

Camp

written by

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EXT. BUNKS, BASKETBALL HOOP - DAY

BRODY, 13, an ordinary looking child, sits by one of the bunks listening to a Discman CD player. He sees some kids, in the distance, gathering by the basketball hoop. He stops the music and heads over to join in. Brody is nervous since he does not know any of the other campers, it's his first time at camp. He shyly walks over, but yet has a confidence deep down because he likes basketball. Already at the hoop is MAX, 13, a sporty kid in a black tank top. He has confidence well beyond his years since camp is his domain, he has been going to camp for years.

BRODY

What are you playing?

MAX

Knockout. What else do you think we're playing? Get to the back of the line.

Brody goes towards the back, but more campers join in and he keeps getting pushed further and further back. Brody sighs and the first basketball is shot. We see all the other campers start screaming. Soon they are down to the final two campers, Brody and Max.

MAX (CONT'D)

Don't miss, spaz!

Max hits the ball out of Brody's hands and takes a shot. Max misses horribly, it's an airball. Brody gets the chance to get his ball back and shoot like a crazy person trying to beat the buzzer at the end of a tied game. Brody magically manages to get a bank shot in and beats Max. The other campers are stunned. Max is furious, he approaches Brody.

MAX (CONT'D)

That doesn't count!

Brody goes to shake Max's hand.

BRODY

Good game Max, it was fun.

Max pushes Brody's hand away. Brody isn't effected by Max. He's still ecstatic that he got that shot in. Brody puts out his hand again and hopes that Max would want to play another game, for fun because camp is just meant to be fun. Max pushes the hand away again.

BRODY (CONT'D)

We can play again, this was fun...

MAX
Screw that. The game isn't over.

BRODY
Sorry, just chill out.

MAX
Cheat! Someone better teach you a lesson.

Max looks at all the other boys. They all start to gather around Brody closing him in. But before anything is done a counselor, JACK, interrupts.

JACK
(OS)
Come on guys...lets start to get ready for the dance, wash-up and go get your dates.

Max steps forward from the group and goes right up to Brody's ear.

MAX
(whisper)
This doesn't mean you're safe, fucker. I can do what I want at this camp.

The counselor becomes impatient with the campers.

JACK
Come on guys, like now!

MAX
Ya Brody go grab your date.

The boys leave laughing. Leaving Brody alone. He slowly walks off to get washed up. Jack looks upset and dishearten at what he just saw.

JACK
(OS)
You ok Brody?

BRODY
Yeah...

CUT TO

EXT. CAMP DANCE - NIGHT

Brody heads to the camp dance, but is stopped at the door by JACK, 19, the photography counselor.

JACK
Nice outfit! I bet all the ladies
will love it.

Jack brushes Brody's shoulder with his hand, expressing he looks hot.

BRODY
You're just being nice...

Jack chuckles a little, still feeling awkward about something. Brody looks at AVA, 14, beautiful for her age and the popular girl, as she passes him on her way into the dance with her numerous friends. They have a moment. Brody looks back at Jack.

BRODY (CONT'D)
But thanks, Jack.

JACK
So how are you coming along? You
know parents weekend is only a week
away!

BRODY
Ya...

JACK
Jack looks off toward the distance, since the next question is hard for him to ask.

JACK (CONT'D)
So umm...how have the other campers
been? Anything else -- well -- you
know - is anything bothering you?

Brody sees Max coming up behind Ava to surprise her inside the dance. Max scares her, she hits him on the shoulder playfully.

BRODY
No. I'm fine.

Jack butts in like a good councilor.

JACK
You know having problems means
there is more to learn.

Brody just looks at him puzzled

BRODY
Well, I better get inside.

JACK
Yeah, just remember I'm here for you. Let me know if you want to talk at all.

Brody heads into the dance.

INT. CAMP PARTY - NIGHT

We can still hear Jack in the background with other campers/counselors taking photos of them coming in. The music is blaring while some kids are dancing, including Max and Ava. Others are awkwardly standing around, guys on one side and girls on the other. Brody heads towards the punch bowl and the food. He starts eating a cupcake when Ava comes up.

