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EPISODE 3

Camp Be Better

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ACT 1

1 EXT. DIRT ROAD - MORNING 1

DRONE SHOT of the lonely dirt road to Camp Be Better.

2 EXT. EMPTY BUSH - MORNING 2

Ominous New Zealand bush. Only bird sounds.

We see a rustling lump... it's Niah.

With a gasp, Niah comes to, face covered in leaves.

3 INT. H CABIN - MORNING 3

Jonas sips on an espresso, staring at Niah's empty bed.

4 THERAPY CAM -- JONAS 4

JONAS

--and I could never look at cucumbers the same way again.

(beat)

Yeah, so Niah's been gone all night. She's made her point. We get it, Niah, you're overly sensitive about having your personal life history being read out in front of people you barely know.

5 EXT. CAMP BE BETTER, FRONT GATE - MORNING 5

Jonas stares into the bushes. He's worried.

JONAS (V.O.)

She said some very nasty things to me, but look -- I'm willing to give her an opportunity to apologise.

6 EXT. H CABIN - MORNING 6

Roe is looking off into the distance. Jonas sidles up.

ROE

Jonas! Nothing. What? Sorry did you say something?

Jonas looks where Roe was looking: Wendy is brushing her teeth. She does a big spit.

JONAS

Wendy! Declan! H Cabin pow-wow, get in close.

Nobody moves.

JONAS (CONT'D)

Good hustle. Listen, we gotta go after Niah. I think she ran away.

WENDY

So?

JONAS

If she dies, it's on us.

WENDY

You mean it's on you.

JONAS

I think sugarboy here is willing to take some of the blame here, also.

Declan looks stony.

7

THERAPY CAM -- VARIOUS

7

WENDY

Jonas has grown a conscience. But maybe Niah shouldn't have said that stuff about Declan... I don't know. I'm not used to having to think about other people. It's annoying.
(beat; sighs, annoyed)
I'll go.

ROE

The New Zealand bush is notoriously rugged. There is no way I'm going.
(beat)
Is Wendy going?

AI VOICE (V.O.)

I cannot divulge anything about--

ROE

Other campers. Yeah, yeah, I know.
(beat)
I don't want her to think I'm scared, is all.

AI VOICE (V.O.)

Wendy is going.

ROE

Yeah? Hmmm. Yeah I was thinking about going too. You know. 'Team'.

DECLAN
Of course I'm not going.

AI VOICE (V.O.)
Why not?

8 EXT. H CABIN - CONTINUOUS

8

DECLAN
Because she's not even supposed to
be here. Good riddance, I say.

Jonas, Wendy and Roe look at Declan, making him feel bad.

DECLAN (CONT'D)
Plus, it's the New Year's Eve
party. I'm not missing that. You
guys go. I'd actually really love
some time alone.

9 EXT. CAMP BE BETTER, FRONT GATE - MORNING

9

Jonas, Wendy and Roe look at the front gate. They look back -
they can hear distant laughter from the other campers.

Jonas hits play on his phone. The Bluetooth speaker in his
hand plays a very cheesy song.

ROE
Wait - one of the only rules is not
to go outside camp grounds. What
about *Weird Nigel*?

JONAS
We'll be back before lunchtime.

WENDY
I'll create a diversion, then let's
run for it.

ROE
What are you going to--oh my!

Wendy throws a MASSIVE rock -- it SMASHES a window somewhere
in the camp. The three run out the front gate.

10 EXT. LAKESIDE - MORNING

10

Declan enjoys some alone time in the lake.

He squeezes on his swimcap. Dives in. He swims. He tans. He
does push-ups. Tans again. Scrutinises his muscles.

DECLAN
Good form, Declan. Gettit.

11 EXT. DIRT ROAD - MORNING

11

Jonas, Wendy and Roe look for Niah along the deserted road.
Roe points to the skidmarks where Niah ran off the road.

ROE
Skidmarks.

JONAS
Lol. Skidmarks.

Wendy moves to the tree Niah hid behind.

WENDY
Maybe she hid behind here and ... I
dunno, slipped into the bush?

Jonas walks toward the bush.

JONAS
Whatever. How could someone be so
stupid as to slip down--oop!

Jonas slips -- he grabs Wendy -- who grabs Roe -- and the
three disappear from sight.

