



Part 1

“Wow mom, check out this camp!” Alex yelled and pointed to an add’
in the Sunday paper. “It looks so awesome! Can I go?!”

“I’ll think about it, it does look quite fun. Remember, advertisements can fool you.” She lectured.

“Yah, whatever I still want to try it.” Alex replied. The add’ said the camp was basically a week-long mock battle. In the game there were two teams, attackers and defenders. Each team was divided into eight groups. To start off the defenders got to stay in cabins and the attackers stay in tents. The goal was to have the most cabins at the end of the week by fighting with fake weapons. “This camp is epic!”

“I’ll definitely consider it, you know our financial situation isn’t great, and you wanted to go to all those other camps.”

“Please! If it’s the only camp I go to this summer and I get no other costly things or activities for a whole year!” Alex pleaded.

“Okay, it’s more than a maybe, but it’s still definitely not a promise.” She said. To avoid any more conversation she left to go “tend” to her garden. Nothing ever grows there; she just uses it to get away. Alex was left alone to dream about the best time he’ll ever have. He thought about what team he’d rather be on, how good he was going to be, and the unaccountable amounts of fun he was going to have.

Later, after a considerable amount of begging, extreme politeness on Alex’s part and a lot of hemming and hawing on his mom’s part, Alex was allowed to go to the camp. On the day Alex was told that it was possible, he

was so overjoyed, that at breakfast he just sat there, and talked and thanked and fidgeted and whistled and hummed and talked and talked some more. He didn't even eat a bite. All day that day he planned out what stuff to bring, got his suitcase out of the garage, and much, much more. When he'd done what he wanted, he went on to the website with the families old, slow as molasses computer to check out more rules and details about the camp. He learned that there are roles each cabin must have, the basics were thief, Lieutenant (only for the older groups, the younger groups have councilors to take that role), warrior or dualist, and archer. The rest of the roles were undetermined, just in case there were more people. He also learned that there were three types of leaders (all but Lieutenant are played the staff). Lieutenant is the cabin leader. Captain is the camp owner's assistant and is in charge of making up strategies and telling the Lieutenants how to follow it through. The Lords (of which there are only two) are the two owners of the camp and also take part in the game and strategy. Alex clicked on the link that said lodge and food and learned there is a lodge in which there is the "jail" where people go if they break the in game rules (it's not like a regular jail there are plenty of activities and is made so you can escape), in the middle, next to the jail is the commons or resting room where no weapons are allowed and there are big comfy couch-chairs and a fireplace. Best of all there is the feasting hall where the camp has the only two all camp feasts in which they celebrate the campers coming, then the campers leaving, and the winner. The rest of the meals are participant and councilor made using

either camp fires or camping stoves. In the back of the lodge is the health center/hospital and on top of the lodge are the camp owners' suites.

Part 2

"Come on mom, were goanna be late!" Alex said, a little too loudly and a little too excitedly into his sleeping mother's face. She was so startled she sat up, a little too fast; just to find Alex's head in the way. Smash! "Ow!" Alex yelped.

"Shi-oot! Ow!" Alex's mother yelled, and almost swore.

"I'm sorry! I'm sorry! Are you okay?" Alex was so embarrassed; he realized that he was a little too excited.

"I'm fine, let's have some cereal and get on the road; it's a thirty minute drive and the camp starts at ten," Alex's mother looked at the clock, "Oh my god! Were goanna be late! Eat your cereal in the car; I'll have breakfast when I get home." she quickly got ready and stuffed some cereal

in a sandwich bag for Alex. Alex grabbed his suitcase and ran for the car. The car ride was beautiful, it was through the mountains.

As soon as the car stopped in front of the lodge, Alex took off his seatbelt, opened the car door and jumped out all in one swift, exited move. He ran inside. The main entrance went right into the commons where all the signing-in and stuff was going on. Alex handed his suitcase to his mother when she caught up then he bolted off to meet the other kids. The people that had been there before were all in groups chatting and pointing at the new arrivals. Alex could easily pick out the new guys like him, he began to mingle, and after awhile he made two friends, Will and Eric. His mom came over and told him he would be a defender this summer (she found out while signing Alex in) she hugged him and they said their goodbyes. Not long after, all the kids were called over to the feasting hall. There the kids were separated into their groups, Alex was lucky enough to be with his new friend Will, but Eric was on the attacker's side. After being divided into their groups and after the campers met their leaders, the owners of the camp announced what side they personally would be on then explained the rules and basics of the camp. Alex learned a few things, like there was a lake and there was a cabin in the middle of it on stilts and a cabin on the shore. Both lake cabins had four boats which consisted of canoes and one very small, three manned sailboat each. Also there was a zip line over the lake. There is only two ways to get to the cabin, zip line and the only way to ride the zip line is every person to ride it must beat the zip line guard alone, but also to ride the zip

