

## “CAUGHT”

We have a family camp on a quiet, lazy Adirondack river in Upstate New York. The cabin is just a basic 10 x 20 structure with screens, there is no electricity or plumbing... it's just a camp. The cabin sits near the bank but high up off the river. When the river is low we have a nice sandy beach and there is a narrow path that leads up and around to where the cabin is. From the deck across the front of the cabin, there is a narrow view to the water through a lone break in the thick bushes that grow along the top of the bank. From the river, you can see the roof of the cabin and if you take notice, you get a brief view of the deck through that narrow opening, as you float by. For the most part, the cabin is well hidden and no one is ever aware it's there.

We are located a half mile from a paved road, down a narrow four wheel drive access that is shared by other properties along the river. Our camp is the last one and there is no outlet, so the end of the road belongs to us. There are very few other camps in the area and those, are mostly far enough away, so we are quite secluded. This is an ideal place to enjoy nature... as nature intended.

When I am there alone, I am seldom covered, I love to take advantage of the freedom and solitude one gets from baring it all in the outdoors. I often swim nude in the middle of the day and never see another soul. The river does get an occasional kayaker, or fisherman in a small boat and on the weekends, you can often have groups of campers floating by, from one of the various camping resorts up river.

Even with this activity, it is quite safe to be “free” without fear of discovery. That is, unless someone decides to stop at our beach for a swim, or when they discover the cabin up behind the bushes and decide to be nosy. We have a sign posted that reads, **“This is Not A Public Beach. Please Respect Our Privacy.”** This does not deter everyone.

Usually, you are aware when someone approaches from the water, as you can hear them. We have had an occasional curious one, wander up the path from our beach and get a bit startled when they discover someone is there, but this is rare. So far, I have not been “surprised” by an uninvited guest, when I didn't have my shorts or a towel close at hand.

One morning I was enjoying camp “au naturel “. I had just finished some mowing and cleaning up and it was getting hot out. There was barely a slight breeze, so it was time for a swim. I had just finished my dip, walked up and plopped down in my lounge chair, when I heard someone on the water.

Through the bushes, I could see a man on the river in a kayak, who was fishing. He was headed to the setback across from our beach. I figured I was perfectly safe laying there in my chair, so I just leaned back and closed my eyes. I was enjoying the quiet of the morning, the feeling of the summer breeze and the warm sun, as together they danced through the canopy, falling on my bare skin... when I heard the man call out to someone, “That's a private beach, didn't you see the sign?”

A woman's voice called back “Oh! No I didn't”. She was already out of her kayak and on our beach. “I don't think anyone's here,” she said,. She was closer now, heading up the path... she was almost through the bushes to the cabin!

I froze, heart pounding...

My shorts and my towel, were in inside! If I stood and tried to make it to the door, I would have surely be seen. I was laying right there, less than 20 feet from the path! OH, I was going to be seen either way. I decided to just keep my eyes closed and pretend to be napping and hope... that when she saw me, she would just quickly retreat.

She saw me alright. How could she not? I was in full view AND facing her. I wish now, I had opened my eyes... just slightly. I would have loved to have seen the look on her face when she saw the naked me, lazily lounging, right there in front of her.

I did hear her a minute or two later, back out on the water, speaking to her man friend. Their voices were much quieter now, so I couldn't hear what they were saying.

I bet she has a great story to tell about the time she decided to trespass.

Maybe I need to add to our sign “ **CAUTION, Nudity May Be Encountered Here**”.

However, that may attract more visitors, which is probably not a good thing.