

How to Kill a Hiker...Twice!

by

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Revenge is just a cliff top away.

STORY

Ten years after a high school camp tragedy, a group of dysfunctional individuals find themselves on a B-grade hiking adventure. With a 'Weekend at Bernie's' type flair, the not so happy campers do whatever it takes to cover up the truth...regardless of the consequences.

DURATION: 45 mins

[CONTAINS COARSE LANGUAGE, DRUG & SEXUAL REFERENCES]

CAST - Has been staged with only 7 actors, where Ridge and Ariel are assumed (off stage) and corpse roles doubled up using Annabel and Erik. Hence the script has been written in that context so it's possible to adjust dialogue if you have actual actors for those roles). Also if extra cast are used as Hiker Extras, Additional Dialogue is added (see scene 1, 9)

VALENTINA(25): Intense, paranoid and at the end of her tether. Always comes up with the plans.

FRANNY(25): She feels everyone's pain and guilt. She thinks everything is her fault; and confesses to everything, just to ease the tension.

ANNABEL(25): Tomboy. A little embittered about life.

ERIK(25): A classic hypochondriac. He feels bugs are always on him and that his life could be over in a snap. Very dorky and whiney.

CONNER(25): Crass and shallow. Tries to be suave with the ladies, but is more lame than game.

STACY(18-20): Pretty and quiet until the Turrets kicks in.

RUBY(30): Firm hiking guide who is a hyperactive nature enthusiast - think David Attenborough on speed. Has a closet kinky side.

RIDGE(25): Cliché popular guy

ARIEL(25): Cliché popular girl

EXTRAS (if needed): (which if not mentioned, they basically enter and exit with Ruby)

MORE HIKERS(18-25) Male/Female

Scene 1 - Bottom of the Mountain

RUBY enters, loaded with gear and a clipboard.

RUBY: Okay everyone! Line up, front and centre! Hup two hup two!

VALENTINA, FRANNY, ERIK, ANNABEL, CONNER and STACEY enter. Also loaded up with gear but struggling to keep up. Ruby checks her list.

RUBY: Welcome all to Ruby's Rigorous Adventures. I'm your guide, Ruby, that's me. I like walks...

[Ruby does an adlib intro describing herself, what she likes and hates etc]

RUBY: Now if you just paid attention to what I did there, it was called a self introduction. And it is customary on my tours that we all get to know each other. So, who's first?

They jostle each other to go first; FRANNY gets shoved to front. Each self intro must end with a downtrodden victim feeling.

FRANNY: Hi. I'm Franny. I like anything that doesn't put people out. I was hoping this trip back to memory lane would be confrontation free...well that's what Conner told me...but I'm not so sure. *(steps back in line)*

RUBY: Nicely done Franny.

CONNER steps forward.

CONNER: Yeah, nice piece of work Franny. *(checks out her ass)* And nice piece.

HIKERS groan.

CONNER: It hasn't changed a bit.

ANNABEL: Not the only thing.

CONNER: Well I'm Conner; or as some people like to call me...Mister Slick! There's not much I don't like; especially between the sheets. And yeah, I suggested this trip for the appreciation of the flora, the fresh air and the chance to pick up just as much action as I had back in the high school days. Hey Annie-bella?

ANNABEL: Really? How much action can a virgin get?

CONNER not so smug as he steps back in line.

RUBY: Thankyou Mister Slick.

VALENTINA steps forward.

VALENTINA: Hey, I'm Valentina. I don't really know what to say, but I know most people here from school. I like to keep to myself. Too many things happen when you ...*(changes tack)*...but Conner said we could recreate the good times we had back in high school...so I guess we'll see. *(steps back)*.

RUBY: That's the spirit! Next!

ANNABEL: I suppose I'll go next...

CONNER shoves her forward.

ANNABEL: Okay then. I'm Annabel; what you see is what you get so...take it or leave it.
(steps back).

RUBY: Lovely Annabel. Next!

ERIK steps forward.

ERIK: Er, hi. I'm Erik. I didn't really want to come along but Conner made me. He made me hold a worm until I said yes.

ANNABEL: *(to Conner)* So you are getting some action then?

CONNER lost for words.

RUBY: Continue Erk.

ERIK: I like anything that doesn't have legs...especially multiple legs, with hair on them
(starts to hyperventilate).

VALENTINA drags ERIK back in line.

RUBY: Excellent now...

STACEY: Shit-bitch!

RUBY: What I was going to...

