



David Peoples
Donna Van Oss

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

Copyright © 2021, David Peoples, Donna Van Oss

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America, and all of the countries covered by the Universal Copyright Convention and countries with which the United States has bilateral copyright relations including Canada, Mexico, Australia, and all nations of the United Kingdom.

Copying or reproducing all or any part of this book in any manner is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this book may be stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means including mechanical, electronic, photocopying, recording, or videotaping without written permission from the publisher.

A royalty is due for every performance of this play whether admission is charged or not. A "performance" is any presentation in which an audience of any size is admitted.

The name of the author must appear on all programs, printing, and advertising for the play and must also contain the following notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Big Dog/Norman Maine Publishing LLC, Rapid City, SD."

All rights including professional, amateur, radio broadcasting, television, motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved by Big Dog/Norman Maine Publishing LLC, www.BigDogPlays.com, to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

BIG DOG PUBLISHING
P.O. Box 1401
Rapid City, SD 57709

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
3

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS was first performed Nov. 8, 2018, at Denham Springs High School, Denham Springs, LA, by two theatre classes: Donna Van Oss, director; Michelle Freneau Chassaing, technical director.

BRAD: Troy Hollomon, Levi Marcantel
CHAUNCEY: Kaylyn Riley, Gavin Simoneaux
LANCE: Josh Chiasson, Evan Johnson
MICAH: Celton Hayden, Jason Nguyen
COLLIN: Nick Norton, Cameron Beall
JONAH: Serendipidy Adams, Ethan Cullen
DALE: Sammy White, Kale Tanner
ROBBY: Lane Graves, Austin Palmintier
MARISSA: Summer Lindsay, Hannah Enamorado
RICKIE: Talia McDonald, Jamyria Payne, A'Mya Heggins
STACEY: Shelby Prest, Malorie Gautreau, Mikayla Harrell
ERICA: Jasmine Mooney, Aiden Swick
MADISON: Casey Gibson, Madison Simcoe
LISA: Ashton Persick, Heidi Howard, Kierston Wasden
ERIN: Hannah Harris, Shelby Cromwell
ADDIE: Amber Hodges, Angel Crowder
EZEKIEL WORTHINGTON: Dean Diaz, Seth Bowden
BOB: Eden Haymon, Michael Hofler
SERGEANT PALMER: Nevaeh Grimes, Tristan Oudit
DELORES: A'Mya Heggins, Jessica Knight
KAYLYN: Kaylie Wood, Eden Haymon
BETTY SUE: Cora Bonewitz, Noa Vallejo
MS. MARSHA: Lauren Price, Delilah Dorrah, Jessica Knight
PHOENIX: Candace Rickett
HANNAH/HARRIS WORTHINGTON: Angel Lawrence,
Josh Braud
TABITHA WORTHINGTON: Erin Stringfellow, Christal
Lawrence
PROMPTER: Jordan Wroblewski, Caroline Covington

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

COMEDY. During a week of survival challenges, the campers at Camp Dinky Springs must compete against the overachieving campers at Camp Roaring River. The Dinky Springs campers have never come close to winning in past years, so they know they must pull out all the stops. However, first, they must contend with a helicopter mom lurking about in a ghillie suit, a "bear," a drill sergeant camp counselor, a monster known as "The Green Vengeance," and each other! There's plenty of summer camp silliness in this wildly funny comedy. Easy to stage.

Performance Time: Approximately 120 minutes.

CHARACTERS

(11 M, 14, F, 4 flexible, opt. extras)

- MARSHA:** Helicopter mom who spies on her daughter, Marissa, at Camp Dinky Springs by wearing a ghillie suit and blending into the background greenery; female.
- MARISSA:** Sent to Campy Dinky Springs by her mother because she earned a “B” instead of an “A” in school; has a crush on Brad; female.
- BRAD:** Eagle Scout who was accidentally sent to Camp Dinky Springs instead of Camp Roaring River; has a crush on Marissa; male.
- CHAUNCEY:** Camper who tries to bribe his way out of Camp Dinky Springs and is terrified of bears and “The Green Vengeance”; male.
- LISA:** Shopaholic camper who is bored if she isn’t shopping; female.
- VITO:** Juvenile delinquent sent to Camp Dinky Springs; wears a trench coat with miscellaneous items taped to the inside including scissors and deodorant; male.
- ADDIE:** Fidgety camper with ADHD; loves exercise and PT; female.
- COLLIN:** Sleepy camper who has been to Camp Dinky Springs five times; has the gift of being able to sleep at any time and awkward or unusual positions; snores loudly; male.
- MADISON:** Camper addicted to her cell phone; horrified to discover cell phones are banned at Camp Dinky Springs; female.
- JONAH:** Out-of-shape videogame addict who was sent to Camp Dinky Springs because he never studies; male.
- RICKIE:** Street smart girl who has had a difficult life; has a big attitude; female.
- STACEY:** Camper with a bad attitude and a history of shoplifting; Rickie’s friend; female.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

6

- ROBBY:** Good ol' country boy who hates to bathe and has body odor that keeps the mosquitoes away; male.
- ERICA:** Disrespectful, sarcastic camper; female.
- LANCE:** Juvenile delinquent sent to Camp Dinky Springs who has a history of playing with fire; male.
- ERIN:** Negative camper who won't stop whining; female.
- DALE:** Camper sent to Camp Dinky Springs by his parents because they think he spends too much time in his room reading; loves to learn about plants and animals and provides other campers with peaches and grapes; wears glasses and carries a backpack; male.
- MR./MRS. WORTHINGTON:** Wealthy owner of Camp Dinky Springs and Camp Roaring River; owns a chain of luxury resorts; wears expensive-looking clothing; flexible.
- TABITHA WORTHINGTON:** Mr. Worthington's daughter and the head camp counselor at Camp Roaring River, a camp for high-achieving teens; wears expensive-looking clothes; female.
- EZEKIEL WORTHINGTON:** Mr. Worthington's son and the head camp counselor at Camp Dinky Springs, a camp for troubled teens; teaches campers how to meditate and appreciate nature; wears hippie clothing, a beret, sunglasses, sandals, ankle bracelets, and has a ponytail; male.
- PHOENIX:** Ezekiel's wife and the camp cook at Camp Dinky Springs; loves granola and forest fruit/berries; wears hippie clothing; female.
- SERGEANT PALMER:** Drill sergeant camp counselor whose goal is to whip campers into shape; conducts early morning physical training sessions; wears BDUs; male.
- DELORES:** Caring camp counselor who hosts group therapy sessions for campers; female.
- KAYLYN:** Preppy camp counselor who assists campers on teamwork exercises like creating and performing skits; female.
- BETTY SUE:** Camp counselor who teaches arts and crafts classes; overly sweet voice; female.

BOB: Normal camp counselor who sets up bear boxes to keep bears away from Camp Dinky Springs; male.

ROARING RIVER CAMPERS 1-3: Snotty, smug campers from Camp Roaring River; wear polo shirts and cargo shorts; nonspeaking; flexible.

EXTRAS (Opt.): As additional Roaring River Campers.

COSTUMES

The camp covers six days, so the campers have two costume changes in the first act, one at intermission, and two in the second act.

- 1.) Costumes: Act I, scene 1. Campers have a jacket/shirt that can be removed easily for a quick change.
- 2.) Costumes: Act I, scene 2. Campers remove their jacket/shirt from scene 2. Note: Sgt. Palmer dances to give campers time to change. Campers will choose a line from the song as an entrance cue.
- 3.) Costumes: Act I, scene 5. Campers put their shirt/jacket on. Note: Sgt. Palmer dances to give campers time to change and then says line about whipping the campers into shape to cue campers' entrance.
- 4.) Costume: Act II, scene 1. Campers change at intermission and wear a jacket/shirt that can be taken off easily for a quick change.
- 5.) Costume: Act II, scene 3. Campers remove their shirt/jacket from the last scene. Sgt. Palmer dances to give campers time to change and says, "What in tarnation" to cue the campers' entrance.
- 6.) Costume: Act II, scene 5. All campers wear tie-dye shirts.

SETTING

Camp Dinky Springs.

SET

Camp Dinky Springs. There is a fire pit DCS. Sixteen camp stools are arranged in two semi-circles around the fire pit. There are six stools in the first row and 10 stools in the second row. There is a forest backdrop with thick trees and bushes that line upstage. Girls exit SR to unseen cabins. Boys exit SL to unseen cabins.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: Camp Dinky Springs, Sunday.

Scene 2: Camp Dinky Springs, Monday.

Scene 3: Camp Dinky Springs, Monday.

Scene 4: Camp Dinky Springs, Monday.

Scene 5: Camp Dinky Springs, Tuesday.

Scene 6: Camp Dinky Springs, Tuesday.

Scene 7: Camp Dinky Springs, Tuesday.

Intermission, opt.

ACT II

Scene 1: Campy Dinky Springs, Wednesday.

Scene 2: Campy Dinky Springs, Wednesday.

Scene 3: Campy Dinky Springs, Thursday.

Scene 4: Campy Dinky Springs, Thursday.

Scene 5: Campy Dinky Springs, Friday.

PROPS

Mug	4 Bins of jewelry-making supplies (beads, 4 pieces of string, 3 pairs of scissors, etc.)
Poster that reads, "Welcome to Camp Dinky Springs"	Headphones/ear buds
Small pack of tissues	Bold bracelet, for Erica
Fanny pack, for Delores	Bag containing fake grapes, sunglasses, and a banana
Rotary phone connected to a long phone cord	Bag containing a string of beads, a binder, and a headband with cat ears
Big bowl filled with granola	2 Bags with three random items in each bag
Scoop for granola	Peaches
20 Small plastic bowls	Clipboard
Rolling ice chest	Backpack, for Dale
20 Water bottles	Painting of greenery, for Madison
Matches	Several bunches of grapes
7 Flashlights	Bear costume, for Tabitha
Ghillie suit, for Marsha	Stick of deodorant
Branches/greenery for Marsha to hold	Small tent, for Robby
Cell phone speaker	22 Fancy envelopes with gift certificates
Cell phones	Trophy
Wallet, for Chauncey	
\$10 bill (may be fake money)	
Leaf	
4 TV trays	

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Fire effect for fire pit (lighting effect)

Sound of branches rustling

Classic hit song for Sgt. Palmer to dance and sing to

Popular, upbeat song for Sgt. Palmer and Campers to sing and
dance to

**“ONE DAY,
FROM THE VERY EARTH HERSELF,
ROSE A MONSTER
THAT WOULD COME TO BE
KNOWN AS...
THE GREEN VENGEANCE!”**

—EZEKIEL

ACT I
SCENE 1

(AT RISE: Camp Dinky Springs, Sunday. Sixteen camp stools are arranged in two semi-circles around a fire pit DCS. There are six stools in the first row and ten stools in the second row. Ezekiel enters SL, holding a mug. He stands near the fire pit, sets his mug down on a stool, stretches his arms to the sky, and then drinks from his mug. Delores enters SL and sits on a stool near him.)

DELORES: Hi, Ezekiel. How are you doing today?