AVA
How's it going?

Brody tries to speak, but can't with all the food in his mouth, they laugh it off.

BRODY
(still with a pretty full mouth)
Good. Though, the music could be better.

Ava nods her heads in agreement. There is an awkward silence, before Brody realizes he hasn't asked Ava if she's good.

BRODY (CONT'D)
How are you?

AVA
(Touching Brody's arm)
I'm good thanks for asking.

There is another awkward silence between the two Brody takes another bite of his cupcake.

AVA (CONT'D)
So, I spoke to Max about those problems you told me about.

Brody Looks up concerned and confused.

AVA (CONT'D)
It should all be good now.

BRODY
Thanks?

AVA
Yeah, you need to let loose a
little bit. Come on!

Ava grabs his hands and starts to pull him to the dance floor. Brody is apprehensive about dancing.

BRODY
Oh, I...I don't...dance.

AVA
You're doing fine.

Brody closes his eyes and starts dancing like no one's watching.

AVA (CONT'D)
Yeah, like that...haha!

Brody continues to dance, the music changes from pop to a slow song.

DJ
Ok campers grab your dates and move
to the beat.

Both Brody and Ava look into each others eyes. This is Brody's chance to dance with the girl he likes. Ava reaches out to offer herself for the dance, Brody reaches for her. As they get closer Max pushes Brody aside.

MAX
(OS)
Get out of the way!

Max starts to slow dance with Ava. Brody walks away, sad and ashamed. In the distance Ava playfully hits Max on the arm as they dance.

AVA
That wasn't nice.

MAX
But, I wanted to dance with my
girl.

They dance. Brody walks away and sits in between two lonely girls who have no dates.

He watches Ava and Max from a distance. As the song progresses Max moves closer to Ava and he tries to kiss her. She turns her head away so Max only kisses her cheek. The song ends and Brody gets up to dance again. He gets interrupted on his way to the dance floor by Max and his friends.

MAX (CONT'D)
Hey dweeb, did you see that?

BRODY
See what?

MAX
That kiss. Something you couldn't get. So your date?

Before Brody can even answer Max continues.

MAX (CONT'D)
Oh yeah, I took her.

Max's friends laugh.

BRODY
But that wasn't a kiss, it's...

MAX
More than you'll ever get. That's love, something no one has ever had for you.

BRODY
That's not...

MAX
You're a dork. You don't have any friends.

BRODY
Yes I...

MAX
Who? Ava? Why would she care about some lonely loser like you?

Brody pushes Max away. Brody starts to yell.

BRODY
(Yelling)
Ava cares!

The two boys get into a shoving match and other campers start to gather round them.

Both boys curse at each other and the fight gets more intense. Before any counselors notice, Max pushes Brody away and punches him in the face. By this time all the campers stopped dancing and the counselors start to head over. Brody looks up and before any counselors can get the campers, Brody runs out of the dance. Max stands there laughing with his buddies. Ava looks disgusted at the situation. She runs after Brody.

EXT. DANCE - NIGHT

The music is still playing in the background.

AVA
Brody!

MAX
(Off Screen)
Ava? Who are you going after? That loser!

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Brody runs towards the lake angrily and sits down. Ava shortly comes running up behind him.

AVA
Are you okay?

Brody doesn't answer so she tries to joke about the incident at the party. Ava sits down.

AVA (CONT'D)
So that was something, wasn't it?

Brody doesn't answer her, he just sits there.

AVA (CONT'D)
What was it about?

BRODY
You.

Ava is shocked by Brody's comment. She turns his head slowly to look into her eyes.

AVA
That's sweet, Brody. I like you too...

There is hope in Brody's eyes as this connection grows.

AVA (CONT'D)

We've grown so close this summer.
You're my best friend here.

Brody becomes disappointed in hearing the response. He manages to push through his sadness and try to figure out what this "best friendship" really is. He takes a moment and comment back.

BRODY

We've had fun this past summer, I
like you...

