The States Collection – Utah – Time

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CAST: 4 (2 female, 2 male)

Grandpa Louie (old enough to be a grandpa); male – loves the outdoors; robust

Grandma Marie (old enough to be a grandma); female – natural caregiver, also robust

Lou (15-16) male – at “that” age where scenery is well – boring

Josie (13-14) female; Lou’s younger sister; she is also a people-pleaser

TIME: August morning; a year ago and now

PLACE: Arches National Park, Utah

SYNOPSIS: It’s so boring to go to the *same park every year.* Until it isn’t.

(There are two scenes. Change an accessory to denote the change in time.

SCENE 1 – A year ago

LOU

*Why* do we come here year after year?

JOSIE

It’s Grandpa’s favorite place on earth.

LOU  
Isn’t it our tenth time here?

JOSIE

Only nine. Next year will be our tenth anniversary of visiting Arches with Grandma and Grandpa.

LOU (checks phone)

Is it one hundred degrees yet?

JOSIE (checks phone)

Only 98.

LOU  
By the time we hike to the Delicate Arch, it will be over a hundred degrees. I am so over this

LOU (cont’d)

place. Now we just wait for Grandpa to say, “Look at this! Aren’t we lucky to live near such a beautiful place?”

GRANDPA (Entering)

Look at this! Aren’t we lucky to live near such a beautiful place?

LOU (Under his breath)

It’s as if you can touch heaven from here.

GRANDPA

It’s as if you can touch heaven from here.

LOU (Under his breath)

Some of these formations were made 65 million years ago.

GRANDPA

Some of these formations were made 65 million years ago. What a time that must have been!

GRANDMA (Entering)

Hats everyone.

(GRANDMA makes sure everyone has a hat on and puts one on GRANDPA who fusses.)

It sure is bright when you get near heaven. Everyone have water?

GRANDPA

We’re off to the Delicate Arch. That’s the most amazing one in Arches. It won’t be here forever. It would be nice to see all 2,000 of the arches, wouldn’t it? But there’s never enough time. Come on, you two, don’t dawdle. When are you going to be near so much natural beauty again?

LOU

Next year?

JOSIE

Shh.

GRANDMA

Photo!

LOU

We’re in the same place as last year. And the year before. Can’t we vary it a bit. Do it by that big arch.

GRANDMA

I like tradition. You two – on either side of Grandpa. Got it!

JOSIE

We should get one with you.

GRANDMA

Next year. Grandpa’s ready to go.

GRANDPA

Watch out for snakes!

LOU

The man’s going to get us killed. His own grandchildren.

JOSIE

It’s our yearly family adventure. And have you ever seen a snake?

LOU  
Remember?

JOSIE

Oh yeah. Sorry. Grandpa had to rescue you when you ran up that large rock.

GRANDMA

Try and keep up with us! Your parents would never forgive me if we lost you.

JOSIE

Race you!

LOU

You’re kidding, right?

(And THEY are off and LOU and JOSIE quickly follow.)

SCENE 2 – August – one year later

Use music; have the actors turn around and change head gear – anything you want to do to note the passage of time.

(SOUNDS of thunder and rain and then quiet.)

LOU

It’s cooler than last year. (Beat.) Aren’t we lucky to live near such a beautiful place?

JOSIE

It’s as if you could touch heaven from here.

(There may be a brief hug.)

LOU

He was always so healthy.

JOSIE

Until he wasn’t.

(GRANDMA enters with a large bag or box.)

LOU

Grandma, let me.

GRANDMA

I want to hold him. (Beat.) Hats? Water? Don’t dawdle. We have to make it to the Delicate Arch before it rains again. Your grandpa always said the heavens would open up for him.

JOSIE

It was his favorite place on earth.

GRANDMA

And now, he will never have to leave. The rain will sink his ashes into these sands of time. (Beat.) There’s never enough time.

JOSIE

Photo! I can do a selfie of the three of us.

(Beat.)

GRANDMA (Catching herself)

It’s not the same.

LOU

I think Grandpa would like the photo.

GRANDMA

… if you think…

LOU  
I’m sure. Let me stand by Grandpa.

(THEY arrange themselves. GRANDMA tries to freshen herself to look pretty for “GRANDPA.” LOU helps her hold the bag or box. JOSIE does the “selfie.” And then blackout.)

END OF PLAY