

GEMMA SIDE

PART TWO: THE BEAR

(An urgent phone call.)

911. 9-1-1, how can I help you?

START HERE: GEMMA. We're out near the Yakima River Basin,
by the rocks that are probably,
we bet,
only *one* million years old.

Our Store Manager and Troop Marshall - Rex -

*(Some muffled conferring "what was it
again?" with the others.)*

His *formal name* is Rex Jeremy Johnson the Third?

Has been pulled into an old cave by a huge bear.

Before you ask,

none of us actually saw this bear,

but we are almost certain that he, that Rex,

must be curled up?

Underneath his The Ritz Carlton sweatshirt probably
in the fetal position.

Near the back of the cave.

Or where we think the back of the cave is...

totally possible it continues further.

911. Has there been a scuffle?

GEMMA. We have heard what sounds like -

(Some muffled conferring with the others.)

- sounds like "large paws" "batting" around and
"occasionally" making contact with something "soft" or
"swollen"?

911. Flesh?

GEMMA. Possibly flesh?

We have to admit something now?

At this point, we're not sure...

See Rex was, is, a Systems Guy?

There's certain suspicion, *per my co-workers*,
that this could be a Systems Exercise?
It's totally possible this is an elaborate test of some sort,
perhaps of Cave Systems or -

(Muffled conferring with the others.)

There could be testing of Bear Systems happening?

(Beat.)

Basically, we know there's a charge for false calls and
for ambulance rides and none of us are prepared to
absorb the cost of those fees if this is all, say, not even
a real thing.

(Beat.)

We're shoe store employees. **END HERE**

911. How long has he been missing?

GEMMA. An hour...

Ten minutes...

It's unclear, time has, has...

(Makes a sucking noise.)

Since he was...yanked in?

It's been difficult for us to determine...

You might not understand this analogy,

but we feel like astronauts?

Circumstances and time and next steps...

The previous systems in place have been failing...

It's been a disaster. We're falling apart?

Between you and me, I think one of my co-workers is
living IN the shoe store and -

*(Some louder muffled conferring with the
others, the phrase "no one lives in the shoe
store" amidst a scuffle for the phone, which
PEPPER wins.)*

PEPPER. Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey, hi -

No one lives in the shoe store.