

THE RAIN

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Dedidated to Jack
Hardman,
without his help this play
would not be possible... ..

Charachters

Jack Hardman

Jenine Hardman

Ed

Lois

Counselor

Farmer

Farmer's Son

1st Engineer

2nd Engineer

Act One

Setting: Dining hall in an average summer camp, somewhere in the U.S.A.
Time : The near future.

(curtain rises)

Scene opens with four people in the room. Lois, the local cook is at the stove frying ice cubes in a pot. Lois is in her late thirties, but has the sass of a spinster. She is wearing a white tee shirt and blue shorts. Eddy, Lois's husband, is Dressed in a sweatshirt and jeans, standing by the door at right of stage looking out into the rain. Jack Hardman, a short man in his early fourties (however he looks like a 25 year old) is sitting by the fire, sharpening the blade of a chain saw. He is dripping wet, dressed in jeans and a jacket. ~~Lois~~ Jenine, his wife is sitting beside him, motionless, with a notebook across her lap.

Jenine: Jack?

Jack : Yes? (takes off baseball cap)

Jenine: Was that necessary, I mean buying that new chain saw today. The old one works fine it seems.

Jack : (rubbing his head) Well Jenine, look at it this way. If we have only one chain saw, then we can only cut down one tree at a time. Also, a bluejay*or a Hawk* can watch someone use two chainsaws at once. It will be a new experience for him, and one camper is worth \$400. \$800 if he stays all summer.

Jenine: I see.

Ed : It's coming down in buckets out there.

Jenine: (worried) Yes, I wish it would stop; its been raining for days.

Jack : (alarmed) What do you mean? It's a new experience!
(gets up walks to door, puts cap back on and walks outside with chainsaw in hand) I'll be in time for dinner.

Jenine: (stands up) What are you going to do? (No Reply)

ED : I don't understand him. Or this weather either.

Jenine: (worried) He hasn't been himself since last week when camp started with maximum number of campers. I just wish it would stop raining.

Lois : Don't worry about it now. The ice cubes are done. Here, eat them before they get warm.

Jack's voice can be heard faintly offstage ~~sax~~ chanting,
"Rain rain, go away,
Get those campers,
Make them pay"

His voice fades into the distance as the lights dim & curtain falls.

*name given to groups of campers.

Act Two

Scene: Dining hall, 5 days later. Ed and Jack are sitting by the fire. Jack is soaked, drying himself off and picking his teeth with a piece of wet bark. A young man, a counselor, enters from stage left. He is in his early twenties. He has long blonde hair, a moustache and a wispy beard, and is carrying an umbrella made out of old, cut down trees, and is drenched.

Counselor: (anxiously) Mr. Hardman?

Jack : (Looking up, rubbing his head) Yes, what is it counselor.

Counselor: (hesitating) A-a-a...Jack, I came down here to complain about the canoes in my cabin.

Jack : (interested) Now let me see if I heard you right. Now you said there are canoes in your cabin is that correct.

Counselor: Yes.

Jack : How did the canoes get into your cabin, counselor?

Counselor: I guess they washed ashore in there sir.

Jack : Doh't be ridiculous. The water line is no where near your cabin.

Counselor: (impatiently) When was the last time you looked. I swam ~~down~~ down here. The water line is over the floor of my cabin, and the lower bunks are covered by water. My campers just returned from their overnight and all have Pneumonia. I think we'd better send them home.

Jack : (Alarmed and apparently disgusted) Send them home???? Why this is a fantastic opportunity to create a new experience. Improvise! Organize a game of water football, or canoe over to the woodslore area for a cookout, or have a swim meet at the pavilion. You could even have spear ~~fix~~ fishing at the archery range. Make it work counselor.!!!

Counselor: (dumfounded) Y-y-y-yes Jack. (exits)

Ed : Jack, im beginning to wonder about staying here myself, in this horrid rainy weather.

Jack : (determined) Now ED.... if I told you once, I told you a thousand times, not to accentuate the negative. ELIMINATE the negative. Accentuate the positive. You should be happy that we are not experiencing a drought.

Ed : I guess so Jack. (while Jack was talking, a farmer about 50 years of age, wearing a green tee shirt and jeans & suspenders walked in unnoticed)

Farmer : (concerned) ~~Jack~~ Hardman, I just swam down here from the ranch. The hay is soaked and the machinery is ruined.

Jack : You must improvise. Don't let this rain bother you. It's a new experience. I've been meaning to talk to you anyway. See what you can do about converting the hay-bailer into a seaweed harvester. I figure we might as well take advantage of the situation. Also, when you swim back up to the ranch, how about scratching the word "woods" from our sign, so that it reads; "WELCOME TO A WATER WONDERLAND". Make it work farmer.

Farmer : (smiling) Hardman, You're amazing. (light fades as farmer puts a life preserver around his neck and exits.)

(farmers voice is heard in the distance singing:

"You make hay in the sunshine
Seaweed in the rain
Jack Hardman's enough
To drive you insane.....

(curtain)

ACT ThReE

Scene: One week later. It is still coming down in buckets. Jack Hardman is sitting on top of a blue raft at a desk, working the deys of an adding machine. There is nothing to be seen but water, as if he were in the middle of an ocean.
Ed drives up in a motorboat, dressed in a green raincoat, shuts off engine.

Ed : Jack. That idea of yours won't work. If we try to put pontoons on every building in camp, it will be a failure. The concrete walls and floors will never float. Besides, the pontoons will cost a mint.

Jack : Right Ed, and that's why I figure it will be better, if instead of bringing camp up to us, we go down to camp.

