

# PHOTOBOMB

By Christian Kiley

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ISBN: 978-1-64479-028-1

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# PHOTOBOMB

*A One Act Comedy*

by **Christian Kiley**

**SYNOPSIS:** Everybody wants to be in photos! Selfies, pictures with friends, photographs with family members, team pictures, class pictures, pictures in front of famous landmarks, and even pictures they shouldn't be in. Lark wants to be in pictures too. And not just her pictures. All of them! Ever since she stepped into a camp photo "accidentally" as a child, she was hooked. And with the help of Ally (her new friend and accomplice) they Photobomb everyone from couples on romantic dates to players winning the championships. This obsession grows until it is all Lark and Ally can think about, talk about, and do...but it comes at a price. What happens when Lark and Ally become obsessed? Be a part of the picture. Feel the thrill and unraveling of *Photobomb*.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(3 females, 1 male, 5-16 either, 0-20 extras; gender flexible,  
doubling possible)*

LARK (f).....	A girl who discovers the joy of photobombing. <i>(60 lines)</i>
CAMP DIRECTOR (m/f).....	Arranges the <i>Camp Sunshine</i> campers for their camp picture. <i>(1 line)</i>
CAMPER 1 (m/f).....	Looks back at the <i>Camp Sunshine</i> camp picture, tries to identify Lark. <i>(6 lines)</i>
CAMPER 2 (m/f).....	Looks back at the <i>Camp Sunshine</i> camp picture, tries to identify Lark. <i>(5 lines)</i>
HIKER 1 (m/f).....	Hiker 2's BFF. They experience what they call "Manifest Friendship Destiny." <i>(13 lines)</i>
HIKER 2 (m/f).....	Hiker 1's BFF. They are "best friends on a best friend quest". <i>(10 lines)</i>

ALLY (f).....	Lark's accomplice. Meets Lark when they spontaneously collaborate in a photobomb. (69 lines)
FRIEND 1 (m/f).....	Getting ready to ride <i>Scream Maker's Revenge</i> . (6 lines)
FRIEND 2 (m/f).....	Getting ready to ride <i>Scream Maker's Revenge</i> . (3 lines)
FRIEND 3 (m/f).....	Getting ready to ride <i>Scream Maker's Revenge</i> . (4 lines)
FRIEND 4 (m/f).....	Getting ready to ride <i>Scream Maker's Revenge</i> . (3 lines)
FRIEND 5 (m/f).....	Getting ready to ride <i>Scream Maker's Revenge</i> . (2 lines)
PHIL (m).....	Jill's future boyfriend. Claims to "love" many things from blue birds to strangers. (26 lines)
JILL (f).....	Phil's future girlfriend. Grows tired of his "loving" everything but her. (26 lines)
ANNOUNCER (m/f) .....	(Can be a VO) Calls the play-by-play for the Skyhawks' first championship. (1 line)
COACH (m/f) .....	The coach of the Skyhawks' basketball team. (3 lines)
PLAYER (m/f).....	A member of the Skyhawks' basketball team. (1 line)
PASSERBY (m/f).....	Takes the final picture of the play. (3 lines)
JOGGER (m/f).....	Involved in Phil and Jill's love declarations without her/his approval. (Non-Speaking)
STRANGER (m/f) .....	Photobombs Lark in the final picture. (Non-Speaking)
EXTRAS (m/f).....	OPTIONAL. Campers, Players, Fans, People at the park. (Non-Speaking)

**CAST DOUBLING:**

Camp Director/Friend 1/Announcer/Jogger

Camper 1/Friend 2/Coach/Passerby

Camper 2/Friend 3/Stranger

Hiker 1/Friend 4/Player

Hiker 2/Friend 5

**DURATION:** 25 minutes.

**TIME:** Present day.

**SETTING:** Various locations; Park and Amusement Parks.

**SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

**SCENE 1** – Lark

**SCENE 2** – Who Is That?

**SCENE 3** – Favorite Spot

**SCENE 4** – The Scream Maker’s Revenge

**SCENE 5** – Will You...

**SCENE 6** – Championship Celebration

**SCENE 7** – Candid

**PROPS**

- Frisbee
- Camera (CAMP DIRECTOR)
- Camp Picture/Photo Album (CAMPER 1 and CAMPER 2)
- Cell Phone (HIKER 1)
- Cell Phone (ALLY)
- Cell Phone (FRIEND 1)
- Park Bench/Picnic Blanket (PHIL and JILL, optional)
- Picnic Basket/Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich (PHIL and JILL)
- Cell Phone (PHIL)
- Championship Trophy (COACH)
- Cell Phones/Cameras (VARIOUS)
- Cell Phone (PASSERBY)

**SET:** Backpacks, yoga mats, and other miscellaneous props for park and amusement park scenes

## PRODUCTION NOTES

Lark discovers the thrill-filled joy of photobombing at the age of nine and rediscovers it in her teens. The initial flashback scene can be established with costumes and hairstyles that suggest the actors are young kids (use your discretion to blend believability and practicality since it is likely that you will have actors playing multiple roles). Since Lark is talking directly to the audience in the initial scene and then steps into the flashback, a quick change in hair style, glasses, etc. will help convey that.

