

SEVEN DAYS

A play in two-acts

by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS:

LANEY (30s): Very pretty, stylish, wound tight. Tends to overthink and over research everything. Not a fan of the outdoors. Dry sense of humor.

SHANNON (30s): Laney's best friend. More casual in her style, looks, and manner. Cracks jokes to hide discomfort. Carries a torch for Laney.

BROOKE (30s): Beautiful, athletic, mysterious. Seems to have it together but hides her insecurities by overachieving.

JO (Late 30s): Attractive. More brusque and butch in her look and manner. Lover to Denny.

DENNY (20s): Cute, bubbly, flirtatious. More laid back than Jo. Tries to reassure Jo in her intensity.

SETTING:

Sierra Mountains, California. A Female Expedition Camping/Hiking Trip.

TIME:

Spring. Present Day.

ACT I

Scene 1

SETTING:

Lights come up slowly. At stage right sits a log, braced by boulders. Stage left should be elevated, indicating a hill. We are in the area of the Sierra Mountains, California. Scattered on the stage are leaves or other items which accentuate the outdoors. Downstage right and downstage left are trees. At downstage center, the stage should be recessed where a campfire could be added later. The backdrop and/or flats should be dressed so as to see mountains, sky and trees off in the distance. Sounds include birds, wind, etc.

AT RISE:

It is late afternoon, late spring. Enter LANEY, stylishly dressed, i.e., very "Eddie Bauer/LL Bean." SHE is out of breath and struggling with her backpack. SHE crosses to the log and wrestles out of her backpack, setting it down. SHE positions herself on the log and looks around at the area. After a beat or two SHE opens a zipper on her pack and withdraws a pad and pen. SHE examines various contents of her pack, checking them off on her pad. It's obvious SHE has done this many times. SHE replaces the items and looks around again as the nature sounds come down.

LANEY takes out her cell phone. Holds it in various spots. Rises, walks a few steps up and back. SIGHS, then sits back on the log.

LANEY

Damn.

(beat)

I'm thirsty. Where is she?

Enter SHANNON. She crosses to stage center and takes in the surroundings.

SHANNON

Isn't this glorious?

(beat)

What?

LANEY

I'm going to kill you, Shannon.

SHANNON

Don't bother. That last hill already did me in.

LANEY holds up her cell phone.

LANEY

I don't have any service.

SHANNON

That's the point. Leave the rat race behind.

LANEY

Wouldn't that include leaving behind the rats?

SHANNON

Ha. Already with the bitching?

LANEY

Since when do we have to hike just to meet up with the guide?
If I knew where I was going, why would I need a guide?

SHANNON

All I know is they said to meet at Point B and this is Point B.

SHANNON withdraws brochure/map and hands to LANEY

LANEY

(TAKES BROCHURE)

Did you bring the canteen?

SHANNON

Whoops .

LANEY

Whoops?

SHANNON

I think I left it back there. Don't worry, I'll go back and get it.

LANEY

I can't believe I let you talk me into this.

SHANNON

Talk, nothing. You lost.

LANEY

I'll say.

(READS FROM BROCHURE)

"An experience like no other. Be part of a woman-only, seven day expedition in the beautiful Sierra Mountains. You will hike, camp, and take in the natural wonders of a truly exquisite area of California. A trip you will remember for years. And happy trails to you!"

(beat)

Oh, please. Why couldn't we be on a luxurious cruise liner surrounded by nothing but lesbians for a whole week instead of this, this, this, this, this nature thing.

SHANNON

Oh. Is Little Miss Beauty Queen fretting that she won't be stopping at every mirror to check that her hair is in place?

LANEY, fixing her hair, suddenly puts down her hand.

LANEY

So, I like to look nice. So what?

SHANNON

Nothing, darling. You can primp for me anytime.

LANEY

If you've dragged me here to try to get your hands in my pants, we can leave right now.

SHANNON

Oh, come on. Lighten up. You weren't always so quick to say no as I recall.

LANEY

Shannon. That was one time, a long, long time ago. The circumstances were a lot different.

SHANNON

And they could be again...

SHANNON moves towards LANEY.

LANEY

Cut it out, Shannon. I mean it.

SHANNON moves away.

SHANNON

Oh, sorry. I forgot. I'm not straight.

LANEY

Shannon...

SHANNON

Please. Don't flatter yourself. You're way too neurotic for me. I just find you...

LANEY

Irresistible?

SHANNON

Irritating.

SHANNON moves close to LANEY. THEY stare at each other for several long beats. SHANNON is first to blink.

SHANNON

Damn. How do you do that?

LANEY

Concentration. When the hell is everybody else getting here?

SHANNON

I'm not sure. I'll go back and check. I won't forget the canteen. Don't go anywhere.

SHANNON exits.

LANEY unzips her pack and withdraws a mirror, tries to put her hair back in place. Enter BROOKE. SHE runs up onto the stage.

BROOKE

Hi.

SHE easily wiggles out of her backpack. LANEY can't take her eyes off BROOKE.

LANEY

Hi.

BROOKE

That last hill was a bitch.

Withdraws water bottle from her pack and takes a long sip.

LANEY

You don't seem like that would faze you.

BROOKE

What do you mean?

LANEY
Nothing. You're just... You're just very. You just seem to know how to handle yourself. Here.

BROOKE
Thanks.
(OFFERS BOTTLE TO LANEY)
Want some?

LANEY
Absolutely.

Makes no move to reach for bottle.

BROOKE
It's refreshing.

Takes a step towards LANEY, arm outstretched.

LANEY
Yes, it is.

BROOKE
You haven't had any yet.

LANEY
What? Oh, right.
(TAKES BOTTLE)
Thanks.

BROOKE
My pleasure. Umm, are you up here all alone?

LANEY
What do you mean?

BROOKE
I mean, is anyone with you?

LANEY
You are.

BROOKE
So, you came here alone?

LANEY
"I want to be alone."

BROOKE
I don't have the slightest idea what you're talking about.

LANEY
I'm sorry. I feel a little woozy.