12 EXT. CAMP BE BETTER, FIELD - CONTINUOUS

12

Declan walks back past TWO CAMPERS doing the parachute
exercise. ~~Leans against a tree, flexing.~~

DECLAN
~~You guys wanna -- I dunno, hang?~~

MISC CAMPER #1
(waving the parachute)
Declan, your missus left her
panties behind!
~~Only if you sign a prenup first.~~

MISC CAMPER #2
The way to a woman's bank account
is through her minge, huh Declan?
~~We know your game, Playboy Bunny.~~
~~Run along.~~

13 THERAPY CAM -- DECLAN

13

DECLAN
I'm getting the most peculiar
feeling that ...
(MORE)

WENDY
How do you know?

JONAS
Vibes.

Jonas hits play on his phone again. Same cheesy song plays.

Wendy and Roe shrug -- okay. Wendy snatches the label maker from Roe. She goes to make their first marker.

ROE
Oh, that's a Kahikatea tree. Its Latin name is *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, if you want to type that?

ANGLE ON: Wendy puts a label on the tree: TREE

15 EXT. BUSH, THE TREE CLEARING - DAY 15

Jonas leads the way. Wendy slaps another label on a tree. Jonas stops. Closes his eyes.

JONAS
Yup. We're lost.

ROE
I'm so thirsty.

Panting, Roe starts licking dew off leaves. Wendy watches -- she bites her lip, aroused. Catches herself.

WENDY
Maybe one of us should climb a tree -- see if we can get a signal--

JONAS
Step aside, I got this!

Jonas runs for a tree and starts scaling it.

16 EXT. TOP OF THE TREE - DAY 16

Jonas gets to the top of the tree. Pulls his phone out -- it buzzes with loads of messages.

JONAS
Whoa -- so many messages! Popular boy.
(beat)
Oh, most of these are just promotional emails. Wait, discount fridges--?

19 EXT. BUSH, NOT FAR FROM THE TREE - CONTINUOUS

19

Niah's walking. The sound of Jonas' very high-pitched squeal echoes through the bush.

We flashback to: Jonas' same scream in Episode 2 as Niah chased him.

NIAH

Jonas!

Niah runs in the direction of the yell.

FIRST AD BREAK

ACT 2

20 EXT. BUSH, THE TREE CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

20

Wendy and Roe spin around just in time to see a body fall through frame.

THUMP-CRACK-SQUISH! Wendy and Roe scream.

WENDY

Don't move! Your back might be broken. Lay still!

Jonas writhes on the ground, squirming and yelling as Niah appears.

ROE

Niah! Yay, we found you! Whoa, you look terrible.

WENDY

Is it your leg?

JONAS

NO, MY LEG IS FINE, I'M JUST YELLING BECAUSE I FEEL SO GOOD!

WENDY

It's your ankle -- does this hurt?

Jonas screams as Wendy touches his foot. Niah watches, unsure what to say.

ROE

That sounded like a Yes.

WENDY

I'm going to pop it back into place.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Can you cut the tag for me? I have sensitive skin. ~~Help me zip up the back?~~

Michaela hands Regina some scissors and turns, presenting the back of the dress - which is very low. Regina finds the tag, brushing Michaela's skin. The scissors slide coolly on Michaela's skin and she shivers - tension as Regina very carefully SNIPS. ~~for Regina to zip up. Regina does it up slowly. Michaela sighs.~~

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Ooh, that tickles. Feels nice.

Painfully aroused, Regina lets a high-pitched squeal escape her throat -- then pulls herself out of it. Clears her throat.

REGINA

Done.

MICHAELA

It's nice to see you without your campers. ~~'s odd seeing you without your campers.~~ Not gonna lie, I'm glad you've finally given up on trying to make them actually better--

REGINA

I haven't given up on them.

MICHAELA

Well you totally should. They won't change, you know? We're made like this. Pointless trying to make a fish a tortoise.

REGINA

What?

MICHAELA

I don't know. Just, care less. Think less. ~~Go s~~ Smooth-brain 24/7, like me!

Michaela flashes Regina a winning smile. Regina can't help but laugh. Michaela laughs back.

Declan stops running, puffed. He smells something. Behind a tree, Dr Kimberly and Thomas smoke a joint together.

DECLAN

Hey guys. You haven't um ... you haven't seen Niah, have you? She's run off, got it into her head that this place is corrupt and--

DR KIMBERLY

This place is corrupt.

WAKEFIELD-DEVI walks by, sporting a Turkish fez.

