

Compass

SCENE 1

The middle of the rainforest. A rainstorm.

The sky is dark grey, with rain clouds making the middle of the day feel like it could be midnight. There are big booms of thunder and lighting flashes on the horizon. The rain is relentless and fierce.

In different spots of the rainforest, bolts of lightning illuminate separate groups of campers making their way to base camp through the storm.

GRACE has found a big palm leaf to shelter her from the rain. KATE attempts to shelter under this leaf too, even though it's really only big enough for one person. The rain comes down harder, and KATE pulls more of the leaf for herself. GRACE is left in the rain. She plods through it.

SOPHIE attempts to use her map and compass to navigate to the right spot, through the rain.

JASON and DANE stomp through the rain, splashing each other and having fun.

AUDREY uses her map to cover her hair from the rain, and squeals through each squelchy bit of mud, echoed by KIARA and HERMES.

JOEL battles through the rain like it's a war zone, jaw set, ready to attack. He slices through bits of branches and leaves with his arm, like an axe. One fern drops down and whacks him in the face. He pulls out a flick knife and slices the fern to pieces. He marches on.

SCENE 2

The campsite.

Rain clouds are dispersing and the sun is weakly shining its last few rays before it sets.

A series of tents has been set up around the perimeter of the site. The final tent is being put up by DANE.

JASON observes DANE'S work without offering to help out.

AUDREY and HERMES also watch critically to make sure DANE does it right.

HERMES

Can you hurry? Before it rains again?

DANE dutifully works on.

KIARA spins around, playing with her compass, working out the poles of the place.

KIARA

[pointing ahead] North.

She looks again at the compass, moves a bit to the side.

North.

She looks to her friends, worried.

It won't settle on one spot.

JOEL is tending to the fire, trying to use a flint to make the fire start up.

SOPHIE enters with more firewood and JOEL points to the ground for her to drop it there. She stands over him to observe what he is doing. JOEL doesn't like being watched, and so he moves his position so that his body blocks the work he is doing.

SOPHIE

Do you want some help?

- JOEL No.
- SOPHIE decides to stop trying to help. She gets the Good Camp Guide and sits down with it, reading it quietly to herself.*
- KATE is drying her possessions on some tree branches nearby. She notices HERMES and AUDREY nearby.*
- KATE *[to the girls]* Do you want me to hang up your stuff to dry?
- The girls ignore her.*
- Guys?
- HERMES No. We'll hang ours up somewhere else.
- GRACE'S feet are poking out of her tent. She is asleep in it. KATE, miffed by HERMES' rejection, checks this out.*
- KATE Is she asleep?
- No answer from GRACE.*
- KIARA The road we came from is West. Which means our camp can't face west. That's a huge arrow of bad chi pointing right into our tents.
- DANE Do you want me to move the tents?
- KIARA Yes. You have to.
- JASON No. That's stupid.
- KIARA Bad chi is stupider.
- JASON Can't you just hang up a feather?
- KIARA is offended.*
- KIARA Do you want our campsite to be doomed from the beginning?
- HERMES You're the only one who believes in feng shui.