

Invasion at Man Camp

By

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Cast of Characters

: Krauss, 40
: Boris, 35

Scene

The sprawling grounds of Man Camp, Pennsylvania

Time

March

A faux battlefield on the sprawling grounds of Man Camp, Pennsylvania. Lights up on Krauss, 40, and Boris, 35, standing close together, their backs up against a large oak tree. They are participating in the annual "Invasion of Normandy" paintball skirmish. They each clutch a big black gun to their chests and both men wear helmets Boris is dressed in the authentic garb of a WWII German soldier and looking terrified. Krauss wears a crisp white robe which reveals a voluminous cloud of manly chest hair. He is in the midst of a rousing speech.

KRAUSS

For he to-day that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile, this day shall gentle his condition-

BORIS

Dude, there is only paint in these guns, right?

KRAUSS

Shhh.

(continuing)

And gentlemen in England now-a-bed shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here, and hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks that fought with us upon day.

Beat.

Have I roused your spirit sufficiently?

BORIS

Yeah, you have. That was inspiring stuff. I'm just a little-

KRAUSS

Nervous, Boris?

BORIS

Yeah man, I'm freaking out.

KRAUSS

I could sense that.

BORIS

Peed myself a little actually.

KRAUSS

I could sense that too.

BORIS

You're so perceptive dude.

KRAUSS

It's what I do. Just a little stress incontinence you have there. Nothing to be ashamed of. All of the body's functions are beautiful and worthy of celebration. Do you need to go back to the barracks to clean up?

BORIS

Well I am a bit saturated. But, naw, if I go back to the barracks there's a good chance I'll get shot on my way back, yeah?

KRAUSS

An excellent chance of that yes.

BORIS

Drip dry will be fine then.

The men listen a moment to the sound of distant gunshots.

BORIS

I know we're just talking about paint-balling here, but I feel so goddamned vulnerable waiting to get shot you know? This feeling brings me right back to when I was a little boy and all the kids in the neighborhood used to play hide and seek. Hated that game. I felt like prey. Like a gopher in his haven awaiting his attackers. When I heard them getting close to my hiding spot, I used to jump up and scream "Here I am!!" That way I could scare them before they could scare me.

KRAUSS

Yes, you've told me that story. Many times. With the gopher metaphor completely intact. I'll tell you what I told you before. You don't have to hide your light. Shine on bright angel. I see you.

BORIS

Dude, I worship you.

KRAUSS

Amen.

BORIS

Seriously man, you make people feel so good about themselves. Have I told you lately what a kickass therapist you are?

KRAUSS

I prefer Man Coach.

BORIS

Right. I forgot. Well you've been man coaching the shit out of me these past six months, introducing me to all sorts of new life experiences and I really have to say thank you. Thank you Dr. Krauss. I was so purposeless before I met you. All I did was whine. Didn't see the possibilities. Didn't know how to gut a fish, or how to execute proper yogic breathing, or how to tie a manly-ass knot either. My anxiety was not only affecting me but my family as well. Thanks to your affirmations though, everything's going better for me. My finances are back on track, my kids have calmed down considerably, and best news of all? My wife and I are intimate again. I can now confidently say: I am MANifesting.

KRAUSS

I am very happy to hear that Boris. Work the program and the program will work for you.

BORIS

And I can't tell you how honored I am that out of all your clients you asked me to be your personal guest at Man Camp this weekend.

KRAUSS

You've been progressing so beautifully in love and light. You were due for a treat.

BORIS

Oh god, I am completely engorged with gratitude and I'm aching to give you a bro hug right now.

KRAUSS

I wish you would.

BORIS

Well here I come big guy.

KRAUSS

I welcome your embrace.

BORIS

I'm going to embrace the shit out of you.

KRAUSS

My arms are open wide and ready to receive you.

BORIS

That means a lot to me.

KRAUSS

Boris?

BORIS

I'm doing it again, aren't I? I'm stretching out a moment of intimacy because I fear it may never come again?

KRAUSS

You are. No need. You are a child of God and worthy of love.

BORIS

Yeah man. Working on that self acceptance shit. It's tough.

KRAUSS

Do you want the hug or not?

BORIS

Hell yeah, let's hug.

They bro hug.

Oooh. Hey, watch the gun, yeah?

KRAUSS

My apologies.

More gunshots are heard in the distance.

BORIS

How much longer until the invasion?

KRAUSS

Won't be long now.

BORIS

Shit, I'm so friggin nervous man. Hate being hunted.

Beat.

I have to say I'm fascinated by your choice of fatigues. A crisp, linen robe dude? I thought we were playing Germans.

KRAUSS

We are. My penis however is from Judea and should be clothed as such.

BORIS

Whoa, what?! It is? I'm sorry-- what does that mean?

