

GRIEF AND GRIZZLY BEARS

A play in Two Acts

by

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Grief and Grizzly Bears premiered online for Wellspring Productions in 2021. The director was Chriss Martinez. The cast was as follows:

Steve - Scott Luttrell
Tucker - David Roque
Elliot - Aaron Niotta
Roger - Ralph Griffey
Charlie - Cydney Niotta
Riley - Haley Rubin
Sawyer - Thomas Sackett

Cast of Characters

STEVE: Oldest half-brother. Internationally-known magician. He knows the pain of grief all too well. He loves his family unconditionally.

TUCKER: Middle half-brother. A recently unemployed average joe. He basically inherited two brothers and resents them. He hides his pain through humor and being a jerk.

ELLIOT: Youngest half-brother. Middle school teacher. He is married with children, which is something he's always wanted. He adores his brothers and thinks the trip will help everyone.

ROGER: Head ranger of the park. He's very serious about his duties and rules of the park. He also turns into a completely different person when he sees Steve.

CHARLIE: The newest park ranger. Has an extremely loud voice. Has held dozens and dozens of odd jobs that bring a unique perspective to life.

RILEY: Madly in love with Sawyer. Postponed dreams so Sawyer could finish law school. Is one of the biggest fans of Steve. And it shows.

SAWYER: Relationship with Riley is the textbook example of two people in love. Wants to give Riley the world. Is the straight-forward, sensible one.

Setting

A state park that has seen an uptick in bear sightings. Entire play takes place in one location, with a few bits taking place off-stage.

Time

Present day.

Act I
"Bear-ly grieving"

Scene 1

SETTING: *Mid-day. A clearing that is perfect for camping. Tree trunks on the ground along with a campfire set up in the middle, with sleeping arrangements tucked into a corner. There are a number of bags on the ground alongside two coolers and three rolled up sleeping blankets.*

AT RISE: *Some type of conversation about bears can be heard in the distance.*
A rather small and dinky tent is being set up. All that can be seen is the backside and legs of the younger brother while he attempts to set things up. ELLIOT is also absentmindedly singing the instructions of putting the tent up, a sign of a man with two young children.

ELLIOT

You put the one pole in... you push this other part out, you try to connect this other thing to this other thing and not have everything fall down...

(Two men approach the campsite. TUCKER is carrying a big bundle of firewood, enough to cover his face. STEVE is carrying two small pieces of wood and juggling them. STEVE stops dead in his tracks when he hears the singing and sees what is

*going on. TUCKER runs
into him.)*

TUCKER

Ooof, dude!

*(STEVE is almost
giggling.)*

Is that singing?! *(he says peeking around the pile.)*

ELLIOT

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaand now I am almost finished with my
masterpieceeeeeeeee!

*(The two brothers set
the firewood down and
continue to watch,
trying to muffle any
loud laughter.)*

STEVE

(singing in falsetto)

Do you call that a masterpieceeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee?!

*(This startles ELLIOT,
who rises up inside the
tent, collapsing it. The
other brothers laugh and
start organizing the
firewood.)*

ELLIOT

Really funny you guys. I was almost finished! By the way,
that singing... a little too pitchy for my tastes.

STEVE

*(saying and acting as a
stage magician)*

Hey Elliot, look! I just made all this firewood APPEAR!

(TUCKER glares.)

ELLIOT

(clapping)

Bravo! Bravo! Encore!

(STEVE and ELLIOT both laugh)

TUCKER

*(looking over at the
mess of a tent.)*

Hey, we were gone a long time and you only worked on that one tent? Guess we need to do the other tents ourselves.

ELLIOT

Haha, what? It's just the one.

STEVE

(perking up)

You're joking right? Three of us in that thing? Are we going to stack up? That baby tent is barely half the size of me!
(looking over at all the stuff they carried into the site)
You're telling me we carried all this crap up here and you only brought one tent?!

ELLIOT

I thought it could be like the old days! Remember that camping trip we took when I was a kid? That was great!

STEVE

*(Tearing through the
bags)*

Two coolers of food, a bag and a half of clothes, four chairs, a stuffed animal... wait... 4 chairs?

TUCKER

*(Just watching this
unfold and laughing. He
then turns into a
character to mock
Steve's stage magician
bit from earlier)*

Ladies and gentlemen, Elliot has made sleeping comfortably this weekend literally... DISAPPEAR!

(Takes a dramatic bow)

ELLIOT

Figuratively. Literally would mean that I...

(TUCKER flips him off.)

ELLIOT

It's just one night.