EZEKIEL: I'm great. Just enjoying the beauty of nature and the great herbal tea my lovely wife made me.

DELORES: Where is Phoenix?

EZEKIEL: Just getting supper ready for the campers about to join us.

DELORES: Ready to meet this year's Camp Dinky Springs family?

EZEKIEL: I can't wait.

(Sgt. Palmer enters SL.)

SGT. PALMER: *(Shouts.)* Time to whip another group of delinquents into shape!

DELORES: Sergeant Palmer, they are not delinquents. They are just misunderstood.

SGT. PALMER: They are not misunderstood. They are scum. And it's my job to shape them into fine members of society, however I see fit.

EZEKIEL: Don't forget who's running this camp, Sergeant.

SGT. PALMER: You're only in charge because your daddy owns this camp. You're much too easy on these kids. They need a firm hand.

DELORES: Their parents send them to us so they can get the help they need, not to be turned into Marines.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

5

SGT. PALMER: I'm just saying something needs to change around here. I'm tired of losing every year to those know-it-all Eagle Scouts at that other camp run by daddy's little girl.

EZEKIEL: My sister does a lot to help those kids, but she has forgotten what is really important when running a camp. What's really important is—

(Betty Sue enters SL, holding a poster.)

BETTY SUE: Howdy! I just finished this here welcoming poster. *(Holds up poster, reads.)* "Welcome to Camp Dinky Springs." What do you think, Delores?

DELORES: Oh, how nice, Betty Sue. It will make them feel welcome in a new environment. *(Yelling is heard off SR.)* Oh, I think I hear them coming now.

(Bob and Kaylyn enter SR. They are trying to stop Marsha, who is forcing her way into the camp.)

BOB: *(To Marsha.)* Ma'am! Ma'am, please, you cannot enter the campgrounds!

KAYLYN: *(To Marsha.)* Parents are not allowed in this area.

(Marsha pushes past Bob and Kaylyn and approaches the Camp Counselors.)

MARSHA: *(To Camp Counselors.)* Who is in charge here?

(Ezekiel and Sgt. Palmer stand.)

EZEKIEL/SGT. PALMER: I am.

DELORES: *(To Marsha, indicating Ezekiel.)* Mr. Worthington is in charge, ma'am.

(Sgt. Palmer turns away in a huff.)

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

6

BOB: I'm sorry, Ezekiel. We tried to keep her out.

EZEKIEL: It's okay, Bob. *(To Marsha.)* How can I help you, ma'am?

MARSHA: I just want to make sure that whoever is in charge here knows how to fix Marissa's problem. She's my only daughter, and I don't want her to ruin her life.

EZEKIEL: We'll do our best, ma'am. Is there anything specific you want us to know?

MARSHA: I'm just so upset! I still can't believe what she did!

(Marsha bursts into tears and cries into her hands. Delores hands her a tissue from her fanny pack.)

DELORES: What happened? We're here to help.

MARSHA: *(Dramatically blows her nose. Distraught.)* She made a "B." *(Looks at them.)*

DELORES: Aaaaand...?

MARSHA: And?! And now she's not perfect! I don't know if I will ever get over it! We have to make sure that this never, ever happens again!

SGT. PALMER: Peak performance is the only performance we accept here, ma'am. We'll whip her into perfect shape.

BETTY SUE: *(To Marsha.)* It'll be all right, Hon. *(Approaches Marsha and pats her on the shoulder.)* Come on, now. The kids will be coming in soon, and we are going to need to get to work.

MARSHA: I just want to be sure that nothing like this will ever happen again. She's going to ruin her future! I just won't stand for that!

BETTY SUE: *(Escorting Marsha off SR.)* I give you my word. Everything will be just fine. *(Marsha exits SR. To other Counselors.)* Well, that's a first. I hope none of the kids this year act like that.

BOB: *(Slowly, deliberately.)* Hey, Kaylyn, if I'm here, and you're here, who's at the gate to pick up the kids?

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

7

(Alarmed, Bob and Kaylyn look at each other and run off SR.)

EZEKIEL: *(To other Counselors.)* All right, everyone, let's get into position. Betty Sue, get that poster ready. The kids will be here any second now.

(Ezekiel, Betty Sue, Delores, and Sgt. Palmer stand DSL.)

DELORES: *(Excited.)* Oh, I just can't wait to meet the new campers!

(Bob and Kaylyn enter SR, escorting 16 new Camp Dinky Spring Campers. They sit around the fire. On the front row of stools from SR to SL are Lance, Vito, Chauncey, Erin, Lisa, and Erica. On the back row of stools from SR to SL are Robby, Rickie, Stacey, Dale, Madison, Jonah, Marissa, Addie, Brad, and Collin. Collin sits with his head propped up with his hands and dozes off. Bob and Kaylyn go DSR.)

EZEKIEL: *(To Campers.)* Welcome, young travelers to Camp Dinky Springs. I'm your head counselor, Ezekiel.

LANCE: *(Sarcastic.)* Nice ponytail.

EZEKIEL: Thanks! Here at Camp Dinky Springs, we have a wonderful staff to help all of you, and we have a strict schedule for each day.

SGT. PALMER: *(To Campers, pacing, authoritative.)* I'm Drill Sergeant Frank Palmer, and I'm gonna turn you softies into the toughest, strongest, meanest group that Camp Dinky Springs has ever seen. When you address me, the first and last word out of your filthy sewers will be "sir." Is that understood?

BRAD: Sir, yes, sir!

(None of the other Campers respond.)

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

8

SGT. PALMER: *(To Campers.)* I don't think the rest of you slimy, disgusting, wastes of space heard me. You will address me as "sir," or I will PT you until your weak, feeble bodies beg for death. Now, am I understood?

(Rickie stands face to face with Sgt. Palmer DCS.)

RICKIE: You think you're tough? You don't know the first thing about being tough.

SGT. PALMER: *(In her face.)* What was that, maggot? Let me tell you something about tough. I was in the Corps crawling for miles through the desert without food, water, or sleep just to get a visual on the enemy hostiles. I'm not just tough, young lady. I am a machine! I am unbreakable! By the time I'm done with you, you will know the meaning of tough!

RICKIE: How you gonna tell me I don't know tough when I can't walk to school without looking over my shoulder? How you gonna tell me I don't know tough when my dad left my mom with four kids, and now we can barely pay rent? How you gonna tell me I don't know tough when I had to watch my cousin be thrown in jail for peddling drugs just to provide. You don't know nuthin' 'bout the streets 'cause they be tough... *(With attitude.)* ...Sarge, sir!

SGT. PALMER: We'll see about that. *(Rickie returns to her stool. To Campers.)* Every morning at 06:00 you will report to me for PT drills. Any questions? Good.

BOB: *(To Campers.)* After PT, you guys will eat breakfast, and then we will get together to discuss the day's activities. We will ask for volunteers for the day's challenge, and if no one volunteers, we will be forced to randomly select you.

CHAUNCEY: *(Whiny.)* Challenges? Why do we have to do challenges?

BOB: Every year, we have a competition with Camp Roaring River. The owner of the two camps will be here soon to explain all of that.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

4

EZEKIEL: *(To Campers.)* Each day, after the challenge, we will meet up for lunch and then have a meditation class. We all need to learn to become one with nature and free ourselves from the distractions of modern technology. As you already know, there are no cell phones in our camp.

MADISON: *(In a panic.)* But how will I tell all my friends what I'm up to? If they don't see me, they'll forget about me.

BRAD: *(To Ezekiel.)* In all seriousness, sir, what if there is an emergency and we need a phone?

EZEKIEL: Betty Sue, will you please show our campers the phone we have available for them?

(Excited, Madison awaits the appearance of the phone. Betty Sue exits SL to retrieve the phone.)

ERICA: This oughta be good...

(Betty Sue enters SL, holding a rotary phone connected to long phone cord that stretches off SL.)

BETTY SUE: *(To Campers.)* Let me introduce you all to Cindy Lou.

LISA: Cindy who?

BETTY SUE: Cindy Lou. That's just the name I gave this old phone.

(Madison approaches to take a closer look at the phone.)

MADISON: *(In disbelief.)* That's a phone?

BETTY SUE: Of course, darlin'. It's all we had back in my day, and I turned out just fine.

MADISON: *(Inspecting phone closely.)* Where's the camera?
(Holds up the receiver and poses for a selfie.)

BETTY SUE: Oh, don't be silly. *(Takes the phone away from Madison. Madison returns to her stool. Betty Sue hands the*

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

10

phone to Ezekiel, who takes it off SL. To Campers.) By the way, I'm Betty Sue. After your meditation with Ezekiel, you'll work on arts and crafts with me. We'll learn to make art out of everything we have available, including rocks, leaves, sticks—

ERICA: *(Sarcastic.)* Sounds thrilling.

BETTY SUE: It is! I just love helping you all express your creativity. *(Big smile. Deep breath.)* I hope you all enjoy my class.

ERICA: *(Sarcastic.)* Can't wait.

(Ezekiel enters SL and stands near the fire pit. Kaylyn steps forward.)

KAYLYN: *(To Campers.)* After arts and crafts, you will come to me for teamwork exercises, and then you will go eat supper.

(Kaylyn steps back. Delores steps forward.)

DELORES: *(To Campers.)* Hi, everyone. I'm Delores, and I will be your group therapist. We will meet after the evening meal. I am so excited to get to know each and every one of you, and I hope you will learn to feel comfortable talking to me about anything that is bothering you.

VITO: So whatchu sayin' is...if nothing's bothering us, we could leave?

DELORES: You may think nothing is bothering you, but we will start to open up after we get to know each other better.

RICKIE: There're some people here I don't want to get to know better. *(Stands and points at Robby. To Robby.)* When's the last time you took a bath, boy? You stank.

(Delores approaches Robby and covers her nose.)

DELORES: We all have things we need to work on.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

11

(Delores approaches Betty Sue, waving her hand in front of her face to clear the stench. Worthington enters, stands near the SR entrance, and then approaches Ezekiel.)

RICKIE: Getch your stank out my face, boy.

(Rickie stands and points SR. Robby stands.)

ROBBY: *(Smiles.)* Are you talkin' 'bout me? *(Shakes his head and drags his stool away from the circle.)* I don't mean to offend.

EZEKIEL: Everybody, just relax. We're all here to have a good time. After your therapy session, you will all gather around the campfire before bed. Then you will all go to your cabins to get a good night's sleep.

(Worthington enters and approaches Ezekiel.)

WORTHINGTON: Hi, son.

EZEKIEL: Hi Dad. *(To Campers.)* Let me introduce my father, Harris Worthington.

(Delores and Betty Sue exit SL.)

WORTHINGTON: Thank you, Ezekiel. Hi, campers! I am the owner of Camp Dinky Springs and Camp Roaring River. Five years ago, I built these two camps to give back to the community. When I was raising my children, I would have loved to have a camp like this for my son. He went through some rough times, but look at him now...a successful camp leader! I also have a daughter who was always a go-getter as a child. She yearned for something to challenge her in the summers. She now leads Camp Roaring River so other high achievers have a camp to meet their needs. It is my privilege to help troubled children like you, and I sincerely hope that you enjoy your time here.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

12

BOB: Can you explain the challenges, Mr. Worthington?

