From the full length play: A Night Under The Stars By Tracy Wells

WHEN NATURE CALLS

GERI, a skeptic

ELLIS, afraid of monsters

AT RISE:

A rustic campsite in a clearing in the woods as before. A lit campfire is center. Two chairs are next to the fire. GERI, wearing a jacket, is seated in one. ELLIS, wrapped from head to toe in a thick blanket with only her face sticking out, is seated in the other. They each hold a mug.

GERI

(at the end of her story)

So I said to him, if you want another date with me, you're gonna need to leave that dog of yours at home!

(laughs for a moment, then realizes ELLIS is not reacting)

I said, you're gonna need to leave your dog at home!

(laughs again, then stops when ELLIS doesn't react; yelling)

Ellis!

ELLIS

(startles)

What?

GERI

Did you hear a word of what I just said?

ELLIS

You were talking?

GERI

Are you kidding me? I've been talking for the last twenty minutes about my date with Alex.

ELLIS

(takes the blanket off her head)

Oh, sorry. I guess this blanket is thicker than I realized.

GERI

It's not that cold out here.

ELLIS

I know. That's not why I brought the blanket.

GERI
You brought a huge, thick blanket for something other than to keep warm?

ELLIS

Of course.

GERI

And that reason is...

ELLIS

Monsters.

GERI

Right.

ELLIS

It's a scientifically proven fact that blankets protect you from monster attacks.

GERI (with a smirk)

Scientifically proven, eh?

ELLIS

Well, maybe not scientifically proven, but every kid knows its true.

GERI

But you're not a kid.

ELLIS

I'm aware.

GERI

You're an adult now, Ellis.

ELLIS

And you're point is...?

GERI

You can't still be afraid of monsters.

ELLIS

I can and I am.

GERI

So what are we talking about here? Vampires, werewolves...the boogeyman?

ELLIS Yes, yes, and yes. (counts the following off on her fingers) Plus Frankenstein, ghosts, demons, zombies, Voldemort... **GERI** Voldemort is not a monster. **ELLIS** I think Neville Longbottom would disagree with you there. (resumes her list) Aliens, swamp creatures, large moons... **GERI** (incredulously) Large moons? **ELLIS** Oh, yes. When they're all yellow or orange and really huge....super creepy! **GERI** You've got problems. **ELLIS** Tell me about it! (pulls the blanket back over her ears) **GERI** (reaches over and pulls the blanket off one ear) You know monsters aren't real, right? **ELLIS** How do you know, Geri? **GERI** Have you ever seen one? **ELLIS**

GERI

And your really think that blanket is going to protect you from all those monsters?

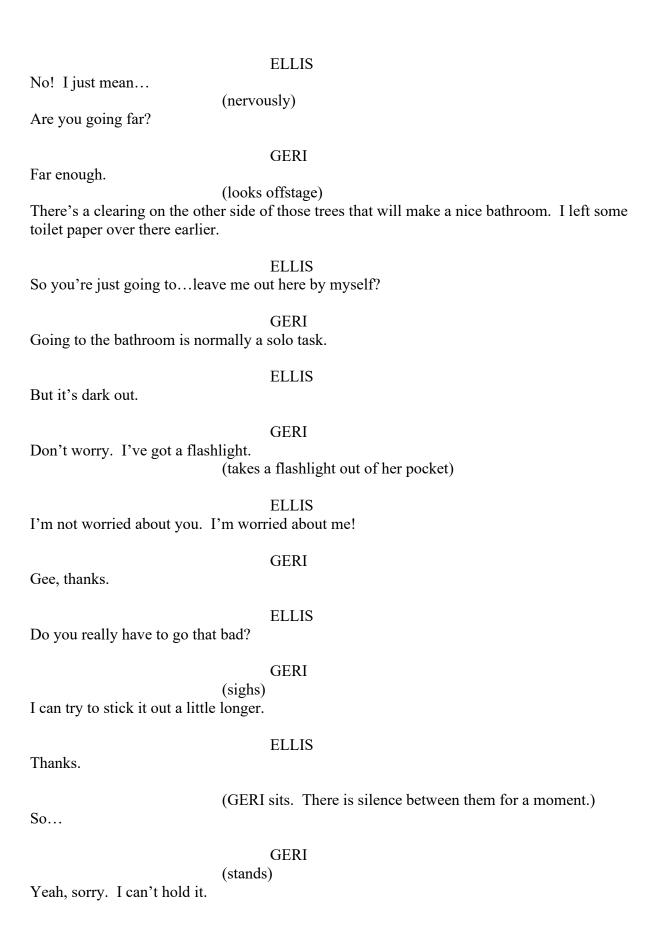
ELLIS

It's always worked before.

