

**“At Any Cost...”**

**By the Junior Pichitawno Players**

**Cast of Characters:**

**Turah** ..... Amy Hickey

**Marroc** ..... Elaina Edmunds

**Hulu** ..... Emma Hussey

**Drazu** ..... Toni Marie Harris

**Simone** ..... Taylor Keefe

**Riley** ..... Rebecca Burry

**Carly** ..... Natalie Ennis

**Meredith** ..... Mackenzie Rose

**Program Notes:**

Greed is a part of human nature. In this play, the Junior Pichitawno Players explore how greed can have devastating effects on others.

## At Any Cost...

### Scene 1

*Curtains open. Four explorers sit around a table.*

**Simone:** Guys, we have a big problem here. Our company has been in a lot of trouble over the past couple of years. Numbers aren't good. The launch of our cucumber hand cream really didn't go well after it started giving our customers horrible rashes. We've lost a lot of money investing in that product. To save the company, we need to come up with a game plan to make some fast money. Anybody have a suggestion?

**Riley:** This may seem like a long shot, boss, but I was contacted by an entrepreneur recently and she had an interesting pitch for a new product. Her name is Meredith and she mentioned a rare plant with great cosmetic qualities.

**Simone:** A rare plant?

**Riley:** That's all she told me.

**Simone:** [*sigh*] This sounds like a waste of time.

**Riley:** Well boss, I thought it might be worth a shot. I arranged a meeting with her and she's waiting outside now.

**Carly:** We might as well hear her out.

**Simone:** Bring her in then, why not.

*Carly exits to get Meredith. Meredith enters the room.*

**Meredith:** Good evening, I have the opportunity of a lifetime for you. What I'm about to tell you can't leave this room.

**Simone:** Oh really? [*sarcastically*] Let's hear it.

**Meredith:** Well I'll start at the beginning. I picked up a writing desk that I had inherited from my Grandfather. For years I had thought the desk was empty.

**Simone:** Get to the point. We don't have all day.

**Riley:** Simone, just give him a chance.

**Meredith:** As I was saying, I thought the desk was empty, but when I got home, I was lifting the desk up the stairs and I heard something rustling inside. I removed a panel.

**Carly:** And ...

**Meredith:** I found an old journal.

**Carly:** What does that have to do with us?

**Meredith:** The journal belonged to Edward Belmont!

**Carly:** Do you mean *the* Edward Belmont? The famous explorer?

**Meredith:** Of course. What other Edward Belmont do you know?

**Simone:** That's ridiculous! Are you sure that journal is real?

**Meredith:** I've read through the journal many times and I really believe it to be authentic. I wouldn't have come here if I didn't think it was real.

**Carly:** A hidden journal...

**Riley:** Not all of his work was published. It's possible that this journal has information that only we'd know about.

**Carly:** So what was in the journal that you think we can use? We're a cosmetic company!

**Meredith:** Aha! In the journal, there is a map of an uncharted island. There's notes in the journal that talk about a unique species of plant that only grows there.

**Simone:** A plant. What would we want with a plant?

**Meredith:** Here in this journal Edward speculates the magnificent effects of this plant! He says that after swimming in a lagoon surrounded by these plants his skin started to change. It became more youthful and old scars began to heal.

**Simone:** That's impossible! This is a waste of time and effort!

**Carly:** Boss, you know the state of the company. We may have to take chances and try the impossible if we want to save the company.

*Alphonse begins packing his things.*

**Meredith:** I have other companies who are interested, sorry to have wasted your time  
*[gets ready to walk out].*

**Simone:** Hang on! We haven't made our final decision yet!

*They gather together, whispering.*

**Carly:** Make the travel arrangements! You got a deal!

*End of Scene 1.*

**Scene 2**

*Setting up a tent, swatting at flies, complaining- heat, carrying stuff.*

**Simone:** Thank God we're here, took long enough.

**Carly:** It feels like we've been travelling for days. I don't think I've ever been on so many planes.

**Riley:** Yeah, never mind the boat ride to the island. My hair! How am I going to spend all this time without my hair products!

**Simone:** My Blackberry isn't even working.

**Meredith:** It doesn't matter, there's no cell service here anyway.

**Carly:** No cell service?! Where are we? Narnia?

**Simone:** Well, we're here with a job to do. The quicker we get this done, the quicker we can get out of here.

**Meredith:** I've never seen so many plant species in one place before. We might have a hard time finding what we're looking for.

**Simone:** Well, we'll have to get started first thing in the morning. Let's finish setting up this tent and get some sleep.

*Flash over to natives.*

**Marroc:** Hey! We just saw some others! They aren't from the island.

**Turah:** Who are they?

**Hulu:** What do you mean "others"?

**Marroc:** I don't know? They're just wandering around and talking. Can we go meet them?

**Hulu:** NO! Absolutely not! They could be dangerous. We don't know why they're here or what they want. Just stay out of their way.

