



J. Patrick Moss

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Big Dog Publishing
P.O. Box 1401
Rapid City, SD 57709

Wilderness Bound

COMEDY. Instead of going to a recreational summer camp, Stacey inadvertently ends up at a court-appointed wilderness camp for troubled teens. Stacey must survive for 30 days trapped in the deep woods with a hippie camp counselor, a kleptomaniac, a bully, a pyromaniac with an imaginary squirrel, a trivia geek, a girl addicted to Band-Aids, a Goth obsessed with serial killer movies, and a girl who is afraid of everything. To make matters worse, the camp leader goes missing, there's no Internet or cell phone service, and they have to sleep in play tents! This wildly wacky play offers scene-stealers for everyone in the cast.

Performance Time: Approximately 60 minutes.

Characters

(10 F, 1 flexible)

STACEY: Supposed to go to a recreational summer camp but accidentally ends up at a court-appointed 30-day wilderness camp for troubled teens; addicted to her electronic lifestyle; female.

JILL: Kleptomaniac who has a thing for socks and thinks she's Stacey's cousin; female.

TERRI: Pyromaniac who has an imaginary squirrel named Bernard; female.

SOPHIE: Likes to recite trivial facts and is easily distracted; female.

AGNES: Goth girl obsessed with death and serial killer movies; female.

PHOEBE: Afraid of everything except snakes and bullies; wears earrings; female.

LIZ: Addicted to over-the-counter healthcare items like Band-Aids, Pamprin, etc.; female.

MIKAELA: Menacing bully; female.

OFFICER BUCHANAN: Camp leader at a court-appointed 30-day wilderness camp for troubled teens; ex-soldier who had three deployments to Iraq; female.

NINA: Camp counselor at a court-appointed 30-day wilderness camp for troubled teens who likes to punctuate everything she says with a high-five; female.

PARK RANGER: Investigating the death of the park's beloved mascot, a bear named Joey; flexible.

Setting

High Wilderness Circle campsite.

Set

Campsite. Stage should appear to be deeply forested. At CS is a ring of stones for a campfire.

Synopsis of Scenes

Scene 1: Bare stage.

Scene 2: High Wilderness Circle campsite.

Props

Compact mirror	Rubber snake with yellow, red, and black bands painted on it
Sports drink	Small air horn
Watch, for Liz	Torn/ripped clothes identical to regular clothing, for Officer Buchanan
Assortment of socks	Battery pack for tablet computer
Bottle of hand sanitizer	Piece of paper
Computer tablet	Backpack or suitcase, for Stacey
Cell phone, for Stacey	
Children's play tents and/or tent poles	
\$5 bill	
Compass	
Several flashlights	
First-aid kit	

Sound Effects

Fake blood and/or wounds for Officer Buchanan

*Just me,
the woods,
and a bunch
of freaks
and weirdoes."*

—Tracey

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Jill, Liz, Mikaela, Sophie, Agnes, Terri, and Phoebe are milling about onstage talking in small groups waiting for a bus. Stacey enters SL and timidly looks around.)

STACEY: (To group.) Is this where we're supposed to meet for the bus to do the camp thing?

(Jill runs over, tackles Stacey, and hugs her.)

JILL: Cuz!

STACEY: (Trying to disengage.) Excuse me?

JILL: (Still clinging.) Cousin! Long time, huh? (To other Girls.)

See, guys, told you my cousin would be here.

STACEY: (Confused.) Cousin? I don't have a cousin.

(Stacey manages to pry Jill off.)

LIZ: (Twitching.) And you never told us that your cousin would be here, Jill.

SOPHIE: (Practically bouncing.) No, you were telling us about how you hacked the NSA and learned about how the aliens were infiltrating the IRS and then you said— (Notices something offstage.) Oh, look, guys, an airplane!

JILL: (Feigning insult.) I can't believe you guys don't believe me.

STACEY: (Quietly.) I don't have a cousin. Who are you?

LIZ: (To Jill.) Yeah. (Points to Stacey.) What's her name?

SOPHIE: (To Jill.) Yeah, what's her—? (Points.) Bird!

STACEY: My name? It's Stacey.

JILL: (Lagging half a second trying to sound simultaneous.) Macey!
It's Macey.

LIZ: Nice try, Jill. Now give her back her stuff.

STACEY: What?

JILL: (Innocently.) What stuff?