STEVE

I wish you would have just let me rent a cabin or something more... comfortable.

ELLIOT

The last time we did this, we just sat around and talked with each other. I just thought the three of us could really use that right now.

TUCKER

OK, Dr. Phil.

STEVE

(laughing)

Good one.

ELLIOT

Don't you remember? It was Fall and just a little cold. We were all afraid of grizzly bears. So you guys made sure to build a bear-proof camp fire. And it worked, no bears. I mean, it also incinerated every s'more we tried to make.

(STEVE smiles as he remembers, TUCKER is almost trying to stifle any sort of happiness.)

You guys talked about girls. A LOT. Tuck told that ghost story about the guy with the hook for a hand. Steve tried to make us believe there were zombie grizzly bears out to eat our spleens... we all just had a traumatic experience. We could just use that right now.

TUCKER

(matter of factly)

I for one think we don't need any zombie bears trying to eat our spleens right now.

ELLIOT

(annoyed)

Being. Together. Us and the fresh air. No distractions. Just a little bit of time to... to be together before you guys leave. We're brothers after all.

TUCKER

(extra emphasis on the first word)

HALF-brothers.

*(Both STEVE and ELLIOT
react at the same time.)*

STEVE

Don't.

ELLIOT

Why do you always flipping do that? *(trying to get things
back on track)* Did Dad ever take you camping?

TUCKER

Flipping? Really?

ELLIOT

You know I don't curse.

TUCKER

*(taking a moment, then
like he's being forced)*

There was a boy scout overnight trip once. It was up in the mountains. I remember it was this massive clearing. All of us wanted to go explore, but my... our father just wanted to sit and drink beer.

*(STEVE appears to have
never heard this story
before. Sits down
watching TUCKER, almost
with a surprised look on
his face.)*

It was fun once I realized he wasn't going to do anything. Guess I learned an important life lesson that day.

*(A couple of beats of
silent contemplation.)*

\

ELLIOT

So it wasn't all bad then.

TUCKER

Actually, no. I still have some pretty vivid memories from that trip. I think it helped that there were a lot of kids my age all doing the same thing, getting into trouble and having fun.

*(TUCKER chuckles to
himself)*

There were these two kids walking in the woods, they didn't see me. I start barking like a dog and scared them good. I think one of them may have even peed their pants.

STEVE

OK, that I can believe.

TUCKER

I think that trip helped me fall in love with the outdoors.

ELLIOT

So you do love being out here with us.

TUCKER

I didn't say that.

STEVE

(Sarcastically)

And you never have to.

ELLIOT

Steve?

(A few more beats.)

STEVE

Oh, uh... No. The closest thing we ever got was little league. My mom's idea. He didn't want to be there. I didn't want to be there. It was not a fun experience.

TUCKER

Now this sounds like a dad story.

STEVE

When he got frustrated, he made us all do laps. This group of little kids was more of a cross country team with the number of laps we had to run. The best part of those times was for about 30 seconds of each lap there was silence, I couldn't hear him barking orders at us.

TUCKER

He took me to the park once and did the exact same thing. Now I think he was just quickly trying to tire me out.

STEVE

My mom knew I hated it, but she told me that once we make a commitment we need to stick to it to the end. But, in the end, she took me to Toys 'R' Us and let me get whatever I

wanted. Her way of making me feel better about the whole thing, I guess.

(A quick beat.)

(smiling) It was this massive magic set. It had everything: card tricks, cups with hidden compartments, a magic wand that had hidden flowers inside, a never ending handkerchief.

ELLIOT

That's great.

STEVE

That experience started everything. I remember she would be so happy when I tried to show her a trick.

(The other two feel bad.)

ELLIOT

She sounds like an amazing mom.

STEVE

She was.

(Lights down on the brothers. At a point away from them, a young couple emerges, could be in the crowd etc. Both are wearing hiking gear. RILEY and SAWYER are just finishing up what appears to be a romantic lunch. Both are very happy and madly in love.)

SAWYER

This was such a good idea. Thank you for forcing me to come today.

RILEY

I know how hard you've been working with the new firm. You really just needed a day to get away from everything. Except me. That chain is locked up tight.

SAWYER

I wouldn't have it any other way.

(SAWYER and RILEY share a quick kiss. Both start to pack up while they talk.)

RILEY

(Playfully) Goofball.

SAWYER

You have given up so much for me while I finished all the schooling and passing the bar. I just express how much that means to me.

RILEY

You never have to. We both knew going into this that we would be there to help each other out. Thick and thin.

