

SUMMER CAMP FOR ADULTS

By Nia Akilah Robinson

Time:

Now

Place:

A sidewalk on 72nd street.

Players:

Georgia: She. Her. Black. 23 & 14.

Jenny: She. Her. South Asian. 22 & 15.

Driver (v/o) & Mom (v/o): Voices of Jenny and Georgia.

It is spring...Georgia stands on 72nd street with flyers, wearing a NO CAMP COUNSELORSZ t-shirt, and jeans. 72nd street is currently quite loud and busy.

Georgia

Excuse me?

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LIKE TO HAVE FUN?

Can I have one minute of your time?

(Gesturing with a flyer) Flyer?

Excuse me?

ARE YOU GOOD AT DODGEBALL?

Georgia is attempting to pass out flyers.

Jenny

Is that who I think it is?

Jenny enters. Georgia turns swiftly.

Jenny

Georgia?

Georgia?

Oh, I guess not.

Georgia walks away. Jenny follows.

Georgia

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU LIKE TO HAVE FUN?

SUMMER CAMP FOR OLD PEOPLE! YOU INTO THAT?

HI CAN I HAVE TWO MINUTES OF YOUR TIME?

JUST TWO MINUTES.

HI I LIKE YOUR HAT? WHERE'D YOU-

HEY HEY HEY you look very determined. That's good.

Jenny re-enters looking lost, spots Georgia, they make eye contact, Georgia runs offstage, and drops her flyers.

Jenny

IT IS GEORGIA.

Jenny picks up a flyer.

Jenny (cont.)

Camp?

Scene 2

It is four days later. Jenny waits with a horrific sunburn on 72nd street, disguised in a black moo-moo, all black sunglasses, and a fedora hat. Georgia enters with flyers, sets down a backpack, and begins her work.

Georgia

WANNA LIVE OUT YOUR CHILDHOOD MEMORIES?

(Mini beat)

ADULT CAMP IS WHERE IT'S AT.

Jenny approaches.

Jenny
Hi.

Jenny takes off her glasses and fedora, flings both items into the street offstage, a car makes a plastic sunglass shattering sound, and honks.

V/O Driver
HELLO?

Jenny gives them the "middle-finger". A large batch of water is tossed from offstage soaking Jenny and Georgia.

V/O Driver
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

Jenny and Georgia run after the car. It pulls off. Embarrassed they walk towards a corner on 72nd street.

Georgia
Jenny.

Jenny
Why weren't you at sleepaway camp?

Georgia
Jenny.

Jenny
I hate you. Look at me.

Georgia
I'm looking at you. Are you looking at me?

Jenny
Exactly. And what do you have to say?

Georgia
That you need aloe vera.

Jenny gasps.

Jenny
(Pointing to Georgia's neck)
I KNEW IT.

Georgia goes to take off a necklace she's wearing. Jenny snatches it.

Jenny
920 dollars to try and find you.

After all these years...

GET NO CAMP COUNSELORSZ to reimburse me Georgia.

Georgia

How about we talk?

Jenny

TALK? All I've done is talk.

I talked at Dodgeball.

I talked at TIE-DYEING

I talked on the water slide.

I talked during the hike.

I talked in my communal cabin.

I talked over smores.

I talked during the "animal essence" culturally appropriative theme party.

I talked to my NON-CAMP SPIRIT GUIDES.

I talked and talked

To strangers.

For three days.

To rich idiots.

To wanna be rich idiots on corporate retreats.

I talked to OLD Dad's sent to adult camp

By their clueless kids.

A strange conglomerate.

A waste of time.

Absolutely exhausting.

I'm good.

I'm done.

Georgia

I don't work for the company Jenny.

I'm in no way affiliated with the camp locations.

Just an off the book's advertiser.

Can I apologize?

Or are you just gonna be ridiculous/

Jenny

/I would have to PAWN this necklace to get the money back I spent on that trip!