WORTHINGTON: Of course, Bob. *(To Campers.)* We like to emphasize survival skills at our camps to help young people take control of their lives no matter what situation they face. Each group will only be able to use supplies found in the forest unless otherwise stated.

ERIN: *(Whining.)* The forest? We have to go out in the forest?

(Tabitha and Camp Roaring River Campers 1-3 enter SR and stand near the entrance, listening to Worthington. One of the Campers is holding a large trophy.)

WORTHINGTON: *(To Campers.)* On Monday, we will see which camp can catch the most fish. Tuesday, each group will repair a hole in a canoe. Wednesday, the groups will start a fire and then keep that fire burning. Thursday, the groups will create a stretcher and then retrieve a fellow camper who has been hidden in the woods. And Friday, we will see which group can create the sturdiest free-standing shelter. The camp that wins three challenges wins the competition.

CHAUNCEY: That sounds like a lot of work.

(Tabitha and Roaring River Campers 1-3 stand next to Worthington.)

TABITHA: *(To Dinky Springs Campers.)* You won't have to worry about those last two challenges because Camp Roaring River always wins!

(Worthington turns to greet Tabitha.)

WORTHINGTON: Tabitha, I didn't think I would see you until I went to your camp.

TABITHA: Hi Daddy. I just wanted to come and make sure these kids knew what to expect.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
13

WORTHINGTON: *(To Campers.)* Let me introduce you to Tabitha, my daughter.

TABITHA: *(To Campers.)* And your competition! *(Indicating Roaring River Campers 1-3.)* These campers have been coming to Camp Roaring River for years, and we have never lost a challenge, so don't get your hopes up about winning the prizes.

RICKIE: Nobody said nuthin' about no prizes.

WORTHINGTON: I was getting to that. I own luxury hotels around the world, and each camper and counselor from the winning camp will win a week's stay at a resort of your choice for themselves and their families.

BRAD: That sounds great. You are very generous.

WORTHINGTON: It's just my way of giving back to the community. Good luck to you all!

(Worthington snaps and points at Ezekiel, pats Tabitha's shoulder, and exits SR.)

TABITHA: *(To Dinky Springs Counselors.)* It's a shame you won't be able to experience the massages at the spa or the excellent room service. Oh well, my campers will enjoy it again this year. See you tomorrow at the pond.

(Tabitha and the Camp Roaring River Campers 1-3 exit SR, looking smug.)

ERICA: Whatever. Like anyone cares about a stupid competition.

SGT. PALMER: You might not care about it, but I do. *(To Campers.)* I am going to mold you into a well-oiled machine. No one will be able to beat us.

CHAUNCEY: I don't like competitions. I don't like any type of confrontation. My head is going to explode. I need a head massage.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

14

SGT. PALMER: Stop your whining, softie. *(To Campers, shouts.)* Everybody, stand up! *(Campers look around, confused. Louder.)* I said, stand up! *(Campers reluctantly stand. Shouts.)* Tomorrow, I will show you how to line up, and every morning, you will get in formation at 06:00 for PT.

ADDIE: *(Jumping up and down, clapping her hands.)* PT! As in physical training! I love exercise!

JONAH: I haven't exercised in years. I'm gonna die.

SGT. PALMER: Stop your yappin'. Bob, here, has something to tell you.

BOB: *(To Campers.)* All right, guys, when you get to your tents tonight, your bags will be there. We have to go through all the bags before you go to sleep.

RICKIE: You ain't touchin' my stuff.

BOB: For your own safety, we have to. There are bears in this area, and at night, we have to secure anything with a scent in the bear boxes.

CHAUNCEY: Bears?! I might get eaten by a bear?!

BOB: Everything is perfectly safe as long as we take the proper precautions.

ERIN: But I wanted to keep my snacks in my tent.

BOB: *You'll* be a snack for the bears if we don't lock up everything that would attract them.

EZEKIEL: You don't have to worry about food. My wife, Phoenix, is the camp cook, and she will make sure you get plenty to eat. *(Looks off.)* Ah, here she comes. Now you can enjoy your meal fresh from nature's bounty.

(Campers return to the stools they were sitting on. Bob and Sgt. Palmer exit SL. Robby's stool is still out of the circle. Phoenix enters SL, carrying a big bowl. Betty Sue enters with 19 plastic bowls and a rolling ice chest that contains 19 refillable water bottles. Phoenix sets the bowl down on the ice chest and meets Ezekiel near the fire pit. They execute a fancy handshake that ends with their hands making a bird that they make fly upward. They sing "ah" in harmony as they make the bird fly. At the end of the handshake, they

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

15

touch each other's cheeks and look into each other's eyes for a few seconds. Betty Sue hands each Camper a small bowl. Water bottles are passed down the rows. Bob and Kaylyn exit SR.)

PHOENIX: Hi, Zekie, my love. How is your day going?

EZEKIEL: I'm having a lovely, peaceful day, Fifi, my love.

PHOENIX: *(Facing Campers.)* Hi, campers. I have provided a lovely meal made from the fruits and berries of the forest. I also have for you the most delicious water you will ever drink. *(Approaches the ice chest.)*

STACEY: What is so "special" about this water?

PHOENIX: Oh, my darling, this water is from the pond of Dasani. Legends say that whoever drinks this water will win the challenge.

ERICA: Then why has Camp Dinky Springs lost all five years?

PHOENIX: These things take time. *(Picks up a large bowl and scoops granola into each Camper's bowl.)*

BETTY SUE: *(To Campers.)* After you finish eating, give Phoenix your bowl and put your water bottle back in the cooler. Don't throw them away. We reuse everything here at Camp Dinky Springs.

(Phoenix, Ezekiel, and Betty Sue stand near the SL exit and eat. Campers stand and mingle. Marissa moves to the front.)

PHOENIX: *(To Campers.)* Mealtime is a great time to commune with each other. Please feel free to mix and mingle as you eat.

(Brad approaches Marissa at DCS.)

BRAD: *(To Marissa.)* Hi, I'm Brad. What's your name?

MARISSA: I'm Marissa. Nice to meet you.

BRAD: Those challenges sound like a lot of fun.

MARISSA: I don't know. To me they sound like one more way to disappoint my mother when we lose.

BRAD: Lose? No way! I'm an Eagle Scout! We're gonna do great!

MARISSA: You're an Eagle Scout? Why are you at a camp like this?

BRAD: "Camp like this"? What do you mean?

MARISSA: (*Hesitantly.*) Well, I've noticed that some of the other campers seem to have a lot of *personal* challenges.

BRAD: Who are you talking about?

MARISSA: On the bus, I tried to talk to some of the girls, but they were very rude. Rickie told me to "step off" when I tried to sit next to her. Erica called me goody-two-shoes when I said hi, and Stacey tried to steal snacks when she thought I wasn't looking.

BRAD: Now that you mention it, a few of the guys seem pretty strange to me. Collin is always asleep, and that Vito guy is wearing a trench coat. It's 98 degrees.

(*Vito overhears and makes a threatening gesture behind Brad's back.*)

MARISSA: It seems to me that an Eagle Scout should be at Camp Roaring River.

BRAD: Maybe so. Seems to me like you don't fit in here, either.

MARISSA: I don't. I'm here because I made a "B" on a test.

BRAD: Aaannndd...?

MARISSA: That's all. Now my mom thinks I'm not perfect anymore, so she sent me to this camp to "fix" me.

BRAD: I can't believe that! Why don't you stand up to her?

MARISSA: Oh, I could never do that.

BRAD: Sure, you can. You just need some confidence.

(*Brad and Marissa move near their stools and continue talking quietly. Lance and Vito move to the front.*)

LANCE: (*To Vito.*) Hey, man, I don't know about you, but I'm gonna be out of here by tomorrow night.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

17

VITO: And how exactly are you gonna do that?

LANCE: I'm gonna get a team together, and we're gonna make a plan.

VITO: I want in on that action.

LANCE: I'm not letting just anybody in. What can you offer the team?

(Vito opens his coat, revealing random tools and utensils taped on the inside.)

VITO: *(Indicating coat.)* Look, here. Anything you want, I got it. And if I don't got it, I'll get it.

LANCE: Where did you get all that stuff?

VITO: Don't worry 'bout it.

LANCE: All right, you're in. Who else should be on the team?

(Vito looks at the other Campers.)

VITO: What about that chick there? *(Points to Rickie.)* She told G.I. Joe off. She don't seem to wanna be here.

LANCE: Let's talk to her.

(Lance and Vito approach Rickie. Betty Sue and Phoenix start gathering bowls. Rickie and Stacey stand.)

RICKIE: *(To Lance and Vito.)* Whatchu lookin' at?

LANCE: Hi, how you doin'? I'm Lance. This is Vito.

RICKIE: Get your stank outta my face.

LANCE: I'll cut to the chase. We're breaking out of here tomorrow. You in?

RICKIE: What makes you think I need your help to get out of here?

LANCE: Vito, here, has all the supplies we need. *(Vito opens his coat.)* And me, I'm the brains.

RICKIE: The brains? Ha! *(Smirks. Thinks.)* Okay, I'm in, but on one condition: we bring my girl Stacey with us.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
18

STACEY: *(To Lance and Vito.)* If you're leaving, I want in.
LANCE: Fine. Looks like we have our team.

(Chauncey joins Vito, Lance, Stacey, and Rickie.)

CHAUNCEY: Sorry to interrupt, but I couldn't help but overhear your conversation.

VITO: Don't even ask. You haven't stopped whining since we got on the bus. You're not coming with us.

CHAUNCEY: *(Whining.)* But, please! I can't survive in this wilderness! They expect us to sleep in tents! How barbaric!

RICKIE: Quit trippin'. Who do you think you are?

CHAUNCEY: All you need to know about me is that my daddy is very, very rich. And if you get me out of here, you will be generously rewarded.

STACEY: If your daddy put you in here, then why would he pay us to break you out? Stupid!

CHAUNCEY: It was my mother who put me here, not my father. She wanted me to "experience the real world."

LANCE: How much money we talking?

CHAUNCEY: More than you'll ever see in a lifetime.

(Lance looks at the others and they nod.)

LANCE: Fine, you're in. We'll meet at midnight by the fire pit.

(Betty Sue and Phoenix take the bowls and bottles off SL. Ezekiel stands DSL.)

EZEKIEL: *(To Campers.)* Let's all sit down! It's story time!

ERICA: *(Insulted.)* What are we? Two?

EZEKIEL: *(To Campers.)* The story I'm about to tell you is not for children. It explores the darker side of nature.

VITO: *(Sarcastic.)* Ooooh, I'm scared.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

14

EZEKIEL: You should be. Before we start, let us invite nature's warmth into our circle. (*Unsuccessfully tries to light several matches.*) No big deal, just having a little trouble starting the fire...

