

The Legend of Bassy

In a cabin in the woods at Skylake, a sleep-away camp next to Bass Lake, near Yosemite, five eight-year-old girls were telling stories late at night. "There is a giant sea serpent named Bassy living in Bass Lake. Her scales are gold, green and pink and she has swirly rainbow eyes. She has exceptionally sharp teeth and claws and spikes down her back," said Chloe. Chloe loved telling stories and had a wild imagination. She was very mischievous and was constantly getting in trouble at camp. Every day, she wore the same purple t-shirt that said "camp hair, don't care."

"Sea serpents aren't real," said Erica. "She's real" Chloe replied. "I've seen her." "Then why hasn't anyone else seen her?" asked Asa skeptically. "She comes out of the water at night," explained Chloe. "Let's go to the lake tonight and you'll all see," she said. "We would get in big trouble if the counselors found out we left the cabin at night," Claire pointed out. "Then let's make sure we don't get caught," Chloe responded. "I'll wake you up at one am and we'll head down to the lake and see Bassy." Hannah said "I don't think that's a good idea." "We'll be fine; we'll bring flashlights and stick together," replied Chloe.

Their two counselors came in at 10 pm and told the girls "lights out Lupine, time for bed." Lupine was the name of their cabin—all the girls' cabins were named after trees.

Claire was sound asleep in her sleeping bag on the top bunk until Chloe woke her and whispered that it was time to go. Claire, a rule follower, told Chloe she didn't want to go. "You're the only girl too scared," Chloe whispered. Claire didn't want to be the only

one to miss the adventure so she reluctantly followed her bunkmates as they quietly crept out of their cabin. The girls silently walked by the Manzanita, Maple and Cedar cabins. The trail to the lake was windy and the girls kept tripping over tree roots. Finally, they arrived at the lake. The water glowed in the moonlight and reflected the mountains and sequoia trees.

"There's no Bassy, let's go back to the cabin. It's so cold," said Hannah, shivering." "Be patient, she'll come soon," Chloe responded. "Let's sing some camp songs," suggested Chloe. She started singing "The Shark Song" and the others joined in. The girls took turns making up their own funny lyrics. But after ten minutes, Asa, Claire, Hannah and Erica started getting restless. "I think we should head back," said Asa. "You'll soon see Bassy," said Chloe. "We'll catch hypothermia before we see Bassy," said Claire. "One more minute," said Chloe. "Then we'll go back."

"She's there...oh, you missed her. She's so fast," Chloe said. The other girls rolled their eyes. "That was great" Erica said sarcastically. "Now we can all go back to sleep." As they turned to go back, Claire heard rustling in the trees to the right of the trail. She aimed her flashlight in that direction and saw a huge black bear staring back at her.

The bear growled and slowly approached the girls. Claire wanted to run but stood frozen in fear. The bear came closer and closer and closer...

"Wake up, Claire," said Asa. "Are you okay? You were screaming "help" in your sleep," said Erica. "Oh, I had a really scary dream," said Claire. She was so relieved to be safe in the cabin but her heart was still racing. "It's one a.m., time to go see Bassy," Chloe said to the girls. "Uhhh, no thanks," replied Claire. She threw her stuffed bear out the window and went back to sleep.