Camp Little Roar

by HallowsEveWrite

Luke and Alex who are attending a summer camp together. The camp has some pretty wacky traditions and will lead to one embarrassing situation after the next.

The Costume Box
2021

Chapter 1

Camp Little Roar - Chapter One

“I can’t wait to get to the camp, this will be so much fun!” Luke said to his big brother. Luke was sitting on a bus next to his brother Alex, the two of them were on their way to summer camp. Luke and Alex were wearing matching yellow T-Shirts that said “Welcome to Camp Little Roar”, everyone on the bus was wearing the same thing.

“Yeah Luke, this should be a great trip!” Alex said with a smile, he had some pranks up his sleeve for his little brother.

The bus finally pulled up to the bottom of a hill and pulled into a welcome area, everyone was asked to exit the bus and wait in the area until a counselor arrived. Luke looked around, there were multiple small cabins lining the shore of the lake with numbers and animals adorned to them. Looking a little further there are a couple large buildings labeled, Kitchen, Theater and Classroom. Outside there are some picnic tables and other campers in the same T-Shirts as them. Luke saw his brother grabbing their bags from the bus. This was his brother’s third year at camp and his first, Alex told him what to bring. The camp sent out the shirts a couple weeks in advance as his brother mentioned they will be provided outfits when they arrive.

“Hey Luke, I got our bags.” Alex placed them on the ground and the both of them waited for the counselor. Eventually a couple teenagers showed up, a boy and a girl.

“Welcome to Camp Little Roar everyone, I want to thank you for being patient as we get things started on the first day, my name is Erica and my partner here is Marcus, we will be in charge of you this summer. First thing is to assign your camp groups and start some day one activities, you will be with your groups for the rest of the summer and you need to work as a team. If this isn’t your first year here we have tried to put you into similar groups as last year, we also have tried to include any family members in your group. Everyone will be put into teams of five and assigned a cabin number.” Erica continued and started handing out badges for the kids, the badge had their cabin number and a corresponding animal.

“Welcome back Alex, good to see you actually came back and we finally get to meet your younger brother Luke this time.” Erica smiled and pulled out two badges. Both had the number three in the center and had the face of a tiger on it. She gave them both a badge.

“Everyone should head to their assigned cabin. There are further instructions inside.

“Come on Luke, let’s go meet the others” Alex and Luke picked up their things and headed to the third cabin. The cabin was close to the beach and large fire pit, it had a small patio and on the door had number three with a cartoon tiger underneath it. Alex grabbed the door and pushed it open, the inside was a large room with three bunk beds, there were some tables and chairs in the center and some space for boots just inside the door. To the left was a small washroom. Luke noticed there wasn’t any light switch or power outlets in the

room. There were three boys already sitting on a couple bunks who looked like they were waiting for them.

“Alex! Finally you made it, this must be you brother” one of the boys said.

“Yeah this is Luke. Luke, this is Greg, Simon and Phil, we have been in the same group for a couple years now.”

“Hello Everyone! Which bunk is ours?” Simon pointed to the empty bunk and Alex and Luke threw their bags on the bottom bunk.

“Well Alex, are you ready?” Greg asked his brother.

“Well let’s check out these instructions” Alex announced.

“We already know what the envelope will say, it’s the same every year!” Phil retorted.

“Well Luke, doesn’t know!” Alex said.

“You didn’t tell him! Yeesh what kind of brother are you!” The boys laughed, Luke had no idea what they were talking about.

Alex grabbed the envelope and started reading. “Welcome Campers to Camp Little Roar. There is a tradition at camp to lift team spirit and get everyone in the mood to participate. Your goal for the next couple hours is to assign your team a leader and a mascot. Your leader will act as a go between for the counselors and your group. Your mascot will need to cheer the team on during events and keep everyone’s spirits up! After your leader is selected they may have the team

whistle. Please meet at the fire pit where a mascot costume contest will begin, the team with the best mascot will have the first pick of the canoe in tomorrow's activity!"

Alex placed the letter on the corkboard on the wall. "Okay so I think I should be the leader this year since I'm the oldest!" Alex announced.

"You aren't that much older" Simon mentioned.

"Well, Luke is eight, you three are nine and I'm ten." Alex said smugly.