THOMAS

Looking good, Devi!
(to Declan)
Devi's family made an extra donation so he was granted leave to go to Istanbul for Christmas.

DECLAN

That's ... not really fair.

THOMAS

And you don't even know about Sterling's Secret Ledger yet, where all the bribe infor -- GACKK ---
~~mation is kept.~~

Dr Kimberly whacks Thomas in the stomach. ~~nudges Thomas ---~~
keep quiet.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I mean, no it's not corrupt.
Everything's cool.

24

EXT. BUSH, THE TREE CLEARING - AFTERNOON

24

ROE'S POV: Blurry shapes. A person. Haloed with light.

ROE (O.S.)

An angel...and some gnomes? Oh, hi Wendy.

Wendy comes into focus. Niah and Jonas are also there, looking down at him.

ROE (CONT'D)

How's your ankle, Jonas?

JONAS

Not too bad. Not too--whoa.

ANGLE ON: Jonas' ankle is PURPLE and GREEN and SWOLLEN.

ROE
 (re: Jonas and Niah)
 How's the awkwardness between you
 two?

Stony silence.

WENDY
 Palpable.
 (beat)
 One of us needs to run back to the
 camp and get help.

JONAS
 I'm fine. I think if I--

Jonas tries to stand, squeals, and collapses.

JONAS (CONT'D)
 Awww, and it's my favourite ankle!

WENDY
 If we carry you?

NIAH
 I'm not carrying him.

JONAS
 I'm not being carried by her.

WENDY
 Stay here and turn into Weird
 Nigel-food then. I'm sick of your
 shit. Bye.

Wendy grabs her bag and takes off.

JONAS
 Wait! Wait!
 (beat; resigned)
 Come on, then.

Jonas holds his arms up like a toddler wanting to be lifted.

CUT TO: Niah and Wendy support Jonas, his arms over their
 shoulders. Roe hovers, unsure how to help.

ROE
 Aaaaand step.

They take a step and Jonas whimpers. Another step -- another
 girlish sex-moan sound. Grimly, they set off.

ROE (CONT'D)

Was that Weird Nigel? Is he coming for us?

WENDY

I heard he likes boys with floppy hair and thin lips.

ROE

I feel hunted. I think I'm really starting to understand what the world must be like for women.

Wendy takes a bite out of her potato. Niah notices that Jonas is hyperventilating. His shoulders are shaking.

NIAH

Jonas?

Jonas turns away, covering his face.

WENDY

Are you crying?

(beat)

Which is, you know, totally fine and normal in this day and age.

JONAS

My family is worthless. We lost everything. And it's all my fault.

28 THERAPY CAM -- DECLAN

28

In the background, we hear party sounds. Declan is dressed up and madeup Euphoria-glitter style.

DECLAN

The party's fun. I'm having fun.

AI VOICE (V.O.)

Are you being honest, Declan?

29 EXT. CAMP BE BETTER, FRONT GATE - NIGHT

29

Regina, wearing party clothes, looks worriedly out into the bush. Behind her, the party RAGES.

Michaela dances over, drunk. She pulls Regina into a dance.

MICHAELA

Loosen up, Regyna. Remember when we were these kids' age?

A SMALL SCHOOLBOY is reluctant, but Jonas cheers him on, pushing him toward the line of drugs. The Small Schoolboy does it.

JONAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I decided we should streak the main
drag of our school.

The Schoolboys strip off too, laughing, high.

34 EXT. BUSH, CAMP SPOT - CONTINUOUS 34

JONAS
I decided we should streak the main
drag of our school. All of our
little schoolboy wangs flapping
around. Genius, right?

Jonas sighs -- happy memories. Then his face clouds.

JONAS (V.O.)
David Osmun ... he was just a
little dude, really. But you know,
we got caught up in it all.

35 EXT. CAMP BE BETTER, FRONT GATE - CONTINUOUS 35

Michaela and Regina are close now.

REGINA
You should get back to the
countdown.

MICHAELA
I'm good.

From the party behind them comes the countdown...

CAMPERS (O.S.) (UNISON)
Ten! Nine! Eight!

36 INT. UPPER-CLASS BOARDING SCHOOL, TOILETS - CONTINUOUS 36

The nude Schoolboys are counting down.

SCHOOLBOYS (UNISON)
Seven! Six! Five!

37 EXT. CAMP BE BETTER, FRONT GATE - CONTINUOUS 37

CAMPERS (O.S.) (UNISON)
Four! Three! Two! One!

