

Colorado – Bill Cody’s Grave

CAST: 2 (any gender)

Cody (any gender) 17, elder sibling who knows everything

Remy (any gender) 15, younger sibling who is skeptical of everything

PLACE: Lookout Mountain Road, Golden, CO; probably the burial place of Bill Cody

TIME: During decent weather; today

TAGS: Rusal, comedy, family

(LIGHTS UP on CODY and REMY at on Lookout Mountain.)

REMY

This is so lame. I hate being dragged here year after year to see some ancient ancestor.

CODY

We finally agree on something. It’s such a waste of time. I mean, his body’s not even in the grave.

REMY

We’re not going down that road again.

CODY

It’s a well-known fact that his body was replaced by some poor old ranch hand while he was still in the Denver morgue.

REMY

It’s a well-known **story**. Not fact.

CODY

He wanted to be buried in Cody and his friends went on a daring mission to make that happen.

REMY

He wanted to be buried on Lookout Mountain.

CODY

So said his wife – who he tried to divorce numerous times. She got her revenge. She tried to have him buried where he didn’t want to be.

REMY

Cody! Let it go! Who cares?

CODY

Buffalo Bill is part of history. History should be accurate. He’s not buried here! He’s buried in the mountains in an unmarked grave where he can see the city he founded.

REMY

He's dead! He cannot see anything! And your theory is riddled with holes. The idea that some grave robbers stole the body from here – even though there are twenty tons of concrete poured on top of his grave so that nobody could snatch the body is ridiculous.

CODY

You don't listen! They snatched the body from the mortuary! There was no grave yet! The road to Lookout Point was impassable in January when he died. And it's not a theory – it's a truth!

REMY

Conspiracy theory!

CODY

Fact! Just ask anyone in Cody.

REMY

You don't think anyone would eventually notice that the bodies were switched and the ranch hand wasn't Bill Cody?

CODY

Cody's friends were diabolical and one just happened to be an undertaker. They fixed up the ranch hand in Cody's clothes.

REMY

How convenient.

CODY

How many times do I have to tell you – they even cut the rancher's hair and trimmed his beard so that it matched Cody's!

REMY

There would be facial differences!

CODY

Covered up with a beard! Besides all old dead people look alike.

REMY

So why'd they pour concrete on a grave if there was no grave? Nothing makes any sense.

CODY

It makes perfect sense. Who wants to dig up a grave covered in twenty tons of concrete? They'll never be challenged even if the whole thing is a lie. And they got what they wanted – a tourist attraction. Denver was a big “nothing” till they got this grave.

REMY
But there was no grave!

CODY
What's this?

REMY
A grave.

CODY
I rest my case.

REMY
That wasn't there when the bodies were switched.

CODY
Who cares?

REMY
His ancestors?

CODY
Exactly. That's us.

REMY
Cody? You know how our family has a plot all set up for us just outside of Cody? If I die first – don't bury me there. I want to be cremated and then throw my ashes off a mountain. Any mountain. I'll travel on the wind. Deal?

CODY
Only if you agree to my last wishes. If I die in Cody which is possible, I don't want to be in the family plot either. Cody being buried in Cody is too redundant. Please agree to switch bodies and leave the fake body for burial in Cody and take my real body here – to Lookout Point. I like the view.

REMY
Your dead.

CODY
My ancestors will like the view.

REMY
You want to be buried by the "fake" grave?

CODY
Yes. Do you agree?

REMY

Sure. *(Beat.)* Of course, I'd probably need to have a friend who was an undertaker. And then there would need to be a ranch hand around the same age as you who conveniently died. And then you'd need to have grown a beard so we could trim the fake body to look like you.

CODY

REMY!

REMY

Do you see how preposterous it all is? Your theory doesn't hold water.

CODY

It's not a theory!

(And they continue to argue as the lights fade to black.)

END OF PLAY