STACEY: Fuck-mole-poo poo head!

RUBY: I'm trying to say...!

STACEY: Argh! Fuckity shit shitty bitchy...

RUBY blows her whistle loud to cut Stacey off.

RUBY: I was trying to say, who's next?!

HIKERS subtly steps further back except Stacey.

STACEY: Hi I'm sh...fff...Stacey. I'm here as my pigfucker...therapist suggested I...fuck...pricks...that I meet new...shitty vaginas...people.

STACEY's about to outburst when the HIKERS step forward to join her (and silence her).

RUBY: Thankyou Stacey very, colourful.

[Additional lines if Extra Hikers used. RUBY: Next!

EXTRA HIKERS each step forward (extremely keen) and introduce themselves in a very military type style and repeat the same thing 'that they love Ruby's Rigorous Adventures' - Ruby flattered.]

RUBY: Now there's only two left, Ridge and Ariel.

HIKERS look at each other in shock - highly put out. Ruby spots Ridge and Ariel.(offstage)

RUBY: Oh look there they are still unpacking. Aren't they a cute couple?

VALENTINA steps up to Ruby.

VALENTINA: I thought you said it was just us on the hike?

RUBY: I decided to make an exception...and you're out of line!

ANNABEL drags VALENTINA back in line. Hikers groan and mumble with each other.

RUBY: As I was saying Ridge and Ariel. Ooh wow, he's really handsome and she's...gorgeous! Oh look, a little kiss, how cute...whoah, a lotta kiss! Yep, you gotta love the french.*(she's hot and flustered)* Looks like I better read for them. So we have Ridge. As we can see, ruggedly handsome, plays professional football, loves driving his sports car during the week and his girlfriend on weekends. His hobbies include, drinking until you puke, beating up losers, and drinking until you puke.

HIKERS react disgusted and annoyed.

RUBY: Finally we have Ariel. The head cheerleaders, she has the biggest shoe collection this side of the equator...*(Ruby starts gazing at her again)* Has the softest skin you have ever seen. Luscious red lips like a cherry flavoured...*(ruby snaps back to sensibility)* And she likes to volunteer at the homeless shelter; providing they don't look at her, touch her or smell. And get this, as high school sweethearts they've chosen my tour for their honeymoon...ohhhhh how sweet.

HIKERS gag.

RUBY: Well there we go, that's our troop. So hoist up your gear and let's make tracks people!

(RUBY blows whistle and exits)

VALENTINA: I can't believe that Ridge and Ariel are here. Who do they think they are?!

CONNER: Yeah! And he's not that rugged. But Ariel is a cutey.

STACEY: Bitch-mole-slut!

VALENTINA: Exactly.

CONNER: I hope so.

ANNABEL: Look; I know we all had our issues back in high school with the popular crowd.

HIKERS groan in remembrance.

ANNABEL: But we have to learn how to move on or it will drag us down for the rest of our lives.

HIKERS reluctantly agree.

ERIK: She's right. It's time we stood strong, rose above our past, embraced our fears and ...ARGH! ARGH! GET IT OFF!

ERIK writhes in panic as he has a bug on him. VALENTINA calmly flicks the tiny bug off his shoulder.

FRANNY: I think we should go before we get left behind.

RUBY blows her whistle (offstage).

RUBY(offstage): Hurry up you little slugs! Move it!

HIKERS groan and start trekking.

STACEY: B...b...bitch!

ALL exit.

Scene 2 - Mountain

RUBY (and EXTRA HIKERS if any) lead the MAIN HIKERS who are struggling.

RUBY: That's it everyone; doing well. *(she spots something ahead and smiles)*

Oh, aren't Ridge and Ariel doing well? Lovely work guys we'll be there soon!
(exits).

CONNER: I can't believe she made us carry Ridge and Ariel's bags!

VALENTINA: You're the one who jumped at the chance to carry Ariel's.

ERIK: Hey, he was simply trying to 'move on', y'know, 'rise above the past'?

HIKERS impressed at Conner.

CONNER: Actually I was hoping to rise in her pants.

They retract their admiration.

CONNER: What?

ANNABEL: Come on guys, let's not be beaten by this.

They all go to walk off when a huge branch swings back at hits the one in front, sending them all tumbling back.

VALENTINA: Very funny Ridge!

They all get to their feet in pain.

STACEY: Shit-pig-butt!

ERIK: Oh no there were ants on that branch!

ERIK flicks them off madly.