"I'm fine with Alex as leader." Luke agreed.

"Well we figured you would agree with Alex, you are his brother." Simon argued. "Fine, you can be the leader then. It's just more work anyway." The others agreed now that Alex had the majority vote. Simon took a whistle off the wall and tossed it to Alex.

"Now for the fun part. Who is the mascot?" Simon asked the group.

Everyone looked away from each other, clearly not wanting to do it. Luke didn't really understand what it meant. "Luke should be the mascot, because he is the youngest." Alex announced.

"Okay Alex, I can do that." Luke wasn't really certain what he would need to do.

"Perfect, let's get started then. Thank you for agreeing, Luke, I thought I would need to convince you!" Alex happily said.

“Sure Alex, no problem.” Luke is now happy he is helping out his new camp friends.

“The truth is Luke, this whole summer is really a big competition. All the cabins get scored in all events and every morning they update a scoreboard in the main hall. These first two events are important to win, the mascot contest is worth a decent chunk of points for the first few days and the canoe race tomorrow.” Alex explained to Luke.

“Yeah, so step one is to make the best mascot outfit we can. Since we already knew which cabin we were going to be in we did some prep work and prepared a costume for you ahead of time Luke.” Phil told him.

“Oh I see, well you should have just said. I want to win too!” Luke is trying to sound excited.

Alex walks over to his bag and starts pulling out some materials, there were markers, needles, thread, a bunch of tiger fabric and more. Alex arranges things in the order he wants and finally starts making orders. “Phil, I know you are good at drawing, do you think you could draw a tiger face on Luke’s?”

“Yeah I can do that.” Alex hands Phil a pack of brightly colored markers.

“Simon, you’re good with crafts, I want you to work on accessories for the mascot.” Alex demanded.

“Sure thing Mr. Leader” Simon started collecting items from the pile of craft supplies.

“Greg, you and I are going to work on the main outfit, it isn’t complete.” Alex told Greg. Greg nodded and the two of them started measuring.

Phil led Luke to one of the chairs and pulled out a few markers. He started working quickly painting Luke’s face, every so often he would switch markers, mostly using orange, black, white and sometimes a red. Luke had medium length brown hair, so Phil also colored his neck and ears as well. The whole process took some time. “These markers make this process a lot easier, Alex are these made for painting faces?” Phil asked inspecting the Markers.

“Yeah something like that at least.” Alex said smiling. He looked over at Luke. “Luke, you look great, Phil is really good at this.”

“Let me see.” Luke got up and went over to the mirror to see. He saw his whole face looked like a tiger, the pattern of the lines and colors even matched the cartoon tiger on the cabin, when he closed one eye he noticed his eyelids had tiger eyes on them, there was no area of his face not painted. “Whoa, you did a good job.”

“Luke let’s do your arms and legs too, I bet the other cabins will just draw whiskers or something.” Phil suggested.

“Okay let’s do it.” Luke really wanted to win for his team. Phil spent some time coloring his arms orange and white with black stripes, he even covered his hands, he even included paw pads on his hands for a more authentic look. He asked him to remove his shorts to paint his legs, Luke complied and

took off his shorts and socks. Phil then did the same to his legs and feet. Luke took a moment to look at his hands and feet. “These look great!”.

Alex and Greg then came up to him with the costume they had been working on, Greg looked a little frustrated. “I hope this works out Alex, you are missing some important components to a costume.” Greg mentioned.

“I said I hadn’t finished it yet, I’m sure it will work out, let’s just get it on him and deal with it later.” Alex casually mentioned. “Okay Luke take off the rest of your clothes and put this on.” Luke pulled off his shirt, now just standing there in his underwear a little embarrassed. He took the outfit and stepped into it. The costume was a short sleeve jumpsuit, it had a tiger pattern and an attached tail. Luke put his arms through the sleeves. “You look great Luke, let me just finish some details on the back and I’ll close it up.” Alex then took a needle and thread and worked on the back of the outfit. Eventually the outfit was sealed up.

Alex stepped back admiring his work. “I think we just might win, we went all out on this.”

Greg rolled his eyes. “Yeah but it’s not really perfect though, you had to sew up the back. How will Luke get out?” Greg asked.

