

Fresh Air and Sunshine

Cast: Heather, Megan, Tamra, Becky, Jerusha

Setting: The girls are on a camping trip before leaving on a tour of Europe.

Props: Tamra has a cell phone, Jerusha has several lists on sheets of paper. They all have backpacks.

1 HEATHER: (*Sarcastically*) Well, if this isn't just the most fun
2 I've ever had, then I guess it's been a little too long
3 since my last visit to the dentist.
4 MEGAN: Dirt. Everywhere there is dirt. I'm covered with
5 dirt. I hate dirt. Heather, don't I hate dirt?
6 HEATHER: Yes, Megan, you hate dirt. You've been sharing
7 your feelings about dirt for the last half hour. We all
8 now know that Megan hates dirt.
9 TAMRA: There are a lot of trees here, aren't there? Do you
10 think I'll be able to get a clear connection with my
11 cellular?
12 HEATHER: Who cares, Tamra?
13 MEGAN: I just want it clear that I hate dirt. Tamra, is there
14 a bug in my hair?
15 TAMRA: No, Megan, just the dirt. Todd's expecting me to
16 call.
17 MEGAN: I'm not happy here!
18 TAMRA: My cell phone isn't working. Maybe I need a new
19 battery.
20 HEATHER: Why did you bring that thing? It isn't going to
21 work all the way out here in the middle of this
22 godforsaken spot.
23 TAMRA: No one told me that I wouldn't be able to use a
24 phone! I wouldn't have come if I knew that.
25 MEGAN: What were you thinking, Tamra? It's called

1 "roughing it." Oh, wait, I forgot. Your idea of roughing
2 it is leaving your answer machine off.
3 HEATHER: Why are we here? What on earth made us
4 decide to do this?
5 MEGAN: What a stupid way to begin a summer in Europe.
6 Camping.
7 HEATHER: See America first? Oh puh-leeze! Who's bright
8 idea was this, anyway?
9 BECKY: (*Enthusiastically and joyfully entering with*
10 JERUSHA) Isn't this great? I love camping. Mmmmm,
11 smell that fresh air.
12 JERUSHA: OK, everybody, gather around. I have the job
13 lists.
14 MEGAN: And who put you in charge, Jerusha?
15 JERUSHA: You know as well as I do that if I didn't organize
16 things, nothing would be done right.
17 TAMRA: You mean done the way you like it done.
18 JERUSHA: Same difference, Tamra.
19 HEATHER: The Jerusha way is the right way lately, it seems.
20 MEGAN: We're all getting a little tired of ...
21 BECKY: Come on, everyone, let's all be nice. We're going to
22 be together for the whole summer. Let's not start off by
23 arguing over silly things.
24 TAMRA: I am being nice, Becky. As nice as a person can be
25 when she leaves her only boyfriend to start a summer
tour of Europe by spending her last long weekend at
home lost in the woods with a bunch of girls. What was
I thinking?
JERUSHA: Tamra, it will be fun.
BECKY: Look around you. Isn't this a beautiful area? So
green and fresh. Let's try to appreciate where we are
and what we have. Look at the beauty that is America.
TAMRA: There are too many trees. They're blocking my cell
reception.
HEATHER: My feet are so swollen I can hardly get my shoes off.

1 MEGAN: There should be a place around here somewhere
 2 with less dirt.
 3 JERUSHA: It's called "camping out" ... out in the outside ...
 4 where there's dirt on the ground. Otherwise it would
 5 be called "camping in"!
 6 HEATHER: In, out, who cares? Camping? Eeesh!
 7 BECKY: This is a nice spot. But, if you want to, we can keep
 8 hiking until we can find a place we all like.
 9 HEATHER: Not on a bet. My feet are killing me. Look at this,
 10 blisters!!
 11 JERUSHA: If you had worn hiking boots like Becky and I
 12 did you wouldn't be complaining now about sore feet.
 13 HEATHER: Tell us Rush and Beck, what's it like to be
 14 perfect?
 15 TAMRA: Do you think if I stood over here where the trees
 16 are more open I could get the phone to work?
 17 MEGAN: Is there dirt on my back? I think I feel a twig
 18 stabbing me in the back.
 19 HEATHER: Well, something is stabbing us all in the back
 20 and I think it's Mother Nature.
 21 TAMRA: I think we should find a more open area ... you
 22 know, so the sun would warm us.
 23 JERUSHA: Are you still trying to make that phone work?
 24 TAMRA: Hard to do when we're in the middle of nowhere.
 25 HEATHER: Quit talking about the phone!!! Put it away, OK?
 26 Just put the stupid thing away.
 27 JERUSHA: Get used to it not working, Tamra.
 28 TAMRA: What!?
 29 JERUSHA: Well, you certainly don't think it's going to be
 30 able to make a connection back to the U.S. from France
 31 or Italy or England, do you?
 32 TAMRA: What!?
 33 BECKY: Your phone won't work there.
 34 TAMRA: No phone? Are you insane?
 35 HEATHER: So, what's the deal? Are we making camp here

