

DANGER ZONE EXCAVATIONS

Written by

DAVID MALONE



**EXT. SAVANNA - DAY**

An Australian **TOUR GUIDE** and a family of tourists ride through the hazy savanna in a large jeep.

**PETER**, father, apprehensive, a bit of a goof.

**BETH**, mom, exhausted from this trip. Short-fused.

**CHARLIE**, 14, snarky smart aleck.

**STEVIE**, 8, inquisitive about everything.

Two giraffes mate in the distance.

TOUR GUIDE (O.S.)

If you look to the right, you'll see one of the most majestic creatures in all of the savanna. The lovely giraffe.

STEVIE

Look mommy they're giving each other a piggyback ride.

CHARLIE

No Dingus, they're fucking each other.

BETH

Charlie! Watch your mouth. Peter, are you going to say anything?

Peter gazes at the giraffes through his binoculars.

PETER

Oh yea, they're really going at it.

Beth's annoyed with Peter.

TOUR GUIDE

He's right, June is peak mating season for giraffes. I think it's the humid climate that's gets them all riled up. Hey kids if you think that's cool wait until we get to the danger zone.

BETH

The danger zone! No. No. No. I think we've seen enough already.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

We get it, the safari's one big sex party just like in all of the Disney movies. Now, can we please just go back to the resort now?

PETER

Oh, come on Beth live a little. Let the kids get a chance to enjoy the full safari experience.

BETH

(whisper yell)

Don't you bring the kids into this. I know what you're trying to do here and it's not gonna work. So, leave the kids out of this and let's just get this stupid trip over with.

Charlie and Stevie notice their parents arguing.

STEVIE

Mom, can we check out the danger zone pleaseee.

BETH

(reluctantly)

Sure hun, anything for you.

(whispers to Peter)

I don't like this.

STEVIE

Yeah!

TOUR GUIDE

Alright! Everybody strap in. It's gonna be a bumpy one.

The tour guide starts to pick up speed as the jeep races pass a sign titled "**LION'S DEN**".

BETH

Uh, sir. Did that sign just say we're entering a lion's den?

PETER

No, Beth. I'm sure it's not an actual lion's--

TOUR GUIDE

Oh yea! Now this is where the fun begins. You won't be able to see this shit on Nat Geo Wild!

The jeep is at max speed. The family member's looks like they're on a terrifying rollercoaster as they hold on to each for dear life.

**OVER BLACK:**

The jeep hits a bump and flips over several times.

Screams from the family. The crash settles.

**EXT. LION'S DEN - DAY**

The damaged jeep lays upside down in the lion den. Sparks come from the hood as it begins to smoke.

A lion roams around the vehicle.

**INT. JEEP - MOMENTS LATER**

The bruised and bloody Beth starts to regain consciousness.

BETH  
(coughs)  
Is everyone ok?

PETER (O.S.)  
Over here!

Beth crawls over to Peter and Charlie where they are hovered over the tour guide who still remains unconscious.

BETH  
Is he dead?

PETER  
No, I checked his pulse. He's still breathing.

BETH  
Where's Stevie?

STEVIE (O.S.)  
Ow! Ow! Ow!

BETH  
Stevie!... We're coming!

The family crawls to Stevie. Stevie's arm is trapped under a part of the jeep.

Beth tries to dislodge Steve's arm from the rubble.

STEVIE

Ow! Ow! Ow!

BETH

Ok. Try not to move honey. We're gonna get you out of here.

(to Peter)

I told you we should've just went back to the resort.

PETER

Well, I'm sorry for trying to have a nice trip with my boys. Hey kids, your mother sure knows how to make me look like the world's biggest jackass. It's probably my fault we're all about to die too huh. You know what Beth, you can't keep blaming me for all our problems!

BETH

Well it is your fault! Now would you just shut up and help me push this van off our son!

PETER

It's a jeep!

Peter, Beth, and Charlie crawl to the side of the vehicle and use their bodies as leverage to move the jeep.

CHARLIE

(straining)

It won't budge.

Lions on the outside bang and claw on the vehicle. The family screams and scurry back towards the middle.

PETER

(to himself, tearful)

I guess this is how it ends. All these years of misery and anguish for what. Just to be some lion's supper. Why God?

BETH

Oh quit your self pity. Can you at least keep your composure in front of the kids.

CHARLIE

Would you two stop! You guys have been at each other's throats ever since we got here. Is there something you want to tell us?

The parents look at each other concerningly.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Well we're all about to die soon, so might as well just spit it out.

