

RANGER BOB

by Susan Stepp

Copyright © MMXXV by Susan Eubanks Stepp, All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-64479-293-3

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this Work must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this Work. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this Work is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers LLC.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers LLC.

BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS LLC

P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406

TOLL FREE (888) 473-8521 • FAX (319) 368-8011

RANGER BOB

A Comedic Duet

by Susan Stepp

SYNOPSIS: Ranger Bob is committed to protecting and serving Canyon State Park and all its visitors. However, when a terrified camper seeks help after being chased by one of the park's "friendly" bears, Ranger Bob proves far from helpful. Through a fast-paced, hilarious conversation between the frantic camper and the delusional ranger, we quickly discover that Ranger Bob's hold on reality is disappearing as rapidly as the camper's chance of a safe exit out of the park.

TIME: Modern.

SETTING: Outdoors at a state park.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 male, 1 either)

RANGER BOB (m) Friendly state park ranger who is out of touch with the reality of what's happening in his park. *(28 lines)*

CHRIS (m/f)..... Terrified camper desperately seeking help. *(28 lines)*

COSTUMES

RANGER BOB – Ranger uniform. backpack, binoculars hanging around neck.

CHRIS – Outdoor clothes, watch. Clothes are torn and dirty, hair is a mess, dirt on face.

SET: Trees and bushes in middle of stage.

PROPS

Props can be mimed.

- sign that reads, “Canyon State Park”
- backpack
- small bench
- binoculars on strap
- large pinecone
- old shoe
- notepad and pencil.

DIRECTOR’S NOTES: The contrast in characters is key to this being a fun experience for the audience. RANGER BOB should be very animated, friendly and deliberate in his delivery, obviously delusional, and yet proceeding as though everything is fine. CHRIS’ portrayal should be someone truly terrified, displaying nervous energy and fear throughout the play. CHRIS’ facial expressions should reveal the growing realization that RANGER BOB has lost his grip on reality.

AT START: *Trees and bushes in center stage with sign reading, "Canyon State Park." Bench sits in front of greenery. RANGER BOB stands stage left, wearing backpack, looking through binoculars hung around his neck. CHRIS stumbles onto stage right in a panic, looking behind, as though being followed.*

CHRIS: *(Runs to center stage looking terrified.)* HELP! SOMEBODY HELP ME!

RANGER BOB: *(Steps to center stage to meet CHRIS. Extends his hand and speaks in an enthusiastic and friendly tone.)* Hello. I'm Ranger Bob. Welcome to Canyon State Park, home to one of the largest and friendliest brown bear communities in the USA! How may I assist you today?

CHRIS: *(Almost in tears.)* I just had a terrifying encounter with one of your so-called friendly bears! I was hiking on the Garden Trail when he started chasing me. I only escaped because I tripped on a root and fell into a ravine. I thought for sure I was going to die!

RANGER BOB: *(Comforting tone.)* Calm down. You're safe now. *(CHRIS seems relieved. RANGER BOB takes out notepad and pencil.)* Well, at least until he tracks your scent to this location.

CHRIS: *(Nervously looks behind him.)* How long will that take?!

RANGER BOB: *(Cheerfully.)* Not to worry. Bears are notoriously slow when they track. It will be at least another four *(Pauses.)*... maybe five minutes. *(CHRIS gasps. Going forward, CHRIS periodically looks over shoulder and at watch.)* Now, let me get some information for my report. Name?

CHRIS: Chris Brannon.

RANGER BOB writes in notebook.

RANGER BOB: Is this your first visit to Canyon State Park? *(Speaks in pleasant tone as though doing a promotion for the park.)* You know, we offer a wide variety of outdoor adventures which include hiking, kayaking, and zip-lining. We even have a lovely pavilion for large group events. *(Looking through notebook as though thinking out loud.)* Although, I see the bears have that reserved for next weekend, and they usually cook out, so the grills won't be available....

CHRIS: (*Confused.*) What is wrong with you?! We're talking about my bear attack! I need you to focus!

RANGER BOB: (*Gets serious.*) Of course, you're right. (*Writing in notebook.*) Can you describe your attacker?

CHRIS: (*Confused.*) He's a bear! Big, furry, sharp teeth, razor claws.

RANGER BOB: (*Annoyed.*) That describes half the bears in the park. Did he have any distinguishing features? Tattoo? Mustache? Glasses?

CHRIS: (*Irritated.*) What are you talking about? He's an ANIMAL.

RANGER BOB: (*Disapproving.*) Now, there's no need to start throwing personal insults around. He's probably just as upset as you are right now. Conflict between friends can be very unsettling.

CHRIS: (*Upset.*) Have you lost your mind!? He's not my friend. He's a BEAR!

RANGER BOB: (*Closes notebook.*) Frankly, Chris, I find your story hard to believe. Our bears are warm and friendly with all our park visitors. In fact, many of our guests who wander into the bears' habitats are never heard from again. I can only assume they're made to feel so welcome, they decide to stay and assimilate into the bears' culture. Occasionally, I'll find an open backpack... a pair of camper's boots... an arm. You know, the debris left behind when one leaves the old life and enters a new one.

CHRIS: (*Scared.*) Are you kidding me?! The bears in your park are killing the campers, and you don't even warn them of the danger!?

RANGER BOB: (*Dismissive.*) Don't be dramatic. Campers aren't that dangerous. In fact, the campers are usually sound asleep when the bears start feeding.

CHRIS: (*Almost hysterical.*) So you're saying the bears attack and eat poor, innocent campers while they sleep?!

RANGER BOB: (*Annoyed.*) Of course not. Sometimes, the bears are able to grab them from around the campfire. The fire seems to give the campers that smokey flavor the bears prefer. Then there are the campers who fall from the zip line. (*Chuckles.*) Talk about low-hanging fruit!

CHRIS: (*Horried.*) OH, MY GOSH! I've got to get out of here. Is there some way to get back to my car at the park entrance?

RANGER BOB: *(Cheerfully.)* Of course, there is. We have a park shuttle that runs every twenty minutes.

CHRIS: *(Relieved.)* FINALLY! When will it be here?

RANGER BOB: It stopped running about two weeks ago.

CHRIS: *(Frustrated.)* Why?

RANGER BOB: We had to shut it down after it was attacked by bears.

CHRIS: *(Shocked.)* WHAT??!! Why haven't you closed the park!!?

RANGER BOB: Well, I would if I could find a way to the park entrance.

You know the shuttle's been shut down for about two weeks now.

CHRIS: *(Exasperated.)* If you'll let me use your cell phone, I'll call for help.

RANGER BOB: Absolutely! *(Reaches into backpack, pulls out large pinecone, handing it to CHRIS.)* Now, the service can be spotty and sometimes the squirrels will listen in, but don't worry. Your secrets are safe with them. *(In a conspiratorial tone.)* It's the raccoons you can't trust.

CHRIS shows confused expression and refuses pinecone. RANGER BOB puts it back in backpack.

CHRIS: *(As though talking to oneself.)* Okay... stay calm, Chris. Don't let the crazy man scare you. There has to be a way out of here. *(Speaking to RANGER BOB.)* Don't you have a ranger tower where we could take shelter until help comes?

RANGER BOB: Of course, we do! *(CHRIS relieved.)* Unfortunately, the bears burned it down about two weeks ago.

CHRIS: *(Horried.)* What do you mean the bears burned it down?!

RANGER BOB: *(Doubtful tone.)* Well, that's what the chipmunks told me, but they're such drama queens. They can tend to exaggerate.

CHRIS: *(Confused.)* WHAT?! *(Seems to have a realization.)* Wait! You must have a fire station or EMT first aid center.

RANGER BOB: You bet we do! Top quality medical station with everything you'd need for a camper-related emergency, including a medical doctor on call 24/7. AND we have two firetrucks with the best darn firemen in the county.

CHRIS: *(Looking around.)* What are we waiting for?! Let's go!

RANGER BOB: (*Embarrassed.*) One problem. There's only one way to get there.

CHRIS: (*Yells.*) NOOOOO!

RANGER BOB: The park shuttle. Did I tell you it stopped running about two weeks ago?

CHRIS: (*Sits on bench. Hugs self and begins rocking back and forth.*) NO, NO, NO. This is NOT how I die.

RANGER BOB: (*Takes pinecone out of backpack and reaches toward CHRIS.*) Would it help if you called someone? A friend, a coworker... next of kin?

CHRIS: (*Stands with determination.*) Logic tells me you're a state park with state supervision, so you MUST have a way to reach the outside world.

RANGER BOB: Oh, sure. We have a two-way radio. Top of the line! Nothing is too good for a Canyon State Park ranger. (*Salutes.*)

CHRIS: (*Relieved.*) Yes! I KNEW we'd find a way out.

RANGER BOB: Unfortunately, Ranger Phil has that with him.

CHRIS: (*Growing frustrated.*) And when will HE be back?

RANGER BOB: (*Solemn.*) Probably never. (*Takes off hat and puts over heart.*) He was on the shuttle when the bears attacked.

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from RANGER BOB by Susan Stepp. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:

Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011

www.brookpub.com