

Free- Scene from Founding Daughters

Cast: Dicey Langston (female); 15 years ago; from South Carolina spied for the Continental army; fearless
 James Langston (male) 18-20; soldier in the Continental Army; Dicey's older brother

Place: Rural South Carolina

DICEY (Zoom window.)

When I was a child, my brothers and I explored every inch of the woods. We studied the trees. We knew which tree we could shimmy up and which branches we could swing on. We'd make the long trek to the Tyger stream and when it was high, we would swim. They boys would strip down to their long johns and I learned to swim in my petticoats. Little Eden was just a mile past the stream. Ten miles from my house. I knew a few shortcuts. If I left right after Papa falls asleep, I could make it to Little Eden, warn James, and be home to make breakfast. No one would be the wiser. But I never made the trek after dark.

(We see DICEY moving. She constantly looks around but she keeps going forward. *Note: Dicey can do this while sitting.

We hear sounds from the woods – owls, rodents, deer. DICEY keeps moving. Every once in a while she checks the sky to get her bearings. Maybe a compass. And then keeps moving. Soon we hear the water sounds from the stream. You can use photos of woods and a stream to enhance the visual if you wish.)

DICEY

It's higher than usual.

(She takes off her cloak and hat and puts it on the bank and then stares at the stream.)

DICEY

If I can swim in my petticoats, I can swim in my dress.

(DICEY enters the stream. Use water sounds and consider a water sheet or blanket that will get higher and higher. It reaches her neck. DICEY splashes to stay afloat. Water sounds increase.)

(DICEY turns and twirls in the water. Maybe she goes under for a second and then manages to

come up for air. And then suddenly, all is quiet again and DICEY is on the other side.)

DICEY

Something's not right.

(SHE checks her compass and looks at the night sky.)

I'm too far south.

(And she turns north and continues her trek. Give it a moment – again with forest sounds or watching DICEY wearily make her way to Little Eden. A window may open and we may see a crackling fire. Maybe the sound of men – laughing or just talking. A Zoom window opens and we see JAMES LANGSTON.)

JAMES

Who's there? Announce yourself or I'll shoot.

DICEY

James!

JAMES

Dicey! What are you/

DICEY

You have to leave. Now! Break camp and get as far away from here as possible.

JAMES

You do realize it is the middle of the night.

DICEY

Yes, I do realize that. Haven't I travelled hours in the dark to get here?

JAMES

You look terrible.

DICEY

Gee, thank-you. You've seen better days yourself.

JAMES

Come by the fire. Dry yourself.

DICEY

That seems silly. I'll be back in the stream soon and soaked to the bone.

JAMES

You'll stay the night.

DICEY

Do you not listen when I speak? You have to break camp. *Now*. Bill Cunningham and his merry band of blood scouts will be here at daybreak to kill you.

JAMES

Are you sure?

DICEY

No. I always traipse around the woods at midnight and almost drown in streams on a whim. *Yes, I'm sure*. I heard two Redcoats speaking of it.

JAMES

You will come with us.

DICEY

No! I've got to be back in bed at daybreak. I can't worry father. And if anyone comes looking for me, they will plainly see that I spent the night at home.

(As a good southern girl.)

"Why no, Mr. Cunningham, Sir. I haven't delivered a message to anyone! I've been home all night tending to my father. I am just putting breakfast away now. There's some left. Would you like some bread and jam? Some say my bread is the best in the county."

JAMES

Let me at least give you something warm to wear.

DICEY

I have a cloak waiting for me on the other side of the stream.

JAMES

You left something in the woods! What if someone finds it?

DICEY

That's why I need to turnaround now and collect my belongings. *Now, tell the others - leave!*

JAMES

Dicey.... Thank-you.

Of course.

DICEY

And Dicey –

JAMES

What?

DICEY

JAMES

Cross the stream south of here. It will make the way back longer but it's safer.

DICEY

I figured that out. No worries. I will do that.

Dicey....

JAMES

What?

DICEY

JAMES

Your bread is the best in the county. Love to Father. Until later.

(DICEY and JAMES touch the screen as if they are touching each other.)

Skedaddle.

JAMES (cont'd)

You, too.

DICEY

End of Scene