SAWYER

I feel like I should have got you a mug that says your turn on it. Engraved with a date or something.

RILEY

This will do just fine. I'll take a stunning mental image and remember this day.

(SAWYER does a fake photo pose.)

SAWYER

I know doing real estate was never your passion. But, it did open up a door to what you really love. That counts for something, right?

RILEY

Always looking on the bright side. That's why I love you. Who knew taking photos of empty houses would get me to love photography.

SAWYER

I could just stare at you all day. You... amaze me.

RILEY

Always waxing poetic about things. You can make anything sound amazing. And I'm here like "Sawyer is good."

SAWYER

Riley is good.

RILEY

If this was a reality show, people would be saying
"awww" right now.

(SAWYER notices something
in the distance and picks
up some binoculars.)

SAWYER

Oh, wow. You are not going to believe this. Babe, I think it
might be a Red-breasted nuthatch!

RILEY

*(flipping to the "R"
section of the bird
manual)*

A nuthatch? That would be the first sighting for us!

SAWYER

I know! So exciting!

*(putting down the
binoculars and staring
right into Sawyer's
eyes)*

I love you. Let's get a closer look.

RILEY

Looks like there is a campsite near there. Let's try to cut
through quietly.

SAWYER

Look at you, always so polite. And cute.

*(Both hold hands and
make their way toward
the brother's campsite.
Back to the brothers,
mid-conversation.)*

TUCKER

So what if the kids hear you drop an F-bomb or two, it's not
going to scar them for life.

*(The couple walks on-
stage. They are not
close to the brothers,*

but both groups can see each other. The couple seems oblivious to the other people, they are looking for the bird.)

RILEY

I think I saw it over here.

SAWYER

A Red-breasted nuthatch! A fantastic find!

(Both use the same pair of binoculars to look for the bird. Can be cute like each using one of the eyeholes or one playfully strangling the other to look. SAWYER is laughing and spins around using them and gets a close up look at STEVE.)

Uh...

RILEY

What? Did you find it?

(SAWYER is somewhat stunned and yammering a bit.)

SAWYER

I think that is a celebrity.

(RILEY looks over and realizes what SAWYER saw.)

RILEY

(Very loudly) No way.

TUCKER

Incoming. We are about to have visitors.

(RILEY runs over, followed by SAWYER. Even though STEVE sees them

*coming he is still
startled.)*

RILEY

Oh... my... God. I love YOU!

STEVE

Thanks?

RILEY

The time you sawed the Great Wall of China in half. It was a thing of beauty.

SAWYER

(motions to RILEY) *Big fan.*

STEVE

Well, it's nice to meet you... uh?

RILEY

Oh, I'm Riley, this is Sawyer. Can I just say when you escaped the strait-jacket inside that locked tank of water inside the burning building. Perfection!

STEVE

Thank you.

TUCKER

What's with the binoculars, you two stalking us? You a (*obviously saying it wrong*) papirazzo?

*(RILEY is nervously
giggling)*

SAWYER

Oh, no, no. We were bird watching. We were looking for a nuthatch.

TUCKER

People still do that? We haven't seen any nuthatches, but Steve here is a nutcase.

SAWYER

*(Ignoring the attempted
joke)*

Sure. Well, it's my hobby, but RILEY is a great partner and supports me.

ELLIOT

Awww, how long have you been married?

RILEY

Eight years this November.

ELLIOT

Wow, what's your secret?

SAWYER

We always talk through our issues. And we find something fun in each other's hobbies. Riley likes collecting art, so we turned bird watching into a collection of sorts.

STEVE

(To SAWYER)

What's your big hobby?

RILEY

It's embarrassing.

STEVE

I promise not to tell anyone.

RILEY

You know all those sleazy reality shows? I *LOVE* them. Can't get enough of them.

SAWYER

And I write down my angry commentary about them for a blog.

RILEY

Have you seen 'The Valley of the Bros'?

*(All three brothers
shake their heads no.)*

'Stalking the Stalker'? 'Date me, NOW!'? 'Cornucopia of Dudes'?

*(All three just stare as
if to say 'these can't
be real'?)*

You have to know about 'Sex Peninsula' right?

(TUCKER perks up)

TUCKER

I know that one! So good.

*(STEVE and ELLIOT just
learned this about their
brother and they are in
shock.)*

Shut up, Kate watches them. And... I'm... supporting her.

ELLIOT

So that actually works?

SAWYER

Big time. We support each other with everything.

STEVE

Sounds exhausting.