During each scene, there is a tableau moment to indicate a picture is being taken. This can be as simple as a freeze by the ensemble members in the photo and a pulse of light (and/or sound.) The freeze moment may be accompanied with a clicking sound to indicate the picture being taken.

Extras were used in Scene 7 - Candid and were members of a yoga class (in the background.) It can be fun and engaging for your cast to have actors play people at the park. This is also a good idea for understudies and/or younger, less experienced actors to get the opportunity of being in a play.

**PREMIERE PRODUCTION**

*Photobomb* was first performed at METFEST One Act Festival, at Montclair High School in Montclair, CA, on December 9, 2017. The play received 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Jenny Anyaogu won Best Actress. Sadaf Sharif, Anais Moran and Brooke Ann Vanassa won Outstanding Actress awards. Matthew Scott Fitzgerald and Connor Reid won Outstanding Actor awards. The original cast was as follows:

LARK .....	Sadaf Sharif
CAMP DIRECTOR.....	Brooke Ann Vanassa
CAMPER 1.....	Cailey Boggio
CAMPER 2.....	Sasha Hodder
HIKER 1.....	Wine Jie Lipardo
HIKER 2.....	Genesis Sayles
ALLY .....	Anais Moran
FRIEND 1.....	Tom LeMelle
FRIEND 2.....	Izayah Jones
FRIEND 3.....	Joey Haus
FRIEND 4.....	Naomi Friedland
FRIEND 5.....	Imani Crenshaw
FRIEND 6.....	Shula Jassell Bernstine
FRIEND 7/PASSERBY .....	Connor Reid
FRIEND 8.....	Tyger Ghodossi
PHIL .....	Matthew Scott Fitzgerald
JILL .....	Jenny Anyaogu
ANNOUNCER.....	Devin Guitron
COACH.....	Alessandro Seminario
PLAYER.....	Francis Anisi
JOGGER/STRANGER.....	Elaine Molina
Director.....	Christopher Gomez
Lighting Design/Costumes .....	Jordyn McEvoy
Sound Design/Sound Board Operation.....	Pierce Bryant
Light Board Operator/Technical Assistant .....	Betheni Amador

*The playwright would like to thank Christopher Gomez and the cast for their contributions to the development of this script. Special thanks to Kelly Olivas for her proofreading and editing help.*

**SCENE 1**

LARK

**AT RISE:** *As LARK speaks, the scene unfolds.*

**LARK:** The first time was an accident but that is often how things are discovered. Richard James wanted to create stabilization springs for instruments on naval ships and stumbled upon the pointless invention called the Slinky. Over three-hundred million accidents sold worldwide. Dr. Harry Cooper was frustrated with the gloopy mess that seemed largely useless until he realized it had the ability to bond objects together with never-before-seen strength and Super Glue was born out the gooey, sloppy, gloppy mess. Now there were also inventions like the pacemaker and discoveries like the polio vaccine that were also accidents but they are not well-suited for practical jokes.

My first time. . . I was nine years old and playing catch with my dad, another attempt at father-daughter bonding time that would end in one or both of us storming off when I couldn't throw an object accurately, in this case, a Frisbee. My dad threw one...

*A Frisbee is thrown from offstage.*

**LARK:** ...that got caught in the wind and his wild idea that he was Frisbee's answer to Tom Brady [or current NFL quarterback] and there it was right next to the Frisbee... a summer camp getting ready for a group picture.

*The members of the ensemble enter and get into their places for the picture. They are all wearing the same color shirt, maybe with a design on it, if you like, something with a giant smiling sun on it.*

**LARK:** And I was wearing the same color shirt that they were... an almost perfect match. Not quite, but almost. In that way a kid who loses their soccer jersey or choir shirt matches when one of their parents makes a homemade replacement. By the way, don't you love it when a parent tries to tape the kid's number on the back of

the shirt with masking tape. It's embarrassing, right? But the kind of embarrassing that means you're loved. Before I could stop myself, I moved into the back row of the picture.

**CAMP DIRECTOR:** (*Preparing to take a photo with a camera.*) Alright everyone, this is going to be your official camp photo. Big smiles that say, "I had fun this summer even though we had to microwave the s'mores due to rules about not having campfires on the tetherball courts." Years from now you will look back at these pictures with your significant other and be very thankful for: orthodontists, puberty, and the ability to recreate the past in your mind. Everyone say "Camp Sunshine" on three. One, two, three...

**ALL:** Camp Sunshine!

*Freeze moment, to indicate the picture being taken. After the freeze moment, EVERYONE except LARK exits.*

**LARK:** Official Camp Sunshine photo. Can you believe it? What a rush. I was hooked!

## SCENE 2

### WHO IS THAT?

**LARK:** I never got a copy of that picture, of course, because I was not an actual camper. I did derive a good deal of pleasure from the thought of the perplexed faces and questions about the strange girl in the back row.