FRANNY: I'm sorry everyone, that was probably my fault.

ANNABEL: Don't be silly Franny; you couldn't hurt a fly.

VALENTINA: *(to Annabel)* Perhaps it won't be so easy to move on.

Annabel says nothing.

VALENTINA: Come on.

They all exit.

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Scene 3 - Further up Mountain

RUBY (and EXTRA HIKERS if any) lead the MAIN HIKERS who are now exhausted.

ANNABEL: Can we stop for a drink? I don't think I can go on.

CONNER: My mouth is dry! My mouth is dry!

RUBY: No we cannot! We are about to cross the most dangerous peak on the mountain.
Now where's Ariel and Ridge?

FRANNY: Well I think I saw them step off the track to have a cigarette.

RUBY looks like she's about to explode but smiles instead.

RUBY: Cheeky little devils. Anyway, I'm sure we'll find them, now brace yourself everyone; it's a long drop to a crushing death below!

They all creep along the edge. FRANNY spots them.

FRANNY: Oh look I see them over there!

ANNABEL: I'll go ask them to...

FRANNY: No it's my fault I doxed them in so I'll do it.

RUBY: Well okay but be careful! And if you get in trouble, remember to blow your whistle!

FRANNY exits.

Scene 4 - Dangerous Peak

FRANNY creeps along the edge in fear.

(NB: if there are actors playing Ridge and Ariel then adjust Franny's lines to allow for their actual responses)

FRANNY: Hey guys. What are you doing? *(waits for response)* I know, it's obviously a relaxing cigarette...*(response)* Okay I'll shut up. It's a long way down there eh? *(response)* Sorry...it's just that it doesn't look safe being that close to the edge... *(response)* Whoah! You just moved closer! *(response)* Okay Ridge, you're right, you can do anything you want but maybe if you just stepped back a little bit, we could join the others and *(screams)*

FRANNY dives on the ground; hanging over the edge (of the stage).

FRANNY: Okay just hold on; both of you! As much as I'd love to throw you an 'I told you so'... *(response)* Yes Ariel, *(getting tense)* I'll shut my ugly bitch face up, sure thing! Now if you both just grab a hand each. Oh god that's heavy! *(response)* I know it's mostly Ridge Ariel! I wouldn't dare think your skinny little size six would weigh anything! Now if you just let me concentrate...uh oh it's slipping!...quick, try and pull yourself up... *(response)* Jesus Christ Ridge just let it ring out, now's not the time to take a call! I can't hold on much longer! *(response)* oh for god sake Ariel don't worry about breaking a god damn nail just don't let...

FRANNY goes in shock as her hands relax. She stares over the edge then looks up to the audience.

FRANNY: Oh shit.

Scene 5 - Further up Mountain

RUBY and HIKERS creep cautiously along ridge. VALENTINA at the rear as FRANNY returns in a catatonic state. VALENTINA takes her aside.

VALENTINA: Franny? What's wrong?

FRANNY: I...er...they...

VALENTINA: Ridge and Ariel? Where are they?

FRANNY looks to her in fear; then tries to mime them plummeting to their deaths.

VALENTINA: Oh my god.

RUBY approaches.

RUBY: So did you have any luck finding our two little love birds?

FRANNY: I...er...they...

VALENTINA: Went back towards camp; probably wanting to start earlier on pitching the tents.

RUBY: Ah yes, they are keen little beans. Well I hope they make it down to the bottom in one piece.

FRANNY has an uncontrollable whimper. RUBY bemused

VALENTINA: Cramps.

RUBY: I see. Well, I think we should all head back everyone. Let's take a leaf out of Ridge and Ariel's book and pitch the tents!

RUBY blows whistle and exits. ANNABEL, STACEY and ERIK follow reluctantly.

VALENTINA: *(to Franny)* We have to keep this to ourselves...no-one else can know!

CONNER hovers around.

CONNER: Know what?

VALENTINA and FRANNY agree; take him aside and start to explain to him as they leave.

CONNER: Whoah! Wicked!

Scene 6 - Campsite

RUBY pitches a tent by herself. Checks her watch.

RUBY: Y'know Ridge and Ariel are taking quite a while to get back; must've really taken the long way. No matter, I guess I can pitch the tent for them; yes make it nice and cosy, and warm, for just the two of them...*(gets flustered again and exits)*.

ANNABEL, STACEY and ERIK pitch a tent but it falls down.

STACEY: Little bum prick mole stupid head!

