopefully pass.

But, as the vehicle approached, I saw that it was Grandma in her yellow 1972 Ford pickup truck. She was driving slowly, throwing up dust and thick exhaust fumes behind her.

Would she notice us? Our bicycles and clothes were right there on the side of the ditch. In the weeds, my white underwear and her pink panties shone as bright as the full moon on a cloudless night.

Grandma stopped her truck right where we were. I could see her looking at us. We were busted. My stomach sank lower than the Titanic on the ocean floor. My stomach quivered and

quivered. I felt so nervous and worried.

Grandma got out of her truck and walked over to us. We were still in the water up to our necks.

“I am very surprised. You two should be playing video games or riding your bikes. Not skinny-dipping,” Grandma proclaimed.

We reluctantly hurried out of the water. I had a full erection, which made me feel even more

self-conscious and embarrassed for my grandma to see me naked. We got dressed, which was far from easy as we were wet. I got my underwear stuck on my toes and almost fell.

I wish we hadn't gotten caught. Skinny-dipping with a girl, especially one in love with you and you are in love with, was fun.

“Put your bikes in the back and get in my truck,” she ordered, making me worry and worry.

I lowered the tailgate and first put Sue Anne’s bicycle and then mine in the truck bed. After closing the tailgate, we got in Grandma’s truck, with Sue Anne next to Grandma. I wanted distance between Grandma and me because I was very worried about getting in trouble.

At the house, we got out of Grandma's pickup truck, and I took our bicycles out from the bed.

"Bye," Sue Anne said, and she rode home. She lived right next door.

"Bye. See you later," I chimed, feeling my heart beat, so in love with her.

I put my bicycle in the shed and watched a science fiction

movie on TV with my nine-year-old brother, Will, until dinner.

Grandma never talked about what happened. She didn't mention it to me, Grandpa, my parents, or anyone else for that matter.

The next weekend, Sue Anne and I skinny-dipped in the irrigation ditch again, and the next weekend, and the next. We continued to skinny-dip every summer until we were older and were never caught again.

Sue Anne and I eventually got married when we grew up and lost our virginity to each other on our wedding night. We were very much in love and had the time of our lives!