*CAMPER 1 and CAMPER 2 enter with changed hairstyles to indicate the passage of time, looking at a camp picture.*

**CAMPER 1:** Who is that?

**CAMPER 2:** I think her name was Susie.

**CAMPER 1:** I don't remember her.

**CAMPER 2:** She was the one who won the pinecone decorating contest.

**CAMPER 1:** No, that was Sharon.

**CAMPER 2:** Oh. Sabrina!

**CAMPER 1:** Yes, always telling jokes.

**CAMPER 2:** I remember her frowning all the time.

**CAMPER 1:** Look at her, she is smiling with her entire face. That is a face that never frowns.

**LARK:** *(Steps forward and flashes an enormous smile. To audience.)*  
Like a cat that just ate your bird.

**CAMPER 2:** We'll figure it out.

**CAMPER 1:** Eventually.

*CAMPER 1 and 2 exit. Blackout.*

### SCENE 3 FAVORITE SPOT

**AT START:** *Lights up. LARK moves upstage as HIKER 1 and HIKER 2 enter and begin to walk around.*

**HIKER 1:** This is the most beautiful place I've ever seen.

**HIKER 2:** Like heaven.

**HIKER 1:** We need to get a BFF picture, right here.

**HIKER 2:** The best friendship ever in the most beautiful place on earth.

**HIKER 1 and HIKER 2:** Serendipity.

**HIKER 1 and HIKER 2:** Manifest Friendship Destiny.

**HIKER 1:** I have never said any of those words in my entire life until now.

**HIKER 2:** I don't even know what any of them mean.

**HIKER 1:** Excuse me.

*HIKER 1 stops ALLY.*

**HIKER 1:** *(To ALLY.)* Could you take a picture of us?

**HIKER 2:** We're best friends on a best friend quest, to find a best friend location for our best friendship.

**HIKER 1:** And this is it.

**ALLY:** Sure, I'll take your picture.

*HIKER 1 hands ALLY her cell phone and HIKER 1 and HIKER 2 get into position and link up in some strange full body handshake that looks like a frozen moment from an uncoordinated version of the Hokey*

*Pokey. LARK moves into the background of the picture. ALLY notices LARK and tries to get her out of the picture, then suddenly changes her mind, allowing LARK to photobomb HIKER 1 and HIKER 2.*

**ALLY:** Hey, hey. Could you move over this way just a bit? Nice. You guys are so cute together. Hang on, let me get another one. You are working it. I think I should get a panoramic shot as well and maybe some filters. Dogface. Angel-Devil. Rainbow Tongue. You two are so photogenic.

*Freeze moment, to indicate the picture is being taken. ALLY returns the cell phone to HIKER 1. LARK blends into the background.*

**ALLY:** Thank you for allowing me to take those pictures. I learned a lot, not just about taking the perfect picture, but about the perfect friendship. I just hope I can find my perfect friendship one day.

**HIKER 2:** That is so sweet. And don't worry, you will find your perfect friendship.

**HIKER 1:** We heart...

*HIKER 1 and HIKER 2 each use one hand each to make a heart together.*

**HIKER 1:** you.

**ALLY:** Please. . .

**HIKER 1 and HIKER 2:** We need to look at the pictures!

**HIKER 1:** And post them immediately.

**HIKER 2:** Our followers must be satisfied.

**ALLY:** You know what the poet William Wordsworth said, "Life is divided into three terms – that which was, which is, and which will be." Live in the present my new, in-unison speaking friends. Live in the present.

**HIKER 1 and HIKER 2:** Deep.

**ALLY:** Wordsworth, not me.

**HIKER 1 and HIKER 2:** Tata!

*HIKER 1 and HIKER 2 exit arm in arm, perhaps skipping, but sashaying at the very least. The other hikers and nature enthusiasts exit, leaving ALLY and LARK.*

**ALLY:** Genius!

**LARK:** Merely an opportunist with good timing.

**ALLY and LARK:** Serendipity.

**ALLY and LARK:** Friendship Manifest Destiny.

**LARK:** Does it sound as bad when we say it?

**ALLY:** Worse.

**LARK:** I'm Lark.

**ALLY:** Ally.

**LARK:** If only we got a couple of those pictures for ourselves.

**ALLY:** We did.

**LARK:** What?

**ALLY:** Duh, I sent them to my phone. What do you think all that nonsense was about panoramic view and filters?

*ALLY takes out her cell phone and shows a picture to LARK.*

**LARK:** Maniacal-Evil-Genius.

**ALLY:** High praise from an Elite-Special-Ops-Ninja.

**ALLY and LARK:** Amazing.

**ALLY:** We're really becoming them.

**LARK:** Quick, say something mean but very original to me.

**ALLY:** You're a brainwashed character from a dystopian novel.

**LARK:** That is the sweetest-mean thing anyone has ever said to me.  
Say another one.

**ALLY:** You are an insignificant bit of foliage that burns without anyone noticing when that dystopian world is engulfed in flames.

**ALLY and LARK:** Apocalypse. No! Amazing. You. Stop. What?

*ALLY and LARK look at each other with mock disappointment and then laugh. Blackout.*

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