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BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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**BIG DOG PUBLISHING
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The Nightmare Campout

COMEDY. It's getting dark, and four Girl Scouts are lost in a wooded area. Their imaginations run wild as they think they hear growling grizzly bears, screeching vampires, hissing snakes, and the humming of an alien UFO. Spooked by all the creepy nighttime noises, the girls call upon their Scout training and do the only thing they know how to do to ward off threats. With quickness and precision, moving and grunting in unison, they form a Spartan military phalanx, standing shoulder to shoulder with one arm raised as if holding a shield and the other hand with fist clenched. As the girls wait to be rescued, secrets emerge like who in the group has a crush on Hairy Gary Whitlock, who ate dog poop, who snuck over to the boys' camp, and who turns their underwear inside out and wears them another day? Easy to stage. Nonstop laughs!

Performance Time: Approximately 30 minutes.

Characters

(5 F)

(With doubling: 4 F)

ELLIE: Girl Scout who is afraid of snakes; female.

LILA: Hungry Girl Scout whose stomach keeps growling; female.

KERRY: Girl Scout who thinks an alien invasion is imminent and has a crush on Ellie's big brother; female.

CATHY: Girl Scout who has an elaborate way to ward off vampires; female.

MOM: Ellie's mom; voiceover may be used; female.

Option for Doubling

A voiceover may be used for Ellie's mom.

Costumes

Characters wear Girl Scout blouses, jeans or shorts, and hiking shoes or boots.

Setting

A clearing in a wooded area, summer evening.

Set

Wooded, bushy area. There are bushes and a tree.

Props

Flashlight
Canteen with shoulder strap, for Lila
Sticks and brush
Watch, for Cathy

Special Effects

Assorted nighttime forest sounds
Hissing sounds
Growling
Footsteps and shuffling
Bat screeching
Howling in the distance
Humming noise heard from above
Thunder
Lightning

“I heard a growl again
and it wasn't my stomach.”

—Lila

The Nightmare Campout

(AT RISE: A clearing in a wooded, bushy area, a summer evening. Stage is dark. Various nighttime forest sounds are heard. As lights come up, Ellie and Lila push their way through the bushes into the clearing. They look concerned.)

ELLIE: Oh, great! It's the same clearing!

LILA: Huh?

ELLIE: We walked in a circle again! How could we walk in a circle again?

LILA: Hey, I'm just following you. Maybe you have one leg shorter than the other.

ELLIE: Not funny, Lila.

LILA: Some people do have one leg shorter than the other.

ELLIE: Well, I don't.

LILA: So, what're we going to do?

(Ellie and Lila look at each other for a moment.)

ELLIE: *(Shouts.)* Hello?!

LILA: *(Shouts.)* Hello?!

ELLIE: *(Shouts.)* Can anyone hear us?!

LILA: *(Shouts.)* We're lost! Help! Help!

ELLIE: *(Shouts.)* Help! Hello?! Hello?!

LILA: *(Hears something.)* Ssshhh! Quiet!

ELLIE: *(Shouts.)* Anyone out there?!

LILA: *(Hears something.)* Quiet! Did you hear that?

ELLIE: What?

LILA: *(Shouts.)* Hello?! Hello?!

ELLIE: You just told me to stop yelling!

LILA: I heard something. Listen, Ellie!

(Ellie and Lila listen.)

CATHY: (*Offstage, calls.*) Hello? Where are you?!

LILA: (*Excited, calls.*) Over here!

KERRY: (*Offstage, shouts.*) Flash your light!

ELLIE: (*Shouts.*) The batteries are dead!

CATHY: (*Offstage.*) Here they are!

(*Cathy and Kerry enter through the bushes opposite. All meet CS.*)

KERRY: (*To Lila and Ellie.*) Oh, man, are we glad to see you guys!

LILA: Likewise! What a relief!

ELLIE: How do we get back to camp?

CATHY: You don't know?

KERRY: We were going to ask you.

ELLIE: You don't know?

LILA: (*To Cathy and Kerry.*) We're lost. This is the third time short leg, here... (*Indicating Ellie.*) ...brought us to the same clearing.

KERRY: You guys really don't know the way back, either?

ELLIE: We went frog hunting and it got darker, and we couldn't remember how to get back.

CATHY: Great! Just great! The middle of the woods, at night, all our gear back at camp, no phone! This is miserable!

LILA: (*Sarcastically.*) This is "roughing it," remember?

CATHY: Oh, this is "roughing it," all right. We'll probably freeze to death out here.

KERRY: It's summer, Cathy. We won't freeze.

CATHY: (*Panicking, shouts.*) Hello?! Anyone out there?!