“What?” Luke asked as he reached behind him running his hand over what he thought would be a button of tie and there was nothing.

“Don’t worry! Luke is our mascot for the summer, we will find a fastener in one of the halls later and fix it then. This place has to have some buttons somewhere.” Alex waved them off.

Luke tugged at the outfit a little realizing he wasn’t going to get out of it without ripping it. “How will I go to the washroom then?” Luke asked.

“Well that part I figured out before we got here since I thought once we were in an activity you wouldn’t want to have to take it all off. There are some snaps in the crotch and butt to open it enough to let you go.” Luke reached down and found the snaps, he was getting nervous about everything, he thought the outfit was just for tonight.

“Isn’t this just for tonight anyway?” Luke asked

“No.” The four of them said in unison.

“Every event has a category for leadership and spirit which directly lines up to you and Alex. The counselors will only relay information to the team leaders so every event is an effort in communication and teamwork. The mascot is responsible for the team morale and how well we work together, so that’s your job. I would imagine since this is the first challenge and we all worked on this we will win, most teams don’t prepare as well as Alex did for this event.” Simon explained to Luke.

“But I won’t need to wear this everyday for that.” Luke mentioned.

“Technically no, but it will give us the edge over other teams.” Alex said.

“Well let’s at least get ready for the event, here are the accessories.” Simon showcased a baseball hat that had tiger ears sewn to the top as well as his badge from the morning. He placed it on Luke’s head. He then tied a scarf around his neck, this was a camp scarf they all had. “I spent most of the time modifying your shoes.” He pulled out Luke’s shoes which had been covered in fabric and stuffing to look like tiger paws. Luke quickly realized even if he wasn’t wearing the costume they would still want him to wear his shoes and hat, he was getting embarrassed thinking he would be dressed as a tiger all summer.

Luke stepped over to the mirror now in his full outfit, head to toe he was wearing some type of tiger outfit. His face, arms and legs were all painted to look like a tiger. He was essentially wearing a tiger romper with an attached tail that dangled between his legs. His hat had tiger ears on top completing his look and his feet looked like tiger paws. He looked like a good mascot but he didn’t want to be dressed like this all summer, he thought it would just be for tonight.

“Well I can at least wash the face paint off tonight, I can wear the hat and shoes the rest of the time.” Luke told the group who were getting ready for the fire pit.

Alex started grinning like he had already thought of that. “Well you can try, I think it will be hard though.” He handed his brother the package of markers. Luke flipped the package

over and read, “SEMI PERMANENT TATTOO MARKERS, LASTS 4 TO 8 WEEKS”.

“Where did you get these!” Luke rubbed his arm now realizing he couldn’t feel the face paint at all, his skin was dyed these colors and it would take time to wear off.

“I ordered them from a school catalogue and saved them for the trip, I figured this way we won’t need to paint your face every day.” Alex said, winking at him.

Luke now understood that this was orchestrated by Alex since before he came to camp. Alex had hyped it up all year and convinced his parents to send them to the same place.

Everyone started to leave the cabin and head for the firepit, Luke slowly followed. As they got out he noticed there were six other camp groups each with five campers as well. Everyone turned and saw Luke in his outfit, some laughed others realized they were about to lose. There were six cabins in total, each with their own mascot in order it went lion, monkey, tiger, elephant, moose and owl. Luke kept a look out for the other mascots, he saw a girl with lion whiskers and lion ears on her hat. A boy was wearing a monkey tail and large monkey ears on his head. Someone was wearing a grey tracksuit with an elephant trunk. One boy had massive moose antlers and his head trying not to run into anything and the only person wearing anything close to his outfit was a boy covered head to toe in feathers from the sixth cabin. He was strutting around the place with confidence.

Marcus the camp counselor waved everyone closer, the firepit

was already lit. Once everyone had gathered Marcus made an announcement. “Let’s see all the Leaders come up here.” six kids including Alex collected themselves beside Marcus, each was given a large envelope. “These are you leaders for the summer, please refer to them for camp rules. These six will take care of you for the rest of the summer. Now let’s see these costumes, stand up Mascots.”

Luke stood up and looked at the other five, the crowd clapped for them. Marcus clapped and announced “These five will make sure our competitions stay fierce and keep everyone’s moods up. I can see a few of you went all out in your outfits!” Luke started blushing, so did a couple of other kids. “Now let’s hear your animal noises!”

