

The States Collection – Oklahoma
What's in a Name?
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CAST: 2 males

Ash from Slaughterville, OK (18-19)

Peter from Rabbit Trap Cove, OK (18-19)

SYNOPSIS: Two incoming freshman try to reconcile the unfortunate names of their hometowns in Oklahoma.

PLACE: Outside a building at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma.

TIME: Summer afternoon

(Lights up on ASH leaving with a folder of “getting to know you stuff” for incoming freshmen. PETER follows.)

PETER

Hey, wait up!

ASH

I just want to get out of here.

PETER

Freshman orientation is a necessary evil.

ASH

I just want to move into the dorm, go to classes and not have to play “getting to know you” games.

PETER

Gotcha. (Beat.) So, is there really a town in Oklahoma called Slaughterville?

ASH

Don't want to talk about it.

PETER

It's an unusual name for a town. It conjures about bizarre images.

ASH

It's not what you think.

PETER

And your name is Ash? Not Ashley or Asher...

ASH

Just Ash. Ash Embers.

PETER

“Ash Embers from Slaughterville.” What were your parents thinking?

ASH

That I’d grow up tough and resilient. Something you people with a normal name wouldn’t know about.

PETER

Actually/

ASH

I don’t want to discuss my name anymore. You have no idea how much discussion has already taken place.

PETER

I do.

ASH

You can’t. “Peter from Tulsa” does not have the same ring as “Ash from Slaughterville.”

PETER

I lied My name is Peter. But I’m not from Tulsa. I’m from Rabbit Trap Cove.

ASH

Peter from Rabbit Trap Cove?

PETER

It gets worse. My last name is “Babbit.”

ASH

“Peter Babbit” from Rabbit Trap Cove.

PETER

That’s me.

ASH

I don’t know what’s worse. Your name and city or mine.

PETER

I want to do what you did. I want to own my name. Let people laugh. People have been laughing at me and my name for eighteen years. What's another eighteen?

ASH

It's a good conversation starter.

PETER

I suppose. (Beat.) I was wondering if you have a roommate yet?

ASH

Not sure.

PETER

Because Ash Embers from Slaughterville has a lot in common with Peter Babbit from Rabbit Trap Cove.

ASH

Not worried about your bunny rabbit being reduced to ashes?

PETER

On the contrary, I am counting on you to blaze a path for us freshman year that is inextinguishable.

ASH

Let's check the roommate situation at the office.

PETER

This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

ASH

You do eat more than lettuce don't you? Because I love a good, charred steak.

PETER

Just don't develop a taste for rabbit stew.

(They exit.)

END OF PLAY