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Narrator: Observer Pictures presents Boom: A Serial Drama podcast. Written and directed by Faith McQuinn. This is episode six: The Gorge.

Narrator: It's late spring in Red River Gorge, Kentucky. Porter, Dax, and Luke are on their fourth weekend trip together.

Porter: Damn. I can't believe I still remember what the hell I'm doing.

Luke: Hey- it's like riding a bike!

Porter: Sure if the bike's 80 feet up.

Dax: You good?

Porter: Yeah. Just my hair keeps getting in my face.

Dax: Hippie.

Porter: Wow. Are you fifty?

Luke: Less talk, more climb.

Dax: And he makes it to the top!

Porter: That last ten feet or so was a little rough.

Dax: You're just rusty old man.

Porter: Um, who slipped twice?

Dax: Luke, need a hand?

Luke: I got it.

Dax: Wow. This is fucking beautiful up here.

Porter: Always the poet.

Dax: This view could cure just about anybody. Mother Nature! You can put me out of a job. Woo! I needed this weekend.

Porter: I can't believe I've never been here. This looks exactly like a dream I had.

Genevieve: Life isn't fun if it's [inaudible 00:02:13], right?

Porter: Jen would've taken some awesome pictures up here.

Luke: Hell yeah she would've.

Dax: And she would've whined about the climb more than you did.

Luke: Are you kidding? She wouldn't have even made this climb. Top rope or nothing.

Porter: You remember at Stone Door when you guy's had to get the bikes because she wouldn't repel?

Genevieve: Wow this is beautiful. Oh damn, I didn't pack enough film.

Porter: You ready to head back down?

Genevieve: What? But we just climbed up here!

Porter: You have to go back down.

Genevieve: That's what the bikes are for.

Porter: Well the bikes are for later. You need to repel.

Genevieve: I need to what?

Dax: Ready?

Porter: Not quite!

Genevieve: I want my bike!

Luke: Bike, like bring it to her?

Dax: Sounds like it.

Porter: Jen just repel back down! It's nothing. I got you!

Genevieve: You'll get me when I have my bike!

Luke: I didn't climb that day. I was pissed.

Porter: I remember that too. You were grumpy son of a bitch back in the day.

Dax: Back in the day?

Luke: Shut up!

Porter: Oh man. She really would've taken some great pictures up here. You guys bring a camera?

Luke: No.

Dax: Nope.

Porter: I got my phone.

Luke: Definitely not as good as hers but

Porter: Yeah next time let's remember the camera.

Dax: I can't believe it's been a year.

Porter: Yeah. Didn't actually think I'd be out here ever again.

Dax: Honestly, I didn't either. I'm glad you are.

Porter: Dax, stop looking at me with your shrinky eyes.

Dax: I'm just checking in. Can't help it.

Porter: Yes, you can. You just don't want to.

Dax: Believe me. I want to.

Luke: I'm good with it. I'm pretty sure your shrinky mojo is why we're all up here in the first place.

Porter: Or, you know, maybe my actual therapist.

Dax: This weekend, I am not Dr. Fletcher. Just Dax. The guy who climbs, stuffs his face with your shitty cooking, and

Porter: Hey, hey.

Dax: And has an incredible time in this amazing place.

Porter: Are you gonna be this annoying all weekend?

Dax: Mm, probably.

Luke: I hate this trad climbing. Free soloing is so much better. Are you guys up for it?

Dax: Like, right now?

Luke: Hell yeah! Don't you wanna do it?

Dax: No. I barely like bouldering.

Porter: I like my life. I'm good.

Luke: Oh come on. I thought this weekend was supposed to be an adventure! We were doing this in high school.

Porter: Yeah and I haven't done it since high school. Ah! You hear that? That's not the sound of a man who's doing anymore climbing today.

Luke: Oh come on, man. You're stronger than ever. I bet all that physical therapy, you'll do fine.

Porter: I'm not going, Luke.

Dax: There is no way on God's green earth I'm free soloing. And neither should you.

Luke: You guys are a couple of pussies.

Dax: Damn man, no need for that. I thought this was supposed to be a relaxing weekend.

Luke: Relaxing? Rock climbing is not supposed to be relaxing. It's a thrill. It's a way to cheat death. That's why I do it. The idea of risking your life every time you put your hand or foot out to find a new hold. It's like you're staring down God and daring him every time.

Porter: We're tired man. Let's just head back and grab a bite.