*(RILEY is still staring
at STEVE.)*

SAWYER

We don't do everything together. We give each other space when needed. I'm a lawyer and Riley is a real estat... photographer. Different people coming together...

TUCKER

Oooh. To form a giant robot!

SAWYER

What?

ELLIOT

Ignore him.

SAWYER

In all seriousness, I look at Riley and I smile. It's like my heart fills up and gives me a feeling of being invincible. And it could be anything, something simple like watching TV or going for a walk. I can look over and immediately get that feeling. And that feeling just powers me to want to be the best friend, lover and partner. I would do anything for Riley.

*(RILEY looks to melt into
a giant puddle of Aww)*

RILEY

Awww.

ELLIOT
That was sweet and beautifully poetic.

TUCKER
People actually talk like that?

STEVE
Again, ignore him. (to RILEY) I think it was very sweet.

RILEY
(*Embarrassed. To STEVE*) Can I ask you a question? It's kind of personal.

TUCKER
Oh, *please* ask.

STEVE
(*Glares at TUCKER,
before turning to smile
at SAWYER*)
Sure.

RILEY
Um... haha, um... are you still dating that fried chicken heiress?

(*TUCKER has the biggest
"Oh my God" smile on his
face.*)

STEVE
Oh, no. That didn't quite work out. Don't tweet that, please.

RILEY
Your secret is safe with us!

STEVE
It's not really a secret. But, thank you.

(*SAWYER turns to RILEY,
very excited*)

RILEY
I just had a moment with Steve Sanderstone!

SAWYER

Your illusions and magic, we both enjoy together. You just made Riley's year.

STEVE

Thanks?

TUCKER

And you made my year as well.

RILEY

(To Tucker)

Are you married?

TUCKER

No.

STEVE

He has a girlfriend. They've been together for years.

TUCKER

She's a roast beef heiress.

SAWYER

You should work on your sarcasm.

(ELLIOT laughs.)

TUCKER

Fair. She's a nurse.

SAWYER

And your delivery.

TUCKER

What?! I'm not the one on trial here! Hey, Elliot is married with two little kids!

ELLIOT

(Nodding and smiling)

Five years. Want to see some pictures?

(ELLIOT pulls his wallet out and shows pictures of his family.)

SAWYER

See, he means what he says.

RILEY

What a lovely family. (*Looks to STEVE*) You must be the fun uncle!

ELLIOT

He is. The kids adore him.

STEVE

That's me, I'm a funcle.

RILEY

Awww, that means you're going to be a great father!

TUCKER

(excited?)

Woah! A bright blue bird!

ELLIOT

I didn't see any bi...

*(Tucker smacks him as if
to say shut up.)*

SAWYER

Where?!

TUCKER

Over there. (*points in a direction*) Between those two trees.

RILEY

It could be a Steller's Jay?

SAWYER

We should be going.

RILEY

Oh, can we *please* get an autograph?

STEVE

Of course! (*Reaches into his wallet*) In fact, I had these special magic cards made for my biggest fans.

*(RILEY geeks out more as
STEVE signs them.)*

RILEY

Today is the greatest day.

STEVE

(handing the cards over)

It was such a pleasure meeting you both. I wish you the best.

*(SAWYER sneaks in a hug.
And a quick selfie.)*

TUCKER

Another blue bird!

SAWYER

Thanks again!

*(RILEY is just staring
at STEVE. SAWYER has to
playfully grab RILEY'S
hand. Both walk briskly
hand in hand off-stage.)*

ELLIOT

I didn't see any birds.

TUCKER

Yeah, me neither.

ELLIOT

(Still not getting it)

That was mean.

STEVE

(Obviously getting it)

Thanks, Tuck.

ELLIOT

I thought they were nice. It is great to see people in love and in such a great relationship.

TUCKER

This feels like some kind of forced segue. Is this the point where we are going to talk about our relationships?

STEVE

Don't look at me.

Yes. ELLIOT

Sigh. TUCKER

Sigh. STEVE

So, love. ELLIOT

Pass. TUCKER

Pass. STEVE

You can't pass. ELLIOT

Fine, skip me. TUCKER

Uh, reverse. Back to Tucker. STEVE

This isn't some kind of card game! TUCKER

Draw four? STEVE

(Everyone laughs)

You know, it's a wonder any of us turned out even halfway normal considering dad's relationships. ELLIOT

Skip. TUCKER

I'm serious. ELLIOT

So am I. TUCKER

STEVE

He's got a point, Tucker.

(TUCKER glares at STEVE.)

And it is something that we all avoid talking about.