KRAUSS

Boris, it's time you knew the full breadth of my earthly work and how it's benefiting you.

BORIS

Alright.

KRAUSS

Boris, did you know that I am on a one-man mission to save the world with my penis?

BORIS

Dude, you are so awesome! You talk about your junk like it's Jesus or something!

KRAUSS

It is.

BORIS

...is what?

KRAUSS

Jesus.

BORIS

Your junk? Is Jesus?

KRAUSS

Well, a descendant anyway. Could you please refrain from using the term "junk" to describe my savior stick? It's blasphemous. I prefer "jewels." Or savior stick.

BORIS

Jewels it is then. My bad.

KRAUSS

Your bad indeed.

Beat.

BORIS

Sorry Krauss. Didn't mean to offend. I think calling it a savior stick is kinda cool. I might try that myself. It's good to be confident in one's abilities. That's certainly what you preach on your blog and in your constantly updated status messages. Tweets too.

KRAUSS

Yes, now that you mention it, thank you for always being the first to "like" my posts. You're an excellent

KRAUSS
follower as well. My... post... likes you too. And your wife. If you know what I mean.

BORIS
Uh no dude, I actually don't know what you mean.

KRAUSS
All shall be revealed.

Beat.
You said your finances have improved, yes?

BORIS
Yeah, yeah they have. Thanks to you. Those investments you hooked me up with were dead-on. And the savings plan you put me on? Brilliant dude.

KRAUSS
Excellent. Now it is time to tithe.

BORIS
Tithe?

KRAUSS
To give back. I've set up a direct deposit system so that 10% of everything you earn comes to me.

BORIS
Dude, you took money from my bank accounts?

KRAUSS
You gave me the access codes. Blessed are the destitute. The kingdom of God is theirs.

Beat. The approaching gunshots get louder.

BORIS
That's uh- that's not OK with me, Krauss, I-

KRAUSS
And you said your kids seem more at ease now?

BORIS
Well, yeah, I think seeing Daddy less anxious has made them feel more relaxed and-

KRAUSS
Yeah, no. I've been paying them visits in the schoolyard, and slipping them meds.

BORIS

What the fuck dude?

KRAUSS

Let the children come to me. Theirs is the Kingdom of God.

Beat. Louder gunshots.

BORIS

Alright man this is getting a little weird. I appreciate the help I guess, but this is... invasive.

KRAUSS

Boris, I've been blessed with the ability to heal all those with whom I come in contact. That is what I came to Earth to do. Can you deny that great healing has been brought to your life through your association with me? And my staff?

BORIS

OK, let's get some things straight here. Man Camp has been awesome, I can't deny that. And all of your parables and shit have given me some much-needed perspective over the past few months, but this business with my money? It's illegal. And my kids? What the hell man, stay away from my kids! I'll take your ass to court. And, we both know I have not associated with nor come in contact with your "staff", or your naughty bits, or-or-or your divining rod, whatever the hell you want to call it.

KRAUSS

Oh blessed be! If only I could teach them Father. Our bits aren't naughty, Boris. They are precious. They are meant to be used gloriously, abundantly, and with great promiscuity. Well, I'm not so sure about yours, but mine certainly are.

BORIS

What exactly are you saying?

KRAUSS

I boinked your wife, brother.

Beat.

BORIS

I don't believe you.

KRAUSS

Blessed are those who believe.

Beat. Approaching gunshots get louder.

You came to me lost, anxious, looking for salvation. You had three problem areas you wanted to address. One, your pitiful finances. Two, your overly animated children. And Three, your sexless marriage. You put all your faith in me. You asked me to save you. You wanted all the answers and results but you didn't want to do any of the actual work to fix your goddamned life. Well I delivered. I taught you about abundance. I calmed down your kids. And I single-handedly put the sex back in your marriage. You signed up for Man Coaching, brother. And now you question the ways in which I dole out my blessings?!!!!?

Boris points his paintball gun at Krauss.

Ah, so it's come to this, has it? I knew you would turn against me. So be it. I leave you with these last bits of coaching. "Semper ubi sub ubi." It's Latin for "always where under where." Solid advice for your wife I should think.

Boris prods Krauss with his paint gun.

BORIS

I'm warning you man.

KRAUSS

If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. At least, that's what I told your wife when I spanked her.

BORIS

Shut up!

KRAUSS

You can kill my mortal body, Boris, but I will rise again on the third day. Your wife will be glad to hear it.

BORIS

That's it! Imma fuck you up!!!!!!

KRAUSS

I still love you....son.

Boris unleashes both a primal scream, and his paintball fury, upon his savior. Krauss stands stunned, yet peaceful, awash in hues of blue, green, and purple light.

KRAUSS

Forgive them Father, they know not what they do.

He falls.

End of play.