

**The Compass Rose**

by  
Joe Blow

EXT. EVERGLADES - DAY

The bright sun hangs in the sky as it gives off an orange glow.

Large green weeds poke out of the water. There are a few pink flamingo's that walk about.

Two boys, JIMMY and KYLE, both thirteen, walk through the thick vegetation.

Jimmy is small, scrawny, with shaggy bright blonde hair. Kyle is taller and more built, his long brown hair covers his eyes. He brushes his hair out of his.

JIMMY

Have you noticed how hot Becky Miller has gotten.

KYLE

Heck ya. The skirt she was wearing yesterday was so short, you could almost see everything.

JIMMY

Do you think she'd go out with me?

KYLE

Of course not.

JIMMY

Just like that, you didn't have to think about it or anything?

KYLE

Well there was nothing to think about. You're a dork, I don't mean to sound mean, I like you and all but you are a dork, and dorks don't get hot chicks.

JIMMY

Some do.

KYLE

Yeah, rich dorks, but you're a poor dork and poor dorks don't get hot chicks.

JIMMY

So you think you have a chance?

KYLE

Nope. I'm kind of a dork too. I'm not a poor dork like you, more of a middle class dork, but still, middle class dorks don't get hot chicks either, like I said before, the only dorks that get hot chicks are rich dorks.

JIMMY

Well thanks a lot, you just depressed the hell out of me.

KYLE

I'm just being honest.

JIMMY

Honesty sucks.

The two boys walk further into the everglades. There is something further ahead in the water. Jimmy notices it. He tugs on Kyle's shirt.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Hey look at that.

Jimmy points out to the object.

KYLE

What is it?

JIMMY

I think it's a boat.

KYLE

What the heck is a boat doing out here?

JIMMY

I don't know. Wanna go take a look?

KYLE

Why not.

The two young boys walk towards the boat. They come to a wooden dock.

JIMMY

Who the heck builds a dock out here?

KYLE

Probably the people that own the boat.

JIMMY

But this isn't private property.

KYLE

Well I'm sure who ever built it didn't want to walk through this freakin' sludge every time they wanted to go out.

JIMMY

But who the heck would leave it here?

KYLE

I don't know. If there is anyone there you can ask them.

Jimmy and Kyle make their way up to the boat.

JIMMY

That is one ugly boat.

KYLE

So is your mother.

JIMMY

Ha-ha very funny smart ass.

They reach the boat. It is large and looks like it is about to fall apart. Two tires hang on the side. They bump up against the dock with the current of the water. The back of the boat reads " **THE COMPASS ROSE**".

JIMMY (CONT'D)

The Compass Rose?

KYLE

It's just the name of the boat.

JIMMY

I thought you're supposed to name boats after women?

KYLE

Well Rose is a woman's name.

JIMMY

Yeah I guess.

KYLE

I don't think anyone is here, in fact, I don't think anyone has been here for a while, I mean this thing is a piece of crap, I'm surprised it still floats.

JIMMY

Wanna go in, take a look.

KYLE

Dude that's trespassing.

JIMMY

What's the matter? Are you chicken?

KYLE

I'm not a chicken.

JIMMY

I think you're acting like chicken.

KYLE

I'm just using common sense, that's all.

JIMMY

I think you have the sense of a chicken.

KYLE

And I think you have the face of my ass so shut up!

JIMMY

Well I'm gonna go take a look scaredy pants. You can wait here if you want.

Jimmy walks to the boat and hops on. Under his breath he imitates a chicken. Kyle frowns.

EXT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy walks along the boat. He looks over the side. Water splashes up against the boat. The paint has started to chip away along the side and the wood is starting to rot.

He walks to the door. He turns the handle and pushes it open. The door creaks. Jimmy walks inside.

INT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy steps into the boat. The inside is covered with spider webs, everything is covered with dust. Jimmy walks further in.

JIMMY  
What a crap hole.

Jimmy moves forward. The wood floor creaks with every footstep. He looks down as he steps over a hatch on the middle of the floor. He reaches the front of the boat.

There is a creak.

KYLE (O.S.)  
What a dump.

Jimmy spins around.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
Did I scare you?

JIMMY  
No, just surprised me.

KYLE  
Bull.

Kyle walks over to Jimmy at the front of the boat.

JIMMY  
So what made you decide to come on?

KYLE  
I'm gonna prove to you who the real chicken is.