Luke didn’t realize he would need to pretend to be a tiger as well, he felt a nudge against his leg, Simon whispered to him. “Just be loud, a big roar and we got this in the bag.” Luke stood there nervous as the kids started.

The girl gave a soft roar, her cabin clapped for her. The monkey then gave a monkey howl and danced around a little. While Luke was nervous standing around in an embarrassing costume he knew it would be worse if he didn’t at least try, his cabin mates needed him to help win the competition. Everyone turned to look at him increasing the pressure, he took a deep breath and shouted as loud as he could “ROAR!”, he even brought his hands up into a clawing motion. Marcus clapped loudly and Luke could see Alex smiling ear to ear. The boy in the tracksuit did his best to imitate an Elephant, however the boy with the antlers didn’t know what sound a

moose made.

The boy in the feathers made the biggest contest, head to toe in feathers he shouted a loud “Who”. After some time it was announced that cabin three and six were the winners, Luke was relieved. The rest of the evening was hearing stories around the fire and eating snacks with his friends, after some time they were allowed to head to bed.

Alex caught up with Luke when they got to the cabin. “Nice roar, tiger!” he said.

“Thanks Alex, but this is still pretty embarrassing. You should have told me about this beforehand, I could have done something less silly.” Luke asked his brother.

“You wouldn’t have agreed to it and been lame like the other cabins, we need to take this seriously if we want to win the summer.” Alex told his brother.

“The tattoo pens are too much, it’s going to be embarrassing for the rest of the summer.” Luke complained.

“You will get used to it. Besides, I'm the leader so we need to work together.” Alex retorted. He opened the door and pulled out a flashlight, the cabins didn’t have power so they needed to use portable lights. The other four changed into some pajamas and started heading for bed. Luke just tugged at the tiger suit, there wasn’t any way to take it off so just untied the scarf and put his hat on the table. He lied in bed and realised it’s going to be a long summer.

Chapter 2

Camp Little Roar - Chapter Two

Luke rolled over in his bunk, the light was just starting to creep through the window, it made the cabin start to feel warm and colored it a light yellow. Luke pulled his sleeping bag off of him and got up and quietly headed to the cabin washroom. The washroom was a small room with a sink with various shelves, a mirror and a toilet. There was a small window above the toilet which let light in so he could see. Luke rubbed his eyes trying to wake up and looked in the mirror, for a moment he was surprised to see his tiger face staring back at him. Luke took a deep breath remembering that he was now the tiger mascot of cabin three for the rest of the summer. He brushed his teeth and tried to wash his face, scrubbing harder than usual even though it didn't change the effect of the tattoo pens. Luke rinsed off his face and took another deep breath, making faces at himself in the mirror. Eventually he tugged at the tiger costume, he was sewn into it and couldn't take it off, he undid the snaps at the bottom and awkwardly repositioned his underwear until he could go. Luke took longer than he thought but finally finished up, washed his hands and opened the washroom door.

When Luke looked around some of the others were lying in their bunk, Simon and Alex were already awake.

Alex jumped down from the top bunk with a loud thump waking the rest of the cabin up. "Okay, let's get started on today's activity!" Alex was holding the envelope Marcus had

given him yesterday, it had already been opened. “Today is a simple canoe race, each cabin get’s two canoes and we are only going to the other side of this lake and back. It’s not a really far canoe ride but it’s about the overall score, when a canoe reaches the finish line you get placed, the lowest overall score wins.” Alex pulled out a map of the lake and put it on the table. “We can lower our overall score by showing team spirit and standing out among the crowd.” Alex explained the rest of the rules.

“Okay so we need to have three people in one canoe and two in the other, if that’s the case we pretty much guarantee the three person canoe will be slower.” Simon was thinking out loud and he looked at the group. “Luke, have you ever canoed before?” Simon asked.

“Only a couple times with Alex.” Luke answered.

“Hmm, that means whoever is with Luke should be experienced, he should also be in a three person canoe since he is the lightest, probably in the middle as well.” Phil suggested.

“Alex is probably the most experienced since he has been coming here an extra year.” Greg added.

