

Nina: "You've nothing that can help me Arty. Now leave me; to my *quiet!*" Arty watches Nina for a while then decides to exit off stage toward the other two. Nina is relieved at first to be left alone, then stands up, looking out over the lake/audience. The actor will allow for a mix of emotions to slowly flow through her; questioning, fear, anger and finally sorrow as she opens up her arms in supplication with a silent anguished scream/cry. Scream/cry becomes silent, as forest sounds become louder to almost a screech level. The other 3 women hold frozen positions up stage to the side, looking towards Nina from a distance, Daphne in compassion, Grace in worry and Arty in hurt and confusion. Lights and sound abruptly off.

End of Act 2 Scene 2

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Act 2 Scene 3

Several days later, at camp site, Arty, Daphne and Grace are all packing up equipment, taking down tent. Nina is not on stage.

Daphne: "What's left?"

Grace: "The hammock, the food rope I think and the sauna tarp."

Daphne: "I'm so glad we got to have saunas. So how does the eucalyptus aromatherapy stand with you Arty?"

Arty: "OK, the eucalyptus is far superior to the fruit crystals."

Daphne: "You're welcome."

Grace: "I missed getting all the way in, but my head sure enjoyed it. I'll look forward to my next full sauna. I suppose it'll be a few more years before I'll be coming back."

Daphne: "Ah, the Goddesses are falling away. Nina sure hasn't been herself...understandably. And with us two baby machines that'll leaves the Goddess of the hunt out here by her lonesome." Smiling at and indicating Arty.

Arty: "This is probably the last one I'll be on, for a while. Things are getting busier; my agent is lining up stuff. I'll most likely be in Africa next summer."

Daphne: "Cool. The pictures must be doing well then." Standing up, looking around the camp. "It's always a bit sad leaving, but I'm anxious to see my little guys. I can hardly wait to start taking them out canoeing."

Arty: looking around thoughtfully "This has been a different kind of trip hasn't it."

Daphne: "What? Because of Nina? You put too much pressure on her."

Arty: "If you'd seen her out there...she's not coping well."

Daphne: "Coping well with a loss? Spoken like a person who has yet to lose anyone. She is grieving and will never be the same again. It changes your reference."

Grace: Regarding Daphne "Daphne, who have you lost?"

Daphne: matter-of-factly "A brother when I was younger. And I miscarried twice."

Arty: "I didn't know that."

Daphne: "People grieve differently Arty. Sure she's been hurting. But she's resourceful and smart...she'll find her groove...in time."

Grace: "I wish I could help. I get all tangled up. I don't seem to say the right thing."

Arty: "Yah, I know. Me too. I thought this trip would've been good for her, but it's like it's irritated her, made her even more distant"

Daphne: "Trust her. These things take time. We've all seen how she gets when she's out here. It's part of her; it *is* her. No escaping it."

Grace: "Where is she now? Has anyone seen her?"

Arty: "She's out floating in the lake."

Daphne: looking out to the 'lake' and smiles softly "Oh, yes."

Arty: also looking out "It's not right she's so much on her own."

Daphne: "Look at her. You might not see it. She may not feel it. But she's being held now by the one thing that has always sustained her; nourished her." Daphne looks at Arty "Arty I know you feel a loss too. She's changed. Our friend's on a solo journey and for now we are just shadows at her side." Grace comes over and puts her head on Daphne's shoulder and Daphne hugs her. Arty remains conflicted, uncertain. All are looking out at 'Nina'. Slow fade to dark. End of Act 2 Scene 3

ACT 3 Scene 1

Their 40's

The four women downstage solo lit.

Nina: taking a deep easy breath, "Such a long time. It's so good to be back. 'In the depths of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer.' {Albert Camus}"