TUCKER

For good reason!

ELLIOT

Come on, we need to get this stuff out in the open. We can't keep just avoiding the past.

TUCKER

I can.

STEVE

Yeah, you're doing a bang-up job with it too.

TUCKER

Like you're the expert in this situation?

ELLIOT

Guys.

TUCKER

Fine. Our dad was a womanizer. Is that what you want to hear?

STEVE

We all have different mothers, I think that point is glaringly obvious, Tuck.

ELLIOT

How old were you when your mom divorced him, Steve?

STEVE

Five.

ELLIOT

For cheating?

STEVE

Maybe. My mom never said anything to me before she died. My grandma thought so. Dad never wanted to talk about it.

ELLIOT

Why?

STEVE

They divorced and five years later she was dead. I think he always felt... guilty in some way.

*(Saying the word
"guilty" carries a lot
of weight and should be
seen physically.)*

TUCKER

Good.

ELLIOT

I know you don't talk about that time a lot. It must have been hard.

*(TUCKER is quietly
fuming.)*

STEVE

No, it's OK. I was extremely lucky. Tucker's mom accepted me right away into their family.

ELLIOT

*(Counting in his head,
maybe with a few
fingers)*

Five years, then another five. Wait, was your mom the reason...

TUCKER

NO!

STEVE

No.

ELLIOT

(Embarrassed)

OK, sorry.

STEVE

She really didn't have to, but she treated me like a son right away. I guess the whole needing stability thing. Probably saved my life.

TUCKER

(Muttering)

Yay.

STEVE

Everything was fine, great actually. Seemed like the perfect family. Perfect marriage.

(TUCKER scoffs, they ignore him.)

Until...

ELLIOT

(looking down)

Me.

STEVE

It wasn't you. Dad was probably unfaithful before meeting your mom. He just got caught that time.

TUCKER

And too stupid to be careful.

STEVE

Tuck. *(Looks at ELLIOT)* Again, not your fault.

ELLIOT

I know. Why do you think he was the way he was?

(TUCKER stands up like he wants to say something, but Steve cuts him off.)

STEVE

Who really knows. Maybe he just didn't like being content?

ELLIOT

But, she stayed with him?

(STEVE looks at TUCKER with a look like 'calm down.')

STEVE

The whole thing was complicated. She told me once that she didn't want Tucker to go through a divorce like I did.

TUCKER
I'm right here. I can speak for myself.

STEVE
Calm down.

ELLIOT
It's fine, Tucker.

STEVE
And then me losing another home. I think it was extremely
brave of her to do that.

TUCKER
You would.

ELLIOT
But, did she divorce him?

TUCKER
When I graduated high school. Literally the day after.

ELLIOT
No.

STEVE
Literally the day after.

ELLIOT
Well... good for her.

*(TUCKER gets up and
huffs off to mess with
the tent or something
else to get him out of
the conversation.)*

STEVE
He'll be fine.

ELLIOT
We're all experts at avoiding this stuff, aren't we?

STEVE
Runs in the family.
*(ELLIOT gives a half-
hearted smile.)*

Tucker never talks about stuff. Give him some time, he'll come around.

ELLIOT

I know, it's why I wanted us to do this trip. It's not good for him. For any of us.

STEVE

Can I say something personal?

ELLIOT

Of course.

STEVE

You deserve a lot of credit. Your situation growing up was tough and you're the one married with kids and making it work.

ELLIOT

It's all I've ever wanted. When my mom found out she was pregnant she was so excited to start a family with dad. Then she found out she was the mistress in the situation. She ended it that moment.

(STEVE is nodding in support. TUCKER is still off doing whatever.)

She said she was not going to ruin someone else's family. Of course she still looked like the bad guy. Everyone was talking behind her back. Big town turned out to be smaller than everyone thought.

STEVE

I can't imagine.

ELLIOT

It's why she moved in with my grandparents. New place, new life. She didn't date or anything until I was in college. Can you believe that? She said she wanted me to know I was the most important person in her life.

STEVE

Wow.

ELLIOT

So for as long as I can remember, I've always wanted to be married with kids. And thank you for the house with the

white picket fence, really helped locking in that classic family ideal.

STEVE

(Smiles)

Anything for family.

ELLIOT

It's not easy, you know.

STEVE

Having a white picket fence?

ELLIOT

Marriage. I bet you \$100 Sawyer and Riley fight.

STEVE

Yeah, like who gets to hold the remote. Or who wears the binoculars in that relationship.