LANCE: I got this, boss. Let me see what I can do. (*Lights the "fire" on his first try.*)

EZEKIEL: Wow, very impressive, son. (*To Campers.*) Let's begin. (*Sits cross-legged in front of the "fire."*) Not so long ago, before the days of Camp Dinky Springs, there was another camp on these grounds known as Camp Running Buffalo. The owners of that camp had no respect for Mother Nature. They drank water from disposable plastic bottles and threw them away in the woods. They cut down countless trees to make room for their parking lots. They even smoked cigarettes and tossed the butts on the grass. Mother Nature felt violated; she had had enough. One day, from the very Earth herself, rose a monster that would come to be known as "The Green Vengeance"!

(*Other Camp Counselors enter and stand behind the Campers.*)

ERIN: (*Terrified.*) Oh my gosh!

EZEKIEL: I know! It was horrible! The Green Vengeance would terrorize campers at night.

CHAUNCEY: (*Scared, voice shaking.*) It's nighttime now...

EZEKIEL: Not to worry. The fire will protect us. But after you go to your tents, we will put the fire out and nothing will stop The Green Vengeance from attacking anyone who comes out of their tents.

MADISON: I'm never coming out of my tent.

EZEKIEL: You will be safe once the sun comes up.

SGT. PALMER: (*Loudly, startling the Campers.*) Which is when I will wake you up for PT! Right now, it's time to settle in for the night.

ERIN: Let's hurry. I don't want to get attacked by a monster.

SGT. PALMER: Boys, come this way.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
20

(Male Campers, Sgt. Palmer, and Ezekiel exit SL. Collin is leaning on Brad, sleeping. When Brad gets up, he shakes Collin awake and they both exit.)

DELORES: Girls, your tents are over here.

(Female Campers, Delores, and Betty Sue exit SR.)

BOB: *(To Kaylyn, after the Campers have exited.)* I love hearing Ezekiel tell that story. He gets more detailed with it every year.

(Bob and Kaylyn straighten the camp stools.)

KAYLYN: Is it safe here? I'm beginning to wonder if I should have taken this job.

BOB: *(Laughs.)* Don't worry, "The Green Vengeance" isn't real. We just want to make sure the campers don't wander around at night.

KAYLYN: That's pretty sneaky.

BOB: And usually pretty effective. We want everyone to enjoy their time here and stay safe.

KAYLYN: I'm not that worried about enjoying myself. I just need to earn service hours before I graduate next semester. Also, teaching teamwork is a great thing to add to my résumé. I want to do everything I can to get a good job after college.

BOB: We have lots of fun here. You just might enjoy yourself. *(Goes to the fire pit and extinguishes the "fire." Stage lights dim and Bob and Kaylyn turn on flashlights. Calls.)* Have a good night.

(Bob starts to exit SL. Kaylyn starts to exit SR.)

KAYLYN: *(Calls.)* Thanks. You, too.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
21

(Bob and Kaylyn exit. Marsha is now wearing a ghillie suit. Blending into the background greenery, Marsha crosses UCS. Brief pause. Lance and Vito enter SL with flashlights.)

VITO: *(To Lance.)* I thought that Bob dude was going to see us.

LANCE: Nah, he was too occupied with the bear boxes.

VITO: I wonder where the rest of the team is.

LANCE: They'll be here. Don't worry.

(Rickie and Stacy enter SR with flashlights.)

RICKIE: Let's hear the plan. I gotta get outta this place.

LANCE: I got a simple plan. All we gotta do is... *(Chauncey creeps on SL with a flashlight, looking around and whimpering. Calls.)* Hey, rich boy, hurry it up! We gotta make our plan and get back to our tents.

CHAUNCEY: I couldn't agree more. *(Looking around.)*

VITO: Hey. *(Taps Chauncey on the shoulder. Chauncey squeals.)* Keep it down. What are you lookin' for?

CHAUNCEY: The Green Vengeance. I don't want to be attacked.

(Others laugh.)

RICKIE: Ain't no monster goin' mess with me.

(Sound of rustling branches is heard UCS. Everyone looks around, Chauncey whimpers, and Marsha freezes in a tree pose. Note: Marsha slowly moves forward as the scene progresses.)

VITO: There ain't no monster. That's just some story they made up.

LANCE: Right. *(To others.)* Let's focus on the plan. All we gotta do is volunteer for the challenge tomorrow.

STACEY: What do you mean?

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
22

(Sound of rustling branches is heard UCS. They look around, Chauncey whimpers, and Marsha freezes in a different tree pose.)

LANCE: *(To others.)* All we gotta do is act excited about “winning one for the team.” Then once the competition starts, we make a run for it!

RICKIE: That’s tight. They won’t even know to look for us until we’re long gone.

(Sound of rustling branches is heard UCS.)

CHAUNCEY: *(Grabs Vito, shaking him.)* There won’t be anything to find if we get eaten by the monster!

LANCE: How many times do I have to tell you? There isn’t a—

(At that moment, Marsha stumbles toward the fire pit. Chauncey lets out a high-pitched scream and runs off SL. The other Campers look at each other and try to act tough. Rickie and Stacey exit SR, and Vito and Lance exit SL. Marsha pulls back the hood of her ghillie suit and takes out her cell phone.)

MARSHA: *(Into phone.)* Hello, Richard...I’m not coming home tonight. I have to stay here and make sure that these counselors do their jobs right...What? You’re breaking up. Say that again...No, I don’t trust them. *(Note: Grows hysterical as she says the next lines.)* Marissa is going to ruin her future if this problem isn’t handled now...Of course, it’s a big deal. How can you say that? She made a “B”! She isn’t perfect! She won’t get the best scholarships or go to the best colleges! It’s the most horrible thing that has ever happened! *(Pause.)* Richard? Are you there? *(Hangs up. To herself.)* He just doesn’t understand. *(Exits UCS. Blackout.)*

SCENE 2

(AT RISE: Camp Dinky Springs, Monday. Palmer enters SL. He sets a speaker, which is connected to his phone, on one of the campstools. He blasts a song and dances around to give the Campers time to change into their second costume. The Campers slowly straggle on SR and SL and stand in a group USL. They react negatively to the music. Erica is wearing a bold bracelet.)

ERIN: (To other Campers, covering her ears.) That music is so loud!

BRAD: I kind of like it.

LANCE: Oh, be quiet, wise guy.

(Sgt. Palmer turns off the music.)

SGT. PALMER: (To Campers, shouts.) You young people don't appreciate real music!

CHAUNCEY: (Whining.) I can't believe I didn't have someone to help me choose my clothes this morning, and now I have to stand outside.

SGT. PALMER: Everyone, listen up! Move your stools, so I can put you into formation. (Campers move stools.) On the front row, we have Collin, Brad, Addie, Jonah, Rickie, Stacey, Erin, and Chauncey. (Pauses until the Campers are in place.) Behind them, we have Erica, Lisa, Marissa, Dale, Lance, Vito, Madison, and Robby. (Pauses until they are in place.) Get it straight and remember it from now on.

CAMPERS: (Half-heartedly.) Sir, yes, sir.

SGT. PALMER: (Shouts.) I didn't hear that!

CAMPERS: (A little louder.) Sir, yes, sir.

SGT. PALMER: That will have to do for now. Let's start with five side-straddle hops. (Campers start doing jumping jacks. Addie is overly enthusiastic. Other Campers are barely moving. Counts gruffly.) Stop! Is that the best you can do?!

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
24

ERICA: How are we supposed to exercise when we haven't eaten?

CHAUNCEY: *(Has a side ache, holding his side. To Sgt. Palmer.)*
Can I be excused? I think I pulled my ACL.

SGT. PALMER: Stop your whining, scumbag! Drop and give me ten. *(Campers assume push-up positions except for Chauncey, who is reaching for his back pocket. To Chauncey, in his face.)*
What are you doing, boy?!

(Chauncey removes his wallet and pulls out a bill.)

CHAUNCEY: I believe you said *ten*.

SGT. PALMER: Unbelievable! Let's go! One, two, three...
(etc.)

(Sgt. Palmer continues counting as he approaches Collin, who is sound asleep. Sgt. Palmer pushes on Collin's shoulder.)

COLLIN: *(Looks up, sleepy.)* What's going on?

SGT. PALMER: You are sleeping during PT again, boy. This is your fifth time at this camp. What is it going to take to make you stay awake?

(Phoenix enters SL with a big bowl. Betty Sue follows with 19 plastic bowls and the ice chest with the water bottles. Betty Sue hands each Camper a small bowl. Phoenix picks up a large bowl and scoops granola into each Camper's bowl. Betty Sue gives each Camper a water bottle. Phoenix and Betty Sue stand near the SL exit to eat.)

BETTY SUE: That's enough exercise for today, Sarge. *(To Campers.)* Good morning, campers. Come over and get your breakfast.

(Campers stand around and eat.)

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
25

SGT. PALMER: You need to wait until I'm finished tomorrow.
These kids didn't get a good workout in.

JONAH: *(Exaggerated heavy breathing.)* That was plenty for me.

SGT. PALMER: We're just gettin' started, boy.

ADDIE: Good workout, Sarge.

SGT. PALMER: Maybe you can help me lead the exercises tomorrow. Tell me your name.

ADDIE: Addie, sir. Thanks, sir. I would love to, sir.

(Sgt. Palmer nods at her and then exits SL. Addie stretches her arms above her head and leans from side to side before sitting down. Rickie looks at Robby, points SR, and Robby moves away from Rickie.)

ERIN: *(To Phoenix.)* This is the same junk we ate yesterday.

PHOENIX: No, dear, this is a different type of berry. And these twigs are from a different type of tree.

ERIN: If you say so...

(Campers start eating, grudgingly. Marissa, Dale, Robby, Addie, and Erin stand SL and slap at "mosquitoes." Rickie, Stacey, Lance, Vito, and Chauncey move to the front.)

RICKIE: *(To Stacey, Lance, Vito, and Chauncey.)* Remember, they goin' ask for volunteers, so raise your hands fast. Once we out there on that challenge, we goin' get away from here.

LANCE: *(Annoyed.)* Hey, I'm the leader of this group.

RICKIE: You keep thinking that, fool.

STACEY: I can't wait to get out of this place.

CHAUNCEY: We should have left last night when we saw that monster.

LANCE: Yeah, right, a "monster."

VITO: *(To Chauncey.)* Listen, kid, there ain't no monster. But, if there was a monster, it wouldn't matter anyway 'cause we'll be outta here soon.

(Betty Sue and Phoenix gather the bowls and water bottles and exit SL.)

MARISSA: *(Slapping her arm.)* Ugh, I've never seen so many mosquitoes in my life!

(Delores and Bob enter SL.)

DALE: Here, try this. *(Hands her a leaf.)* It's an herb that soothes bug bites.

MARISSA: How do you know that?

DALE: Plants and animals fascinate me.

MARISSA: Oh, cool, thanks. I wish we had something to get rid of all the mosquitoes, though.

(Robby approaches Dale. Campers cover their noses as Robby passes.)

ROBBY: Howdy, what y'all talkin' bout?

(Campers on SL stop reacting to mosquitoes. Campers on SR start slapping at mosquitoes.)

MARISSA: Dale, here, was just showing me how to use this plant to soothe mosquito bites.

ADDIE: Hey, give me some of that. I have mosquito bites all over me.

BRAD: Say, the mosquitoes don't seem to be biting anymore.

