

The Plain

Damaris, 30, Kenyan, she is the warden for the park

Kelvin, 25, Kenyan, he is the guard

Michael Walters, 36, English

Julia Walters, 32, English

Jade Walters, 7, English

African savannah, in the centre of the stage is a large house raised from the ground. It is only accessible by a staircase on the SL. There is a chained and padlocked door at the start of the steps. At the top is a balcony which goes all the way around the central room. This room has doors on the SL and SR side of it; however the downstage wall of the room has been taken out so the audience can see inside. Sofas, a fridge, a table and a bookcase furnish the room. It is like a waiting room.

Scene 1 – 10:03am

Damaris enters from SL, she is a safari warden and is escorting the Walters to the steps. Behind her stands Kelvin, a sharp looking man with a rifle.

Damaris This is the place. Number 5. We keep it padlocked so no man comes in, we cannot promise that there will be no animals inside.
Jade I hope there are monkeys.
Damaris Probably no monkeys.
Julia This is very nice thank you.
Damaris Kelvin.

Kelvin nods. Damaris opens the chained door and walks up the steps; she beckons the Walters to follow her. They do.

At the top we have a nice room for you to sit, sleep, eat, drink. And most importantly take shelter; do not stay in the sun for too long. This is the cabin, there are books for reading. No electricity, but there is a toilet through that door. This is it, any questions?
Michael Erm, yes I have one.
Damaris Yes, Michael.
Michael So we just stay here and watch the animals do we?
Damaris Yes. You have protection from Kelvin; he will be waiting at the top of the stairs.
Michael Protection from the animals?
Damaris Just protection. Just be on your guard.
Michael Oh okay. What time will you be back?
Damaris I have to make my rounds to the other cabins, it won't take long, 1 o'clock I believe.
Michael Okay thank you.

Julia and Jade start to look around

Julia This is nice Michael.
Michael Yes it is isn't.
Damaris Okay, I'll be leaving now, there are binoculars on the table for you to see further. Kelvin does not speak good English, he is your guard, don't try to talk to him. Okay, be back soon.
Jade Thank you Damaris!

Damaris leaves and exits down the steps and off to SL. Kelvin sits at the top of the stairs, the family all go out to the balcony and look for animals. Long pause. They walk around the cabin looking for any sign of life.

Michael Jade dear would you grab the binoculars, there might be one in the distance.
Julia I hope to see an elephant.
Michael Me too.

Jade goes to grab the binoculars from the table and hands them to Michael.

Michael Thank you dear.
Jade Okay, well let's have a look shall we?
Jade Do they work pa?
Michael Oh yes they work fine, but, I can't quite see anything yet.
Jade No monkeys?
Michael I'm afraid no monkeys.
Julia This is fine, I'm sure they'll come along shortly. They did say it would take time.
Michael Oh of course, we just have to be patient that's all.

Scene 2 – 10:53am

Julia is now inside sat on the sofa, Jade and Michael continue to look out with the binoculars.

Julia You should be careful guys, remember what Damaris said about being in the sun too long.
Jade But what if we miss something?
Julia I'd prefer you miss the animals than get heatstroke. Come inside for a bit.
Michael (Sighs) She's right, come on. Just for a bit, eh?
Jade Ya.

Michael and Jade join Julia inside, they sit around and look at the books and furnishings.

Michael It's very hot out there.
Julia That's why I'm in here.
Michael Have we got any water?
Julia Yes, behind.
Michael The sofa?
Julia In the fridge.

Michael goes over to the fridge, opens it and brings out a bottle of water.

Michael Oh good.
Jade Mummy?
Julia Yes Julia?
Jade Is Kelvin okay? Should we check on him?
Julia Oh yes of course, go see if he's okay.
Michael No hold on. Julia, the man doesn't speak English and is carrying a gun. I don't want Jade going out there.
Julia Fine, Jade you stay, your father will go check on him.
Michael Right, good.

Michael goes outside towards the steps and approaches Kelvin.

