

JOEY, KENNY,

BYRON

BYRON

I do.

JOEY

We all do, Byron.

KENNY

Well, I'm not the best at...

GRANDMA

Well, best starts today. We don't baby folk 'round here. Ya'll go exploring but ya'll stay away from Collier's Landing. Couple years back, Miss Thomas little boy Jimmy got caught up in some kinda "whu-poo" there at the landing...

Kenny and Joey exchange confused looks and whisper to each other.

JOEY

What did she say?

KENNY

A wool pooh?

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GRANDMA

... And they didn't find the poor soul's body for three days. Ya'll go on. When you get back Grandma's gotta list of chores for each and every one of you.

BYRON

Yes mam.

Byron nudges Kenny and Joey.

KENNY AND JOEY

Yes mam.

The Watson kids exit as Grandma exits singing.

START

"Take me to the water. Take me to the water..."

GRANDMA

The Watson kids eventually approach TWO SIGNS and the SOUND OF RIVER WATER:

The sign pointing to the left reads: PUBLIC SWIMMING. The one pointing to the right reads: WARNING NO SWIMMING. NO PUBLIC ENTREE, JOE COLLIER.

BYRON

Un, I know which direction we aren't going since I got me too scaredy cats.

KENNY

Who you taking about? I'm not scared. Let's go.

JOEY

Un-un Kenny, you heard Grandma Sands tell us about that little boy getting caught. What was it that she called the thing that got him?

BYRON

She said the giant Wool Pooh got him.

JOEY

Is that some kinda fish?

BYRON

Oh, no. Wool Pooh is about ten feet tall. You know who Winnie the Pooh is, don't you? Well the Wool Pooh is Winnie's evil twin brother, except he's half man with a big ol' square head and square toes, nasty hair down to his waist. Don't no one ever write about him cause they don't want to scare ya'll little kids. But he lives under the water where he can snatch up all the stupid kids. Kenny, you look stupid enough but I hope you don't start acting stupid and go in that water.

Joey, fearful, grabs Byron's hand. He pulls her along as he heads in the direction of the public swimming.

JOEY

But Byron, can't the Wool Pooh swim down to where we're going?

BYRON

Naw Joey. Wool Pooh doesn't come on public beaches.

KENNY

Is it the heat? Cause you're not acting like the Bryon I know. Don't you wanna see where some poor kid died or at least have another fantastic Watson adventure?

JOEY

No, Kenny. I want to go to the other beach.

BYRON

Yeah, scaredy cat, come on.

KENNY

Who you calling scaredy cat. I'm not scared. Maybe you're the one scared.

BYRON

Yeah right.

Byron makes a dismissive gesture, leads Joey off. Kenny yells at their backs.

KENNY

Okay, I'm going to have an adventure whether you coming with me or not.

JOEY

But Byron, Mama and Daddy won't like it if we just leave Kenny.

BYRON

He's just trying to act like he's brave. We both know he's scared of everything. On three just turn around and wave, smile at him... watch, he'll follow us. 1-2-3.

On cue, Byron and Joey turn and wave back at Kenny.

JOEY

Bye Kenny. Bye-bye.

BYRON (CONT'D)

We'll be at the public beach.

KENNY

You're a couple of jive squares. Who's ever heard of a Wool Pooh. You just made that up Byron.

Kenny climbs, then kicks off his gym shoes and strips down to his swim shorts. He notices another sign that he reads aloud.

KENNY (CONT'D)

"DANGER. NO SWIMMING. BAD DROP OFF. SIX LIVES BEEN LOST HERE." But Grandma Sands only said one kid. Now there's six kids. Somebody's fooling. I don't see no Wool Pool.
(MORE)

KENNY (CONT ' D)

(Wading into the water)

This water is even better than a swimming pool. And it's got fish.

(laughing, grabs for a few)

And a big turtle. Maybe mama will let me keep it as a pet.

He takes a few more steps deeper into the water. And he loses his footing, starts to thrash, and yell...

KENNY (CONT ' D)

No...Help... Help me...Byron...Help...Somebody....

Kenny goes under more than once and just as soon as he's convinced he's never going to come back up, he sees the huge Wool Pooh rise from the water, like some giant sea monster with mangy wet hair, square fingers and toes, its skin sickly gray.

Wool Pooh grabs Kennys arm and leg and tries to pull him down under, spinning him in the process. Kenny kicks at it but he's power-less against it.

At some point, Byron and Joey appear. As Byron realizes what's happening...

BYRON

Hold on Kenny. I'm coming. I'm coming. Just hold on.

KENNY

Byron. Help... Please...Byron...

JOEY

I should go get Mama and Daddy.

Joey takes off running as Byron dives in, grabs Kenny by the collar as the Wool Pooh loudly bellows and disappears in the water.

BYRON

I got you. I got you Kenny.

Finally, safe on the shore, a trembling Kenny chokes, coughs, retches.

BYRON (CONT ' D)

(Near hysteria)

Breathe Kenny, please. Please breathe! Come on. Come on...

KENNY

I...I can't...

A distraught Byron shakes Kenny hard, alternately smacking Kenny's back while praying his brother will survive. Kenny struggles to clear water from his lungs.

BYRON

I'm so sorry, Kenny. Why did you go in there?

KENNY

A turtle and I...

BYRON

I told you it was dangerous....didn't I tell you?

KENNY

Thought I was gonna die. It...It was...

And then Kenny experiences an aspect of Byron he's never seen before. Byron rests his head on the top of Kenny's, collapses in sobs as he mumbles...

BYRON

It's all my fault. I should've stayed with you. You my brother...I'm should've never left you. I'm so sorry.

KENNY

Quit Byron...I'm the one supposed to be crying.

Byron sobs and heaves more, scaring Kenny.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Really, I'm ok. Really Byron. You fought off the Wool Pooh. Stop crying. You saved me. You hear me Byron? You saved me. But I don't think I wanna swim anymore.

Byron nods, puts his arm around Kenny and leads him off.

END

DAYS LATER - GRANDMA SANDS PORCH

Joey looks like a real princess dressed in a pretty fluffy white dress, (same one from the beginning) lacy hat or headband, socks and gloves. She spins while singing her version of "Mary Mack." Grandma enters, dish towel on her shoulder. She watches Joey with pleasure for a beat.