

# Monologue Mania!

## Bayou

By Matthew Carlin

### MALE / Teens / Present day

**About the play:** Many legends persist in the bayou, but none strikes an icy chill of fear like the mention of “Le Serpent!” Four children set out to find the creature which can supposedly take the shape of anything or anyone it chooses. The brave crew stumbles upon many creatures before they free a girl caught in a trap. She claims to live there, but no person could live that deep in the bayou. Strange things continue to happen when the children are caught by Boudreaux, the crazy hunter, and his even stranger mother. But when the rescued girl disappears, the creatures come out to help the other children escape. The children quickly return to the safety of home.

**About the scene:** Tooney, a bold and boastful Cajun boy who lives in the bayou, tells a tall tale to his friends about catching a catfish so big that it snaps the motor from his boat and spits out the hook. If possible, Tooney should speak with a thick Cajun accent.

\* \* \*

### TOONEY:

So finally I look over against the bank and there’s that little tree I had done tied my trout line on... but it was bent... way down... like this! You know, kinda like Bug here looks after eatin’ his mama’s cookin’.

[...]

Now you know I’m just too polite to refuse his mama’s well-intentioned but misguided hospitality, is all.

[...]

All right, now! Do you want ‘me to finish this story or not? *(Pause.)* So I cut my motor and let my boat drift right up to that little tree. Well, first I figured somebody had done run right over my trout line with their boat but when I pulled on it... it was tight. Tight as a guitar string. I started to pull on it...

**CONTINUED on the NEXT PAGE>**

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(continued)

to try to pull it up... and somethin'... pulled back. (*Changes his mood like a good ghost storyteller.*) Nearly cut my hand in two! Luckily the trout line fell across the front of the boat, which stopped it from going under... but I swear to you... when that line hit my boat it musta come within two inches of pullin' me and my old boat to a cold, watery grave! Well, I grabbed that line with both hands and I started to pull... and pull... and pull! The farther along I got, the deeper that line seemed to go. Then... suddenly! It went limp! I leaned over into the water and up come the biggest, ugliest catfish I ever done seen ya'll! His head musta been twice the size of mine! He raised up and spit that hook outta his mouth right back at me then dove right under the boat. Why he musta been ten foot long! He headed straight back, scrapin' the bottom of the boat as he went. He slammed right into my twenty horse Mercury! Hit that motor so hard he snapped the iron braces that was holdin' it to the back of the boat! I made a head long dive and grabbed it just before it fell in the water! I don't mind tellin' you that motor weighs a ton and I couldn't hold it for very long! Well... luckily I had done run my crab nets that mornin', so I reached down' in the bottom of the boat and grabbed hold of a big one! You know those bayou crabs, they'll pinch just about anything they get close to. Well, I clamped one on one side then grabbed another, and he slapped that big ol' pincher onto the other side. Held that motor like a charm! I cranked her up and come on home!