1 or moving on? Personally, I'm getting tired of walking.
 2 TAMRA: Megan, she's kidding about the phone not
 3 working, right?
 4 MEGAN: It's starting to get cold. Maybe we should just
 5 camp here for the night.
 6 TAMRA: I need to call Todd now and tell him. *(She looks*
 7 *above at the offending trees.)* Rats!! Where's the stinking
 8 sky?
 9 BECKY: The ground looks pretty level here. We could pitch
 10 tents under these trees.
 11 TAMRA: Maybe my phone would work if we moved on.
 12 JERUSHA: I know there's a better spot about a mile on
 13 down a ways.
 14 HEATHER: A mile?! I am not moving another inch let alone
 15 another mile.
 16 MEGAN: I'm with Heather. My feet are screaming for relief.
 17 JERUSHA: If you had listened to me ...
 18 HEATHER: If we had listened to me, we'd be back in our
 19 own warm homes, resting comfortably before we leave
 20 on a long trip.
 21 BECKY: But what a boring way to spend the first days of a
 22 vacation. We're young, energetic, we've got beautiful
 23 country to explore.
 24 MEGAN: Beautiful? Look around you. Not a hotel room in
 25 sight, let alone room service ...
 26 HEATHER: We have to pitch tents and sleep in sleeping
 27 bags ...
 28 TAMRA: Who knows what kind of bugs and animals will be
 29 sniffing around us waiting to pounce and destroy ...
 30 HEATHER: *(Examining her feet)* And look at this ... *blood.*
 31 My feet are actually bleeding.
 32 MEGAN: I think I'm getting cramps and we all know what
 33 that means. And you show me where there's a
 34 bathroom!
 35 TAMRA: And my phone still doesn't work. This stinks.

1 BECKY: *(Starting to become more than a little irritated)* Good
 2 attitude. Here Jerusha and I plan a wonderful
 3 beginning to what should be the experience of a
 4 lifetime.
 5 JERUSHA: We do all the buying, packing, planning,
 6 arranging for rides ...
 7 BECKY: Our moms are the ones who drive us up here and
 8 make sure that everything is taken care of ...
 9 JERUSHA: And what do we get from you ... our friends?
 10 BECKY: We get grief.
 11 JERUSHA: Thanks a lot.
 12 HEATHER: OK, pity parade. Oh, poor Becky and Jerusha
 13 surrounded by their ungrateful friends.
 14 MEGAN: We didn't ask you to plan this, you know.
 15 TAMRA: We should have stayed home.
 16 MEGAN: Totally.
 17 BECKY: Oh, that sounds like a lot of fun.
 18 TAMRA: Or gone someplace that has some kind of
 19 civilization surrounding it. Cell connections,
 20 communication ...
 21 MEGAN: But no, we end up surrounded by dirt ...
 22 HEATHER: And bugs ...
 23 TAMRA: And wild animals ...
 24 HEATHER: And spiders ...
 25 MEGAN: And no guys ...
 26 TAMRA: And no phone!
 27 JERUSHA: *(Exploding)* OK, everyone, sit! Sit down now!!!
 28 BECKY: Yeah! *(to JERUSHA)* Why are they sitting?
 29 JERUSHA: Because we need to bond.
 30 TAMRA: Bond? I hate bonding.
 31 MEGAN: Bonding is stupid.
 32 HEATHER: What's the point? No one wants to stay here.
 33 JERUSHA: We shouldn't need guys around, or phones. Real
 34 friends just need to support each other.
 35 BECKY: Jerusha's right. We are here as friends and we need