Luke: Why do you think you're out here? You're looking for that thrill too, you just won't admit it. You got your ass off that couch but you're still scared. Genevieve could've talked you into it. She liked it a little dangerous.

Porter: Stop.

Luke: Why? Oh I see. I thought those shrink visits cured you. Guess not. Are you making a fist? You wanna hit me? Come on! Hit me!

Dax: Luke.

Luke: Shut it, shrinky dink! I don't need your psychological bullshit. Save it for him. He's the one who wants to fucking fight. I'm heading for my bike. I'll see you guys at Miguel's if you decide to join me.

Dax: I just

Porter: It's cool. Dax. I'm good. Like I said, I'm tired. Let's just pack up and head back.

Dax: Well he definitely didn't wait for us. Ah, but he threw his stuff in the back.

Porter: Typical. Guess we're going to Miguel's.

Dax: You sure?

Porter: Yeah, we're all good. Luke's a little

Dax: Dramatic?

Porter: Yeah. Like I said it's all good. Pizza and beer sounds just about like heaven right now. Uh, Dax? You got a spare in here right?

Dax: Yeah. Why? A flat? How'd that happen?

Porter: Who knows. Maybe a rock or something. Maybe Luke was pissed enough to slash it.

Dax: What?

Porter: Relax, I'm just kidding.

Dax: Shit.

Porter: What?

Dax: I don't have my spare. Fucking forgot I needed to replace it.

Porter: Awesome. I guess we're hoofing it.

Dax: It's an hour's walk. We could just call Luke.

Porter: We could.

Dax: So we're walking?

Porter: Yeah. We're walking.

Dax: How much farther?

Porter: At least another mile.

Dax: If I knew I was gonna hike today I would've worn different shoes.

Porter: Is that?

Luke: Hey guys, where's the car?

Dax: I thought you were going to Miguel's?

Luke: Yeah man I was on my way and then I realized I was an asshole.

Dax: Huh. Progress.

Luke: So where's the car?

Dax: We had a flat.

Luke: No spare?

Porter: Nope.

Luke: Ah shit.

Dax: Yeah.

Luke: Well I think I passed a ranger.

Porter: Cool. We'll be right here.

Dax: And I'm out. I need a bed.

Porter: Aren't you hungry?

Dax: I'm sure there's something here but you guys go ahead.

Porter: I should probably shower first.

Luke: I'm good I'll meet you over there.

Porter: Sure.

Narrator: It's just after sunset when Porter arrives at Miguel's and the place is packed. It's the kind of place Genevieve Reynolds would've relished.

Myra: Ow, that's my foot!

Porter: Sorry I didn't see you.

Myra: Obviously.

Porter: Uh.

Myra: I think what you're trying to say is hey can I get you another beer?

Porter: Uh. Can I get you another beer?

Myra: Yes. Thank you. Are you here with anyone?

Porter: I think.

Myra: You meeting somebody?

Porter: Sort of.

Myra: Well then. I do love a guy who can commit. I doubt you'll get a table right now. Come on over while you wait. We have room for one more.

Allison: I thought you were getting a beer?

Myra: This is my best friend Allison.

Allison: Hi.

Myra: And Rachel and Karen. We met them out on the rocks today. They're up here from

Woman (R or K): Austin. Hey.

Porter: Hey.

Myra: And um

Luke: Looks like you made it.

Porter: He would be the somebody I'm meeting.

Myra: Oh. No introduction needed then.

Porter: I guess I'll just wedge in here on the end.

Myra: Oh no you don't. I was just showing you the table.

Porter: What?

Myra: You owe me a beer remember? So go on over there and get that.

Porter: Uh okay. I'm Porter by the way.

Myra: Nice to meet you Porter. I'm Myra.

Narrator: Join us again next week for another episode of Boom. This episode featured the voices of Garrett Delozier as Porter, Charity Spencer as Genevieve, Brian Irwin as Luke, Avalon Herron as Dax, Melinda Paul as Myra, Courtney Holly as Allison, and me, Michael Ahr, as the narrator. Production sound- Matthew L. Hankins. Assistant Director- Amanda Lorraine. Sound design- Joshua Suhy. Original music- Brian Irwin. Editing- Faith McQuinn. Sound Mixing- Joshua Suhy. Production assistant- Delilah Ferrer. Casting- Courtney Edwards. If you enjoyed this episode, please subscribe and consider giving us a rating and review on Apple podcasts. For more information on the show, including a full list of cast and crew, and where to find us on social media please visit [boom.observerpictures.com](http://boom.observerpictures.com). Thank you for listening.