Ed : (astonished) Go down?? In 30 feet of water? How?

Jack : Simple! Buy scuba tanks and face masks for every camper. We should be able to pick up a used air-compressor for a couple thousand, and ~~we~~ save money on the deal. We could convert the bus into a submarine, and be in full swing again. Where's the farmers son by the way, I want to see him.

Ed : I don't know. But I'll send him over here if I see him.
(starts motorboat and exits)

(Shortly, in paddles the farmers son in a canoe. He is wearing a green tee-shirt and jeans, and a hat with an STP sticker on it.)

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F. Son : You said you wanted to see me Jack??

Jack : Yes I have a list of things for you to buy in town.

F. Son : (interrupting) Excuse me Jack, the town is evacuated. This part of the state has been declared a disaster area for a week now. The

nearest dry town is 45 miles away.

Jack : (angry and disturbed) I don't care if you have to go to Timbuctoo*** just get me what's on this list!!
(holds up list and reads it aloud) 125 scuba tanks and facemasks, 1 air compressor, 15 spear guns, 2 waterproof chain saws, and a 50 lb. bag of seaweed seeds.
And, on the way past Maxwell the horse man's place, stop off and tell him I'd like to trade in my horse on some porposus or squids.

F. Son : This will be pretty expensive.

Jack : (pounding some more on the adding machine keys, and pulling out a sheet of paper) 88 thousand dollars and 10¢ to be exact. But well worth it. Who ever heard of an underwater summer camp before?

F. Son : (to jimsel) Who ever wanted to.....

Jack : It will be a new experience. WE can advertise, and have a slogan like, "FALCON UNDERWATER SUMMER CAMP-- THE CAMP THAT MAKES IT WORK"
(jack hands farmers son a coffee can.) Here. This is for bailing out the rowboat if the rain gets any heavier. Make it work farmer!
(farmer's son rows offstage)
Jack looks thoughtful, puts his finger to his chin, looks up at the sky and smiles.

Jack : (to himself) No more water bills.....
(the light fades as jack punches out a few more keys on the adding machine.
Offstage a voice chants:
"To kings and queens,
and pawns the same.
Make it work,
That's the name of the game,
Make it work, thats the name of the game..... ..

CURTAIN

ACT FOUR

Scene: Raft, morning, a week later. Jack and Jenine are sleeping. It is early morning, and the rain has stopped, and the sky is blue. Jenine wakes up.

Jenine : (poking Jack) Jack! Wake up!

Jack : (shaken and confused) What is it? (batting his eyes)

Jenine : The rain has stopped!

Jack : (worried) Oh my.....oh well I guess it won't hurt ~~and~~ anything to see a clear sky again.

Jenine : Lord no! And the water level has already gone down a little. (happily)

Jack : (jerking out of bed in surprise) Wha? Oh! You can see the tops of the trees above water. (distressed) Butll..but, what about the water wonderland?

Jenine : Well Jack, I guess it will just have to be a "woods and water wonderland once again.

Jack : Why? But that's an old experience! (looks up at the sky, with a look of defeat in his eyes)↓
(softly, to himself) Water bills.....
Offstage a voice chants:
"The woods are back
The water is gone
Turn that faucet
Right back on.

Curtain

ACT FIVE

Scene: Dining hall, one week later. The sun is shining brightly through the door. Everyone is sitting around a table. Everyone looks concerned about something...

Jenine : Jack hasn't gotten out of bed for three days, ever since camp dried up, as if there's nothing to get up for.

Counselor: I don't know why? Camp is operating well, and all my campers are happy. The only thing that they won't do is go swimming. (every one becomes quiet as Jack Hardman enters the room. He drags himself in and throws himself down ~~off~~ onto the bench. He looks badly beaten and defeated in spirit. He looks like a man in his fifties.

Ed : (Cheerfully) Good morning Jack.

Jack : (half heartedly) Good morning Ed. (Jack looks out the door, at the sunny sky, and frowns sourly) What a lousy day. ~~I think~~ I think I'll go back to bed. (head bent down, Jack schuffles out of the room)

Ed : I was afraid it would come to this.

Lois : I hate to see it happen to him.

Counselor: He was a good man.

Ed : Oh well counselor, lets get moving. We've got a lot of things to do today. The junkman is coming for the scuba tanks, and we've got to get those shriveled up squids buried.

Counselor: I never did like squids

(light fades as Ed and the counselor walk off stage)

Curtain

ACT SIX

Scene: ~~xx~~ A reservoir, 75 years later. Two men are standing on the top of a dam, looking over the water.

1st Engineer : Yes this dam has been here for 6 years. None of this land here was ever covered by water.

2nd Engineer : What was on the land.

1st Engineer : At one time there was a summer camp here, and then it closed down all of a sudden. Legend has it that there was an old man who lived in the woods in a shack, and that he never came out, except when it rained. But when it did he'd come out and sing and dance and cut down trees like you've never seen. But the state evicted him from the land because he refused to pay his water bill, and he died of thirst.

2nd Engineer : What would make someone act like that? Man, you'd have to be some kind of nut.

1st Engineer : Oh, I guess so, but forget it. It's lunchtime!

2nd Engineer : Great! I'll buy you a beer.

(the engineers exit, ~~xxx~~ the light fades, and the ~~curtain~~ curtain closes)
A woman's voice is heard offstage singing:

"Just a little boy
Standing in the rain
The gentle rain that falls for years!
And the grass is gone.
The boy disappears
And rain keeps falling
like helpless tears!
And what have they done to the rain.....
Malvina Reynolds

THE END