ERIK freaks out something has crawled up his leg.

ERIK: Something just brushed past my leg!

ANNABEL: It's just one of the ropes! Now hold this end up.

STACEY trying to help ERIK, but he keeps swatting at flies.

ANNABEL: And where's the hammer gone?

STACEY and ERIK shrug blankly. ANNABEL sighs and looks around. CONNER, VALENTINA and FRANNY finish pitching their tent.

CONNER: So what do we do? We can't just do nothing.

VALENTINA: Uh uh. That's exactly what we're gonna do.

ANNABEL wanders closer to them.

VALENTINA: Until we figure out what to do, we have to keep this to ourselves, we can't say anything!

ANNABEL: Say what?

CONNER, VALENTINA and FRANNY look to each other and visually agree. VALENTINA takes ANNABEL into the tent as CONNER paces outside; FRANNY still in shock.

ANNABEL: *(screams)*

RUBY runs in.

RUBY: What was that? What's going on over there?!

CONNER: Nothing to worry about; just two girls in there, doing...stuff.

RUBY: *(feeling warmer)* Really?

CONNER thrusts his head into the tent.

CONNER: Yeah, what are you two doing in there?!

VALENTINA and ANNABEL (in shock) exit the tent.

VALENTINA: Just a spider.

ERIK: Spider?! What type?! Was it a funnel web, trap door, fiddle back, white tailed, garden wolf, net casting, crab, triangular, red back, black widow, golden orb, mimicking, St Andrew's Cross or red headed mouse spider?!

STACEY: *(just screams at him in panic)*

ERIK runs out in fear. The others stunned.

RUBY: I think I'll start on dinner. Stacey, come with me; perhaps we could use your talent to scramble the eggs.

RUBY escorts STACEY away.

VALENTINA: Okay here's what's gonna happen. We have to keep this to ourselves, so we'll meet up tonight to discuss...'it'.

ERIK calmly pokes his head amongst them..

ERIK: Discuss what?

They all sigh. VALENTINA escorts him away.

VALENTINA: Come on.

Scene 7 - Campsite (Night)

VALENTINA, FRANNY, CONNER, ERIK and ANNABEL sit in the tent.

ERIK: I can't believe this is happening. I mean, I worry about tripping and hurting my ankle but this is way bigger!

ANNABEL: I know; who could ever imagine an accident like this ever happening?

FRANNY: Well, I think it was an accident.

VALENTINA: What are you saying Francesca?

FRANNY: It all happened so fast. We were just talking and suddenly they slipped. I grabbed

onto both of them; god they were heavy, and I remember getting really annoyed with the way they were behaving, and I think a part of me wanted them to...

ANNABEL: Don't say it Franny; you didn't do it...did you?

VALENTINA: Of course she didn't!

FRANNY: Maybe I did. Maybe I let my hand get sweaty...

CONNER: (*dreamy*) Mmm, sweaty hand.

ANNABEL thumps him.

FRANNY: I told them to grab it hard.

CONNER chuckles and ANNABEL glares at him.

FRANNY: And then, it was like they just slipped out.

ANNABEL raises a fist to CONNER.

CONNER: I didn't say anything!

VALENTINA: Look Franny; there was nothing you could've done to save them.

ERIK: Yeah, even if we did all wish they would just drop off a cliff.

ANNABEL: Maybe we should just report it to Ruby and she'll tell the police.

They all seem to agree except VALENTINA.

VALENTINA: Are you kidding?! No-one's going to believe us.

FRANNY: She's right! I'm going to prison!

ANNABEL: (*to Valentina*) Then explain yourself.

VALENTINA: Think about it. We can't tell Ruby because we've already lied and said they were here; and Erik's right.

ERIK: I am?

VALENTINA: When you said we all wish they would drop off a cliff. Everyone we know, including Ruby, knows how much we hated Ridge and Ariel back in high school. We are the number one suspects! And if any of us want to have a future that's not chained up in a smelly little cell...(*to Erik*) with cockroaches!

ERIK: (*screams*)

VALENTINA: Then we have to do whatever it takes to cover it up.

CONNER: You don't mean...

VALENTINA: We have to find the bodies, drag them back to camp, put them in their tent, and pretend they're sleeping

ANNABEL: That's not a very good plan.

VALENTINA: Well it's a start! Anybody else have a better idea?

No one does.

VALENTINA: Fine. Then we're all agreed. When Stacey and Ruby are asleep, we go fetch us some corpses.