**Turah:** OK, fine.

**Marroc:** Shhh... come with me.

*The natives sneak off to see the explorers.*

### **Scene 3**

*The explorers are sitting around the fire.*

- Riley:** We should probably head to bed soon. We've got a long day tomorrow.
- Simone:** So what's our plan? Where do we even start looking for this plant?
- Meredith:** Well, there are no notes about exactly where it is –
- Simone:** WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE ARE NO NOTES?
- Meredith:** Calm down! It says here that it needs lots of water, so we should check by a water source.
- Carly:** Great! It's settled! We'll head out in the morning. I don't know about you but I'm going to bed.

*The next morning, the explorers walk into the natives' settlement. They are looking into bushes, complaining about getting cut and scratched by plants.*

- Carly:** Is this it?
- Meredith:** WAIT! *[holds up paper]* It's a match! Carly, you're a genius! This is it!
- Riley:** Carly? A genius?
- Meredith:** Guys, I think something's been staying here. It looks like this plant has been eaten, but there's nothing in the book about other inhabitants.
- Simone:** Maybe we're not alone on the island.
- Riley:** Do you think they'll mind if we take the plant?
- Simone:** Who cares? We need it and we're going to take it! I pity the fool who gets in my way!

*Kids poking faces through trees, rustle trees.*

- Carly:** What was that?

*Kids' faces disappear. Footsteps.*

- Simone:** Anyway, we start harvesting immediately.
- Carly:** Oh my god, was that a spider? Let's get out of here now.

*End of Scene 3.*

**Scene 4**

*Kids run in.*

**Turah:** The newcomers are going to take our leaves!

**Hulu:** And how would you know that?

**Turah:** Umm...

**Marroc:** Could you really expect us not to peek?

**Hulu:** If you guys are right, then we are in trouble. Drazu, maybe we need to check this out.

**Drazu:** I don't think we have to worry. The last time the others came to the island was a very long time ago. Legend has it they arrived at sunset quietly as they pulled into the shore. No one knew why they came, but they realized that they were taking the limited food source. They thought they would face starvation! Without warning, they left as quietly as they came. They were never seen again.

**Marroc:** Until now.

**Hulu:** What if things are different this time?

*Drazu shakes her head.*

*The kids sneak off.*

**Marroc:** I have a plan!

**Turah:** Oh, that doesn't sound good!

**Marroc:** Just hear me out, we need to save our leaves so maybe we can scare them off and then they will leave the island.

**Turah:** Are you crazy? How are we going to scare them off?! Have you seen them? They are HUGE!

**Marroc:** They don't have to see us they just have to hear us. If we are hiding in the bushes then they don't have to know how many of us there are.

**Turah:** I don't know Marroc, that sounds dangerous. We don't want to get in trouble.

**Marroc:** Ah, come on, we can be heroes and everyone would be so proud, where is your courage?

**Turah:** Alright fine!

*End of Scene 4.*

**Scene 5**

**Riley:** It's great that we found so many samples today.

**Carly:** Yeah, if it even works.

**Simone:** It better! How much do we know about this Meredith anyway?

**Riley:** Not much actually.

**Simone:** What do you mean not much?! You were supposed to do a background check on her.

**Riley:** Why is it always me? I'm always the one that has to do the hard work, plus I was planning our trip.

*Enter Meredith.*

**Carly:** We followed this person all the way here and we don't even know if what she is saying is true?

**Meredith:** I've studied plants all my life and I believe that what is said about this plant is true. I can tell by its color and smell that it contains a rare enzyme, it has a quality that rejuvenates the skin.

**Simone:** Is that so? Can you prove it?

**Meredith:** Here, give me your hands. Watch the scratches very closely.

**Simone:** I don't see anything happening.

**Meredith:** Give it time [*pause*].

**Simone:** IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! Imagine how much money we can make from this [*shows Carly*].

**Carly:** We can make a fortune! We can't let anybody find out about this. How can we keep it a secret?

**Simone:** We take what we can and destroy what is left.

- Riley:** Is there any need of destroying or taking it all?
- Simone:** NO! Maybe we'll leave some behind for the competition.
- Carly:** Really? That makes no sense!
- Simone:** No. We'll take the plant and the seeds. We destroy the rest

*End of Scene 5.*

**Scene 5 ½**

*Carly and Riley are harvesting and chatting. Marroc and Turah are peeking through the bushes.  
The trees rustle.*

- Carly:** What was that? Did you hear something?
- Riley:** Yeah, I think it came from over there [*rustle, rustle from other side*].
- Carly:** Now it's over there! Something's moving!
- Riley:** What is it?
- Carly:** I don't know, but it sounds like there's a lot of them.
- Riley:** What do we do?
- Carly:** Throw something. Here's a rock, it's coming from over there!
- Riley takes the rock and throws it into the bushes. A scream comes from Turah, who was hurt.*
- Carly:** You got it! Let's go see.
- Riley and Carly look in the bushes, offstage, blood on hand.*
- Riley:** [*holding up hand, covered in blood*] I hurt something.
- Carly:** Good, it won't be back to bother us anymore, whatever it was.
- Riley:** [*looking guilty*] I didn't mean to hurt whatever it was, I just thought I'd scare it off.
- Carly:** It was too close for comfort. You scared it off now, for sure. Don't worry about it.