DALE: *(Looking at Robby.)* Hmm, mosquitoes are repelled by certain odors... *(Grabs Robby's arm and pushes him toward SR. Campers on SL start reacting to mosquitoes again. Dale pulls Robby back SL and Campers on SL stop reacting to mosquitoes. He repeats this twice with the same effect.)* Yep, I was right. Robby, your stench scares away the mosquitoes.

ROBBY: Shoot, I know. It's one of the reasons I don't bathe.
When I'm up in the deer stand, I can't have no bugs bitin' at me.

ERIN: You hunt? Like shoot animals...with a gun?

ROBBY: *(Laughs.)* Well, yeah. How else am I goin' get dinner?

DELORES: *(Moving DSL.)* Okay, everyone, let's move the stools back to the circle. *(Campers move their stools and sit.)* Last night, I heard some screaming coming from this area after we specifically told you all to stay in your tents. Now, I'm not mad, just disappointed. If you were outside of your tent last night, it's time to confess so we can talk about it. *(Confused, Campers look at each other. Chauncey raises his hand, but Vito pulls it down. Delores sees this and stands between Chauncey and Vito. Standing in front of Vito.)* Chauncey, come over and talk to me. *(Chauncey stands so that Lance, Vito, Rickie, and Stacey are behind him.)* Is there something you'd like to tell me?

(Vito, Lance, Rickie, and Stacey shoot Chauncey death stares behind Delores's back.)

CHAUNCEY: *(Looks down, shaking his head hesitantly.)* No, I don't think so.

DELORES: I'm pretty good at reading body language, Chauncey, and I feel like you have to something to say.

CHAUNCEY: *(Breaks down, confesses.)* I saw The Green Vengeance last night!

(Other Campers laugh.)

DELORES: *(To other Campers, holding her hands up to shush the group.)* Stop laughing. If Chauncey thinks he saw a monster, we need to talk about that. *(To Chauncey.)* Now, what makes you think you saw a monster?

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
28

CHAUNCEY: I don't *think* I saw a monster, I *know* I did. It wasn't just me.... (*Lance makes threatening gestures and Chauncey hesitates.*) I mean, it wasn't just my imagination.

DELORES: (*Patting Chauncey's shoulder.*) We will talk about this again tonight in our group therapy session.

(*Delores gives Chauncey a concerned look and exits SL. Ezekiel enters SL and stands near the entrance. Bob enters and stands near Erica DSL. Note: Brad is tying his shoe when Bob asks for volunteers.*)

BOB: (*To Campers.*) Today's challenge is the fishing challenge. Do I have any volunteers? (*Lance, Vito, Chauncey, Stacey, and Rickie raise their hands immediately. Bob goes DSR and stands near Lance.*) I have to say, I'm surprised to have such an eager group.

(*Brad stands.*)

BRAD: Wait, is it too late to volunteer?

BOB: We have enough volunteers for today. You can participate in one of the other challenges.

BRAD: You bet. (*Sits and listens intently.*)

BOB: Who would like to be the leader today?

(*Lance stands.*)

LANCE: I got this.

BOB: That's great, Lance. I'm proud of you.

LANCE: Whatever. What do we have to do?

(*Brad can't contain himself and moves closer to the group of volunteers.*)

BOB: (*To Volunteer Campers.*) The challenge is to see which group can catch the most fish in two hours. You will have a

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
24

hatchet and a canoe, but you will have to create your fishing poles and nets from the nature around you.

VITO: Sounds easy enough. When do we get started?

BOB: *(Chuckles. To Volunteer Campers.)* Have any of you ever fished before?

BRAD: *(To Volunteer Campers.)* Or tried to find the supplies you need in the forest?

LANCE: *(Annoyed.)* Why don't you go back to your seat, Eagle Scout?

BRAD: Just trying to help. *(Unfazed, returns to his stool.)*

BOB: *(To Volunteer Campers.)* If you will all come with me, we'll get your supplies, and then I'll take you to the competition site.

(Bob starts to lead the Volunteer Campers off SR.)

EZEKIEL: *(To Volunteer Campers as they exit, calls.)* Good luck! I'm sure you'll do very well today! *(Bob and the Volunteer Campers exit. Ezekiel approaches Erica and stands near her DSL. To Campers.)* The rest of you will have some time to enjoy all of the activities we offer here at Camp Dinky Springs. You can play horseshoes, volleyball, or basketball. We also have board games and nature hikes. There should be something for everyone. We'll gather back here for lunch.

(Remaining Campers, except Collin, exit SL, talking about which activity they want to do. Ezekiel wakes up Collin and he stumbles off SL. Ezekiel exits behind him. Blackout.)

SCENE 3

(AT RISE: *Camp Dinky Springs, Monday. Campers are standing in groups behind the stools. The Volunteer Campers who competed in the challenge are standing DSR. Bob is standing DSL. Ezekiel is standing near the SL entrance.*)

BOB: *(To Campers.)* Now that lunch is over, it's time to talk about what happened at today's challenge.

ERIN: What is there to say? We lost.

BOB: I think we should hear from our volunteers. Lance, since you are the leader, can you tell the rest of the campers what happened today?

LANCE: We lost.

BOB: We've established that, but let's talk about how you approached the task of fishing.

RICKIE: Look, dude, stop trippin'. We jes' volunteered so we could get out dis place, know what I'm sayin'? We paddled that boat like a mother and tried to make a run for it, but we got caught. Can we jes' leave it alone now?

BRAD: *(Realizes.)* So that's why you all volunteered this morning.

BOB: Apparently so. *(To Campers.)* I'm sure you all know that if we lose the next two challenges, we will lose the competition again.

VITO: Whatever, man.

BRAD: *(To Bob.)* I've done competitions like this before. I would be glad to help with tomorrow's challenge.

RICKIE: Stop being such a goody-two-shoes.

ERICA: *(To Rickie, indicating Brad.)* At least, he's good at it.

(Rickie approaches Erica.)

RICKIE: *(Threateningly.)* Whatchu tryin' to say?

(Erica approaches Rickie and they face off.)

ERICA: I think it's obvious.

(Brad moves between Erica and Rickie.)

BRAD: Everyone, calm down.

(Ezekiel goes DSL.)

EZEKIEL: *(To Campers.)* Yes, let's all take a deep breath. *(Leads Campers in a slow inhale and exhale.)* That's what we are going to focus on in my meditation class. Everyone, find your seat and relax.

(Campers sit on their stools. Bob stands by Ezekiel and keeps a close watch on Erica and Rickie, who are still glaring at each other.)

BOB: *(To Ezekiel.)* I think I'll stay for your class.

EZEKIEL: There's no need. *(Looks at Erica and Rickie.)* I'm sure we will all be fine once we find our inner peace.

(Erica smirks.)

RICKIE: Man, you whack.

BOB: *(To Ezekiel.)* Are you sure?

EZEKIEL: Yes, everything will be fine. *(Bob reluctantly exits SL. [Note: While Ezekiel speaks, Addie fidgets constantly and Collin sleeps. Collin's snores gradually get louder.] Approaches Collin and chuckles.)* It looks like some of us have already found a comfortable position. *(Circulates among the Campers as he speaks.)* Now, take a deep breath in... *(Campers inhale.)* ...hold it, and now release slowly. *(Campers exhale. Stands behind Addie and puts his hands on her shoulders. Addie stops fidgeting.)* Let's all relax every muscle in our bodies and take another deep inhale and exhale. *(Collin is snoring very loudly, and the other Campers are starting to giggle. As soon as Ezekiel moves away from Addie, she starts fidgeting again. Indicating*

Collin.) Let's be happy that our fellow camper has achieved such peace. It isn't funny, so let's please stop laughing. *(Campers laugh harder. Ezekiel speaks over the laughter.)* Let your mind become aware of your thoughts and just observe them. *(Sits near the fire pit with his legs crossed.)*

VITO: Yeah, the only thought I have now is that this is stupid. I'm outta here.

(Vito, Lance, Rickie, Stacey, and Chauncey exit SR. Rickie acts like she still wants to confront Erica. All the other Campers exit, except Brad, Marissa, Addie, and Collin. Brad, Marissa, and Addie approach Ezekiel, unsure what to do.)

BRAD: Mr. Ezekiel, excuse me, sir...

EZEKIEL: Yes?

BRAD: Most of the other campers left. I wasn't sure if you noticed.

EZEKIEL: I am aware. I don't ever try to force someone to learn inner peace. It just doesn't work.

(Collin is still snoring loudly.)

MARISSA: Collin seems pretty peaceful.

(Brad, Marissa, and Addie giggle. Ezekiel stands.)

EZEKIEL: *(To Addie, who is fidgeting.)* You are just full of energy, aren't you?

ADDIE: Yep, it's always hard for me to sit still. I don't think I will ever be able to meditate.

EZEKIEL: I have helped many people learn, and I'm sure I can help you. Come with me, and we'll find Phoenix. We can both show you some meditation techniques.

(Ezekiel and Addie exit SL. Brad and Marissa exit SL and then reenter, wake up Collin, and help him exit SL. Blackout.)

SCENE 4

(AT RISE: *Camp Dinky Springs, Monday. Campers are sitting on camp stools in groups of four around four TV trays. On each TV tray is a bin of jewelry-making supplies. From SR to SL, the four groups consist of the following: 1.) Robby, Lance, Vito, and Chauncey; 2.) Rickie, Stacey, Dale, and Madison; 3.) Jonah, Marissa, Addie, and Brad; 4.) Collin, Erin, Lisa and Erica. [Note: Collin is asleep and snoring. Marsha walks back and forth across the back wall during this scene.] Betty Sue walks behind the groups.*)

BETTY SUE: Okay, Campers, today we are going to make jewelry. There is an assortment of different supplies in front of you. Use whatever you'd like and make any type of jewelry you want.

LISA: Why are we making jewelry when we can just go buy it at the store?

BETTY SUE: I want you to express your inner artist and learn to enjoy creatin' things.

LISA: I can create whole outfits when I go shopping. Everybody always thinks I look good.

BETTY SUE: I would like to show you that you can look good in things that you create, not buy.

LISA: *(To Collin, Erin, and Erica.)* Does anybody understand what she is talking about?

(Erin and Erica shrug.)

STACEY: I like creating outfits too, but I don't... *(Air quotes.)* ..."shop" for them, if you know what I mean.

(Stacey and Rickie laugh and fist bump.)

BETTY SUE: Let's just work on the project for now. I'm sure you will be able to make something you like. *(To Robby, Lance, Vito, and Chauncey.)* Do you need some help getting

started? *(They stare at her blankly.)* Maybe you can all make a simple necklace. Here, let me cut a piece of string for each of you. *(Looking through the art supplies.)* I know I put a pair of scissors in here somewhere...

VITO: *(Opening his jacket to reveal a pair of scissors.)* I gotchu, Miss Betty Sue.

(Vito hands Betty Sue the scissors.)

BETTY SUE: *(Indicating items in his jacket.)* Where did you get all of that?

VITO: Don't worry 'bout it.

(Betty Sue cuts four pieces of string, hands the scissors back to Vito, and then approaches Collin, Erin, Lisa, and Erica.)

