

## **BRIDGE WALKER**

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS:**

RAY GODBEY: Male, 30-40, a young man who finds himself at a crossroads in his life.

PETE LIVELY: Male, 60-70, upbeat military veteran with a secret to share.

### **PLOT SUMMARY**

Two men have an unlikely meeting and discover they have more in common than expected.

### **SETTING**

Action takes place on an old bridge that has been closed to vehicular traffic.

**BRIDGE WALKER**

*(Lights up on a bridge. RAY is standing against the railing, staring out. PETE enters walking briskly. He wears a backpack and spots RAY at the railing.)*

**PETE**

*(Enthusiastically)* That's the best spot!

*(RAY is startled and turns to see PETE approaching.)*

**RAY**

Wh... -excuse me?

*(PETE stops and checks his pulse on his wrist as he catches his breath.)*

**PETE**

Sorry, didn't mean to startle you. I just meant, great view from up here. Something about an old suspension bridge closed to vehicles that just brings out the adventurer in all of us, don't you think?

**RAY**

Yeah ...I guess so.

**PETE**

Great day for a walk.

**RAY**

Yeah. Look sir, I apologize, but I'm ... *-(he stops)* hold on - you look kind of familiar. Do I know you?

**PETE**

*(Examines him)* Can't say we've met, though admittedly my memory for faces isn't what it once was. I was just getting in my daily steps on this beautiful Coal River bridge before they tear her down - she's a stunner, isn't she?

**RAY**

Wait -yeah now I remember. You're that local guy they did that feature on, on the local news. The guy that walks all the bridges, Bridge-man, or something ...-

**PETE**

Bridge-walker. Yep, afraid that's me. Not particularly crazy about the moniker, though I've been called a lot worse. *(Pete extends his hand.)* Pete Lively. *(Ray shakes his hand.)*

**RAY**

And you did like what -walk every bridge in the state?

**PETE**

Sure did. Crazy, right? Took me the better part of two years. And for that singular act of lunacy, the governor declared me a "state treasure", whatever the hell that means. I didn't get your name...?

**RAY**

Oh, yeah... *(He hesitates)* It's Ray. Ray Godbey.

**PETE**

Well Ray, always pleased to meet a fellow traveler. How long you been up here?

**RAY**

Oh, uh... not long. *(uncomfortable)* So what did you mean about ...this being the best spot?

**PETE**

I meant that in a couple a ways. For starters, it offers you the best view of the new replacement bridge over there. Though if you ask me, they're making a huge mistake by tearing this one down! I mean, sure, she's got some mileage on her, and maybe she can't support the same workload that she used to, but hell, she's a part of the history of this town. Before she was

constructed back in the 60's when I was just a kid, you had to drive twelve miles down past Elkview to cross the river. And if nothing else, she'd make a great bike and jogger overpass, wouldn't she? Hell, I even wrote a letter to my supposed buddy, the governor asking him to leave this old lady in place, but I guess the meter on my fifteen minutes of fame had already expired.

**RAY**

Guess I never really thought much about it, but I see your point. So, what's with all the fascination with bridges?

**PETE**

Well now that's the million-dollar question, isn't it? And do you know that not one of those reporters ever asked me that? Not that I would have told them.

**RAY**

Why not?

**PETE**

Well, a man is entitled to his secrets, don't you think?