“Okay let’s do Simon, Luke and myself in one. Then Phil and Greg will take the other one since you two work well together?” Alex suggested. The group nodded since the plan made sense and needed to be divided up anyway. “We also get to do a coin toss with the owl cabin for the first pick of canoes, as long as we aren’t last it’s really fine.”

Alex opened up a wardrobe to reveal five matching outfits, brown shorts and a brown T-Shirt with the cabin number on it. There were also four scarves and four hats to go with them, Luke noticed this is where his hat and scarf came from yesterday. The group changed into their outfit while Luke tied his scarf and put on his hat, the group looked pretty good together.

“Okay let’s grab something to eat before the event, breakfast should be starting soon so let’s head over to the kitchen.” Simon suggested.

The five of them headed out of the cabin and made their way to the kitchen hall. Luke felt weird seeing all the other campers in matching outfits while he still looked like a tiger. “Hello cabin three welcome to the kitchen hall” Erica said to the group. “I see you still have your tiger proudly representing your team spirit. Grab a tray and get some breakfast.”

The five of them collected their breakfast, just some eggs with toast and some juice. The Kitchen hall had many long tables inside with cabins sitting beside each other. “Luke, go sit with the mascot’s they are over in the corner. I am going to sit at the leader’s table.” Alex said to Luke.

“Oh, okay.” Luke replied and headed for the mascot’s table. At the table were only three other kids, the girl who is from the lion cabin wearing her ears on her hat. The boy who was dressed as a monkey who also had ears on his head and lastly was the owl boy, today he opted for only an owl wing cape,

which he wasn’t wearing yesterday. Luke sat down at the table and the three of them stared at him.

“Hello everyone, I’m Luke.” Luke said timidly, he felt a little more at ease with the other mascots, even if he was overdressed.

“I see the tiger cabin is still up to their tricks, you guys have been going all out for a couple years now. But you’re new this year aren’t you?” The girl from the lion cabin said. “My name is Karly.”

“I’m not sure what you mean, I’m new to all of this.” Luke replied

“Tiger has been bringing the competition since the prank war a couple years ago.” The boy from the mankey cabin said. “I’m Grant, nice to meet you Luke”

“Well we all know who won that war, don’t we?” The boy from cabin six, the owl cabin, said. “My name is Zack, I was in the tiger cabin in my first year with Alex.”

“You and Alex were in the same cabin? I thought they put you back with the same team?” Luke said.

“Well they made an exception, you see Alex and I got into a pretty big prank war with each other. That war created the concept of mascots for the camp to begin with. In fact it looks like what you're wearing is just the start of this year’s fun. Is Alex even letting you wear normal clothes?” Zack looked at him and smiled. “I think he just might have a few new tricks this year.”

“Well, no not yet, you see he made this from scratch and it’s not easy to take off.” Luke told the group.

The three of them giggled at Luke’s misfortune, Luke was getting a little shy but he wanted to know more about why mascot’s were added to the camp.

“We know Alex is behind Luke’s getup here, he would win most of the mascot points, if it weren’t for Zack. Luckily he is the only ten year old in his cabin so we have an edge. We all know the only other physical competition in their group is Simon.” Karly told the group.

“Hey Cabin Three is great, don’t underestimate us!” Luke retorted loudly, just because his cabin is going all out on his silly outfit didn’t mean he was going to let the other cabin’s trash talk his.

“I see Cabin Three have themselves a cute spunky tiger cub!” Zack said loudly and grinned at him, standing up and looking down at Luke. “The Owl cabin has three ten year olds, do you really think you can beat us in the canoe race!.”

Luke stood up from his seat and looked up, he was getting excited. “Absolutely! We will win in all categories!” Luke exclaimed, Luke noticed most of the Kitchen Hall were staring at them. He heard some whispers from others. Luke not wanting to wait addressed the crowd. He had been feeling uneasy about arriving at camp and trying to fit in, but Alex crushed those ambitions by dressing him up as a cartoon tiger. “Cabin Three will beat all other cabins today! We have the best team at camp and everyone else better step up their

game!”. The crowd started laughing at him, he didn’t look intimidating at all in his cute tiger outfit. “Cabin Three, let’s go.” Simon, Greg, Phil and Alex all stood up and headed for the door, Alex was grinning ear to ear like his plan was working perfectly. Just as they walked out Luke stuck his head back inside and shouted “ROAR!!”. That set the Kitchen hall into a frenzy of laughter, Luke spun back around and met up with his cabin mates.

