

Excitement was streaming through the stuffy bus-air; the buzz of children's squeaky voices was all that could be heard. The excitement made an extra special effort to circle the air around one alpha girl in particular; Aly Block. For you see; Aly the most talked about sophomore at the prestigious, Westchester County High; the most admired in all of Manhattans litter-ridden side walks.

When the bus arrived at its destination (which took two *whole* hours!!!) the restless sophomore class bounded off the bus and breathed in the crisp forest air. The "whoa"s and "awesome"s echoed off the crooked trees. When the Alpha Girls (the AG) stepped off the coach they dropped their Stella McCartney handbags from their French-manicured nails. Aly: the popular one, Kate: the adventurous one, Kristen: the stuck up one, and Taylor the quit one. "Where are we?!!!" screeched Kristen, "Why are there so many trees?" Facing the four girls was a mud coloured mountain range, thousands of boring trees, and a tacky mud hut type thingy! "Where are all of the luxury cabins we were promised?" demanded the Alpha herself. "I'm calling my family lawyer!"

Not only were the stressing over the TENTS (!!!) but the stuck-up girls also had the extra worry of the Constance boy's staying just 20 metres away from their campsite. The boy's school was the Brothering School of Westchester County, and always accompanied the girls' school on whatever sort of cheesy road trip they went on. Alyssa remembered back to her freshman year, the two schools had journeyed down to Florida. Katy McPhee had puked all over Alyssa's DKNY boy-cut jeans, and Alyssa had to rid her closet of all jeans in that category, to spare her any flashbacks of that terrible day! This year however; the snooty Mrs. Princeton had decided that all sophomores must experience how the other side live and therefore bribed some unenthusiastic teachers into driving the year up to Lake Placid. Kristen had already figured that she couldn't live like this on a daily basis, and, was therefore glad it was just a field trip.

*The new girl, do I no her???*

All that could be heard was the sound of annoying little birds squabbling, trees rustling; like there was no tomorrow and of course; the faint hum of snores creeping into Jenny's tent from the boys' quarters. Jenny was an upcoming member of the P.C, even though they hadn't asked her to join, she was sure that they would. Maybe they had been so busy planning for the field trip that they had forgotten to ask her. The only sound to be heard was that of an annoying blue bird, a boring forest of oak trees and (of course) the boy's, in their camp, snoring their big heads off. The air was silent; you could feel the silence ringing through your ears and out of your nose. Then suddenly a rustle of leaves woke Jenny instantaneously from her power puff girl sleeping bag.

"Can't you do anything quietly," snapped Aly, "god, next time we go exploring I'll remember never to take you along with me!" Kristen's nasal laugh seeped through Jenny's thin blue tent. "Just *try* to be a little less boisterous, please for the sake of our pending future at Westchester." Aly seemed to have calmed down, her voice had become that sweet butter-wouldn't-melt tone she always used. Jenny had wished for

that ring to own voice, yet sadly; even after years of practise, it was the same; average-girl tone it had always been.

The alpha pack's movement seemed too faded into the distances, which, as Jenny new, lead to one drastic conclusion. They were getting away, going off to explore the lurking forest . . . . Without her!!! "Urgh, what . . . what time is it?" groaned Jenny's gassy tent-mate; Lily. "Shhhh, It's alright Lily, just go back to sleep." "But, but, where are you going?" she slurred. "No where, you must be dreaming. Yes, err, your dreaming." "Oh welllll, I guess all of them beans made meeeee drownssssy!" Quickly, Jenny grasped for her cheap rain coat, shoved her size 8 (!!!) feet into her hiking boots. Then she was gone.

*'Tracking down a clueless bunch of alpha females would be too easy, right? Speak for yourselves! Take a clueless bunch of teenagers, put them in an eerie, magical woods and you get . . . . . monstrous results. Literally!*

### The Alpha Pack

"Shut up, we're gonna get caught!" whisper-shouted Taylor, the quietest of the group. She had been forever trying to be more forward like her friends. They seemed so much at ease talking to the Constance boys, unlike her. "Hey guys, look over there. What's that shiny thing?" "I can tell you one thing." Aly sighed, "It won't be a diamond!" The girls decided to track down the source of this glistening light and ended up at the edge of a pool. So they thought.