BETH

Charlie!--

PETER

He's right. I think we should just lay it all out on the table. Right here. Right now. Beth... I sleep with my secretary from time to time. We don't love each other or anything. It's just something casual we do on the weekends. When I say I'm playing racquetball with Ted.

(nervous laughter)

See that wasn't so bad, that actually felt good to get that off my chest.

Frustration builds up on the inside for Beth. Her glare pierces through Peter.

BETH

I'm 2 years older than I actually am.

Peter takes a moment.

PETER

Oh that's not so bad. I kinda figured that out over the years haha.

Beth offended. Ready to throw another blow at Peter.

BETH

Your dad hit on me at the Christmas party.

PETER

You son of a bitch.

BETH

We made out in the bathroom.

(sarcastically)

We don't love each other or anything, it's just something casual.

PETER

You think that's funny.

BETH

Maybe

Peter and Beth starts to argue

PETER

(increasing gets louder)

Really Beth, My father. My actual father, you have truly reached a new low, you know that. Are you that desperate for attention? Just grow up!

BETH (CONT'D)

(increasing gets louder)

Don't you start with me. You're always pointing the finger at everybody else but never taking responsibility. No, you grow up!

CHARLIE

Ugh, stop arguing! We're never gonna get outta here if you guys keep fighting!

PETER

Open your eyes Charlie, we're never getting out of here. So, just zip it!

Beth and Peter in integration mode.

BETH

Actually, Charlie you've been pretty quiet today. Is there something you want to tell us?

PETER

Yea spit it out kid. Everybody has to share. Stevie you're up next.

Stevie looks terrified.

CHARLIE

(reluctantly)

Fine! Mom... I gave your pearl necklace to Katy.

BETH

Oh, that's not so bad. They were fake anyway.

PETER

Charlie, don't give me that shit.  
Tell us something real. Something  
you've been hiding, burying deep  
down inside for months.

Charlie takes a moment.

CHARLIE

(heavy sigh)  
Katy's pregnant.

BETH

What!?

PETER

Bingo, there we go.

BETH

That tramp you brought over for  
Thanksgiving.

CHARLIE

You said no judgment.

BETH

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. You're right.  
I guess we won't be able to enjoy  
being grandparents.

PETER

It's overrated anyways. Alright,  
Stevie your turn.

STEVIE

Dad you remember a few months back  
when you said you lost your wedding  
ring.

PETER

Yea.

STEVIE

You didn't. I just pickpocketed off  
of you so I can pawn it to buy some  
video games.

PETER

Oh, that's okay son. I was probably  
going to do the same thing anyways  
and pay off some gambling debts so  
I won't have to sell off the house.  
(nervous laughter)



CHARLIE/BETH/STEVIE

What!?

PETER

I'm kidding, I'm kidding ha ha. But after this trip we definitely can't go back to Calabasas.

Piss off looks all aimed at Peter.

CHARLIE

Cut the bullshit dad. Stevie and I know why yall dragged us on this trip. I thought you would have told us by now but I guess we have to pull it out of you. So, just come out and say it!

PETER

So you guys know.

CHARLIE

Of course we know. You guys have been acting weird for the past few months. With all the quiet yelling in the bedroom. And all the quote-unquote extra therapy sessions. I don't know why you guys had to take us on this stupid trip to tell us.

BETH

Tell you what?

CHARLIE

That you and dad are getting a divorce.

Beth and Peter take a moment to look at each other then let out a big laugh.

BETH

What? Your dad and I love each other. Until now. But, we were never getting a divorce.

CHARLIE

Oh... So, what was this stupid trip for?

BETH

We didn't know how else to tell you this but... you guys are adopted and your biological parents wanted to finally meet you. I know this is a lot to take in but-

CHARLIE

No, it's not! We already knew that!

BETH

You did?

STEVIE

We did?

CHARLIE

Yea, haven't you noticed we look nothing like them.

STEVIE

We don't?

A helicopter swirls from above.

PETER

Welp that was easy, I'm glad that's settled now.

(awkward laugh)

A crane from the helicopter pulls the jeep up in the air.

#### **INT. HELICOPTER - EVENING**

The family gets rescued. Their wounds are tended to. But mentally they are still recovering and processing the accident. Along with all of the information that was just shared. The tour guide lays on the ground still unconscious.

CHARLIE

So... where do we go from here. Knowing all that we know now.

STEVIE

Yea are we still gonna be a family?

PETER

No son, I--I think it's best if we all should go our separate ways.

BETH

Yea, I think so too.