**Scene 6**

- Turah:** [*curled up in a ball*] It hurts!



- Marroc:** I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to, are you okay? Don't tell.
- Hulu:** Oh my! Are you okay, what happened to you? Marroc?!
- Marroc:** This is all my fault, I made Turah help me spy on the others. I didn't think we were in danger, we just wanted to make you proud. Drazu said they were harmless, so I thought it would be safe.
- Hulu:** I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO! YOU COULD HAVE DIED.
- Drazu:** Are you OK? There, there. Well, what did you find out? Why are they here?
- Marroc:** We didn't find out much but they're destroying our food!
- Hulu:** Our only food source... what will we do?
- Turah:** Agh! When will they go?
- Drazu:** This is very strange, as the stories go, last time they were here, no harm was brought to us. It might be different this time...

### Scene 7

- Riley:** *[at harvest site and pulling out roots of plant]* I don't know about this, what if we're leaving them with nothing?
- Simone:** Oh, what's she getting on with now?
- Carly:** She's worried about the "locals". We saw them nearby and she thinks it's their only food source.
- Simone:** Yes, because we traveled all this way just to turn around with nothing?
- Riley:** I'm not saying leave with nothing, but is there any need to destroy it completely?
- Simon:** Absolutely you buffoon! If we leave it, word can get out! Do you want competition? Because I sure don't!
- Riley:** But we'll have enough! We'll be well ahead of the competition!
- Simon:** There will be no competition! Alright guys, let's get started. Bring in the cutters.
- Riley:** Wait! Stop! I'm not going along with this! It will wipeout the plant species entirely!
- Simone:** Move! Get out of my way. If you're not going to help, then leave!
- Meredith:** I understand where you're coming from, but I think we're overruled.

*End of Scene 7.*

**Scene 8**

- Hulu:** I looked everywhere for food, but this is all that I could find.
- Turah:** What's happening to all of our food?
- Marroc:** The others have taken it all.
- Turah:** Oh no! I thought Drazu said it would be ok?
- Drazu:** Sorry, child. I have been mistaken. I didn't think they would be so cruel.
- Turah:** What will we do? If it is all gone, what will we eat?
- Drazu:** Here, children, you have mine.
- Hulu:** No, Drazu, you also need to keep up your strength.
- Drazu:** It's more important for the younger ones to eat, they have a long life ahead of them.

*End of Scene 8.*

**Scene 9**

*Packing up their equipment, Riley stumbles upon the locals and sees how they are starving. They are lying around, very still.*

- Riley:** Oh, this is where they live [*walks over to the locals, sees that they are starving/dying*]
- Riley:** What have we done? You're so weak. We've brought you nothing but harm. And at what cost? [*starts petting the animals*]
- Riley:** You poor things. It didn't have to come to this.  
*Switch to the other side, where Carly and Simone are packing up.*
- Simone:** Where's Riley? We're just about packed.
- Carly:** She took off on her own, she's upset. She thinks we were hurting "The Locals".
- Simone:** The Locals? For Pete's Sake! They're rodents.
- Carly:** Yeah I know, it's not like the world doesn't have enough of them already.
- Simone:** [*shaking head*] She better be ready when the time comes to go. Meredith!

*Meredith enters.*

**Simone:** Meredith, go get Riley. She's off being upset about the stupid animals. Go find her. I want to get off this island as soon as I can.

**Carly:** Yeah, let's get back to civilization. I'm ready to leave too.

*Meredith exits. End of Scene 9.*

### **Scene 10**

*Meredith finds Riley on her way back from the animals. Riley is sad.*

**Meredith:** There you are, I've been looking for you, they're packing up to go.

**Riley:** It is time to leave. Maybe it would have been better if we had never come here in the first place.

**Meredith:** Here, I managed to sneak these.

**Riley:** What is it?

**Meredith:** I stole a few seeds. Go plant them at the harvest site. I'll tell everyone you're just checking the campsite.

**Riley:** Do you think it'll work?

**Meredith:** It should. It's the best we can do. Now hurry, before it's too late.

**Riley:** I hope it's not already too late.

*The End.*

