



*BETHANY. CARL and ASH cannot see each other.*

*ASH and CARL both get up to look around the tree. They stop and stare at each other in shock for a long moment. LEAF and BETHANY do not appear surprised.*

*CARL is the first to react.*

CARL: *D-d-dragon!* (He picks up a nearby stick.) Don't come any closer, beast!

ASH: (He recovers from his shock and does not appear to notice the stick being pointed at him.) You ARE a human! Incredible!

CARL: Don't taunt me, beast! (He swings the stick back and forth. His arms are shaking so much that he nearly drops it.)

ASH: (He steps closer to CARL.) You're a lot smaller than I thought you'd be.

CARL: Get back, creature! I-I'll stab you! (He takes a few steps back, stumbling over a rock and continuing to point the stick at ASH.)

ASH: You'll... stab me? With that stick? (He looks amused.)

CARL: I-It's *not* a stick! It's a mighty, dragon-slaying weapon, and I'm not afraid to use it!

ASH: Carl, I'm not going to hurt y—

CARL: Get away from me! Go back to whatever dark hole you crawled out of!

*CARL pokes ASH with the stick, tries to swing it again, and drops it. ASH picks it up and tosses it behind him, looking mildly amused. There is a short pause where CARL looks down at his empty hands.*

*CARL turns around and runs off stage, screaming and calling for Bethany to follow him.*

ASH: Wait! Don't leave! I won't hurt you! I'm just curious about you! (He chases CARL offstage.)

BETHANY and LEAF walk to the center of the stage, look at each other, and sit down next to each other to watch the ensuing action.

*CARL and ASH run across the stage, and after a second or two, run back across the stage again. This action repeats for the next few lines of dialogue; they argue back and forth as they are running.*

CARL: Bethany! Help!

ASH: I'm not going to eat you!

CARL: He's going to eat me!

ASH: Why would I want to eat you?

CARL: Because dragons eat people!

ASH: No we do not!

CARL: You're trying to trick me!

ASH: Why would I *trick* you!?

*ASH and CARL disappear for a few seconds. Then, Carl runs onto the stage again. He pauses in front of the giant tree in the center and looks around wildly. Then, ASH runs onto the stage from the other direction and*