“Luke, what was that!” Phil asked in an excited tone.

“That, my friends, is exactly why Luke is our mascot!” Alex said proudly. “He is one of the most competitive kids I know, he has never backed down when someone challenges him.”

Luke, now outside the hall, felt very embarrassed. “I can’t believe I just roared at them.” The four others laughed at the once confident and spunky lion cub turned shy and sullen.

“The other cabins will be out for us now though, what is our actual plan to win?” Greg asked.

“Same as before, it’s the best setup for the canoes.” Alex replied.

Luke, now recovering from his embarrassment, finally asked. “How many points do we get for team spirit in this event?”

“Well it’s like another rank, the team who shows that most ranks 1 - 6, like the race placing whoever comes in first gets the least amount added to their total.” Alex explained.

“Then I have an idea, let’s go back to the cabin!” Luke then

led the group back.

Chapter 3

Camp Little Roar - Chapter Three

Luke opened the door to cabin three and marched inside, the four boys followed him. He went searching around the cabin until he found what he was looking for. Luke went to the table and placed the tattoo markers on the table. “I think we need both canoes to have someone representing the tiger team spirit.” Luke said with a grin. “Let’s get Phil to draw a tiger face on Greg, then everyone will know we are a united team even if we are in separate boats.”

“Great idea Luke! Let’s make him a White Tiger since we already have an orange one.” Alex suggested.

“Whoa, whoa, don’t I get a say in this!” Greg sounded nervous.

“Oh would you prefer a standard tiger then?” Alex asked with a grin.

“I don’t want to have my face painted, don’t those last all summer?” Greg sounded worried.

“Well, I got my whole body painted for the team to win. It’s just your face.” Luke laid on the guilt as he was already dressed as a cute tiger. Phil had started to collect the colors he needed from the box.

Defeated, Greg just sat down in front of Phil. “The white tiger is fine, just don’t do my whole head like Luke’s.”

“Sure Greg.” Phil said as he started to get to work. Phil drew a white base that stopped at his forehead and chin, he then drew small details like the nose and eyes. The last step was to create the stripes and whiskers. In only a few minutes the tiger face was applied to his face. Unlike Luke's, Greg's face looked like something a kid would get painted for a circus.

“You look great Greg, I think the tiger cabin is sure to win the competition now.” Alex said. “Let’s head over to the beach and pick out the canoe.”

Greg tried to pull his hat down so no one could see his face, it didn’t work very well. Eventually the five of them made it to the beach where the race was going to start. The Owl team had also made their way to the beach and Zack had changed into his full costume for the event.

Marcus was there waiting for the group to arrive, he asked the leaders to step up and did a coin toss. The Owl cabin won and got to select the canoes first, they picked the newest and lightest looking canoes on the beach. Alex then inspected many others and selected two light looking canoes but not quite as new.

“I see Cabin Three has decided they need a second mascot!” Zack shouted at them.

“It’s up to our mascot to figure out team spirit, so we agreed with him. Greg isn’t our mascot, he is just representing the team on the second canoe.” Alex explained, clearly protecting himself from the rules. Greg looked embarrassed and Luke looked proud of himself.

“Alright kids, once the other cabins arrive the race will start. This is the main activity for the day so once we are done you have some free time.” Marcus explained to them.

Slowly the other cabins made their way to the beach and selected their canoes. Marcus came around to each of the groups and handed out life jackets, paddles, whistles and balers. The boats were lined up on the beach with all the cabins standing in front of them.

“Hello campers, I have heard that there is someone here who is very competitive. Before we jump into the boats I wanted to take a moment to review the current scores. Tied for first place we have the Owl and Tiger cabin, both at five points. Next is Lion with four points, monkey with three points, moose with two points, elephant with one. The winner of this race will be awarded six points counting down from there. Teams need to make it to the opposite beach, pick up the Camp Little Roar flags from Erica and the first team to return with five flags wins.” Marcus moved to the centre of the beach and held out a blow horn. “On your marks, get set, go” Marcus blared the horn.