BRAD: *(To Marissa.)* I really like that bracelet.

MARISSA: I can make one for you, too.

BRAD: Thanks, I would like that.

MARISSA: What are you making?

BRAD: I don't really know yet. I could make you a necklace out of these [blue] beads. It would look great with your beautiful eyes. *[Or insert another color.]*

MARISSA: *(Blushing.)* Thanks, I would like that.

BETTY SUE: *(Shaking Collin's shoulder to wake him.)* All right, hon, let's wake up so you can participate in today's activity.

ERICA: *(Yawning loudly.)* I think he's got the right idea. This is so boring.

BETTY SUE: Creativity is *not* boring. It helps us all express ourselves, which is very important. *(To Campers.)* Does anyone need help with anything?

ERIN: *(Whiny.)* I can't decide what do make. There are just too many choices.

BETTY SUE: Here, use this piece of string and make a simple necklace. Don't over-think it. Just pick up some beads and put them on the string.

MADISON: I don't know how to make anything if I can't look up ideas. Can I borrow your phone?

BETTY SUE: You know you can't use phones while you're here. Look around. Find inspiration from the beauty around you.

MADISON: What do you mean?

BETTY SUE: Look at the sky, the plants, the color and texture of things in nature. That should help you get some ideas.

MADISON: *(Looking around.)* I don't see how that will help. *(Looks up at the sky.)* But those clouds are really puffy and pretty. *(Looks at the back wall and Marsha freezes. Madison looks away.)* And I've never noticed how many different shades of green there are.

(Madison starts picking out supplies. Betty Sue checks in with each group. Betty Sue stands between groups two and three.)

BETTY SUE: *(To Campers.)* Start finishing up your projects. It's almost time for your team-building activity.

(Campers don the jewelry they have made and put the unused supplies back in the bins. Kaylyn enters SL and stands between groups two and three. She is carrying four bags filled with various items. Betty Sue gathers the bins and exits SL. Marsha exits UCS.)

KAYLYN: *(To Campers.)* Okay, guys, today we're going to do a fun activity to help us get to know each other better.

ERICA: *(Sarcastic.)* Sounds delightful.

KAYLYN: *(To Campers.)* I know most of you don't want to be here, but getting to know each other will help you work as a team.

LANCE: Yeah, that just sounds dumb. Why would we work together if we don't want to be here?

KAYLYN: So you can win the competition.

RICKIE: Ain't nobody care 'bout that.

BRAD: I do. I'm sure we could win some of the challenges if we work together.

(Addie gets up from her stool.)

ADDIE: *(To Kaylyn.)* What's the fun activity? I'm tired of sitting around.

KAYLYN: I am going to give each group three random items, and you will have a short amount of time to create a skit to perform. Each item must be used in the skit, but it doesn't have to be used as the actual item. For example, a hairbrush can be a microphone, and so on. Don't open your bag until I tell you to.

ADDIE: Sounds like fun. Let's get started. Can I help you with those bags?

KAYLYN: Sure, give one bag to each group. *(Addie gives each group a bag. Robby, Lance, Vito, and Chauncey get grapes, sunglasses, and a banana; Rickie, Stacey, Dale, and Madison get any random three items; Jonah, Marissa, Addie, and Brad get a string of beads, a binder, and a headband with cat ears; Collin, Erin, Lisa, and Erica get any random three items. [Note: Collin is asleep.] To Campers.)* On your mark, get set, go! *(The groups look at the items in their bags and talk about them.)* Times up! *(Points to Robby's group.)* We'll start here. Show us what you came up with.

(Reluctantly, Vito, Robby, Lance, and Chauncey approach the fire pit. Vito is wearing the sunglasses and treats the banana like it's a gun. Robby moves the TV tray SR of the fire pit and stands behind it like a counter. He puts the grapes on the tray. Chauncey stands several steps behind Robby. Vito approaches the "counter" with Lance.)

VITO: *(To Lance, sniffs.)* "Are you sure you wanna shop in here, boss? There's a smell—"

LANCE: "It'll be fine, Vito. *(To Robby.)* Aye, I want me some grapes!"

ROBBY: "Well, we have grapes. How many grapes you want?"

LANCE: "All the grapes."

ROBBY: "All the grapes?"

LANCE: "I said, all the grapes."

ROBBY: "Yes, sir, but it's gonna cost you. Grapes ain't cheap."

LANCE: "Money is no issue for me. I'm a mob boss."

ROBBY: "Mob boss?"

LANCE: "I said, mob boss."

ROBBY: "Well, your total is \$500."

LANCE: "Vito, pay the man."

VITO: "Pay the man?"

LANCE: "I said, pay the man."

VITO: "You didn't give me any money, boss, just this here gun." *(Waves the banana in the air like it is a pistol.)*

ROBBY: *(Calmly.)* "Please put the gun away, sir. If you don't have any money, I'm gonna have to get my manager. *(Turns and shouts behind him.)* Mr. Chauncey!"

(Chauncey approaches Robby and covers his nose.)

CHAUNCEY: "Is there a problem, Robby?"

ROBBY: "These guys wanna buy all our grapes, but they don't have any money."

CHAUNCEY: "No money? *(To Lance.)* Well, you can't have our grapes if you have no money."

LANCE: "So, no grapes?"

CHAUNCEY: "No grapes."

LANCE: "If we can't have the grapes, then we'll just have to... *(Shouts.)* ...murder you!"

(Vito points the banana at Robby and Chauncey like it is a gun and starts making gunshot "pew-pew" sounds. Robby and Chauncey hold up the TV tray like a shield and scream. All four are yelling.)

KAYLYN: *(Shouts.)* Enough! *(They continue. Kaylyn approaches, separates them, and grabs the banana from Vito. Louder.)* I said, enough!

(Vito, Lance, Chauncey, and Robby stop but laugh and continue to be loud.)

LANCE: We're just getting started. We haven't shown you the best part yet!

KAYLYN: *(Rattled.)* Stop right now! We'll continue this exercise later. Please put the props back in the bags.

(Kaylyn takes the bags and exits SL. Delores enters SL and stands DSL.)

DELORES: Hi, campers. Today, I'm going to talk to you before the evening meal because I am just so excited to get to know all of you. I also think that there are some pretty important things for us to talk about.

ERIN: So we're skipping supper?

MADISON: Be glad. I'm tired of eating twigs and berries.

DELORES: We are going to eat after we talk for a while. Let's not complain about eating healthy food. Good nutrition helps us with all aspects of our lives, including how we deal with our emotions.

ERICA: *(Sarcastic.)* Yeah, right. Eating granola is going to make me a nicer person? Whatever.

DELORES: *(Ignoring her.)* Let's all move our stools back into the circle. Also, would one person from each group please move the TV trays over there? *(Points to the area near the SL entrance. Campers move their stools. Brad, Robby, Dale, and Lisa move the TV trays. Once all the stools are in place and the*

Campers are seated, Delores continues. She stands DSL, clasps her hands in front of her heart, rests her chin on them, and then spreads them wide.) As I told you, I will be your group therapist, and I am here to talk about anything that is bothering you. You are all here because your parents think that there is something you can improve to help you have a more successful life. You may not agree with your parents' expectations, but that is normal.

VITO: *(To Lance.)* Man, this woman talks a lot.

LANCE: You ain't lying!

(Delores stands between Lance and Vito, putting one hand on each of their shoulders.)

DELORES: *(To Lance and Vito.)* Let's start with you two.

Lance, can you tell me why you think you're here?

LANCE: I like to spend a lot of time away from home, if you know what I mean.

(Lance and Vito obnoxiously laugh and playfully punch each other.)

DELORES: So I've heard. Can you tell us why you have been in juvie?

LANCE: Let's just say that when you play with fire, sometimes you get burned.

(Lance and Vito cover their mouths with their fists and say, "Ooooooh" and then laugh.)

DELORES: What about you, Vito? Why do you think you were sent here?

VITO: Well, you see, I have lots of connections with people who my parents don't think are a good influence on me.

DELORES: Do you think your friends are a bad influence?

VITO: No, of course not. Without them, how would I get all this?

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
40

(Vito opens his coat to show the items taped to the inside. Vito and Lance laugh.)

DELORES: *(Annoyed.)* My goodness, you sure are jovial.

VITO: *(Defensive.)* What did you call me?

(Vito goes nose to nose with Delores. Brad approaches and puts himself between Vito and Delores.)

BRAD: She said, "jovial." It means happy or cheerful.

VITO: *(Defensively.)* I knew that. *(Sits.)*

DELORES: Thank you, Brad. Everything is okay.

VITO: Cheerful. Yeah, I'm very cheerful.

(Vito and Lance laugh. Brad goes back to his stool. Delores stands between Brad and Collin. Note: Collin is sleeping in a crazy position.)

DELORES: *(To others, patting Collin on the back.)* Maybe one day we will be able to help Collin stay awake. *(Pats Brad on the back.)* Brad, can you tell us why you're here?

BRAD: I always go to camps during the summer. I am not sure why my mom wanted me to come to this one, but I am excited about the challenges.

ERICA: You're the only one, Boy Scout. *(To Delores.)* How long do we have to sit here and talk about our feelings? This is such a waste of time.

(Delores approaches Erica.)

DELORES: I'm sorry you feel that way. Is there anything about being here at Camp Dinky Springs that you do enjoy?

ERICA: Let's see...the food is horrible, bugs are eating me alive most of the time, I am supposed to sleep on the ground, we constantly have to do stupid activities...so I guess the answer is... *(Sarcastic.)* Yeah, I love it here.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS

41

DELORES: I'm sure if you try, you can find at least three things you enjoy about being here. I want you to pay attention to your surroundings, and I will ask you the same question at tomorrow's group session.

ERICA: (*Rolls eyes.*) Sure, whatever you say.

(*Delores approaches Chauncey.*)

DELORES: (*To Chauncey.*) I am very curious about the story you told this morning. You said you saw a monster?

(*Chauncey looks over at Lance and Vito, who both shake their heads and give him threatening looks.*)

CHAUNCEY: I don't know why I said that. Maybe I was just upset about my mom making me come to this primitive camp.

DELORES: Why did your mom make you come here?

CHAUNCEY: She told me I was spoiled. Can you believe that?! Just because I'm used to having someone help me get dressed and style my hair. I don't know why I should ever be expected to help clean things.

ROBBY: Sounds like somebody thinks he's better'n ever'body else.

CHAUNCEY: Not at all, but I do like having people help me with the things I don't want to do for myself.

RICKIE: You mean like *servants*? Why you think you deserve to be treated so special? What 'bout the people who have to do the things you don't want to do?

CHAUNCEY: I would think it would be a privilege to serve someone who is paying them. Our family has always treated our help very well.

(*Rickie approaches Chauncey.*)

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
42

RICKIE: Boy, getch your stank outta my face. You don't know whatchu talking 'bout. People who work for fancy people like you have to leave their own families at home. Betchu never thought about that, did ju?

(Delores goes between Rickie and Chauncey.)

