



Proudly Presents

TREE HUGGERS

WRITTEN BY GREGORY T. BURNS

©2009



TREE HUGGERS

WRITTEN BY GREGORY T. BURNS

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ

This play is intended for educational classroom readings and performances. There are no royalties for performances, and directors may make photocopies for their students; however, it is strictly forbidden to share copies of this script with other individuals or schools within the same school district or otherwise. Also, this script is not to be stored in any form, or incorporated into any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, which includes posting videotaped performances of this script on any social media site without the prior written permission of the publisher, Theatre Fresh. Violations of the above terms will result in legal action and will include punitive damages against the offender. Public performances in which a program is distributed must include the following statement: "Produced by special arrangement with THEATRE FRESH and TheatreFresh.com."

Inquiries should be addressed to the publisher.

ISBN 978-1-942109-26-6

Characters:

Forrest Summers, an eco-warrior

Nate Flowers, a Biker-guy who wants to be a part of a protest

Fern, Nate's girlfriend and lover of trees

Construction Guy, a New Yorker who works for Lopez Contractors

Reporter, an on-air television news reporter named Maria Juanita Rosita Sanchez Lopez Gonzalez

Little Girl, a young girl who is being interviewed for the local news broadcast

Stan Lopez, owner of Lopez Contractors

Setting: A local park

Time: The present

Nate: Hey, are you the guy that put up the flyers asking for people to come down and help save this tree?

Forrest: (*Elated.*) Yes. Thanks for coming! The excavation crew will be here any minute. I'm Forrest, by the way. Forrest Summers.

Nate: That's a great name for saving trees. I'm Nate Flowers, and this is my girlfriend, Fern.

Fern: Hi.

Forrest: It's great to see you guys! As you know, there's strength in numbers. They'll be less likely to come at us with a bulldozer, if there's any possibility of hurting anyone in the process.

Fern: Umm, Nate? You said we were just going to chant things.

Nate: Well, babe, I didn't know.

Forrest: Chant things? Like what?

Fern: You know, things like, "*Leaf* the tree alone! *Leaf* the tree alone!" or "If you think you're going to take *this* tree, you're barking up the *wrong*...tree!" I don't know. (*Pause.*) That one sounded better in my head.

Forrest: Well, those are very sweet sentiments, Fern, but I'm afraid we're going to have to be a little more pro-active in this

case. I've tried every politically correct way to save this tree, and no one at City Hall seems to care. Lopez Contractors intends on building a new shopping center here, and the only hope this tree has left is a stand-off between us and the hard-hats.

Nate: So, what do you think we should do?

Forrest: Well, when the excavation crew gets here, I think we should all surround the tree and put our hands around it.

Nate: You want us to hug the tree?

Forrest: And whatever you do, *don't...let...go!*

Construction Guy: *(Talking through a bullhorn.)* Attention loonies!

Fern: Who is he talking to?

Forrest: That would be us, Fern. Quick, assume your positions! *(Forrest, Nate, and Fern all gather around the tree and begin hugging it.)*

Construction Guy: You crazy-in-the-head, lunatic, eco-warriors! I'm going to count to 75 and give you one minute to get away from that tree! And if you don't get away from that tree, then I'm going to come after you with my little friend.

Nate: *(Sizing the construction guy up.)* He doesn't look so scary. Forrest, I'll bet you and I could take him easily.

Fern: Where is his little friend?

Forrest: I'm pretty sure he's referring to the Caterpillar behind him.

Fern: Oh, I love caterpillars. They are so cute and fuzzy. And, of course, they turn into the most beautiful butterflies.

Forrest: Fern, I think the man is referring to that large piece of yellow equipment that weighs about 45 tons.

Nate: Sweetie, it's a brand of equipment called Caterpillar. Forrest, you really think he'd bulldoze us?

Construction Guy: And just so's you guys know. I'm an ex-con who served four years in prison for breaking the legs of a guy who owed me \$12.50.

Forrest: Umm, yeah. I think he would.

Construction Guy: And then I cut off the little finger of his girlfriend for collateral.

Fern: *(Scared.)* Nate, I just had my nails done!