ELLIOT

I'm serious. It takes a lot of work. But, it's worth it. Maybe dad just didn't get that last part. Your mom. Tuck's mom. It just sounds like things were great. And he just kept screwing it up.

STEVE

So what keeps you from becoming dad?

ELLIOT

Jen is my partner. I love her. She is everything to me. There is no one else on the planet that I would want to be with.

*(TUCKER speaks out loud
from where he is.)*

TUCKER

How do you know unless you met every single woman on the planet?

ELLIOT

When you've met perfection, you don't need to look any further.

(ELLIOT looks down.)

STEVE

What's wrong? That's a great thing.

ELLIOT

There's another reason. I've never said it out loud.

STEVE

I think I have an idea, Elliot.

ELLIOT

The kids. I love them more than anything. I would never, ever put them in any situation like we have all gone through. What kind of monster...

*(All three brothers
stare ahead in silent
contemplation.)*

(Blackout)

Act I

Scene 2

SETTING: The camp, a little later.

AT RISE: The camp is a little more set up. All three brothers are now seated.

STEVE
Should I break the awkward silence?
(Awkward silence)
I'll take that as a yes.

ELLIOT
Got any good ghost stories?

TUCKER
It's not dark yet.

ELLIOT
I wasn't aware of that rule.

TUCKER
Camping 101.

ELLIOT
That explains it, I took Cultural Anthropology in college instead.

STEVE
A joke!

(Suddenly, a big rustling sound is heard. Something is making a lot of noise coming through. ELLIOT, upon hearing this, is startled. Like someone who got a jump scare, then tried to play it off.)

ELLIOT
BEARS!

TUCKER

Hide your spleen!

*(STEVE and TUCKER remain
unmoved.)*

ROGER

(off-stage)

Hello?

TUCKER

(sarcastically)

Aaah, Elliot, they've learned to talk!

ROGER

(off-stage)

Don't worry, I'm not a bear!

TUCKER

(sarcastic eureka moment)

Exactly what a bear would say!

*(During the exchange,
STEVE, without saying a
word, goes to unpack
things with his back
turned. On purpose.
Enter Ranger ROGER, the
head ranger at the park.
He's all business.)*

ROGER

Gentlemen, hello!

*(TUCKER and ELLIOT wave,
STEVE is doing busywork)*

TUCKER

Howdy.

ROGER

I'm Ranger Roger Rogers, head ranger here. I'm going around checking things out, making sure everyone is having a lovely time today.

TUCKER

(giggling to himself) Ranger... Roger Rogers? Oh, please let your middle name be Rudolph. Or Randy!

(TUCKER is promptly
ignored by everyone)

ELLIOT
Of course. We are having a lovely time.

ROGER
Good to hear. Did you happen to see the signs posted at the entrance to the park? About safety?

TUCKER
Oh, yes. Elliot here is quite the stickler for the rules. He may have even written them down for us to remember.

(ELLIOT looks annoyed)

ROGER
Excellent. Gold star for you, sir.

ELLIOT
Thanks?

ROGER
We're also reminding guests that there have been bear sightings.

ELLIOT
...

ROGER
Nothing to worry about for the most part. Remember to lock up any food items you may have brought into the park. And cleaning up is always important.

TUCKER
Of course. Elliot here is bear-phobic.

ELLIOT
That is not a real thing.

TUCKER
It totally is.

*(TUCKER looks over at
ROGER who shakes his
head "yes, it is.")*

ROGER

Did you tell him scary bear stories as a child?

*(TUCKER laughs, ELLIOT
does not. STEVE, in the
background, starts to
stand.)*

I do not personally find that funny. Education is the best
way to learn about bear safety, not through intimidation.

(ELLIOT is smug)

Sir, I assure you the chances are low that you will have a
frightening experience with one of our bears. In fact,
studies have shown that only 10%...

*(ROGER sees STEVE fully
and, uh, freaks out?)*

Is... that? Oh, my...

*(TUCKER has been waiting
for this)*

TUCKER

(very sarcastically) Oh, yes! Our big brother is the world
famous magician Steven Sanderstone!

*(As if by magic, ROGER
drops all sense of
seriousness and loses
it. He runs over to
STEVE, shaking his hand.
This is nothing new to
STEVE. Go nuts having
fun with his
overreaction.)*

ROGER

Wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow,
wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow.

STEVE

Hi.

TUCKER

(sarcastically)

Wow!

ROGER
I can't believe I am meeting you! I love you!

STEVE
Thanks.

ROGER
When you levitated over the Grand Canyon. Changed. My. Life!

