

"Thumpdrag"
"Camp Closer"
Outline of the Pilot Episode for a Television Series

by

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EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

A fire slowly ignites, catching on piles of pine needles that were dumped over the wood. MATT proudly examines his handiwork.

HOMESICK CAMPER 1

Matt?

Matt turns around to see two young campers standing at an awkward distance away from him.

MATT

What's going on, boys?

HOMESICK CAMPER 2

We can't sleep.

MATT

Did you try closing your eyes and lying very still?

HOMESICK CAMPER 1

Yeah.

MATT

Do you need to use the bathroom?

HOMESICK CAMPER 2

No.

MATT

Alright, well, do you boys want to sit by the fire for a little bit?

The two campers sit down. The three of them sit there quietly but are interrupted by a rustling sounds from the woods around them.

HOMESICK CAMPER 1

What was that?

MATT

It's probably just another raccoon or something.

A haunting moaning noise echoes through the woods.

HOMESICK CAMPER 2

I'm scared.

MATT

Why don't you boys go back into your cabin. I'll go deal with this raccoon.

HOMESICK CAMPER 1

But it's not a rac-

MATT

Go back to your cabin boys.

The campers run off. Matt turns to face the woods. A distinct thumping noise is followed by a different dragging sound. Matt grows increasingly scared as he hears the noise come closer.

CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS BATHROOM - FOURTEEN HOURS EARLIER

CAMP DIRECTOR CLAIRE is staring at herself in a dirty bathroom mirror. She runs her hands under the low-pressure sink water and splashes herself in the face.

A camper enters the bathroom and stares at Claire.

CLAIRE

Hi.

NAIVE CAMPER

Who are you?

CLAIRE

My name is Claire. I'm the Camp Director, which means-

NAIVE CAMPER

Okay.

The girl walks away from Claire. She sighs, and exits the bathroom.

INT. DINING HALL

Claire walks into the Dining Hall, a lodge overlooking Joy Lake. It's packed with campers and counselors all crammed into small tables. Everyone is talking, laughing, and eating.

Claire walks to the front of the Dining Hall and raises her hand high above her head. The rest of the camp falls silent.

CLAIRE
Hey Camp Joy!

CAMP
(in unison)
Hey Claire!

CLAIRE
You guys like me right?

The Dining Hall is silent. One counselor is heard saying "what?".

CLAIRE
Nevermind. Campers, time to get ready for morning activities! Staff, please go to the Craft Shop for our morning meeting!

Everyone starts getting up to leave the Dining Hall. Claire looks around. No one is paying attention to her.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP JOY

Matt weaves through the mass of campers leaving the dining hall to catch up with JENNIE, another counselor.

MATT
Jennie! Jennie, wait up.

JENNIE
Hi Matt.

MATT
What are we doing today?

JENNIE
I thought it was your turn.

MATT
It was my turn yesterday. It was my idea to play underwater BeyBlades.

JENNIE
Fuck. Okay, so we'll figure something out.

MATT
We say that every day.

The two of them have arrived at the Craft Shop, a brightly decorated building. They enter, along with the rest of the staff.

CUT TO:

INT. CRAFT SHOP

Claire is in the middle of addressing the Camp Joy staff.

CLAIRE

So, the UV index is at a 9. I don't know how else to say this, but you guys literally NEED to be putting sunscreen on your campers. I got three angry calls last week about campers who spent the entire week without wearing sunscreen.

Claire flips through the notes on her clipboard.

CLAIRE

Alright, that's all I got for today. Anyone else have anything?

Everyone's hand shoots up.

CLAIRE

I'll start with Lea.

LEA, the camp Nurse, dramatically stands up. She's only a few years older than everyone else but looks ancient compared to some of the staff.

LEA

Stop bringing your campers to the health lodge if they're only homesick. There's truly nothing I can do to treat them and it holds up the campers who are actually sick.

CLAIRE

Thank you Lea. That's a good reminder that-

LEA

(cutting her off)

This one girl has a tick bite and I think it turned to lyme disease because I had to give a perfectly healthy camper a glass of water because he was homesick. You can get them water yourselves.

CLAIRE

I think they get it.

Claire checks her watch. it's 10:00am.

CLAIRE

So, unfortunately that's all the time we have, I have to go ring bells. But if you have anything super urgent feel free to swing by my office. Again, just so you guys know, my doors are open all day, if you ever need someone to talk to or-

Claire looks up and realizes that everyone has left.

CUT TO:

EXT. BELL TOWER

Claire climbs up a rickety ladder to an old-looking bell. She rings it, signaling the start of Morning Activities.

A montage begins as Claire watches as the camp lights up around her.

EXT. WATERFRONT - SHED

Jennie and Matt are staring at a storage shed, that's packed with old, discarded water toys.

MATT

What if we...

JENNIE

Finish the sentence.

MATT

I thought it would come to me by the time I finished the sentence.

