

"The Hummingbear"

by

Mick Axelrod

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The Hummingbear

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CHARACTERS

Ariel A girl with a story of fear.

SETTING

Anywhere.

TIME

Now.

SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1 Anywhere.

Now.

"Fear has its use but cowardice has none."

-- Mahatma Gandhi

ACT I

SCENE 1

(LIGHTS UP. The STAGE is bare except for a box, and ARIEL.)

ARIEL

What's the scariest memory you can think of? Do you have an image of it in your mind? Now, I don't mean the time one of your parents caught you masturbating, or if you got stuck on a Ferris Wheel. I mean, a life-or-death situation where you didn't think you'd survive. Do you have it? Good. Okay. You don't have to tell it to me, but I'll tell you mine.

(The LIGHTS change, evoking a sense of fire-light, like a camp bonfire.)

ARIEL

It was in middle school. I was something of a chubby kid, so instead of my parents sending me to a fat camp, my parents sent me to an outdoor adventure camp, which I'm thankful for. It gave me an appreciation of nature I, as a city girl, might not have developed otherwise, even if the kids there were cruel. It was their cruelty that found me alone in the woods that day face to face with a bear.

(The LIGHTS change again, this time evoking bright daylight.)

ARIEL

We were on a hike, and it was steep up a mountain, and I started trailing behind all the other kids. They called me "fat" and "slowpoke" and laughed with each other about my struggle up the incline. That didn't bother me though - what hurt was that the counselor didn't do anything to stop it. I know she didn't have that much authority with the other kids, and what her interceding might have helped - and probably would have been more a hinderance, the kids becoming crueler when they thought no one was watching - but in that moment I felt utterly alone.

(The SOUNDS of nature pipe through - wind rustling the trees, birds chirping, the trinkling of a stream in the distance. Ariel, speaking about the rock, sits upon the box representing it.)

ARIEL

So when we came to a break in the climb at a clearing I took more than the ten minute break we were supposed to get. I lingered on this large rock, and just appreciated the solitude as the group meandered on. I heard them laughing as they trotted off and up but soon those sounds were drowned out and lost to the sounds of nature all around me.

(Dramatic JAWS-esque music begins to underscore the serene sounds.)

ARIEL

That was when I heard it: this rumbling like I had never heard before, low and deep, and my mind painted a huge hungry animal stalking up behind me; in that inner eye a great big bear had somehow snuck up behind me and let out a growl, just before eating me.

(She mimics the sound: a low, fast, rolling trill.)

ARIEL

My heart lept into my throat and suddenly I desperately missed the group, even Torrie Hastings that self-righteous snatch. I closed my eyes and exhaled shallowly, slowly, hoping that somehow when I turn around there won't be a bear there. And I open my eyes and turn around quickly.

(She does so.)

ARIEL

And it's not there. Still overcome with fear I shift back around and then I see it.

(Ariel mimes the motions of the hummingbird with her hand.)

ARIEL

This little hummingbird is hovering, not six inches from my face, doing this little dance in the air like, "Hi! Hee hee, I just scared the shit out of you! You should have seen the look on your face! Well, anyway, welcome to the forest: bye!" And then it zipped off, like hummingbirds are want to do.

(Ariel gets off the rock.)

ARIEL

After that the kids didn't bother me so much. Oh, they still called me names and played mean tricks, far meaner than the hummingbird had, but none of it phased me. I got Punk'd by a hummingbird, and while some people might have been embarrassed, or sworn off nature after something like that, or developed a vendetta against hummingbirds, I truly reveled in nature and grew to love hummingbirds. They're my totem, my grounding, my little prophets, showing up when I feel most frustrated and right before a big change in my life, there they are. Like little fluttering fairies making everything all right.

(The LIGHTS fade to BLACK. Ariel exits.
END.)