

Isabella, David, Rianna, Sumanth, Vanessa

SCENE I (INTRO TO THOREAU)

[APPLAUD]

DR. PHIL

Welcome back everyone! Today we have a very interesting case, a so-called hermit. He has struggled connecting to society, often hiding in the shadows. Over the course of his life, he has tried many hobbies and occupations, but he never stuck to any, making him a chronic quitter. His unique beliefs prevent him from relating to others; one of his more controversial habits is his tax evasion. He fell in love once, but his proposal was rejected, furthering him from society.

[THOREAU gets on one knee and presents his ring, but ELLEN shakes her head no. THOREAU runs off crying.]

DR. PHIL

First up, one of his neighbors will speak, a woodchuck with an interesting story about one of their interactions.

[WOODCHUCK enters onto the stage from the AISLE, waving to the crowd.]

[APPLAUD]

WOODCHUCK

Hello! I'm so happy that you invited me to speak today. Most TV shows tend to ignore woodland creatures, which is quite insulting. I'm glad to be in a more progressive, animal-friendly environment.

DR. PHIL

So, tell us about your interactions with your neighbor.

WOODCHUCK

At first, I loved having a new neighbor. He just kinda sat around, not doing too much of anything, but muttering to himself like he was crazy or something. The beans were an excellent addition to my diet, might I add. Then, one day, something broke inside of him and he just turned animalistic.

I was making my daily meander through the beans, taking my pick of the delicacies. I guess he didn't mean for it to be a community garden or something because he just went crazy. He just started screaming - I AM "STRONGLY TEMPTED TO SEIZE AND DEVOUR HIM [YOU] RAW; NOT THAT" I'M HUNGRY - page 171.

DR. PHIL

Wow, that's quite a story!

WOODCHUCK

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It's more than just a story; I was terrified!!! You could never imagine the feeling of being unwanted in your own home. I had to find a new burrow. You know, I never understood why he turned on me. We're very similar, with the whole living in the woods away from everyone.

DR. PHIL

That makes sense. Your feelings are very validated.

WOODCHUCK

Excuse me?! When was the last time someone wanted to eat YOU??

DR. PHIL

[ignoring WOODCHUCK] Up next, we have Thoreau explaining his side of the story. We'll be right back after the ads.

[APPLAUD]

AD BREAK

Rianna: Close your eyes and let yourself be engulfed by the sweet sounds of the jungle. Listen to your local jungle's bird sounds 24/7 with Thoreauify!

Scene II (Thoreau's side of the story)

DR. PHIL

Now, let's welcome the man of the hour, my boy Henry!!

[APPLAUD]

[Thoreau enters, dragging another chair behind him.]

DR. PHIL

We already have a chair for you, Henry.

THOREAU

It's for Solitude. DON'T SIT ON IT, okay?

DR. PHIL

(awkward silence) ...okay... would you like to talk about what happened in the woods? Were you bored?

THOREAU

Of course not! There is always so much drama going on in the woods. One time, I saw these ants...

[Dramatic music plays as RED ANT and BLACK ANT enter the stage with swords, ready for battle.]

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DR. PHIL

Why don't you enlighten us?

THOREAU

"One day when I went out to my wood-pile, or rather my pile of stumps, I observed two large ants, the one red, the other much larger, nearly half an inch long, and black... they never let go, but struggled and wrestled... Looking farther, I was surprised to find that ... it was not a duellum, but a bellum, a war between two races of ants... the ground was already strewn with the dead and dying, both red and black. It was the only battle which I have ever witnessed, the only battle-field I ever trod while the battle was raging--"

PENCIL KING

(interrupting THOREAU) Stop this nonsense!

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THOREAU

Dad, what are you doing here?

PENCIL KING

I am the Pencil King and you are the Pencil Prince! You should dutifully serve your kingdom, not play dollhouse with some bugs in the woods! You are such a disgrace to this family! Pencils are basically little trees, you know?! Why did you need to run away when you could have hidden in the factory? At least then you could have been a useful child!

DR. PHIL

Sir, you're not supposed to come on for another 15 min. Who let this man in?

PENCIL KING

Who are you to tell the PENCIL KING what to do! How dare you speak to me like that! This is my son, and I should be allowed to speak to him as I wish!

DR. PHIL

Sir, please calm down-

[The dad tries to sit down on the chair for Solitude.]

THOREAU

What are you doing!? You cannot sit on Solitude!

THOREAU'S FATHER

You still have that imaginary friend. No wonder Ellen rejected you. You're not even a man, you're just a boy.

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THOREAU

But they're not imaginary!

THOREAU'S FATHER

I really thought this intervention could change you when the woodchuck and I planned this.

THOREAU

You teamed up with the woodchuck?

THOREAU'S FATHER

Even a woodchuck has more sense than you. I had to promise him a lifetime supply of our pencils so he wouldn't press charges. Now I'm starting to regret my decision. You know what, I'm gonna leave. There is no hope for you.

[He storms off.]

DR. PHIL

After the break, we will talk to Thoreau's allegedly close friend.

[APPLAUD]

AD BREAK

Isabella: Winter's right around the corner and with the rising energy costs what better way to heat your house than with a cozy fire? But all natural firewood can be clunky to use, and it takes too much time to start. However, our scientists have formulated a special material that burns slower, stronger, and cleaner than traditional wood. Introducing *Walden*. *Walden* is so dense that it can burn for up to 3x as long as a regular log of wood. Buy it now for just \$4.99, even better we'll double that offer. That's 2 *Walden* books for just \$4.99. Pick it up from the dumpster behind your nearest local bookstore!