"Woooooow" breathed the entire group, they were so cold that there breathe swirled around them in white clouds. Facing them; was the biggest, most beautiful lake that they had ever seen! "It's beautiful!" cried Kate, another of the Alpha's. The full, white moon glistened off the clear water, causing a sparkling dust of glitter like atmosphere; that covered the whole lake. Although the lake, henceforth the name of the camp; Lake Placid, was so clear at the waters, edge that the girls could see there glowing faces, it also give off a hint of sky blue mist. This mist gave the lake it's very own fear factor, but not in a bad way though, it made it seem more looming, more mysterious than other Lakes they had seen . . . More magical!

"Let's go for a swim!" said an all too eager Kate; "Please!" she pleaded. "It'll be fun, just in the shallow water. I mean come on! They can't be more than a metre deep!" "Err, I don't know, maybe we should wait until the morning, just to be safe." answered Aly. "Yeah I'm with Aly on this one; sorry Kate." Taylor added. "Fine, suit yourselves! And with that comment she had her A&F (Abercrombie and Fitch) P.J's off and was measuring out a run up for a dive. The others routinely covered their diamond studded ears; ready for another one of Kate's-adventure-that-haven't-been-thought-out screams. The flaky sixteen old must have been totally insane to jump into a HUGE lake, at NIGHT!!! She would freeze to death for sure. Kristen gripped her cell phone like it was the last pair of limited edition; emerald green Jimmy Choo's at Bendels, just in case she needed to speed dial 911.



“It’s okay I can see you . . . . barley! There’s some trees fallen on top of the trench that your in though, so it could take a while.

“No, in that case you need to go save our friend, Taylor. You see; she jumped into the Lake nearby here and didn’t resurface. You need to go help her, the longest known time to survive in her situation is only fifteen minutes!”

The reality of the last hour hit alley like a bulldozer booming off Manhattan skyscraper! Everything that had happened was REALLY happening. She couldn’t lose Kate! This stranger needed to save her, before saving Kristen, Taylor and her, and before it was too late. Or had that time already passed?

### *Jenny*

The Lake, which she had not seen before, apart from the odd brochure, had Jenny entranced in its radiating beauty. Yet she could not find what she was sent to look for, and was therefore left feeling empty, terrified. She new that she should go into the water to look for her but her feet wouldn’t let her. Jenny spun around and set off back towards the ditch.

### *The A.G.*

She’s not there!” puffed Jenny, “I looked everywhere” Aly’s body froze, she tried to tell her friends not to panic but all that left her mouth was a sharp exhale. “Well get us out of here so we can go look for her!” snapped Kristen. A light shone through the trees that covered the compact hole that the girls had fallen into. A hand appeared shortly afterwards. “By the way; my names Jenny Mommsen” blabbered the girl, probably trying to make conversation to calm the girls. “Do we no you?” asked Taylor.

“Yeah, well err, I don’t know. We go to the same school though.”

“As much as I want to here this, you really have to hurry!” declared Aly. Jenny reached for her classmates one by one. First out was Aly (obviously), next was Taylor (it could have been Kristen because it was too dark to tell. She had to tie her jacket around a tree and heave with all her mite, but it worked. It was also worth it, if this helped her gain much needed social status.

Once all of the girls were out of that insect ridden trench; they sprinted to the lake, not letting the thorny branches stop them. There was still nobody! “Where could she have gone, except from the bottom of the Lake, (twelve metres below the ground?). “We need to get help. NOW!!!” screamed Aly, who was, until now, the calmest of the group. As they were running; Jenny shouted “hey look over there!” When the girls looked they stared in awe at the magical sight.

There; slumped underneath a large, spooky oak tree, was Kate. “Kate!!!” Aly, Taylor and Kristen sang in unison, “you’re alive!!!” Everyone, including Jenny, rang to embrace the derelict looking girl. “Jenny you did save her, you shouldn’t have lied!!!” Kristen screeched with exhilaration.

“Err, yeah, sure I did. Surprise!!! I thought you’d understand why I lied, you know; to err, surprise you!” she conjured up in her head.

“Come on! We’re gonna be late!” screamed Aly. The sophomore year were loading their suitcases onto the coach, ready to leave. In the end everything had turned out fine, well everything except one crucial thing that never left Jenny’s wandering thoughts: Who exactly did save Kate???

*Kate’s diary*

*Dear Diary,*

*I cant believe that I am saying this, but, I saw another world. Not just any world though, an underwater world, where fairies and pixies dance and twirl and the King and Queen greet the constant pools of magical fist awaiting them. They saved my life, not Jenny, the mythical creatures that I will be forever grateful to.*