

LENNY'S FIRE GOES OUT  
An original screenplay  
by  
Michael Thede

[contact@michaelthede.com](mailto:contact@michaelthede.com)  
[www.michaelthede.com](http://www.michaelthede.com)  
[www.facebook.com/michaelthedescreenwriter](http://www.facebook.com/michaelthedescreenwriter)

FADE IN:

FLYING HIGH ABOVE...

...we look down on...

A VAST WOODLAND - PRESENT DAY

A charred path of destruction winds through the dense forest, blackened earth, fallen pines and twisted rubble in its wake.

LENNY (V.O.)  
(sighing heavily)  
Well... Audrey and I met at  
university--

EXT. A CAVERN IN THE WOODS - LATE AFTERNOON

LENNY, a bright-green DRAGON with stubby wings, sixty feet head-to-tail, sits slumped back against a boulder outside the entrance of his home. A small fire smoulders at his feet.

LENNY  
I was in my last year of Medieval  
Studies and she was finishing up  
her thesis on gender representation  
in The Paper Bag Princess.

He sorts through a small stack of Polaroids and picks one out.

LENNY  
(re: the photograph)  
That's us at a summer-cavern we  
rented in the Hamptons last year.

INSERT - PHOTOGRAPH

Lenny with his arm around AUDREY, a pretty, if not slightly geeky-looking dragoness, both in vintage swimsuits and designer sunglasses, standing in a sparsely wooded grove leading out to the seaside.

LENNY (V.O.)  
We were together for about a year-  
and-a-half before we broke up.

BACK TO SCENE

LENNY

Apparently, I didn't fit her  
"paragon" of what a Prince Charming  
should be. That's what she told  
me, anyways.

Lenny flicks the photograph into the fire.

LENNY

I think what she meant was, I  
wasn't very good with kids.

(a beat)

Either way, my confidence was  
shattered. And, moreover, this  
lead to some serious problems.

He continues sorting through the photographs.

LENNY

When I went to the doctor, he said  
I was suffering from "psychosomatic  
pyro-respiratory inhibition".

(a beat)

Whatever you want to call it, it  
still amounts to the same thing--

(coughing up a feeble puff  
of smoke)

No fire.

He picks another photograph out of the stack and holds it up.

LENNY

The real tragedy here is I used to  
be pretty good at what I did.

INSERT - PHOTOGRAPH

The ruins of a formerly lush woodland, decimated by fire, the  
destruction extending limitlessly in all directions, with  
Lenny posing proudly before it.

LENNY (V.O.)

I could burn down fifty forests  
easy with one breath of fire.

BACK TO SCENE

He tosses the photograph into the fire and picks out another.

LENNY

And, then there was that summer  
camp at Lake Witachipoginee.

INSERT - PHOTOGRAPH

Lenny crashes through a tall stand of trees, belching flames  
and torching a fleeing pack of BOY SCOUTS and SCOUT LEADERS.

LENNY (V.O.)

Boys Scouts never even saw it  
comin'.

BACK TO SCENE

LENNY

But, what good's a dragon who can't  
breathe fire anymore? I mean, I  
can't even cook a meatball.

He tosses the photograph into the fire.

LENNY

Though, hey, it's not like I didn't  
try and get it back.

He flips another photograph out of the stack.

INSERT - A SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS

The first photo shows Lenny's head sticking up through the  
forest canopy as a band of GIRL GUIDES comes hiking over a  
hill in the distance.

LENNY (V.O.)

Turns out there's lot of  
information on the internet about  
alternative methods of making fire.

A second photo shows Lenny, crouched low on the forest floor,  
frantically trying to get a fire started with a bow and some  
sticks. Next to an unlit torch is a line of canisters  
labelled, "LIQUID PARAFFIN".

LENNY (V.O.)

Some of them work quite well.

Another photo shows Lenny holding the lit torch, swollen  
cheeks, emptying canisters of paraffin into his mouth.  
Through the trees we can see the Girl Guides getting closer.

LENNY (V.O.)  
Others not so much.

The last photo shows the Girl Guides standing safely at a distance watching a giant ball of flames rise up from the forest where Lenny was hiding.

BACK TO SCENE

Lenny dumps the rest of the photos into the fire.

LENNY  
I was in the hospital for six months after that.

Lenny gets up from where he was sitting.

LENNY  
But, you know, during those six months, I had a lot of time to think. And, I really learned a few things from my experience.

Lenny walks over to a bucket of water and picks it up.

LENNY  
For instance, fire can be pretty dangerous stuff.

Lenny takes the bucket back over to the smouldering fire.

LENNY  
You could get badly hurt if it gets out of hand.

He pours the water into the fire, snuffing it out.

LENNY  
And, I'm not joking about this. So much so that I decided to do something about it.

Lenny walks over to a second small fire burning a short distance away. Surrounding the fire, a couple of logs are set up like benches. A group of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides sit on the logs, peacefully roasting marshmallows.

LENNY  
So, now, I've got a full-time job educating kids about fire safety.

As Lenny approaches the children look to him attentively.

LENNY  
(to the children)  
Hey, kids, what did we learn today?

THE CHILDREN  
(in unison)  
Don't play with fire! It's not a  
toy!

The children make room for Lenny to sit down and someone passes him a small book.

LENNY  
I mean, seriously, if you're not  
careful, you could even start a  
forest fire.

Lenny opens the book and begins to read to the children.

LENNY  
(from the book)  
When Elizabeth was a beautiful  
princess she lived in a castle and  
had expensive princess clothes.  
She was going to marry a prince  
named Ronald...

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END