TUCKER
(Muttering)
Mirrors.

STEVE
Thank you, that was a fun one. It took forever to plan.

ROGER
Don't tell me! I don't want to ruin the magic.

*(STEVE throws his hands
up and laughs.)*

STEVE
No spoilers!

*(ROGER is giddy
laughing. STEVE is being
friendly and laughing
along. TUCKER is
puzzled. ELLIOT just
stands there.)*

ROGER
My family is never going to believe this. Can we take a
picture together?

TUCKER
He'd love to!

*(ROGER hands TUCKER his
phone and goes to pose
with STEVE, who is
playing along.)*

TUCKER
Say 'Mirrors'!

ROGER
(Confused) Mirrors?

STEVE
(Angry)
Tucker.

(TUCKER takes the photo
and hands it back to
ROGER.)

ROGER
The world's greatest illusionist in our park. Wow.

STEVE
Wow.

ROGER
Wow!

TUCKER
(Mocking)
WOW!

(Both turn to look at
him. ROGER then turns
back.)

ROGER
I don't mean to spoil the mood. You know, I knew your dad.
(Turns somewhat serious) I was so sorry to hear about what
happened.

STEVE
Thank you.

ROGER
(Turning to TUCKER and
ELLIOT)
I'm sorry. He was such a great man.

TUCKER
Yeah...

ROGER
My father actually went to high school with him. He said
they called him the big man on campus. He would always tell

me about how he was friends with the coolest guy on the planet.

*(The brothers are now
confused and looking at
each other. Their dad?
Seriously?)*

Star athlete, ladies man--

TUCKER

That we did know.

ROGER

I first met him a few years ago down at Blarneys on Fifth. Shooting pool. A real shark, your dad was.

TUCKER

We also kind of knew that.

ROGER

Great guy. Always so friendly and welcoming. I loved to chat with him about the good old days. And, of course, his famous son.

(TUCKER turns to ELLIOT)

TUCKER

Of course.

ROGER

He really loved his family. More than anything. You couldn't get him to shut up about how proud he was of his family. And the pictures! Every time he would have a new photo of one of his grandchildren, he would show it off to everyone like a teenager showing off his new car.

*(TUCKER continues to
just look at ELLIOT)*

I think everyone that knew him looked up to him as a father figure. He'd always have good advice to tell. He'd just know what to say to anyone having a hard time. Or give a few bucks to someone in need. It must have been a hoot having him as your father.

*(STEVE and ELLIOT both
give polite nods, while
TUCKER turns around in
the least subtle "what*

the heck is he talking
about" motions.)

TUCKER

Are we talking about the same person? Harold Williams?

ROGER

Yes.

TUCKER

About my height. Balding. Goatee?

ROGER

That's him.

(TUCKER is dumbfounded
and silent, so ROGER
changes the subject.)

What brings you fellas out here?

STEVE

We're all going home Friday, just trying to get some
brotherly time in.

ROGER

Great family. Your dad would be so happy to see this.

*(TUCKER makes a gagging
sound. Before anyone can
react they are all
scared, except ROGER.)*

CHARLIE

*(Off-stage and really,
really loud)*

HELLO!

ALL BROTHERS

AH!

ROGER

Charlie, over here!

ELLIOT

What the...

TUCKER

Hell.

ROGER

Charlie Holland, our newest park ranger! She is a real jack of all trades. Like, *all* of them.

(CHARLIE enters carrying what appears to be a bootleg bear trap. CHARLIE is loud. VERY loud. Like doesn't have an outside voice, which is perfect for the outside.)

CHARLIE

ROGER, SIR, FOUND ANOTHER ONE ABOUT HALF A MILE AWAY.

ROGER

Oh, geez.

STEVE

What is that?

(CHARLIE holds it up, smiling as if she just caught a giant fish.)

ROGER

Vigilante bear hunters. Awful bunch. I think. Never seen them. They make these traps. *(To CHARLIE)* Put it in the truck and mark it on the map.

ELLIOT

Safe, eh?

ROGER

99.7%

TUCKER

That's pretty good.

ELLIOT

And the other .03%?

ROGER

(Changing the subject)

So... Charlie...

CHARLIE

YES?

STEVE

(Trying to be cute)

Well, we don't need to put a bell on you, do we?

CHARLIE

WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

STEVE

Never mind.

CHARLIE

NO, MR. MAGIC MAN, TELL ME WHAT YOU MEANT?

STEVE

You know who I am?

CHARLIE

DOESN'T EVERYONE? *(Looks him up and down)* NOT IMPRESSED. YOU
LOOK TALLER ON TV.