JENNIE

We can't have them diving for rocks again.

MATT

Wait. That's it.

Matt takes off.

JENNIE

Where are you going?

MATT

Keep them busy for a minute, I'll be right back.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERFRONT - LATER

Jennie is making all the campers put on sunscreen.

SUNSCREEN CAMPER

Jennie, can we go in the water?

JENNIE

Um, not yet. We're just waiting for Matt to come back with a surprise for us.

SUNSCREEN CAMPER

What's the surprise?

JENNIE

How would I know?

Matt bursts out of the woods holding a crate of root beers.

MATT

What's up everyone! Who wants to dive for root beers?

The campers cheer.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERFRONT - DOCK

Matt throws the cans of root beer into the water as the campers are getting goggles on.

Jennie notices a camper on the very end of the dock, whimpering.

JENNIE

Matt, look over there.

Matt sees the sniveling camper.

MATT

When did that happen? Guess I can go deal with that.

JENNIE

Um, no? Finders keepers.

JENNIE

(to the camper)

Hey bud! Come over here.

The camper slowly walks over to Jennie

JENNIE

I'm Jennie, what's your name?

HUNTER

Hunter.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERFRONT - SHORE

Jennie is sitting with Hunter, who's trying and failing to take deep breaths through his tears.

JENNIE

Talk to me Hunter. What's going on?

HUNTER

I hate Camp Joy.

JENNIE

What?

HUNTER

This place is nothing like my old camp. I hate it.

JENNIE

But you get to do so much fun stuff here!

HUNTER

Not really. At my old camp they gave us rifles and we got to shoot oranges.

JENNIE

Hmm... that does sound fun.

HUNTER

And none of the boys in my cabin will be friends with me.

JENNIE

That's not cool of them!

HUNTER

I just don't want to hear scary stories. I won't be able to sleep if I do.

JENNIE

Maybe you guys can do something other than tell scary stories? Who's your counselor?

HUNTER

Spencer.

CUT TO:

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE

Claire is sitting at her desk, having a meeting with SPENCER. He's the epitome of a frat star turned camp counselor.

CLAIRE

How's your cabin this week, Spencer?

SPENCER

Oh, my boys?! They're great. Oh, also, I've been meaning to tell you that Sam and I are planning an epic prank.

CLAIRE

What is it?

SPENCER

Well, we're going to take the boys out to the three sided shack-

CLAIRE

I'm going to stop you right there.

SPENCER

Why?

CLAIRE

Spencer, I've been going over everyone's evals and yours all seem to say the same thing. Can you guess what that is?

SPENCER

Too handsome?

CLAIRE

Dude. Come on.

SPENCER

Just asking.

CLAIRE

They all say that you take things way too far. You need to cool it on these elaborate pranks. They literally always end in tears.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE:

A montage begins of some of Spencer's wildest moments:

- Spencer eating a live worm in front of a horrified group of campers.
- Spencer climbing to the top of the flagpole.
- Spencer jumping through a window during a skit, breaking the glass.

CUT TO:

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE - SAME

SPENCER

I don't see your point.

CLAIRE

Listen, Spencer. Whatever you plan on doing tonight, don't. Just don't. Just stay in your cabin and have your campers do a game or something.

SPENCER
Alright. Fine.

CLAIRE
Why do I feel like you're not
listening to me.

SPENCER
I don't know what could make you think
that.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING HALL - FLASHBACK

Spencer chugs a gallon of milk in front of the camp.

CLAIRE
Spencer stop!

He doesn't stop and keeps chugging. After a few seconds, he
stops and starts puking up straight milk. Chaos ensues.

CUT TO:

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE - SAME

CLAIRE
Oh shit, that reminds me. I need to
ring lunch bells.

She gets up to leave.

SPENCER
Claire, you can trust me.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP JOY

Spencer is walking to the Dining Hall as Claire can be heard
ringing the bells in the distance. SAM, Spencer's crony,
joins him.

SAM
We still on for tonight, dude?

SPENCER
I'll keep you posted. Claire's mad at
me right now, it might not be the best
time for this.

SAM

Well, let me know when you grow a pair. Can't believe you let that bitch Claire tell you what to do.

Sam walks away. Spencer looks to realize that Jennie is walking next to him

JENNIE

Um.

SPENCER

It's fine. Sam hooked up with Claire last week so he can say that.

JENNIE

I can't believe this is how it works for you.

SPENCER

Did you come to ask me something?

JENNIE

Yeah. I was talking with your camper, Hunter today.

SPENCER

Who?

JENNIE

Hunter. The one who's always crying.

SPENCER

Oh. Him.

JENNIE

He told me he's having a really rough time so if there's anything you can do to make him feel more at home, please do it. He seems so sweet.

SPENCER

I don't know about that. He kind of seems like the camper who would wet the bed and then cry about it.

JENNIE

Thank god you're not my counselor. Just do something fucking nice for him or something.