JIMMY  
How you gonna do that?

KYLE  
Watch.

Kyle scans the front of the boat. There is a switch. He flicks it up.

The engine starts.

JIMMY  
What the heck are you doing?

KYLE

I wanted to see if the heap of garbage would start, and it does. Now we're gonna go for a little ride.

JIMMY

Are you nuts?

KYLE

No. I'm just proving a point.

There is a handle next to the wheel. Kyle pushes it up.

The boat charges forward.

EXT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

There is a rope tied to the boat and the dock. The boat moves faster, the rope pulls on the dock and it collapses.

INT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

The two boys jolt.

JIMMY

What the heck?

Jimmy runs to the outside of the boat. He looks outside and watches the dock crumble into the water.

Kyle turns around.

KYLE

Oh man, I forgot to untie the rope.

Jimmy moves towards Kyle. He looks out the front window. His eyes open wide.

JIMMY

Kyle look out!

Kyle turns around. The boat is headed towards a tree that is right near the shore.

KYLE

Crap!

Kyle turns the wheel. It's too late. The side of the boat slams into the tree.

Jimmy flies backwards and lands on his butt. Kyle falls to the side and hits his head on the window. He falls to the ground.

Jimmy gets up and runs to the front of the boat.

The boat spins around into the middle of the water. Jimmy flicks the switch down. The engine shuts down.

Kyle gets up onto his knees. Jimmy runs over to him.

JIMMY  
Are you alright?

Kyle runs his hand along the side of his head. He gets on his feet.

KYLE  
We better get back.

Kyle makes his way to the wheel of the boat. He flicks the switch up.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
What the....?

JIMMY  
What's the problem.

Kyle flicks the switch up and down.

KYLE  
It won't start.

JIMMY  
You're kidding me.

KYLE  
No I'm not.

Jimmy looks out the window.

JIMMY  
Kyle we're like really far from shore.

KYLE  
We can swim it.

JIMMY  
Maybe they have a dingy on here somewhere.

Kyle looks around.

KYLE  
I don't see anything.

Jimmy looks down towards the hatch.

JIMMY  
Maybe there is one down there.

KYLE  
Down where?

Jimmy points towards the hatch.

JIMMY  
Down there.

Jimmy and Kyle make their way towards the hatch. Jimmy kneels down and turns and lifts the hatch.

He covers his nose and mouth immediately.

JIMMY (CONT'D)  
Oh God it smells like ass down there.

Kyle turns his head in disgust.

KYLE  
Sweet Jesus, did someone take a dump down there?

Jimmy looks down the hatch.

JIMMY  
It's pitch black down there.

Jimmy gets up and looks around. There is a door to his right. He walks over to it and opens it up.

KYLE  
What are you doing?

JIMMY  
Looking for a flash light.

The closet is filled with rusty tools, a yellow slicker and a pair of boots. Next to the pair of boots is a large flashlight. Jimmy bends over and picks it up.

JIMMY (CONT'D)  
Found one.

Jimmy pushes the button. The flashlight turns on.

Jimmy walks back to the hatch. He aims the flashlight down into the darkness. There is a small flight of stairs that lead downward.

JIMMY (CONT'D)  
I'll go first.

Jimmy walks down the small flight of steps. Beams of light go from side to side.

KYLE  
Do you see anything?

JIMMY  
Not really.

INT. UNDER THE BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy reaches the bottom of the boat. There is a splash.

JIMMY  
Aw man, it's flooded down here.

He looks up at Kyle.

JIMMY (CONT'D)  
Come help me look so we can get the heck outta here.

KYLE  
Okay.

Kyle walks down the small flight of stairs. He reaches the bottom.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
Oh man, the stink is getting worse.

Suddenly the boat moves and the hatch slams shut. Other than the light from the flashlight it is pitch black.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
Oh no!

Jimmy aims the flashlight towards the hatch. Kyle runs up the steps. He pushes on the hatch.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
Crap!

JIMMY

What?

KYLE

It won't budge.

Jimmy runs up the steps. He and Kyle push on the hatch. It doesn't move.

The boat moves again. Kyle and Jimmy fall off the steps and land in the water. The flashlight lands a few feet away from them.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Uh oh.

JIMMY

What?

KYLE

I think the boat is filling up with water. It was at my ankles before, it's now almost up to my knees.

Jimmy picks up the flashlight and aims it downward. The water is over his knees.

JIMMY

It's sinking.