ELLIE: (*Panicking, shouts.*) Hello? Help! We're lost!

LILA: (*Panicking, shouts.*) Help! Help!

KERRY: Hey, hey, you guys keep yelling like that, and we'll have every animal in the forest here! Remember, if lost, don't panic.

CATHY: Who said that?

LILA: Probably someone who's never been lost.

KERRY: We've been trained for this kind of situation. Let's think! *(They think. Gets an idea.)* North Star! Find the North Star!

ELLIE: *(Gets an idea.)* The Big Dipper! Find the Big Dipper!

CATHY: Make up your minds. Which one?

KERRY: The North Star is at the end of the Big Dipper.

LILA: *(Pointing to sky.)* There! There's the Dipper! Now what? Now what?

KERRY: *(Pointing to sky.)* Now, go to the end of the handle. That's it, right there!

CATHY: *(Looking at sky.)* Where?

ELLIE: *(Looking at sky.)* I see it! The bright one on the end!

CATHY: *(Looking at sky.)* Oh, yeah! I see it, too! Oh, good!

(They all stare at it for a few moments.)

LILA: *(To Kerry.)* Okay, we found it. What now?

KERRY: I think we're supposed to follow it.

(They all look up and wait.)

CATHY: *(To Kerry, looking at sky.)* It's not moving.

ELLIE: *(To Kerry.)* How can we follow it if it doesn't move?

LILA: *(To Kerry.)* With our luck, this would be the one night of the year when it stays still.

CATHY: *(To others.)* So, what now?

ELLIE: I say we stay right here in this clearing until they send out a search party for us.

KERRY: I think you're right.

LILA: That won't be until after eleven, after the head count.

CATHY: *(Looks at her watch.)* That's not for an hour and a half.

(A hissing noise is heard from the bushes.)

KERRY: *(To others.)* Hey! Did you hear that?

CATHY: What?

ELLIE: *(To Kerry.)* What'd you hear?

KERRY: It was...it was...hissing...like a cat.

(They grow more nervous.)

CATHY: House cat or jungle cat?

LILA: This isn't a jungle, Cathy.

ELLIE: Might as well be. We don't know what's in these woods. Could be a wildcat.

KERRY: Build a fire! We need a fire! That'll keep the animals away.

CATHY: Or bring them right to us.

LILA: No, Kerry's right. *(To others.)* Get some sticks and brush!

(They all go about gathering up sticks and brush and pile them CS.)

KERRY: *(To others.)* The dryer the better! And watch out for snakes!

ELLIE: *(Leaps, screams)* Where?!

KERRY: I said, "watch out," not "there is one"!

ELLIE: Then say it like there isn't one! "Not watch out for snakes!" Geez!

KERRY: *(To others.)* We all need to calm down. We're Scouts! This isn't the end of the world.

CATHY: What if it is?

KERRY: What if what is?

CATHY: The end of world... and we're stuck out here in the woods...with a worldwide epidemic spreading everywhere, or an alien invasion or something...

LILA: *(Chuckling.)* Can't find you, can't probe you!

CATHY: True! Disgusting, but true!

KERRY: *(Arranging sticks for a fire.)* There! *(To others.)* Give me some matches.

ELLIE: I don't have any matches.

LILA: *(To Kerry.)* Me, neither!

CATHY: *(To Kerry.)* I'm not allowed to have any after I burned down part of our garage.

KERRY: Oh, that's great! That's just great! Some Scouts we are!

CATHY: We're supposed to be prepared!

KERRY: Well, you're not, obviously!

CATHY: Hey, don't go blaming me. This is your fault! You and your stupid wildflowers!

ELLIE: Wildflowers?

CATHY: *(Mocking, indicating Kerry.)* She thought it would be cute to have some in her hair.

(A growl is heard from the bushes.)

LILA: *(To others.)* Did you hear that?

CATHY: What?!

KERRY: *(To Lila.)* What was it?!

ELLIE: *(To Lila.)* What'd you hear?

LILA: Do bears growl?

(Frightened, they go deadly quiet.)

KERRY: *(Stage whisper.)* Where'd it come from?

LILA: *(Stage whisper)* Over there... *(Points DLC.)* ...I think.

KERRY: *(Stage whisper.)* Okay, girls, we've been trained for this. Form a phalanx!

(In a practiced manner with quickness and precision, moving and grunting in unison, they form the finest of a Spartan military phalanx DLC. They stand shoulder to shoulder with one arm raised and crooked as if holding a shield and the other with fist clenched.)

LILA/KERRY/ELLIE/CATHY: *(Shout.)* Hoo-rah! *(Wait and listen.)*

[END OF FREEVIEW]