1 to take the time *without boys and without phones* to
 2 renew that friendship or else it will die.
 3 JERUSHA: Friendships need to be nurtured.
 4 HEATHER: We'll have six weeks together to bond. Why start
 5 now? And why here?
 6 MEGAN: We couldn't nurture indoors? Or maybe in a posh
 7 resort with poolside service?
 8 TAMRA: And indoor plumbing.
 9 MEGAN: I can't stand being dirty. I'd kill for a shower.
 10 JERUSHA: If you mention the dirt one more time, Megan, I
 11 am going to kill you myself.
 12 HEATHER: Really, just shut up about the stinking dirt.
 13 JERUSHA: OK, that's enough! Here we are, all friends, and
 14 what are we doing? Bickering about dirt and
 15 bathrooms and phones.
 16 BECKY: That's right! We have the beautiful open sky above
 17 us, fresh clean air ...
 18 MEGAN: *(Muttering)* And dirt.
 19 JERUSHA: You could look at it as dirt, Megan, if that's what
 20 you want to do. I look at it as God's blanket for the
 21 Earth.
 22 MEGAN: Oh, please, spare us.
 23 JERUSHA: Sit down!!! Everyone!
 24 BECKY: Now!!!
 25 JERUSHA: Now, everyone hold hands.
 26 HEATHER: God help us. Holding hands.
 27 MEGAN: Why don't we all sing camp songs and tell stories.
 28 BECKY: Just do as you're told. We are going to bond as good
 29 friends or no one leaves here alive.
 30 TAMRA: Getting a little tense, Becky, even for you.
 31 BECKY: Sit! Now, everyone just be quiet. *(They all sit,*
 32 *surprised.)* Hold hands and be quiet. *(They do so for a*
 33 *few moments.)*
 34 HEATHER: *(Quietly)* OK, now what?
 35 BECKY: Just listen.

1 MEGAN: To what?
 2 BECKY: To us.
 3 TAMRA: But we're not saying anything.
 4 JERUSHA: The point is exactly that. We shouldn't need
 5 words to communicate.
 6 TAMRA: Good thing, since the phone's not working ...
 7 HEATHER: Oh, my goodness, how much more annoying
 8 can you be?
 9 BECKY: Don't make me hurt you, Tamra.
 10 MEGAN: *(After another moment or two of silence)* OK, I'm
 11 done bonding. Can we find a shower now? Or at least a
 12 semi-clean creek?
 13 JERUSHA: Just forget it. This is a waste of time ...
 14 BECKY: Rush ...
 15 JERUSHA: No. That's it. It's obvious that you and I are the
 16 only ones who really want to be here, who really want
 17 to be a part of nature. We're fighting a losing battle.
 18 BECKY: Maybe we should just go. Let's just pack it up and
 19 pack it in.
 20 MEGAN: *(Jumping up)* Good idea!
 21 HEATHER: Come on, you guys. Just calm down. No one
 22 wants to leave.
 23 MEGAN: *(Disagreeing)* Mmmmm.
 24 BECKY: Yeah, right.
 25 HEATHER: Megan, Rush and Becky have a point, you know.
 26 They did go to a lot of trouble to put this together and
 27 all any of us have done is complain.
 28 MEGAN: I guess so.
 29 JERUSHA: Look, we can take this weekend in the open
 30 forest and look for the negatives or we can take the
 31 beauty of what God has given us and be thankful for it.
 32 BECKY: We're going to be spending six weeks together in
 33 foreign countries. We should take some time and
 34 appreciate what we have here in this country. And
 35 appreciate what we have with each other.

1 MEGAN: As much as it pains me to say this, it is a kinda nice
 2 way to start a vacation.
 3 BECKY: See, you can get into this!
 4 HEATHER: And it is pretty out here ... in a sort of rustic way.
 5 MEGAN: And we will have all that time in hotels in Europe.
 6 HEATHER: Meeting really cute guys with really cute
 7 accents.
 8 JERUSHA: Right. We start off with no frills, just the basics.
 9 No plumbing, no men, just the open sky and each
 10 other.
 11 HEATHER: It could be fun.
 12 MEGAN: And it is for just these two days and then we're on
 13 the plane for parts unknown and men unmet ...
 14 BECKY: So, do we stay or do we leave?
 15 JERUSHA: Becky and I will do whatever you guys want to
 16 do.
 17 HEATHER: OK. I vote for staying.
 18 MEGAN: Whatever, I'm fine either way, I guess.
 19 HEATHER: Becky, Rush?
 20 BECKY: I'm staying.
 21 JERUSHA: I'll stay if everyone else wants to. I don't want
 22 anyone to feel forced. Megan?
 23 MEGAN: Yeah, OK. But I need to figure out something to
 24 raise my sleeping bag off the ground. I'm sorry, but I
 25 just can't sleep directly on dirt.
 26 BECKY: I'll help you rig up a cot of some kind. *(She looks*
 27 *over at TAMRA.)* Hey, Tam, what about you?
 28 HEATHER: Tamra! Do you want to stay? *(They watch her as*
 29 *she struggles to get her phone work.)*
 30 MEGAN: She won't care. Just lay down her sleeping bag and
 31 she'll eventually settle somewhere.
 32 TAMRA: Hey!! If I stand over here on this rock and lean to
 33 the left, with my leg in the air, my phone works!!
 34 JERUSHA: So, I guess that's a sign. We stay.
 35 JERUSHA, TAMRA, MEGAN, HEATHER and BECKY: We stay!