SCENE III (Emerson)

DR. PHIL

Now, we welcome the world-famous transcendentalist, Ralph Waldo Emerson!

[APPLAUD]

EMERSON

Thank you for having me today. I just love meeting people interested in spreading the word on Transcendentalism!!

DR. PHIL

This isn't a transcendentalist ad, sir, this is an intervention for thoreau

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EMERSON

OF COURSE HE ALWAYS STEALS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION!!!

DR. PHIL

Calm down, sir. I thought you agreed to this knowing what it was about...

EMERSON

I just trusted I would be guided down the right path; I don't read anything before I sign it.

DR. PHIL

That's a really terrible policy. Have you actually thought this through?

EMERSON

Eh. It's gotten me this far. I mean have a net worth of 1.5 million after all.

DR. PHIL

Not to brag or anything, but I'm worth \$5 million.

[APPLAUD]

EMERSON

Whatever. Well what's your emotional net worth?

DR. PHIL

...what?

EMERSON

How do you *feel*? On the *inside*?

DR. PHIL

As you can see, I'm perfectly fine. I have a very successful show right here in front of you.

EMERSON

If you say so... have you seen the quality of these ads?

DR. PHIL

Let's return back to the topic at hand.. What do you think of Thoreau?

EMERSON

He's a bit of a robber, really. I mean, Walden is *my* land. Not his! And then he claims all of this attention like he actually came up with the ideas! Do you know how hard it is to sit and think for HOURS ON END!!

DR. PHIL

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I'm sure that is very difficult.

EMERSON

Thank you for understanding. You know, Thoreau is really just a catfish philosopher, always acting so highly. In reality, he just stares at ice and spits out nonsense.

DR. PHIL

I see. That's a very interesting perspective.

EMERSON

It's not just interesting, it's TRUE!! Okay, we need to make sure that gets across. Don't you do any of your new-fangled computer wizardry to magic out my thoughts. Do you understand?

DR. PHIL

Yes, of course, I'll see what I can do. And with that, everyone, that's our break. When we come back we'll see how we're gonna deal w/ thoreau!

[APPLAUD]

AD BREAK

David: Hello, it's Bob from the Internal Revenue Service. Dr. Phil has asked me to give you, the audience, a friendly reminder to pay your taxes. Not so you don't end up in jail, but so you don't end up in jail *with Thoreau*.

SCENE IV (Therapy and prescription)

DR. PHIL

So based on what has been told to me so far, from you and the people worried about you, you feel as if you weren't accepted by society.

THOREAU

No, I don't think you were listening, my experiment was about living deliberately-

DR. PHIL

(interrupting) Because of Henry's inability to compromise with others, and form basic human connections, I think we should send him off to society.

[APPLAUD]

[All walk off stage]

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Extra stuff:

CHARACTER LIST

Starring:

✨Vanessa✨ as Dr. Phil

Sumanth as Thoreau

Rianna as Black Ant/Emerson

David as Thoreau's Dad

Isabella as Woodchuck/Red Ant

Props

- Beard
- Mustache
- Dr phil sign
- Swords (for the ants)
- Suit (for Dr. Phil)
- Woodchuck teeth
- Applause sign

Summary:

- Dr. Phil explains Thoreau's situation
- Guest speaker comes on and gives their POV
- Thoreau comes in and gives his POV (brings solitude)
- Conversing
- End: ties back to failed proposal
- Dr. Phil prescribes Thoreau time in society

Dr. Phil: Were there any interesting things in the woods? How did you spend your time?

Thoreau: ants.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSD1XniqHHZ5wjslAVyjBRzf3j3Jk1Rb1&jct=DINhZC3iPU0WV_vlr8H-k1wbT-Yehg

ADVERTISEMENT

Advertisement: 8 7 7 2 4 1 Thoreau!!!!

Advertisement: Close your eyes and let yourself be engulfed by the sweet sounds of the jungle.

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Advertisement: Winter's right around the corner and with the rising energy costs what better way to heat your house than with a cozy fire? But all natural firewood can be clunky to use, and it takes too much time to start. However, our scientists have formulated a special material that burns slower, stronger, and cleaner than traditional wood. Introducing *Walden*. *Walden* is so dense that it can burn

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for up to 3x as long as a regular log of wood. Buy it now for just \$4.99, even better we'll double the offer. That's 2 Walden books for just \$4.99. Pick it up from the dumpster behind your nearest local bookstore!

IRS:

Hello, it's Bob from the Internal Revenue Service. Due to the suggestive themes of this program, specifically Thoreau's tax history, Dr. Phill has asked me to give you a friendly reminder to pay your taxes.

Feedback from group:

Sumanth

- Straight posture
- Embody Thoreau
- Talk louder
- Reflect body language in Thoreau

Logistics

- People can't hear music; use bluetooth speaker
- Hold applause sign more in front for people to see
- Hide book in bag so nobody sees it before the ad/joke
 - Add: "Please take them from us, we're trying to get rid of them?"
- Only heard pencil king and woodchuck
- Play transition music in between ads

Vanessa

- Talk louder, slower
- project more, people will laugh

David

- Don't throw the pencil crown *directly at Sumanth's eyes?*
- Step on crown as IRS person

Everyone:

- Get more comfortable with lines so you don't have to look down at the script as much
- Slow down a little more, project a little more, articulate

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- hold out applaud sign now
- thoreau needs better posture
- louder music
- maybe don't actually hit the sticks
- thoreau - what is he doing here
- wider
- put book in bag
- pls take them!!
- im writing a out of the will
- look up more
- slow down
- transition music