*(STEVE is at a loss for
words. This doesn't
happen. He is used to
strangers fawning over
him.)*

STEVE

Uh.

*(TUCKER notices his
brother is in trouble
and comes to his
defense.)*

TUCKER

He's not used to beautiful people talking to him.

*(CHARLIE just stares
ahead.)*

ELLIOT

Ranger Roger tells us you are a jack of all the trades. How
does that work?

CHARLIE
(Still looking ahead.)
I LIKE TO EXPERIENCE THINGS. I HAVE HAD MANY JOBS.

TUCKER
Oh? How many?

*(CHARLIE finally turns
to face TUCKER.)*

CHARLIE
INCLUDING THIS ONE? 73.

STEVE
Um.

TUCKER
Impressive. And cool.

CHARLIE
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO IMPRESS ME?

TUCKER
No?

CHARLIE
GOOD. YES, 73. AND I LEARNED SOMETHING IMPORTANT FROM EACH
ONE. AND EACH ONE HAS BROUGHT ME TO THIS POINT AND TIME.

TUCKER
Inquiring minds.

CHARLIE
ROGER.

ROGER
(Laughs)
We have time. And people should get to know our newest park
ranger.

CHARLIE
FINE. MY LAST JOB WAS A NIGHTCLUB MANAGER.

TUCKER
Explains the volume.

CHARLIE

BEFORE THAT I WAS A SHIP CHANDLER, TAFFY PULLER, DOG BOUNTY HUNTER, KIDDY POOL CLEANER, LOWER BACK MODEL, BUTTERFLY TRAINER, CHAMPION PUDDING MAKER, ZOMBIE MOANING VOICE ACTOR, DRAGON QUEEN LARPER, LICORICE MEASURER, FAKE PSYCHIC DETECTIVE, WEINER MOBILE DRIVER, ONE OF THOSE ANNOYING THEME PARK PHOTOGRAPHERS, BATHROOM TOUR GUIDE, COACHELLA FENCE GREASER, LOST EASTER EGG TRACKER, CHRISTIAN DEATH METAL POET, AIR FRYER CHEF, AMATUER CARD THROWER, ARBOR DAY CONSULTANT, COMMERCIAL JINGLE SINGER, SNOW GLOBE FILLER, CURLING CHEERLEADER, NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PARKING ATTENDANT, DOOMSDAY CLOCK ASSISTANT, RENT-A-GIRLFRIEND COORDINATOR, POKEMON MASTER, TAP WATER INFLUENCER, CHRISTMAS TREE UNDECORATOR, POLTERGEIST THERAPIST, ARM HAIR STYLIST, PARTICLE ACCELERATOR INTERN, ADULT MOVIE CRITIC, PIDGEON CAFE BARTENDER, TOMB RAIDER, PRO WRESTLING FASHION REPORTER, TOUPEE REMOVER, TAXICAB CONFEESSOR, TOE NAIL DECORATOR.

*(All of the brothers
just stand there with
their jaws on the floor.
ROGER is laughing.)*

YOU ASKED.

ELLIOT

What exactly is an 'arm hair stylist'?

TUCKER

A photographer?

*(Everyone turns to look
at TUCKER with an
expression like 'that
was the weirdest thing
you picked out'?)*

ROGER

Charlie, these men just lost their father. Didn't you do something in that field?

CHARLIE

YES, I WAS A CEMETERY DECORATOR.

ELLIOT

Oh, well, he was cremated.

CHARLIE

THOSE CAN BE DECORATED TOO.

STEVE

Uh...

ROGER

I think it's time for us to let these fine gentlemen back to their business.

CHARLIE

OF COURSE. *(Looks at STEVE)* GOODBYE.

(CHARLIE walks off-stage. STEVE still stands still, a bit dumbfounded.)

STEVE

Uh...

ROGER

Again, I am sorry for your loss. And *(to STEVE)* if you need anything just let us know. Anything at all. Like *(looks around)* an extra tent?

TUCKER

We might just take you up on that.

(They shake hands)

ROGER

Anything at all. Stay safe, guys.

(ROGER walks off-stage)

TUCKER

Well, that was...

ELLIOT

Weird.

STEVE

Do you really think Charlie was a tomb raider?

TUCKER

I meant Roger. And what he said about dad.

ELLIOT

Where do we even start with that?

STEVE

We all knew he had a secret life...

TUCKER

Banging women.

ELLIOT

Tucker, gross.

TUCKER

What?! It's true.