Georgia

But you have the money.

Jenny

I have the money... right.

Georgia

Jenny, I'm sorry I stole it.

Jenny

Why didn't you pawn it? You're poor.

Georgia

I wanted to have a piece of you. A memory. Maybe at the time I wanted your life.

Jenny

So you stole from my mother?

Georgia

She left it in the bathroom, behind the toilet seat, it obviously meant nothing to her.

Jenny

It did mean something to her!

Flashback

Mother (V/O)

Let me not hear a peep! Get your rest. Georgia, I know you have a big trip tomorrow. Goodnight.

Georgia at 14

Yes, Mrs. Rondel goodnight.

Jenny at 15

I opened my mom's bank statement.

Jenny makes a money gesture with her hands.

Georgia at 14

I coulda guessed this apartment is so pretty! Nothing like my one bedroom.

Jenny at 15

So, it's like if you want anything you can have it. Like snacks or clothing from New York City. Just tell my mom, she'll get it for you, and we'll send it over. She comes home with so much cash nowadays since my stepmom disappeared.

Georgia at 14

Oh thanks.

Jenny at 15

Wanna see?

Jenny takes out a paper and shows it to Georgia.

Georgia at 14

American Express. Nice name. My mom has Chase.

Jenny at 15

50,000 stackeroons. A balance just sitting there!

Georgia at 14
Cool.

End of Flashback

Jenny
This necklace is a family heirloom.

Georgia
I'm sorry I took it.

Jenny
She made me move in with my cousin for three years until she let me move back in, I was eighteen by then, moved out for college a day later, and she never came to visit me.

Georgia
Oh no.

Jenny
And then. She-She... She didn't put me on the will.

Georgia
She died?

Jenny
No. She called me minutes before I first spotted you on 72nd street and told me.

Georgia
Oh no.

Jenny
And now.
And now.
I have the necklace she dangled over my life.
The reason she hates me is wrapped up in this THING.
(She swings the necklace in front of Georgia's face)
You know what I'm gonna do with it?

Georgia
Oh no?

Jenny
I'm gonna
I'm gonna
This necklace.
I am going to eat it.

Georgia

You can't.

Jenny

I'm gonna eat it.

Poop it out.

And send it to her.

Georgia

Will you send it with the []? Or Sans? Sans poop?

Jenny

(Jenny shakes her head "no")

I knew you took it.

I knew you stole it.

I covered for you.

Georgia

And I moved away.

To Tokyo.

The day after that sleepover.

And we lost contact.

Our first and final sleepover before I moved for my dad's job.

Jenny

And you're back.

Georgia

I'm back. Making nothing. Doing nothing with my life.

Jenny

Well at least you don't work as a personal assistant to Marjorie Philippa I couldn't get another job even if I wanted to.

Georgia

The woman who got cancelled for singing at the president who will not be named's inauguration?

Jenny

Yes.

Georgia

Your life is complicated.

Jenny

Indeed. Will you watch me eat this, while you tell me what brought you back to New York?

Georgia

I'm on the clock.

Jenny

Oh.

Georgia

How about you don't eat the necklace.

How about

Meet me right here

In three hours.

And I'll tell you everything.

Jenny

I've missed you. Never found real friendship since you've left.

Jenny walks away. The sun's light gets brighter.

Georgia

(Starting to pass out flyers)

DO YOU LIKE CAMP?

YEAH YOU?

Jenny returns wearing a No CAMP COUNSELORSZ shirt, gestures for flyers from Georgia, and begins to work.

Jenny

(To Georgia in sotto voice) **Gift shop.**

(To people on the street)

EXCUSE ME?

HELLO?

I AM THE LIVING PROOF THAT CAMP CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

End.

Inspiration:

<https://www.timeout.com/usa/things-to-do/adult-summer-camp-guide>

Playwright's Website:

<https://www.niaakilahrobinson.com>