SOPHIE: Jill's our resident kleptomaniac. Five minutes ago, she stole my backpack, water, and spare socks, which you can never have too many socks because socks are important and they go on your feet. There are 12 inches in a foot, which is based off an old English measure—

LIZ: Sophie!

SOPHIE: Sorry.

(Sophie is quiet. Her attention is on something else.)

LIZ: Give it back, Jill.

JILL: I have no idea what you're talking about.

LIZ: Want me to call Mikaela over here?

JILL: You never let me have any fun.

(Jill sighs and hands Stacey a compact mirror.)

STACEY: *(Surprised.)* Hey.

LIZ: *(To Jill.)* And the [Sporty Q]. *[Or insert the name of another sports drink.]*

(Jill hands Liz a bottle of Sporty Q.)

STACEY: *(More alarmed.)* Hey!

LIZ: *(To Jill.)* And the watch.

(Jill hands back a watch.)

STACEY: *(Extremely upset.)* Hey!

(Jill starts to walk away.)

LIZ: *(In a low, warning tone.)* Jill...

JILL: *(Defensively.)* What? That's it. I swear!

LIZ: *(Clears throat.)* The sock.

(Jill hands over a sock. Stacey looks at the sock and then takes off her shoe to reveal a bare foot.)

STACEY: *(To Jill, surprised.)* Hey...how did you even get that off my foot?

(Jill shrugs.)

SOPHIE: It's pretty cool that she can do that. Also, she's ambidextrous, which shouldn't be confused with "amphibian" because those are two totally different things unless you come across a frog that's proficient with both hands, which I've never seen but I think that would be –

LIZ: Sophie!

SOPHIE: Sorry.

(Sophie is quiet, contentedly staring at something on the ground.)

STACEY: *(Flustered.)* Ummm, look, I just need to know if this is the place where we get on the bus to go to camp.

LIZ: Sure is. *(Looks around, leans in.)* Hey, hey...you got any stuff?

STACEY: Stuff? What kind of stuff?

LIZ: *(Gesturing.)* You know... *stuff*.

STACEY: *(Realizing.)* Oh, my gosh! You mean drugs?

LIZ: *(Motions for Stacey to be quiet.)* Sssssh, not so loud. I'm court ordered to go on this program. They're hoping I can break my addiction. *(Laughs.)* Not likely.

(Stacy takes a step back.)

STACEY: What are you addicted to?

LIZ: Acetaminophen, ibuprofen, Pamprin...you know, the hard stuff.

(Stacey takes another step back.)

STACEY: Riiiiight.

LIZ: I once drank so much Dayquil that I didn't get a cold for, like, a year. *(Twitches.)*

STACEY: Good luck with that. I'm going to go over here now.

LIZ: You'll be back. *(Twitches. To herself.)* They always come back...

(Stacey approaches Mikaela.)

STACEY: *(To Mikaela, friendly.)* Wow, that's just crazy. I don't suppose you're court ordered to be here too, huh? *(Sees that Mikaela is ignoring her. Nervously.)* My parents are making me go on this stupid trip. They don't think I get outside enough and I spend "too much time on the phone." Like a week at Camp Summer Woods is going to somehow turn me into a better person.

MIKAELA: *(Menacingly.)* Are you still talking me?

STACEY: *(Frightened.)* Maybe?

MIKAELA: I will cut you.

(Stacey runs away and ends up near Agnes.)

STACEY: *(To Agnes.)* These girls are insane.

AGNES: *(Cryptically.)* Have you ever seen death?

STACEY: What?!

AGNES: Have you ever seen death? Simple question: Have you ever seen someone die? Pass away? Cross over? The void in their eyes is hypnotic.

(Stacey runs from Agnes and bumps into Terri.)

STACEY: *(To Terri.)* Oh, sorry.

TERRI: *(Sweetly.)* It's okay. No harm, no foul. You all right?

STACEY: *(Slightly relieved.)* Yes, I'm fine. I'm just a little weirded-out right now.

TERRI: Me, too. All of these girls are crazy.

STACEY: I know, right? I can't believe I have to spend a week with these people.

TERRI: Yeah, but Bernard says that you're okay. Want to be tent-mates?

STACEY: Sure. *(Looks around, confused.)* Bernard?

TERRI: Bernard. He's been my friend ever since I can remember. *(Points.)* He's that squirrel right over there. Can you see him?

STACEY: Ummm, no?

TERRI: That's okay. I've never met anyone who could.

STACEY: You talk to squirrels?

TERRI: Yup. He tells me to burn things.