line the cabin can fight the zip line guard and his body guards together, if they do and someone finds out, they go to the "jail" In the lodge. The other way to get to the cabin in the middle of the lake is to take over the cabin on the shore and use the cabin's boats to ambush the cabin in the middle of the lake. Another thing Alex learned is that if you are "killed" you go to the hospital (where there is activities, but it's not as fun as the camp itself) for a certain amount of time depending on what weapon "killed" you. The other new thing he hadn't known before is that if you are tired, cranky, homesick, just if there is any reason you want to stop fighting, maybe just want to separate from the rest of the camp and have some alone time, then you go to the commons. The commons is just a resting place. There are no weapons allowed in the commons. Other than that all the stuff was just review like the goal of the game and so on. After rules were explained the welcoming feast began. The meal was delicious; a huge variety of food was served while one of the owners and a few other adults played music. At the end of the meal, dessert was served. It seemed like there was every kind of dessert ever invented.

After the meal was served everyone went to their cabins or tents. Alex's cabin was on the far edge of the camp. Once their roles were chosen (Alex was chosen as an archer, Will too), night watches were chosen, and everyone but the first watch went to sleep. The first night was uneventful for Alex's group; people were allowed to wake up at their own pace and when everyone was awake, the cabin group planned out an attack.

Part3

Alex was crouched behind a bush with his new friend Will. They were awaiting the signal, well actually only Will was looking for it because he was in a much better spot to see than Alex. "Will, what's going on?" Alex whispered.

"Shhh! They're coming!" Will warned Alex.

"Okay! Okay! I'll be quiet!"

"SSSHHHH! SHUT UP!" Will yelled at Alex as quietly as he could. At first all the ambushers (Alex and Will included) heard was mumbling, and then it became more clear...

"Did you hear? There's supposed to be a planned ambush on..." Will was given the signal; he quietly got his bow in hand, and notched a foam tipped arrow. Alex did the same. They didn't get to hear the last bit of what the boy was saying. Together Alex and Will stood up and Aimed, They saw a line of campers; there were three horsemen among them. Rules said, in battle, horses must be put aside and tethered to a tree far enough away to not get spooked. Also, it was against the rules to attack a horse, with or

without riders. These rules were only safety precautions, nothing more. Alex and Will remembered their instructions: Take three seconds to aim, then release and load again, after you empty your quiver, attack with your swords. Be careful not to attack team members. They did as they were told, they released, and at almost the exact same time, the other two archers from the other side released. Chaos soon followed; Alex must have had beginner's luck because he hit the camper who looked most dangerous, in the chest, on his first shot. The boy looked down at his chest, then the fake arrow that had hit him which was now on the ground. He sat down and put his sword on the ground next to him, he was out! Before Alex had much time to celebrate, the two archers on the far side of the battle released another arrow each. Alex was snapped back into action; he notched another arrow, aimed and fired. He repeated the same movements over, and over, and over again until he had an empty quiver. With all his other shots Alex managed to only put one more person out of the game by hitting him in the torso and disable another by hitting her in the arm. Will put three people out of the battle and the archers on the other side, Alex and Will and well, basically everyone but the archers themselves had no clue. Alex looked around, then jumped into the battle, sword flailing. Alex really didn't do much before he saw Eric, Eric his other new friend. Alex couldn't miss a chance like this! He rushed at Eric, sword out in front of him, ready to kill! By the way Eric was fighting; he was obviously chosen as a warrior or dualist, selected for his skill, his amazing skill. Alex didn't have time to realize his mistake, as he

would learn later Eric fences in his free time and is very good at it. Eric looked at Alex and smiled, he knew he was going to win. Eric's sword was a blur in the air and Alex was out in less than two seconds. Darn! He thought, Eric is some fighter! Alex didn't pay attention to the rest of the battle, he was too into his fuming that he had been so dumb and hadn't even gotten a chance to fight with his sword all because of Eric. The battle didn't last much longer, the archers ran out of arrows after greatly reducing the number of the enemy, and then ran in as fresh swordsmen and Alex's team won. The people who had gotten out (including Alex, but not Eric or Will) were led away to the jail to wait to come back in. All three horsemen were taken out and the group of people who had gotten out had to wait for them to retrieve their horses before walking to the jail.