The kids all started pushing their boats into the water, Simon and Luke jumped in while Alex pushed them into the lake. Phil and Greg had already gotten into the water. Luke waved at Greg until he got their attention. “Remember Greg, show some team spirit! ROAR!” Luke shouted at Greg.

Luke waited and eventually heard a meek “roar.” from Greg. Satisfied Luke focused on paddling his own canoe. The three

of them paddled as hard as they could, working up quite a sweat. Looking around they weren't in last place as they reached the opposite beach where Erica had been stationed with the flags. Ahead of them were the owl cabin who were just getting back in their canoe.

"Hurry up guys, Alex and the tiger are right on our tail." Zack said as he pushed his canoe off the beach.

Alex hit the beach, jumped out and pulled the boat up onto the beach. Luke and Simon jumped out, the three of them ran up to Erica for a flag. She greeted them, handing Alex five flags. "You need to wait until everyone in your cabin makes it to the beach before continuing." Erica explained. The three of them went back to the boat and positioned it ready to go. Eventually a couple other groups were also waiting when Phil and Greg arrived.

Greg was exhausted and trying to catch his breath, Alex ran up and helped with the boat. "Phil, I have an idea to still win this." Alex said.

"Oh, how could we, Owl is already on the way back." Phil asked, looking back at Greg. "Plus he is going to need a minute."

"That's fine, we are going to switch canoes. Phil and Luke will switch boats, Phil you're stronger and we don't need all the cabin members to win, just all the flags." Alex explained. "We only needed everyone here to leave."

Phil smiled. "Alright let's go now, Greg make sure Luke gets

back safely.” In a flash the three of them took off at full speed.

“So much for needing a mascot in the boat.” Greg grumbled.

“Hopefully we still win spirit points though.” Luke said.

“That’s all you’re worried about, eh? You are so bought into your brother’s plan you don’t even see him using you to get to Zack?” Greg was getting more serious.

“Look, we better start heading back.” Luke and Greg both had their faces painted like tigers, put the second boat in the water and left the shore. This time Luke was in the front of the boat and it was considerably harder.

As they were paddling Greg complained some more. “I just don’t get why you had to get my face tattooed too. I look like a dweeb.”

“It’s not as bad as me though, I may as well be a tiger at this point.” Luke was getting annoyed with Greg, why should he be the only one embarrassed about dressing like a tiger all summer.”

“Yeah, that’s true. Atleast I’m not stuck in some stupid tiger getup.” Greg laughed at Luke. “It’s still better than what Alex had to wear though.”

“What are you talking about?” Luke asked.

“Well last year Alex was the mascot.” Greg said.

“I didn’t know that, what was he wearing?” Luke asked,

slowing his paddling down.

“Keep up the pace, I don’t want to be on the lake all day!” Greg said. “He was wearing a full getup and our leader made him wear it all the time as well. It was like footie pajamas with built-in mittens and a large mascot head, he only wore shoes when we actually went hiking and even then it was over his outfit.” Greg giggled to himself reminiscing about last year. “So at least he was nice enough to make yours shorts and short sleeves, the tattoo markers are probably too much though.”

Luke started paddling harder and thought about Alex wearing a baby outfit all summer and not being allowed to change.

“Well what if we get everyone to wear something tiger related?” Luke suggested. “Then we will win for sure and we won’t be the only ‘dweebs’”

“Yeah let’s do it! We can plan it out this afternoon!” Greg said.

The two paddled as hard as they could and finally made it to shore.

Chapter 4

Camp Little Roar - Chapter Four

Luke and Greg jump out of their canoe, Alex, Phil and Simon were waiting at the shore for them and pulled their canoe in.

“We came in second place, so we aren’t doing the worst.” Alex explained. “We have plenty of time to catch up.”

The five of them sat on the beach waiting for all the other canoes to trickle in, Marcus was then going to go over the rest of the afternoon plan. The last group to come in was the elephant cabin.

Marcus walked up to everyone and addressed the beach. “Great job this morning everyone! This concludes today’s activity. This afternoon you have your choice of activity, however everyone will need to complete some chores for the camp, there is a chore list in the main hall. Lunch is a drop in and pickup meal you can do at your leisure and dinner is at six pm.” He then blew a whistle to dismiss everyone.