Michael Hello!

Michael waves awkwardly, Kelvin nods enthusiastically.

Are you okay? Would you like some water?
Kelvin Yes, sir.
Michael Water? You would?
Kelvin I am good sir.

Michael Oh um.

Kelvin nods again.

Jade dear?
Jade Yes daddy?
Michael Can you get me a bottle of water please?
Jade Okay!

Jade goes to the fridge and grabs a bottle of water from it. She brings it over to Michael and Kelvin.

Michael Here you are Kelvin.

Michael offers him the water but Kelvin refuses.

No this is for you.
Kelvin No sir, thank you sir.
Michael Umm. Well, I'll leave it here for you. It's very hot, you know hot. I'll leave it here.

Michael leaves the bottle of water on the floor and returns inside with Jade.

Julia Did he take it?
Michael No not quite, I don't think he's allowed to.
Julia What?
Michael Well it's technically ours, it comes with the package the cabin. So I guess he thinks it's not for him.
Julia What did you do with it?
Michael I left it with him, hopefully he'll change his mind if he gets thirsty.
Jade Can we please see some more animals?
Julia You can't say "more animals" sweetheart, we haven't seen *any* yet...
Michael There's no need to be like that.
Julia We just paid a lot of money to be here and it's a shame we haven't seen anything yet.
Michael Well let's try, come on Jade, let's go look for monkeys.
Jade Yay!
Michael Julia?
Julia Yes I'll look too.

Julia gets up and heads out with Michael and Jade onto the balcony to look for more animals.

Scene 3 – 12:10pm

All three of the Walters are sat inside, drained from the heat.

Julia Lion, Elephant, Gazelle, Springbok and Zebra.
Jade Buzz no.
Michael Lion. Elephant. Hippopotamus.
Julia Oh yes.
Michael Giraffe.
Julia Oh good one Michael.
Michael Antelope?
Jade Buzz no.
Julia Lion, elephant, zebra, giraffe and hippopotamus?
Michael That's got to be it.
Jade Buzz no!
Michael What are they then?
Jade The big five are African lion, African leopard, rhinoceros, African elephant and-
Julia And a giraffe?

Jade No! It's a buffalo!
Michael It's not a buffalo it can't be, it's a giraffe?
Jade No the big 5 are lion, elephant, buffalo, rhinoceros and leopard.
Julia I don't remember that, do you Michael?
Michael Rhinoceros rings a bell.
Jade It's because they are the biggest game animals, people hunt them the most.
Julia Oh I see.
Jade So you wouldn't get much from a hippo or a giraffe.
Julia That makes sense.
Michael What about monkeys then?
Jade No don't be silly!

Long pause

Julia Maybe we should go? We're not going to see anything today.
Michael We don't know that. They could be elsewhere?
Jade Maybe they're at the watering hole?
Michael Yes they could very well be. And then after they've had a drink they'll come here to graze.

Julia sighs.

Scene 4 – 1:15pm

All of the Walters are fast asleep. Damaris enters from SL.

Damaris Kelvin! Go!

Kelvin ushers the Walters out of the cabin.

Kelvin Hello? Hello! Hello!
Julia What? Oh Kelvin hello.
Michael What is it? Are there some animals?
Julia What is he trying to say.
Kelvin Please, please.
Michael I think he wants us to follow.
Julia Okay, have you got Jade.

Michael picks up a sleepy Jade in his arms. They follow Kelvin down the stairs to greet Damaris.

Damaris Oh is it time already?
Michael Yes it is, did you have fun?
Julia Umm, no not particularly.
Damaris No we didn't really, we didn't see any animals.
Michael No?
Damaris No and it's a bit annoying really because we spent all of this money-
Damaris Do not worry; we can sort it out back at the offices.
Julia What like a refund?
Damaris No, not a refund, but we can take you out to the waterholes, if we have time.
Julia Oh that would be lovely.
Michael Thank you very much.
Damaris Okay, let's go.

They all exit SL.

-End-