

Working Title: I Sphinx So!

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Draft 1

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EXT. ROAD - DAY

A bus drives down a dirt road.

INT. BUS - DAY

Rowdy children (Cody, Roland, Nelli, Jasmine) CHANT a military-style cadence in gleeful, discordant unison, stomping their feet and clapping their hands.

They're led by CODY, an 11-year-old camp "golden boy." A few camp "newbies" (Cricket, Ralph, Laura) watch silently.

CODY
If I saw a grizzly bear,

CAMPERS
(chorus)
If I saw a grizzly bear

CODY
I would show him how to scare!

CAMPERS
(chorus)
I would show him how to scare!

CRICKET, a tan, self-possessed 10-year-old girl with boyish clothes and a ponytail, stares sullenly out the window.

RALPH, a pale, freckled, glasses-wearing geek stops playing with his phone and leans over from the aisle across from her.

RALPH
(nervous)
This is summer camp, not boot camp,
right?

Cricket gives him a "leave me alone" look and resumes her window-watching.

CODY
If I saw a rattlesnake,

CAMPERS
(chorus)
If I saw a rattlesnake,

CODY
I would show him how to shake.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAMPERS
(chorus)
I would show him how to shake.

CODY
Who are we?

CAMPERS
Bullfrogs!

CODY
I can't hear you

CAMPERS
Bullfrogs!

CODY
Call out!

CAMPERS
Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit - Bullfrogs!

The kids erupt into laughter and chatter.

A thin high-pitched SHRIEK silences the bus. It's endless.
Everyone covers their ears. The bus stops.

BUS DRIVER (O.S.)
(Exasperated)
Roland!

ROLAND, a chubby 12-year-old bully and camp veteran, shoves a doll back over the bus seat into LAURA's hands, ending her shriek.

LAURA, the youngest girl on the bus, sniffs back tears and clutches her doll.

The bus moves off again.

CODY
(gently teasing Laura)
And the judges say: 9 out of 10.
Stopped the bus, but didn't shatter
the windows.

Ralph removes his fingers from his ears.

RALPH
No, just my eardrums.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROLAND

I bet she calls her mommy to come get her by tonight.

JASMINE, a 10-year-old high-maintenance fashionista "mean girl" turns to look at Roland.

JASMINE

Like you did last year?

ROLAND

Did not! I had to go home. I had food poisoning.

Nelli, Jasmine's "mean girl" accomplice, joins in.

NELLI

Right, "food poisoning."

ROLAND

I came back!

CODY

Hey, look, we're passing Golden falls!

Cricket looks out the window, interested despite herself.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERFALL, BUS POV - DAY

A mysterious waterfall passes in the distance.

EXT. BUS, WATERFALL POV - DAY

Something watches the bus pass from the shelter of the trees.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS - DAY

ROLAND

Ooh, I wonder if the monster is there.

RALPH

M - monster? What monster?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROLAND

Hey Cody, he doesn't even know the legend.

CODY

Come on Roland, don't -

ROLAND

(menacing)

Every full moon, there's a noise deep in the woods.

Roland makes a WAILING noise. Terrified Laura's eyes are glued to Roland, her doll clutched tight. Cricket glances between her, Ralph, and Roland.

ROLAND (cont'd)

It gets closer. And closer. And then -

POP! Roland shrieks a little, as do Ralph and Jasmine. Everyone turns to look at Cricket.

She holds a popped potato chip bag. She reaches in and munches a chip, unfazed by the awkward silence.

CRICKET

Are we there yet?

Cody grins. Then he notices something out the window.

CODY

Yes! There it is.

Everyone starts talking and grabbing their backpacks.

RALPH

It's, um, not a full moon is it?

Cricket rolls her eyes and grabs her backpack.

EXT. CAMP - DAY

The kids pour off the bus under a sign for Camp FLINT. A dour SERGEANT S. FLINT, retired military, stands stock still with his hands behind his back as they unload.

FLINT

Bullfrogs! Fall in!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Roland and Cody fall instantly silent and line up. Nelli and Jasmine still talk, oblivious, but they're elbowed by the others.

Ralph and Laura hide behind the others. Cricket stands slightly apart from the group, arms crossed.

FLINT snaps a rolled piece of paper in his palm, making the kids jump. He unrolls the paper and reads off:

FLINT (cont'd)
Roll call! Cody Adams!

CODY
Here Sarge.

FLINT
Roland Brickson!

ROLAND
(Shouted)
Here Sarge!

FLINT
Laura Dee!

A trembling hand goes up from behind Cody.

FLINT (cont'd)
Cody, do you have three arms?

CODY
No Sarge.

FLINT
Laura Dee. Show yourself.

LAURA
(Whispered, muffled)
You're a stranger.

FLINT
(To Cody)
What did she say?

CODY
(nervous)
She says you're a stranger.

The kids watch tensely. Laura inches out and stares at FLINT. Cricket balls her fists, ready to step in. Roland snickers, waiting for FLINT to explode.

(CONTINUED)