KYLE

We have to get out of here fast.

JIMMY

How?

KYLE

I don't know how, but we better figure out a way.

Jimmy aims the flashlight around the room. The light hits a table. There is some white powder on it.

He walks towards the table. He beams the flashlight onto it. The top is sprinkled with a white powder.

Kyle makes his way over to Jimmy. He topples over and lands in the water.

Jimmy spins around.

JIMMY

Kyle?

KYLE

I tripped over something.

Jimmy aims the flashlight over at Kyle.

JIMMY

What did you trip over?

KYLE

I don't know.

Jimmy aims the flashlight around. The light catches a pair of feet.

JIMMY

Oh no.

He moves the light upwards. The light shines on a decomposed corpse with a bullet hole in his head. The corpse's pasty white skin sags off his face.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

It's a dead guy.

Kyle pushes himself up quickly and looks down.

KYLE

Holy crap!

JIMMY

This is a drug boat.

KYLE

What do you mean a drug boat?

JIMMY

That white stuff on the table, it's probably cocaine or heroin, or some kind drug, but I will bet you my left nut it ain't backing soda. And there is a dead guy with a bullet in his head, it doesn't take a genius to figure out that this is a drug boat.

KYLE

Well this drug boat is going down so we better get the hell off of it.

Jimmy stares at the rotting corpse. Kyle grabs him by the arm.

KYLE (CONT'D)

We have to get out of here Jimmy!

The boat shift to the left. The rotting corpse is now totally under water.

KYLE (CONT'D)

The wood is weak. If we can find something to break through it we can bust our way out of here.

JIMMY

Okay.

Jimmy beams the light around the room.

KYLE

Go slow.

The light shines slowly around the bottom of the boat.

JIMMY

There!

KYLE

What is it?

JIMMY

A crowbar.

KYLE

Keep the light on it.

Kyle hustles towards the crowbar. He picks it up. The boat shifts again. Kyle and jimmy slide to the side of the boat. They slam up against the wall.

JIMMY

The water is almost at my waist.  
We don't have much time left.

KYLE

Stand back and shine the light at the wall.

Jimmy aims the flashlight towards the wall. Kyle jams the edge of the crowbar in between the wood. He pulls the crowbar towards himself. A piece of wood snaps off. Sunlight shines through.

JIMMY

The water is coming up to my chest  
Kyle.

KYLE

I'll get us out of here don't  
worry.

The boat tilts more. Kyle and Jimmy fall backwards into the water.

JIMMY

It's going down fast.

Kyle pushes himself back up. He plunges the crowbar into the next piece of wood. He pulls back. Another piece of wood falls out. Kyle does it again. Another piece of wood breaks off.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Hurry Kyle. The water is at my  
chest.

Kyle breaks off another piece of wood.

KYLE

There. We should be able to get  
through that. You go first.

Jimmy reaches up and pulls himself through the hole. A piece of wood that stick out cuts through his shirt and rips through his flesh. He screams in pain.

Jimmy is now halfway through. He pushes himself further through. The piece of wood digs into his leg. Blood spills out.

EXT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy makes it all the way out of the hole. He looks at the boat and sees it is almost all the way under water. He looks down at Kyle.

JIMMY

Hurry up Kyle.

KYLE

Here.

Kyle is neck deep in water. He hands Jimmy the crowbar. The boat sinks even further.

Kyle tries to push himself up. The piece of wood stabs him in the stomach. He screams. Blood gushes out.

JIMMY

Hurry!

KYLE

I'm stuck.

The boat is almost totally under water. Jimmy grabs Kyle by the hand. He pulls.

The boat is now under the water and is up to Kyle's chest. The boat sinks quickly and takes Kyle with it. Jimmy dives into the water. He reaches for Kyle's hand, but is out of reach.

Jimmy stares at Kyle as he sinks into darkness with the boat. Jimmy mouths the word "Kyle".

He makes his way to the surface. He takes a deep breath.

Tears flow from his eyes as he floats in the water. He turns around and heads for the shore.

EXT. EVERGLADES - MOMENTS LATER

Jimmy reaches the shore. He crawls through the mud and weeds. His body collapses. He cries.

JIMMY

(in tears)

Kyle.

He pushes himself to his knees. There is a rustle. Jimmy turns around.

A huge alligator lunges towards him with its mouth wide open. Jimmy screams.

The alligator's mouth snaps shut.

Cut to black: