

Grottos

Written by u/OEAWrites

INT. CAVE - SUNSET.

Cody (33) and Chris (30) have been stuck in a cave in the middle of nowhere for the past 24 hours. A huge rock has blocked the cave's entrance balking their exit. Cody has put together a very primitive hammer, out of the sticks and stones scattered around the cave, to try and break their way out.

CODY

Okay this has to work, I'm a scientist.

CHRIS

For the last time, being a cardiologist does NOT make you a "scientist".

CODY

A man of science, whatever.

CHRIS

That still does not equip you in anyway to break us out of here! Especially not with that neanderthal dildo you're trying to call a hammer.

CODY

Chris, I know what I'm doing, okay? I am not expecting you to contribute, I get it, you lack the *engineering* skills to contribute in a productive way, but could you at least be appreciative of my efforts to save you?

CHRIS

For God's sakes... Will you stop talking like that?! Saving me how, Cody ?! Come on, man. We're both helpless and it's fine. Why can't you admit we're both out of our depth here.

CODY

Negative, Chris. ***I*** am ***NOT*** out of my element here. I'm a resourceful man of science and I am completely in control. Any minute now, we'll be out of here and you will be showering me with thank you's, any minute n-

CODY's hammer shatters against the rock after making little progress. An awkward silence sets in.

CHRIS

Wanna say that louder? I can't hear you over the sound of your "*scientifically-engineered*" hammer breaking us free. Oh no wait, it's broken, like the dozen other "*tools*" you "*engineered*" today. It's fine, man, just accept it. We're spending a second night here.

CODY

I am ***NOT*** spending a second night here. I have a profession to get back to, Chris.

CHRIS

I have a "profession" too, Cody. Gosh you're annoying. It's bad enough to be stuck in a cave, but you have somehow found a way to be the worst thing about it. You know what, fuck it. You have become such an asshole ever since you became a doctor, man. Our entire friend group thinks so. We have given you chance after to chance to not act like a complete asswipe but you absolutely refuse to. You have a well-respected high-paying job. Congrats! You've made it! We are truly happy for you dude, but how can you crave validation SO much? How much more validation do you need?!

CODY

I don't... *crave* validation. It's just... I feel like you guys tend to skip over it, sometimes. Most times, actually...

CHRIS

Don't "chicken and egg" this, Cody. We skip over it because you never stop talking about it, not the other way around. We skip over it because we want you to be more than that. We cannot believe that that fun-loving, class clown of a friend we used to have is now the guy who can't stop name-dropping his job. We don't wanna accept that we lost him. What do you think this camping trip was all about? We thought bringing you here might re-ignite the upbeat, life-of-the-party kid we all knew. Remember how fun these thanksgiving weekend camping trips were back in the day? Sheesh... What happened to that Cody, man?

Another awkward silence sets in. CHRIS & CODY are sitting on parallel rocks unable to look at each other. A cold breeze creeps in through the cracks and Cody's survival instincts kick back in.

CODY

No, no! I'm getting out of here, I don't care what it takes, I'm getting out of here. I'm not gonna sit around and wait for ANYONE to come and get me. You think you're the only one finding the company here torturous, huh Chris? You wanna get honest? You wanna get real honest? Okay, let's get honest. I am sick and tired of having to constantly undermine my accomplishments so none of my loser friends feel threatened. It's not MY fault that I'm the only one who made it. Yeah, I said it.

CHRIS

Wow, you really believe that, huh? You really see yourself as "the ONE who made it"? Yuck, that's just sad, man.

CODY

You're the sad one! Why can't you handle my success? Why do I have to constantly tiptoe around you guys cause none of you went to college? Do you wanna know why our hangouts don't feel the same? It's because whenever we're hanging out, having a great time. When we have a few too many and it gets late, none of you have the adult responsibility to call it a night. So "boring-old" Cody has to be the one to say it, every night, every time, I have to say it. Because "boring-old" Cody has a 6 AM shift at the hospital and should have been in bed 2 hours ago, but he wants his old friends to think he is still cool, so here he is. You wanna say you have a profession too, Chris? You have a profession too? Well then next time I want you to be the one to call it a night because your waitering job at Nino's needs you in the morning. But no, you'll just come in a couple hours late, get an earful from your boss and then life goes on. Do you wanna know what happens when I'm late to my job, Chris? When I am late to my job, people die.

CHRIS has nothing to say. He looks through the cracks and notices that the sun has completely set. The sky is getting darker by the second. Cody gets up and starts to engineer another tool. Not even 10 minutes later his "creation" collapses. He hangs his head in shame as tears fill up his eyes. Chris doesn't say a word. He gets up, grabs a matchbox out of his pocket, and lights the bonfire they had built the previous night. They're spending a second one here.