Michaela and Regina are getting close, but--

REGINA

I have to tell you something. *My campers are missing.*

Michaela pauses, her face dark. Then -- VOMITS.

38 INT. UPPER-CLASS BOARDING SCHOOL, TOILETS - CONTINUOUS 38

The Schoolboys run out. But the Smallest Schoolboy stumbles. He leans against a cubicle.

Then, he falls to the ground. Hyperventilating.

Frothing at the mouth...

39 EXT. BUSH, CAMP SPOT - CONTINUOUS 39

WENDY

That's dark, dude.

JONAS

He didn't die. But -- yeah. He wasn't all right for quite a while. His dad was a chief shareholder of the Highmore Group and he wasn't happy. Now he's pulled support and ... the Highmore House of Cards has come tumbling down.

Roe's watch beeps.

ROE

Happy New Year!

(beat)

Sorry.

40 EXT. BUSH, DRONE SHOT - NIGHT 40

Above the bush, the fireworks explode.

41 EXT. CAMP BE BETTER, FIELD - NIGHT 41

Declan walks across the field. He looks up to sky, his forlorn expression bathed in coloured light as the fireworks pop above.

42 EXT. BUSH, CAMP SPOT - CONTINUOUS 42

Wendy, Roe, Niah and Jonas sit in silence.

JONAS

Isn't anyone gonna say something?

NIAH
I hope the kid's okay?

JONAS
No, to make me feel better -- man,
you just don't get it, do you?

NIAH
Me? Have you heard of the word
'karma'?

JONAS
Have you heard of ... shhh?
(embarrassed)
I'm tired, I can't come-back right
now. ~~shutting up?~~
(~~beat; embarrassed~~)
~~I'm tired, okay? My wit has~~
~~deserted me.~~

NIAH
You want sympathy? I'll give you
sympathy when you show proper
remorse. Instead of crying only
when there's some actual
consequences to your stupid family.
(beat)
Not so nice being the big fat toe
at the table, is it?

Wendy stifles a yawn.

WENDY
Excuse me. I'd love to stay up
listening to this but I'm going to
sleep.

Wendy makes herself comfortable on the ground. Roe hovers.

ROE
Where should I--? I don't wanna
cramp your style but -- you know,
Weird Nigel might be lurking so...

Wendy pats the ground next to her. Roe lies down, not
believing his luck.

Niah lies down on the other side of the fire. Turns away.

ROE (CONT'D)
Night, guys!

A very, very long beat.

WENDY

Night.

Jonas stays sitting up, marinating in his feelings. He sees: Niah shiver in her sleep. He reflects on the singed chip packet.

SECOND AD BREAK

ACT 3

43 INT. MESS HALL - MORNING 43

Declan knocks. Regina looks up from where she's having coffee. He's acting extra breezy.

DECLAN

Hiiiiii. So, I have news.

44 EXT. H CABIN - MORNING 44

Regina chases Declan, grabbing him and spanking his arse.

REGINA

What do you mean they left and you let them go? Why didn't you tell me? Declan, you're supposed to be a team!

Declan tears himself away from Regina and rubs his arse.

DECLAN

I tried to go after them when they didn't get back yesterday!
 (beat; off Regina's look)
 Well, I txt Roe.
 (beat)
 The message didn't send.

REGINA

We're going after them.

Regina turns -- Declan's not following.

REGINA (CONT'D)

Oi! You don't fool me, Declan. You might act like you're too good for friends but everyone needs friends. I may not be a good cabin leader and you may not respect me but they are your family here. And even if families make mistakes, we help each other to grow from them.

Regina throws some hiking clothes at Declan, who catches.

45

EXT. CAMP BE BETTER, FRONT GATE - MORNING

45

Regina stalks toward the front gate, dressed for the bush. Michaela stumbles out of her cabin, panda-eyed, hungover.

MICHAELA

I can't remember a thing from last night. Must have been good, ay?

Her laugh turns into a hacking cough.

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

REGINA

Hiking!

46

EXT. BUSH, CLOSE TO CAMP SPOT - MORNING

46

Niah blinks awake.

The embers of a sizable fire glow. Niah looks over to see:

Wendy and Roe are asleep still, close but not touching. Jonas is awake, a stick in his hand from prodding the fire. He looks like he's been up all night.