DELORES: Let's all calm down. *(To Rickie.)* Please return to your stool. *(Rickie glares at Chauncey and then returns to her stool.)* It sounds like there are many things we will need to spend some time talking about, but now is not the right time. I would like each of you to think about how you can improve yourselves while you are here. It's time for the evening meal, and tonight we're eating by the pond, so let's all head over there now.

(Campers groan. As lights fade to black, Girls exit SR and Boys exit SL. Brad wakes up Collin and helps him offstage. Note: Stagehands remove TV trays.)

SCENE 5

(AT RISE: *Camp Dinky Springs, Tuesday. Sgt. Palmer enters SR, blasting a song and dances around. Kaylyn enters SR, enjoying a song on her headphones and approaches him.*)

KAYLYN: (*Shouts.*) Sgt. Palmer!

SGT. PALMER: (*Shouts.*) What!

KAYLYN: (*Shouts.*) Can you turn that down!

SGT. PALMER: (*Shouts.*) What!

KAYLYN: (*Shouts.*) Turn your music down!

(*Sgt. Palmer turns off his music.*)

SGT. PALMER: What did you say?

KAYLYN: I asked you to turn your music down. I couldn't hear mine.

SGT. PALMER: Do you have a problem with my music, missy?

KAYLYN: You're always listening to the same old music, and it's so boring.

SGT. PALMER: Boring? These songs are classics!

KAYLYN: When's the last time you listened to something from this century?

SGT. PALMER: Hey! I'm not that old. I've heard some of what you kids call [heavy metal] and [adult alternative]. All of it sounds like a bunch of nonsense. [*Or insert other genres of music.*]

KAYLYN: You just haven't heard the right artist yet. I'll show you one day. (*Exits SL.*)

SGT. PALMER: (*Shouts.*) You young people don't know what good music is!

(*Sgt. Palmer turns his music up, dances around, and exits SL. Campers file in from both sides and sit on their stools. Wearing a ghillie suit, Marsha enters UCS and watches on from the back wall.*)

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
44

ERIN: *(To Lisa and Jonah.)* Sergeant Palmer is going to kill us all if he makes us exercise like that every morning. I was looking forward to breakfast, but we get the same nasty stuff to eat for every meal.

LISA: I would pay a thousand dollars for a cheeseburger right now.

JONAH: *(Sighs.)* What I wouldn't give for a [Mountain Dew] right now. *[Or insert another suitable drink.]*

LISA: *(To Dale.)* Hey, what are you eating?

DALE: A peach.

(Campers turn and look at Dale.)

STACEY: Where did you get that?

(Campers approach Dale.)

DALE: There's a peach tree right over there. *(Points.)*

MARISSA: How do you know that?

DALE: Yesterday, during the challenge while you all were playing basketball or board games, I was hiking through the woods and found the tree.

CHAUNCEY: Hiking in the woods? Why would you ever do such a thing?

DALE: I like nature. It's beautiful and it calms me.

MADISON: Yeah, it is beautiful. Have you guys ever noticed the different shades of green in the trees? *(Motions UCS, Marsha freezes.)* It's breathtaking.

RICKIE: 'Nuff about nature. Where is that peach tree, boy?

DALE: Follow me and I'll show you.

(Dale starts to lead Campers UCS, except for Collin, who is asleep. Bob enters SL, carrying a clipboard.)

BOB: *(To Campers.)* Hey, where you all headed?

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
45

VITO: *(Indicating Dale.)* Nature Valley over here is gonna show us where the peach tree is.

BOB: *(To Campers.)* Didn't you just eat breakfast?

ERICA: If you wanna call it that.

BOB: *(To Campers.)* You can get a peach later. Right now, we need to discuss today's challenge.

(Campers go back to their stools. Bob stands behind Collin, who is asleep in a crazy position.)

BRAD: *(Raising his hand, jumping up and down.)* Oooh! Oooh! I'll do it!

BOB: You don't even know what the challenge is yet.

BRAD: Oh, yes, I do. *(As Mr. Worthington.)* "Each group will have to repair a hole in a canoe."

BOB: That's right. Impressive. Any other volunteers?

(Campers look around sheepishly.)

BRAD: C'mon, guys! This'll be fun!

(Marissa stands.)

MARISSA: I'll do it.

BRAD: Yes!

BOB: *(To Campers.)* Anyone else? *(Campers look around. Looks at his clipboard.)* Okay. Robby, Erica, and Erin, you're up.

(Robby, Erica, Erin, Brad, and Marissa stand near Bob. Robby is next to Erica.)

ERICA: *(To Robby.)* Unless you want to be covered in puke, you need to stay away from me.

ROBBY: Sure thang.

(Robby moves away from Erica.)

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
46

BOB: *(To other Campers.)* If you aren't participating in today's challenge, you are free to go.

DALE: *(To other Campers.)* If you want some peaches, the tree is this way.

(Dale exits UCS and the other Campers follow. All walk past Marsha.)

MADISON: *(To Marsha, touching her ghillie suit.)* What an unusual shade of green.

(Dale and the other Campers exit.)

BOB: Brad, I would like for you to take the lead on this one. Your group will be given a hatchet and a canoe with a hole that needs to be repaired. You will have to find the supplies you need in the forest, repair the hole, and row the canoe across the pond and back. Does anyone have any questions?

ERICA: Do we have to take him... *(Pointing to Robby.)* ...with us?

BOB: One of the most important things you can learn from these challenges is how to work together.

ERICA: So...?

BOB: So, yes, he has to go. Everyone, come with me so I can give you some tips.

(They all exit SL. Robby helps the sleepy Collin off. Blackout.)

SCENE 6

(AT RISE: *Camp Dinky Springs, Tuesday. Campers are sitting on their stools. Brad, Marissa, Robbie, Erica, and Erin are standing in the front. Bob is DSL.*)

BOB: *(To Volunteer Campers.)* So, guys, what happened out there?

BRAD: Even though we lost, we all did our best. I'm proud of you guys.

MARISSA: Thanks, Brad. That's so sweet.

BOB: *(To Volunteer Campers.)* What went wrong?

ERICA: Ha! Where do we start? It took us 20 minutes to even figure out how to fix the canoe.

BRAD: *(To Bob.)* But the plan we came up with did work. The other team was just faster.

ROBBY: *(To Bob.)* By the time we fixed the canoe and got in the water, the other team was half way 'cross the pond.

ERICA: *(To Bob.)* The hardest part of the challenge was sitting next to him. *(Points at Robby.)*

ERIN: *(To Bob, indicating Robby.)* He smells so bad that fish started rising to the surface of the water.

STACEY: *(Realizes.)* Wow, we could have used him in yesterday's challenge.

BOB: *(To Volunteer Campers.)* So, to recap, you all came up with a plan to fix the canoe, fixed it together, and started paddling across the pond, but the other team was just faster, so they won.

BRAD: Yes, sir, I don't know how anybody could have fixed a boat as fast as they did with the supplies we were given. They did have the same supplies as us, right?

BOB: They were supposed to.

ROBBY: *(To Volunteer Campers.)* You know, guys, I gotta say, Brad really helped us out today. I'm good with tools, but I sure couldn't have fixed that canoe without his help.

BRAD: Just trying to help out. You all were a great team.

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
48

(Team members thank Brad.)

BOB: *(To Volunteer Campers.)* I'm sorry we lost today, but I like the improvement in the teamwork I'm seeing. Good job! Keep it up!

(Everyone exits. Blackout.)

SCENE 7

(AT RISE: Camp Dinky Springs, Tuesday. Sitting around TV trays with bags of props, the Campers are in their teamwork groups, except for Lance's group. Lance's group doesn't have a bag of props. Dale has a backpack. Stacey is wearing a bracelet that Erica wore in earlier scenes. Kaylyn is talking to Brad's group. Note: Wearing her ghillie suit, Marsha crosses along the back wall several times during this scene.)

DALE: *(To Madison.)* May I see what you painted in arts and crafts today?

MADISON: Sure. *(Holds up a painting of greenery against the back wall and Marsha in her ghillie suit.)* What do you think?

DALE: That's nice. How long have you been an artist?

MADISON: I've never had time to do any arts and crafts, but lately, I've been inspired by the beauty I see in all of the nature around us.

DALE: I've never seen a tree like that.

MADISON: I just painted what I saw over there. *(Points at Marsha.)*

DALE: *(Indicating Marsha.)* I can't identify that tree, but I know a lot about nature. If you'd like, I can teach you about the other types of trees in this area.

MADISON: Sure.

KAYLYN: *(To Campers.)* Okay, guys, looks like we have a group who is ready to present today.

(Marissa moves a TV tray to DCS and stands behind it. Brad is a few steps behind her. Wearing a string of beads, Addie approaches the TV tray with Jonah, who is on all fours and wearing a cat headband. Note: Brad and Marissa are flirting throughout the whole scene.)

ADDIE: "Help, help, please help!"

MARISSA: "Calm down, ma'am. What seems to be the problem?"

ADDIE: "My cat is sick."

MARISSA: "What's wrong with him?"

(Jonah meows.)

ADDIE: "He won't stop growing! He's gotten so big!"

MARISSA: "Brad, please bring me the big binder of cat conditions. *(Brad approaches with the binder and they flip through the pages. Brad brushes against Marissa's shoulder, causing her to blush. Addie takes off the string of beads and uses them as a cat toy. Jonah bats at the beads and continues to meow.)* Ma'am, it appears to me that your cat is not sick."

ADDIE: "Then why is he so big?"

BRAD: "Because, he is a panther, ma'am."

ADDIE: "Oh, wow, I have a panther. That is amazing!"

BRAD: "I'm sorry to tell you, ma'am, but you will have to surrender him to a zoo. You can't keep an exotic animal as a pet."

ADDIE: *(Gasps.)* "How dare you?!"

(Ezekiel enters SL and goes CS.)

EZEKIEL: Sorry to interrupt, but I need to speak with you, Brad.

BRAD: Yes, sir?

EZEKIEL: Your mother called and was very upset. Apparently, when she was signing you up for summer camp, she mixed up the two camps owned by my father.

BRAD: Aaaaand?

EZEKIEL: And she is now insisting that we send you over to Camp Roaring River immediately.

BRAD: *(Looking at Marissa.)* But I don't want to leave. I like it here.

EZEKIEL: I'm afraid it's out of my hands. It'll be okay. The universe always has a plan.

MARISSA: *(To Brad.)* I always knew you didn't fit in here, but I'm really going to miss you.

BRAD: We'll see each other again. I'll find a way.

(Ezekiel approaches Brad.)

EZEKIEL: It's time to go, son.

(Kaylyn takes the bags and painting off. Phoenix and Betty Sue enter with supper. Phoenix and Ezekiel execute their fancy handshake. Ezekiel and Brad exit SL. Campers move the TV trays near the SL exit. They then move their stools back to two rows around the fire pit. Now that Brad's stool isn't occupied, Collin gets comfortable on both stools and falls asleep. Phoenix and Betty Sue start serving supper.)

PHOENIX: *(To Campers.)* It's time to eat. Everyone move your stools.

RICKIE: *(To Marissa.)* So, whatchu goin' do without your boyfriend?

ROBBY: That ain't very nice.