(Stacey hurriedly walks away from Terri and bumps into Phoebe. Phoebe looks at Stacey with utter horror.)

STACEY: *(To Phoebe.)* Um, hi?

(Phoebe screams. Stacey screams. Phoebe screams. Stacey runs back over to Jill, Liz, and Sophie. Phoebe pulls out a bottle of hand sanitizer and begins vigorously rubbing it on her hands.)

LIZ: *(Smugly.)* Told you you'd be back.

(Officer Buchanan and Counselor Henderson enter SR. Buchanan begins to read off a tablet, sounding a bit like a military drill sergeant.)

BUCHANAN: *(To Girls.)* Please sound off when I call your name. Berrans!

JILL: Here.

BUCHANAN: Hobbes!

LIZ: Present.

BUCHANAN: Boone! *(No answer.)* Boone!

MIKAELA: Whatevs.

(Buchanan approaches Mikaela.)

BUCHANAN: You're about to be neck deep in the woods for the next 30 days, and I'm your only way out. One word from me and the judge will revoke your probation and you'll be celebrating Christmas in juvie. Now, sound off! *(Shouts.)* Boone!

MIKAELA: *(Shouts.)* Here!

BUCHANAN: That's more like it.

STACEY: *(To Liz.)* Thirty days? Nobody said anything about 30 days.

(Liz shrugs.)

BUCHANAN: Clarke!

SOPHIE: *(Sings.)* "Somewhere ooooooover the rainbow—" *(Buchanan glares at Sophie. Timidly raises her hand.)* Present.

BUCHANAN: Thompson!

AGNES: *(Bored.)* Here.

BUCHANAN: Hines!

TERRI: Yup! *(Looks to the side.)* Shhhh, Bernard, she didn't call your name.

BUCHANAN: Kennedy!

PHEOBE: *(Jumps, startled.)* Ahhhh! What?!

BUCHANAN: I'll assume that means present. Warloch! *(Nobody answers. Impatiently.)* Warloch?! *(Louder.)* Tracey Warloch?

STACEY: *(Raises her hand.)* Are you trying to call my name?

BUCHANAN: *(Flatly.)* Is your name Tracey Warloch?

STACEY: No, it's Stacey Warnock.

BUCHANAN: *(Looks down at list, yells.)* Henderson! The computer is doing that thing again!

NINA: *(Calmly.)* It's okay, Officer B., take a deep breath. I've totally got this. *(Takes the tablet and begins tinkering.)* Done.

No more Tracey Warloch. *(To Stacey.)* Stac-E-Y?

STACEY: Yes, but—

NINA: (*Fiddling with the tablet.*) And that's Warnock...
(*Spells.*) ...W-A-R-N-O-C-K?

STACEY: Yes, but—

NINA: Cool. Okay, done. Stacey Warnock in the system,
Officer B.

BUCHANAN: Great. Warnock!

STACEY: Huh?

BUCHANAN: Sound off...Warnock!

STACEY: (*Raises her hand.*) That's me. (*Buchanan makes
threatening gestures. Panicked.*) Here! (*Timidly.*) Ummm,
ma'am?

BUCHANAN: What is it, Wartock?

STACEY: (*Correcting.*) Warnock, ma'am. Ummm, you said
that we were going to be in the woods for 30 days?

NINA: That's right. A month of nothing but intense
emotional therapy with your sisters, here, in the great wide
open. It's going to be so awesome...women communing
with nature, solving our problems—

STACEY: See, about that...I don't think I'm supposed to be
here. I'm supposed to be going to Camp Summer Woods for
only a week.

BUCHANAN: Is that a joke? Are you trying to be funny?

STACEY: No, ma'am.

BUCHANAN: (*Threateningly.*) Let me tell you what happens
to jokers in my outfit.

NINA: Easy there, Officer B., remember our procedures.
Now... (*Consults the tablet.*) ...her case file says that she
occasionally suffers from delusions.

JILL: It's totally true. When she first got here she was telling
me about how she hacked the NSA to find out that aliens
were infiltrating the IRS.

STACEY: (*Defensively.*) No, I wasn't.

SOPHIE: Actually, Jill, that's what—

JILL: (*Trying to distract her.*) Sophie, look! Is that a blimp?

SOPHIE: (*Looks.*) Where?

TERRI: *(To Nina.)* She has to go with us. She said she'd be my tent-mate.

NINA: *(To Stacey.)* Far out! That's so completely awesome of you. Everybody tends to avoid Terri. *(Nina attempts to hi-five Stacey, who just stares at her.)* Come on, respect the hi-five!