“So what is the plan now?” Simon asked.

“I think we can just chill for a bit, we don’t know the next activity and we don’t get points during free time. We should sign up for some of the easier chores though.” Alex said.

“What kind of chores do we need to do?” Luke asked.

“Simple stuff, cleaning the mess hall, setting up activities, collecting firewood. Things like that. The first couple days

the counsellors make the meal, after that there will be a rotating schedule and we will need to make it." Phil explained to Luke.

Luke was surprised, after all the competitions, costumes and games this sounded like normal summer camp activities. "So what type of stuff can we do in our free time?" Luke asked for more details.

"It's up to us I suppose, we could go swimming, but that's only during certain times of the day. There are arts and crafts in the main hall, usually all day. We could practice survival skills if we organize it. Or just hang out in the cabin or around the area, someone usually has a game or something they are playing." Alex told them. "Personally, I'm going to take a nap"

"Well I think Greg and I are going to go to one of the halls to see what there is to do." Luke said, winking at Greg.

"Okay, then Simon and I will sign us up for some of the chores." Phil said. "I'll probably just hang out in the cabin after that."

The five of them split up, Luke and Greg headed to the building labelled classroom. Greg opened the door, they were the only ones here. The room was like a classroom Luke would have seen at a school, there were enough seats for all the campers, a blackboard at the front and a desk for a teacher. Unlike a school the walls had pictures, art and material from many different years and there were many supplies around the room.

“This room is used to teach campers different skills, we will meet here before different activities that require instruction. Or if the weather is bad we use this room to do arts and crafts since it has enough seating for everyone. In the end there are some books we can reference, it is like a small library.” Greg explained to Luke. Greg walked Luke to a workstation on one of the walls to reveal a sewing machine. “We can use this machine, there should be some fabric around here as well, what should we make?”

Luke took a moment and looked through some of the fabric, he wanted to make something simple to make, but really noticeable. “How about we make everyone a tail? We could then take their shorts and sew them on!” Luke said

“Okay sure!” Greg agreed. He pulled out some tiger print fabric and the two got to work on the tiger tails, they used Luke’s tail as a reference and the two of them got to work making four tails. “Do we really need me to wear one?” Greg asked.

“Well no, but then all five of us will be matching. You should have a white tiger tail though.” Luke insisted.

Suddenly the classroom door opened, Greg and Luke looked over to see Erica the camp counsellor. “I see we have two busy tigers working on some project. I just came here to get some sign up sheets for some lessons we can have this summer. What are you two doing?” Erica asked as she walked over to them.

“Well we thought we would play a little prank on our cabin

mates and make them tiger tails." Greg said sheepishly.

"Well I'm sure Alex will find it funny at the end of the day. He loves pranks afterall." Erica giggled and so did Greg. Luke felt like he was left out of an inside joke.

"What do you guys mean? I heard Luke and Zack pranked people over the last few years." Luke asked.

"Give me a second Luke and I'll show you." Erica said. Erica went over to a bin full of envelopes and pulled out one. Inside were photographs of previous campers. Erica searched through the pictures until she found the one she was looking for. "Here take a look at this, this was taken last year."

Luke took a look at the picture and saw Greg, Simon and Phil all smiling. There was also another boy he didn't recognize. In the centre though was Alex. Alex was wearing a tiger costume. Like Greg had mentioned earlier it was like footie pajamas with paws covering his hands and feet, there was a tail dangling behind him, the tiger costume had a hood that went over half his face to seem like tiger eyes. On top of his head were two tiger ears. Luke noticed that the feet were covered in dirt and dust from wearing it around camp and not wearing any shoes. Despite the embarrassing outfit Alex was holding his hands up and pretending to roar. Luke smiled at the picture and handed it back to Erica. "I'm not surprised he never told me about this, can I get a copy of this picture to take home?" Luke asked.

"Sure, I can make that happen when we print out this years." Erica told him

Erica collected some papers from a desk and some clipboards. “Remember to sign up for some activities!” She remanded them.

Luke and Greg finished off the tails, they had four of them. Now they just needed to wait until the others were out of the cabin without their shorts. For now they will keep them hidden in Greg’s backpack. The two grabbed some lunch and headed back to the cabin.