RICKIE: Boy, getch your stank outta my face.

ROBBY: Brad is a good fella. *(To Marissa.)* I'll miss him, too.

MARISSA: Thanks, Robby.

(Phoenix and Betty Sue exit SL. Addie jumps up and approaches Dale.)

ADDIE: Dale, got anything better to eat?

(Other Campers approach Dale. Dale opens his backpack.)

DALE: Sure, I picked these today. *(Pulls out several bunches of grapes.)*

ADDIE: Those look delicious.

(Each Camper takes some grapes back to their stools and pantomimes eating them. Erica stand between Stacey and Jonah.)

ERICA: *(To Stacey.)* Where'd you get that bracelet?

STACEY: Why you wanna know?

ERICA: It looks a lot like the one I'm missing.

STACEY: Whatchu trying to say?

ERICA: I think it's obvious.

(Stacey stands.)

STACEY: Saw something I liked, and now I have it.

ERICA: You stole my bracelet! Give it back!

RICKIE: Getch your stank out her face, girl! You know you ain't goin' do nothin'!

(Stacey, Erica, and Rickie start shouting and shoving each other. Delores enters SR and approaches them.)

DELORES: Girls! Stop all that yelling! What's the problem?

(To Campers.) Everyone, go back to your seats!

ERICA: Stacey stole my bracelet, and I'm taking it back.

DELORES: There are better ways to solve problems than by fighting.

(Betty Sue enters SL with Phoenix.)

BETTY SUE: Is everything all right?

DELORES: I have everything under control. *(Rickie, Stacey, and Erica smirk and roll their eyes.)* I'll let you know if I need help. *(Phoenix and Betty Sue exit SL. Delores stands between Rickie and Stacey. To Campers.)* It looks like we should start our therapy session while you eat. Everyone, sit down and stop eating for a minute. Take a deep breath. I know

Ezekiel has been teaching you how to use your breath to calm yourselves. Breathe in. (*Campers inhale.*) Now breathe out. (*Campers exhale.*) Now, isn't that better?

ERICA: No. That girl still has my bracelet.

DELORES: Stacey, does that bracelet belong to Erica?

STACEY: Not anymore.

(*Stacey and Rickie laugh.*)

DELORES: I didn't talk to you at last night's meeting, Stacey.

Will you tell us why your parents sent you to Camp Dinky Springs?

STACEY: They think I got too many things I shouldn't have.

DELORES: What types of things?

STACEY: Things like this bracelet.

DELORES: Are you talking about things you have *stolen*?

STACEY: I don't see it as stealing. If I can take what I want and nobody notices, there shouldn't be a problem.

ERICA: I might not have seen you take it, but I know you have my bracelet and I want it back.

DELORES: (*To Stacey.*) I want you to give me the bracelet.

STACEY: Why you goin' take her word over mine.

DELORES: I'm not taking sides, but for now, I am going to keep the bracelet. (*Holds out her hand. Stacey angrily hands her the bracelet.*) Thank you. Can you tell us why you like to steal things, Stacey?

STACEY: Like I said, I don't consider it stealing. If I take something I like, and I don't get caught, what's the problem?

DELORES: Anytime you take something that isn't yours, it hurts someone. Has anyone ever taken anything that was yours?

STACEY: That ain't something that would ever happen.

DELORES: How would you feel if it did happen?

STACEY: You shouldn't worry about how I would feel about it, lady. You should be more concerned for the person who

took what was mine. They would wish they had never been born.

DELORES: That's a very interesting thing to say, Stacey. I want you to think about that.

STACEY: Blah, blah, blah. You sure do talk a lot.

(Stacey and Rickie laugh. Unfazed, Delores stands between Jonah and Lisa.)

DELORES: I would like to talk to you, Jonah. Can you tell us why you're here?

JONAH: My parents disagree with my study habits.

DELORES: That's very unusual. They don't like to see you learning?

JONAH: No, ma'am, not the way I enjoy learning.

DELORES: And what way is that?

JONAH: Through videogames, I've learned a lot about teamwork, cooking, and building.

DELORES: *(Laughs)* That's certainly an interesting way to look at it. Lisa, can you tell us why you're here?

LISA: My parents think I spend too much money.

DELORES: How much money do you spend?

LISA: I don't think the amount of money I spend is as important as all of the cool things I buy. I love finding bargains, and I have great fashion sense.

DELORES: Where do you get the money to pay for all of the bargains you find?

LISA: Mom and Dad give me money, but it's usually not enough, so I have to charge most of what I buy.

DELORES: And your parents approve of you charging things on their credit cards?

LISA: Not exactly.

DELORES: I see. Why do you like to buy so many things?

LISA: I just love coming home from the mall and looking at all the things I bought. It's like I have new treasures.

DELORES: What do you do when you're not shopping?

LISA: If I'm not shopping, I'm just bored.

DELORES: I hope while you're here, you can see that there are many enjoyable things to do that don't cost any money.

STACEY: You got that right.

(Stacey and Rickie laugh. Delores ignores them and approaches Marissa.)

DELORES: Marissa, you look upset. Would you like to talk about what's bothering you?

MARISSA: *(Looking down.)* Not really.

RICKIE: *(Mockingly.)* Looks like little Miss Goody-Two-Shoes is missing Mr. Goody-Two-Shoes.

ROBBY: Well, if we're being honest, I'm gonna miss that guy, too. He was always nice to everyone and did everything he could to help. He was a genuinely nice fella.

DALE: He was always nice to me.

JONAH: Me, too.

ADDIE: Me, too. You know, some of us don't say very much, but that doesn't mean we agree with everything that is being said.

DALE: Right. I'm sure we are all here at this camp because our parents made us come, but that doesn't mean we have to hate being here.

MADISON: I kind of like being here. I don't feel so much stress.

DELORES: I'm glad to hear that you are not all miserable. There is plenty to enjoy if you are open to it. *(Approaches Erica.)* Erica, I said I would ask you again today...is there anything about being here at Camp Dinky Springs that you enjoy?

ERICA: Today, someone stole something that was mine; I had to sit in a boat with someone who stinks so bad that I couldn't breathe; and even though we really did try, we lost our challenge. Let me think...my answer is still no.

DELORES: I sincerely hope that you will be able to find a positive answer to that question before you leave.

ERICA: Whatever.

DELORES: *(To Campers.)* I think we've talked enough tonight. *(Lance, Vito, Rickie, Stacey, and Erica agree by making sarcastic comments.)* Ezekiel and I think that it would be a good idea to let you talk without an adult for a while. If anyone has any campfire stories, you can share them or you can talk about the upcoming challenges. We just ask that you get back to your tents by ten. *(Starts to exit SL.)* Goodnight, everyone.

(Delores exits SL. Campers look around.)

LANCE: *(To other Campers.)* I don't see any reason to stay.

(Lance and Vito stand.)

VITO: Yeah, let's go find something fun to do.

(Rickie stands.)

RICKIE: Come on, Stace, let's get outta here.

(Robby stands.)

ROBBY: *(To other Campers.)* I think right about now, Brad would have said somethin' meaningful and try to help us find a way to get along with each other. I ain't Brad, but I'm askin' you to stay so we can talk.

LANCE: What do you wanna talk about?

ROBBY: We got three more challenges while we're here. Don't you all wanna try to win some of 'em?

RICKIE: Ain't nobody expectin' us to even try. There's no way we could beat a group of kids like they got at that other camp.

ROBBY: That may be, but I'm willin' to give it my best shot.
Anybody with me?

(Brad emerges UCS.)

BRAD: You can count on me.

(Brad approaches Marissa and they hug. Other Campers react.)

MARISSA: Brad, how did you get here?

BRAD: I snuck away and walked. It only took about 30 minutes.

(Robby approaches Brad and shakes his hand.)

ROBBY: It shore is nice to see ya. I wish you could stay, but I guess you fit in better over at that other camp.

BRAD: Actually, I don't really like it there. The people there are stuck up, and I found out something important that I think you all should know.

RICKIE: There ain't nothin' you goin' tell us we don't already know.

BRAD: That's not true. The reason Camp Roaring River wins the competitions every year is because they cheat. *(Campers react.)* They brought fishing poles and nets Monday and duct tape today. They have special supplies for every challenge, and I just don't think that's right.

MARISSA: Neither do I, but what can we do about it?

LANCE: I think we should make sure they can't cheat.

VITO: Yeah, then we would have a fair chance, and we might actually win those challenges.

BRAD: How can we do that?

STACEY: I think maybe they have something at that fancy camp that I want. You know what I'm saying...?

BRAD: I'm sorry, no. I have no idea what you mean.

(Other Campers laugh.)

MARISSA: It's okay, Brad. Stacey likes to take things she wants, and she can do it without getting caught. *(To Stacey.)* Right?

STACEY: Yeah. If I take their supplies, then we can use them.

BRAD: Then we wouldn't be any better than them. If you can get their supplies, they won't be able to use them. If we don't use them either, then the competition would be fair, and you all would have a real chance to win.

STACEY: I guess so.

MARISSA: What is tomorrow's challenge?

BRAD: Tomorrow is Wednesday, so Mr. Worthington said the groups will have to start a fire and keep that fire burning.

LANCE: That's no problem for me.

(Lance and Vito high-five each other.)

BRAD: Oh, so when you said that "when you play with fire, sometimes you get burned," you meant it literally?

LANCE: Let's just say I'm a master at starting fires.

BRAD: I'm sure the campers from Camp Roaring River will have no idea what to do when they realize that their lighter is gone.

VITO: What do they have to cheat with for the other challenges?

BRAD: Thursday, we have to make a stretcher, and they have a stretcher from a hospital. Friday's challenge is to build a shelter using only supplies from the woods, and they have rope.

STACEY: So I just have to steal three things? I got this! Let's go!

BRAD: Sure thing. *(To others.)* We should be back in about an hour. *(To Marissa.)* I'll sneak over as often as I can.

(Marissa and Brad hug. Brad and Stacey exit UCS.)

CAMP DINKY SPRINGS
59

LANCE: *(To other Campers.)* Let's decide who is going to help with tomorrow's challenge.

ADDIE: I definitely want to be part of the team. I have lots of energy, so I can gather lots of firewood to keep the fire burning.

DALE: *(To Lance.)* I'll go. I can identify the best types of plants to burn.

JONAH: *(To Lance.)* I'll help. I do this kind of thing all the time in videogames.

LISA: *(To Lance.)* I'm used to buying things to solve problems, but I'll go so I can see what it's like to figure out something without using money.

LANCE: Looks like we've got our team.

RICKIE: Yeah, those snotty kids ain't gonna know what hit 'em!

ROBBY: I know you guys are gonna kick some butt tomorrow.

MADISON: We'll show them that Camp Dinky Springs can win without cheating.

(Campers cheer and high-five.)

LANCE: All right, team. If we are going to be ready for tomorrow, we're gonna need some rest. Everybody, to your tents!

(Campers cheer. Girls exit SR and Boys exit SL. Collin remains asleep on his stool. Jonah reenters, wakes Collin up, and they exit SL. Blackout. Curtain. Intermission, opt.)

[END OF FREEVIEW]