STACEY: But...

BUCHANAN: *(To Stacey, shouts.)* Respect it!

(Stacey weakly hi-fives Buchanan.)

STACEY: But you don't understand. I'm not supposed to be here. I'm not who you think I am.

BUCHANAN: *(Grabs tablet.)* Are you Stacey Warnock?

STACEY: Yes, but—

BUCHANAN: *(Looks at tablet.)* Then the tablet says you're supposed to be here.

STACEY: *(Protesting, pointing at Nina.)* That's because she just put my name in.

BUCHANAN: Look, kid, the tablet doesn't lie.

(Stacey pulls out her phone.)

STACEY: Let me just call my parents, and they'll clear this up.

(Other Girls gasp, point, and stare. Buchanan yanks the phone from Stacey.)

BUCHANAN: You know the rules. *(Shouts.)* No phones! *(Tosses the phone offstage.)*

STACEY: Hey! You can't do that!

BUCHANAN: *(In Stacey's face, menacingly.)* I've been handling girls like you for the last 14 years. I eat your kind for breakfast. You know, I've been known to lose troublemakers in the woods from time to time. Maybe it's time to make another example. Do you want to be an example, Lacey?

STACEY: (*Meekly.*) No, ma'am.

BUCHANAN: That's better. All right, crew, grab your gear. Bus leaves at fourteen hundred and we need to be onsite before nightfall. (*Exits SR.*)

NINA: This is so exciting! I can't wait! I totally see a green aura surrounding this journey.

(*Nina exits SR. Stacey collapses to her knees.*)

STACEY: This isn't happening...this isn't happening...

(*Terri approaches Stacey.*)

TERRI: Don't be sad. Bernard said he'll give you the good side of the tent...the one closest to the campfire. The hot, deliciously orange, and sparkly wonderful campfire. Does your hair burn easily?

STACEY: (*Rocking back and forth.*) This isn't happening...this isn't happening...

LIZ: (*Helping Stacey up.*) Come on, kid, you're one of us.

JILL: (*To Stacey.*) We accept you.

SOPHIE: (*To Stacey.*) One of us. Yup, yup, yup.

AGNES: (*To Stacey, cryptically.*) You're all going to die out there...alone, in the woods, nobody around to hear you scream—

MIKAELA: We're going to hear *you* scream if you don't shut up with that death crap.

AGNES: What? Are you afraid of death, Mikaela? It's part of the natural circle of life.

PHEOBE: (*Raises hand.*) I'm afraid of death. Really, really afraid of death. Afraid of death, germs, strangers, the outdoors, the indoors, secret societies, airplanes, boats, lions, tigers, and bears.

SOPHIE: Oh, my!

TERRI: (*To Phoebe.*) What about squirrels?

PHEOBE: (*Trembling.*) I'm particularly afraid of squirrels.

(Terri motions "not now" to imaginary squirrel.)

STACEY: How am I supposed to survive for 30 days in the deep woods with a bunch of psychos?

AGNES: You're not.

JILL: Shut up, Agony.

AGNES: Don't call me that. My name is Agnes.

JILL: Whatever you say, Shirley.

AGNES: And don't call me Shirley...seriously.

LIZ: *(To Stacey.)* You don't have a choice, chick. You're coming with us. You heard the officer...you're in the tablet now.

SOPHIE: *(Singing softly to herself.)* Stand up and take a bow.

(Jill hugs Stacey.)

JILL: *(To Stacey.)* Don't worry. We'll help you get by. One of us, right, girls?

LIZ: That's right, very sweet, and give her back the [Sporty Q].

STACEY: *(To Jill.)* Hey!

JILL: It was mine first.

LIZ: Jill...

(Jill hands Stacey back her Sporty Q drink.)

JILL: *(Sighs.)* It's my favorite flavor. *(Liz clears her throat.)*
Okay, *third* favorite flavor.

LIZ: No, the sock.

(Jill hands over the sock.)

STACEY: *(To Jill, shocked.)* How do you—? You really have to quit doing that!

SOPHIE: You can never have too many socks. Did you know—?

LIZ: Sophie!

SOPHIE: Sorry. (*Looks at something on the ground.*)

STACEY: Thirty days of this. Thirty...days...of...*this!*

BUCHANAN: (*Offstage, calls*) Girls, you have 30 seconds to board the vehicle!

SOPHIE: (*Singing softly.*) "The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round."

[END OF FREEVIEW]