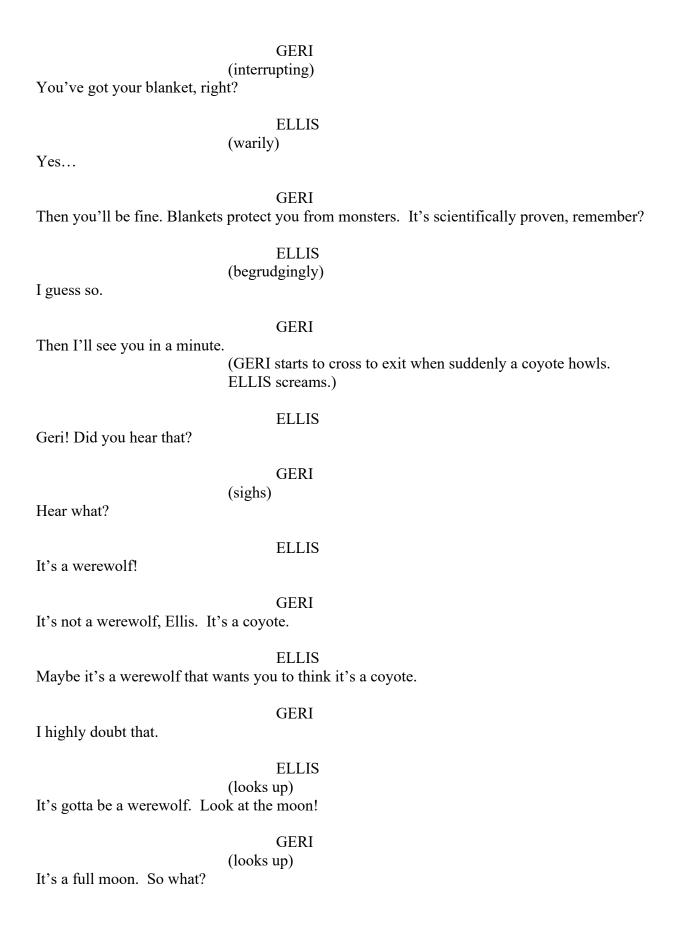
No. But I always have my blanket.

(takes the blanket off her head)

Tell me thisin the summer, when it's hot, do you ever sleep without the covers on?		
	GERI	
No. I have air conditioning.		
But would you even consider	ELLIS it, if you didn't have air conditioning, I mean?	
Sleep without the covers on?	GERI (thinks)	
No, probably not. I'd at least		
you're sleeping.	ELLIS you know you need something to cover and protect you while (pats her blanket)	
That's why I always make su	re to have a blanket with me. Keeps me safe.	
That logic is airtight.	GERI	
Thanks.	ELLIS	
And on that note, my bladder	GERI (stands) is about to burst.	
Where are you going?	ELLIS	
Off to dance the night away. I'm going to the bathroom.	GERI (sarcastically)	
	(rolls her eyes)	
	(starts to exit)	
But where?	ELLIS	
Why? Do you wanna watch?	GERI	



	ELLIS
Yes, you can!	
You suddenly are in direct co	GERI (chuckling) ommunication with my bladder?
NosorryI just don't wan	ELLIS t you to leave me here all by myself.
I won't be gone long.	GERI
But I'll be all alone.	ELLIS
No, you won't.	GERI
The monsters will be here too	(smirks)
Ah!	ELLIS (screams)
	(ELLIS hides under the blanket. GERI laughs and crosses to ELLIS, pulling the blanket away from her face.)
Sorry, I couldn't resist.	GERI
That was mean.	ELLIS
It won't happen again.	GERI
	(turns on her flashlight and starts to cross to exit)
You're still going?	ELLIS
Yes, I still very much have to	GERI (stops and turns back) go to the bathroom.
But—	ELLIS



ELLIS

(still looking up)

A big, huge, creepy, yellow moon!

(pulls her covers around her tighter)

Now I'm scared of the moon.

GERI

(upset)

Ellis, you've got to get it together. I'm about to explode here! Now, I'm going to the bathroom and you're staying here and you're going to be just fine. You got it?

(GERI starts to cross to exit when suddenly the ghostly howl of wind through the trees is heard. GERI stops.)

What was that?

ELLIS

(tucking the blanket tightly around her)

You'll just make fun of me.

GERI

(nervously)

Ellis, tell me...what was that noise?

ELLIS

Pretty sure it was a ghost.

GERI

That's what I thought!

(crosses quickly to ELLIS)

Got any room under that blanket for me?

ELLIS

I thought you had to go to the bathroom?

GERI

I can hold it.

(ELLIS opens the blanket and GERI scurries inside. The two huddle together, looking around nervously as lights fade to black.)

To read the rest of this play, please visit https://www.yourstagepartners.com/a-night-under-the-stars