

**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

No. But I always have my blanket.

GERI

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

ELLIS

It's always worked before.

(takes the blanket off her head)

Tell me this...in the summer, when it's hot, do you ever sleep without the covers on?

GERI

No. I have air conditioning.

ELLIS

But would you even consider it, if you didn't have air conditioning, I mean?

GERI

Sleep without the covers on?

(thinks)

No, probably not. I'd at least need a sheet.

ELLIS

Exactly. See, unconsciously you know you need something to cover and protect you while you're sleeping.

(pats her blanket)

That's why I always make sure to have a blanket with me. Keeps me safe.

GERI

That logic is airtight.

ELLIS

Thanks.

GERI

(stands)

And on that note, my bladder is about to burst.

ELLIS

Where are you going?

GERI

(sarcastically)

Off to dance the night away.

(rolls her eyes)

I'm going to the bathroom.

(starts to exit)

ELLIS

But where?

GERI

Why? Do you wanna watch?

ELLIS

No! I just mean...

(nervously)

Are you going far?

GERI

Far enough.

(looks offstage)

There's a clearing on the other side of those trees that will make a nice bathroom. I left some toilet paper over there earlier.

ELLIS

So you're just going to...leave me out here by myself?

GERI

Going to the bathroom is normally a solo task.

ELLIS

But it's dark out.

GERI

Don't worry. I've got a flashlight.

(takes a flashlight out of her pocket)

ELLIS

I'm not worried about you. I'm worried about me!

GERI

Gee, thanks.

ELLIS

Do you really have to go that bad?

GERI

(sighs)

I can try to stick it out a little longer.

ELLIS

Thanks.

(GERI sits. There is silence between them for a moment.)

So...

GERI

(stands)

Yeah, sorry. I can't hold it.

ELLIS

Yes, you can!

GERI

(chuckling)

You suddenly are in direct communication with my bladder?

ELLIS

No...sorry...I just don't want you to leave me here all by myself.

GERI

I won't be gone long.

ELLIS

But I'll be all alone.

GERI

No, you won't.

(smirks)

The monsters will be here too.

ELLIS

(screams)

Ah!

(ELLIS hides under the blanket. GERI laughs and crosses to ELLIS, pulling the blanket away from her face.)

GERI

Sorry, I couldn't resist.

ELLIS

That was mean.

GERI

It won't happen again.

(turns on her flashlight and starts to cross to exit)

ELLIS

You're still going?

GERI

(stops and turns back)

Yes, I still very much have to go to the bathroom.

ELLIS

But—

GERI
(interrupting)
You've got your blanket, right?

ELLIS
(warily)
Yes...

GERI
Then you'll be fine. Blankets protect you from monsters. It's scientifically proven, remember?

ELLIS
(begrudgingly)
I guess so.

GERI
Then I'll see you in a minute.
(GERI starts to cross to exit when suddenly a coyote howls.
ELLIS screams.)

ELLIS
Geri! Did you hear that?

GERI
(sighs)
Hear what?

ELLIS
It's a werewolf!

GERI
It's not a werewolf, Ellis. It's a coyote.

ELLIS
Maybe it's a werewolf that wants you to think it's a coyote.

GERI
I highly doubt that.

ELLIS
(looks up)
It's gotta be a werewolf. Look at the moon!

GERI
(looks up)
It's a full moon. So what?

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>