AVA

Brody, I just don't feel the same
way. But, you're a great guy.
There's a girl out there for you.

Brody becomes frustrated, over the situation and the word "friend".

BRODY

Why do you like Max?

AVA

Max and my relationship is
different. It's - it's more -- umm
- natural? No. We've just known
each other for a long time and
we've grown up together. I like you
as a friend, Brody, but you know
I've known Max for like my whole
life, there's something there...I
don't know how to explain it.

Brody is crushed since Ava has no true reason why she likes Max. He realizes that he can never compare to Max in her eyes. He turns back towards the lake.

BRODY

Why don't you just go back to the
dance.

Ava puts her hand on his shoulder. He nudges it off. Brody starts to tear up, his heart is broken.

AVA

I want to be here for you. The
dance can-

BRODY

But, why? Max was waiting for you.

Ava puts her head on Brody's shoulder.

AVA
Brody, you're not a loser.

He pushes it off angrily and violently. This angers Ava since she is being so nice to Brody. Ava gets up.

AVA (CONT'D)
I'm trying to help. Don't you know
what friends are for? What's wrong
with-

Brody turns around to face Ava. He frustrated, but not yelling yet.

BRODY
Shut up!

AVA
Excuse me?

Brody gets up. Brody calmly explains himself.

BRODY
Does this even matter? Things will
always be the the same. No one
understands.

AVA
Understands what -- Max?

BRODY
Who else would I be talking about.

AVA
No one understands! Under...GOD,
not everything is about you and
your problems.

Brody is shocked because he thought they were closer than this. Ava begins to yell.

AVA (CONT'D)
Do you really want to know why Max
is doing all of this stupid stuff.

Ava starts to cry.

AVA (CONT'D)
His parents just got divorced,
okay. It's hard for him. Give him a
break.

BRODY
He deserves it!

AVA

What?

Ava stands there in shock. Both campers are starting to cry.

BRODY

He's never done anything nice.

AVA

I can't believe you would say that.
I thought you were-

BRODY

(calmly, wiping away his
tears)
Different?

Brody sits back down looking over the lake.

AVA

You know I should've just listened
to Max. You're not a good person.

There is a breath in conversation. Ava has a self revelation while wiping her tears away. She says to herself, but still loud enough for Brody to hear.

AVA (CONT'D)

He...he was right. God, I'm so
ignorant. You're selfish.

Brody gets up again and starts yelling.

BRODY

If you were a real friend you would
understand both of our sides. You
would understand why I don't care
about Max's...shitty problems
anymore. Its gone too far.

AVA

But, if you would just listen-

BRODY

I've been listening. Everyone has
something going on, but people move
past those problems. You don't see
me bullying because of my problems
at home.

Tears are streaming down Ava's face.

AVA
He's just trying to get through
this rough patch. Why can't you...

BRODY
(calmly interrupting)
You know, kids don't have empathy.
They can't care for each other.
They hurt people to make themselves
feel better. It doesn't make sense.

AVA
You think you can talk about
empathy? Well, maybe if Max had
more people caring about him he
would be better.

BRODY
(Yelling again)
The whole damn camp cares about
him. If you can't see all the sides
of the story then how can you say
we're friends.

There is another pause between the two of them. Softly Ava
speaks up.

AVA
We're not friends.

Both campers just stare at each other. Brody saw this coming,
Max and Ava's relationship is too strong for her to realize
what's happening. This is the last egg in the basket, Brody
feels truly alone with no one to help him. He starts to
tear up again. Ava can't believe what just came out of her
mouth, her frustration got to her.

AVA (CONT'D)
I...I didn't...

Brody just turns back to the lake and sits down. He wipes
away his tears and calmly realizes what just happened, he is
alone.

AVA (CONT'D)
You need to believe me. I didn't
mean to say that. I was - I - I
didn't mean...

BRODY
No, just go back to the dance.

There is a silence between both of them. Brody takes a breath of
realization.

Ava starts to reach for Brody, but decides to restrain herself. She heads back to the dance leaving Brody by himself, alone.

FIN