JONAS

I'm sorry for reading your file. And all the shitty stuff I said.

NIAH

You made the fire? How did you collect the wood?

JONAS

It took a long time. Plus, I've never actually made a fire before.

Niah smiles. Jonas smiles back.

LATER: Jonas sleeps. Niah, Wendy and Roe huddle - they have each pulled threads from the bottom of their clothes and have tied it to one tree nearby.

NIAH

We need to find food and water. Don't go too far, and we'll reconvene here in half an hour.

ROE

Shall we tell Jonas we're leaving?

ANGLE ON: Jonas dribbles. He sucks it up in his sleep.

NIAH
(fondly)
Na. Let him sleep.

47 EXT. BUSH, WITH ROE - MORNING 47

Roe walks alone, glancing anxiously around the bush.

ROE
You're not scared. Do your scales.

Roe sings a major scale in a bizarrely perfect voice. He runs through various scales.

Note: We will ADR Roe's singing voice with a female singer.

ROE'S SCALES ACT AS SOUNDTRACK TO:

48 EXT. CAMP BE BETTER, DRIVEWAY - AFTERNOON 48

Regina reads a paper map and Declan tests binoculars. he lowers them.

DECLAN
You are a good cabin leader. No one else could have made me leave the house looking like this.

Reveal: Declan looks feminine-sleek in Regina's hiking clothes.

She grins and they jog off together, very well matched.

49 EXT. BUSH, CLOSE TO CAMP SPOT - CONTINUOUS 49

WEIRD NIGEL POV: Handheld, we push through the bush to see Jonas sleeping alone.

Weird Nigel stands above Jonas, breathing heavily. Jonas stirs.

JONAS
(half-asleep)
Oh, good morning.

Then he sees who it is. He SCREAMS his high-pitched scream.

50 EXT. BUSH, WITH ROE / NIAH / WENDY 50

Roe, Niah and Wendy all hear Jonas' scream. In unison:

Declan and Regina burst through the bush.

REGINA

Kids, run!

Heroic moment for Declan -- dramatic push-in:

DECLAN

Leave my Povvo Cabin alone!

Declan jumps in to help Niah and raises his fists -- but when he hits, he slaps at Weird Nigel with flappy hands. He is a useless fighter.

As Regina helps Jonas to his feet, Roe and Wendy jump out.

To the strange soundtrack of Declan's old-timey music, The H Campers attempt to subdue an outraged Weird Nigel. During:

DECLAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for what I said, Niah. I was being a judgemental prick.

NIAH

I'm sorry for outing you at the quiz after you trusted me.

From the sidelines, Regina is proud: Awwww. She whips a spray bottle from her bag and starts spraying Weird Nigel like he's a cat.

Weird Nigel looks Regina in the eyes and holds up: the RED FLAG Niah stepped on, complete with footprint.

Weird Nigel growls, and then runs back into the bush.

55 EXT. CAMP BE BETTER, TREELINE - EVENING 55

SLO MO: Regina and The H Campers walk out of the bush victorious, carrying Jonas.

56 THERAPY CAM -- VARIOUS 56

Jonas shows his bandaged ankle.

JONAS

Turns out it was just a sprain!
Wooohooooo!

(beat)

But me giving drugs to a kid and him ODing and it leading to my family losing their fortune? Yeah that's kinda bad. But, we might be able to get bailed out.

(MORE)

JONAS (CONT'D)

Dad's convinced the government to help us out before, using his connections.

ROE

I just feel...
(can't keep it in; sings)
Goooooooooooooooooooood.

AI VOICE

Any particular reason? You were just lost in the bush for forty-eight hours with minimal food and water and no toilet paper.

WENDY

Roe didn't know we could hear him but...
(smiles, crushing)
Look, I respect excellence, that's all. On a professional level.

Wendy tries not to smile.

57 INT. MICHAELA'S OFFICE - EVENING

57

Regina looks through a bunch of envelopes while Michaela does her nails.

REGINA

Michaela, these bills are all overdue.
(beat)
I think two of my campers have the hots for each other.

MICHAELA

(distracted)
The hot water still isn't working, by the way.

58 EXT. LAKESIDE - EVENING

58

The H campers jump into the cold lake in their swimmers.

They soap themselves, cleaning off the bush dirt.

Declan and Niah float in the water, talking.

DECLAN

~~He called it 'Sterling's Secret Ledger'.~~

~~Niah listens, scheming.~~

