

## My Life in the Company of Bears

Written by Jeffrey Griest

Tuesday, 27 March 2012 16:31 - Last Updated Wednesday, 04 April 2012 14:00

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Let me start by saying that I have met a lot of great friends and even some I consider family here at Bearidise.

First Person I'd like to thank is Brian Mcklveen for bringing me here. Secondly a big thanks to Dave Ressel and Andrew Churlik who brought me back a second time.

You could say it was my Second Coming.

And I would like to thank Arthur for allowing me to live here when I did.

This is my story of how I came to realize that I am and forever will be a Bear. Now as far as my story goes I think most of you know about my coming out, but for those who don't here is how it went down.

After I came back from Bearidise I figured it was time to tell my mother that I was gay. Let's say it wasn't the pleasantest of things and I was told my mother could not deal with a gay son, so I was asked to move in with my friend Robert but I thought about Arthur and the Bears I met so asked Arthur if I could live with him. He replied with "Yes" and so my adventure began although I didn't know what the hell would happen.

I just kept on finding myself and sticking to what my goal was which was to change and to change for myself, but I kept doing it for other people cause I didn't know how to do it by myself. I'm still at times trying to do things for other people cause doing things for myself seems meaningless.

However certain events would unfold that would test some of my friendships at Bearidise. Then a Very Unusual thing happened. In March Don, another bear who lived at Bearidise, took me under his wing without even knowing me. Its funny and yet sad in some ways cause Don didn't know me yet he was taking care of me. It wasn't til later down the road that a new change would begin. I was sitting on the deck with Don's then fiance Roy was asked a ? by Roy that would really change where I was with my own biological father. He asked me if I wanted to be his son and for him to be my Dad. The Things going through my mind were:

What the Hell was Going on here?

Why the hell did this man want me for a son?

Could I trust someone and even attempt to love them even thou my own father abused me?

Would I answer that question with a yes or run away and say no like I have done before?

Then with a few days thought I said yes and its been very positive in my life. Now I have 2 dads (even thou I don't call one dad but my best friend).

Now the past 18 months with Roy and Don have been testy and even sometimes rocky as I have the tendency to misunderstand things. Roy and Don have shown me things in myself that I

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found rather difficult to accept. I do things without even knowing that I have done them. If I have ever offended anyone here at Bearidise please know it wasn't intentional.

Most of the time I speak my mind and as a wise drag superstar said "What People think of me is none of my business". I agree 100% percent on that cause what everyone thinks of me isn't my business.

Another saying is "An ounce of anger is worth a pound of pain". I agree with that 100% percent as well. Most of you have helped me out without even knowing u have.

I wanna say that I have met a lot of interesting people here at Bearidise. Some of us had disagreements, some of us even have a lot of things in common, some I even have worked with and found it was really cool to work with you, even if you were my boss and now a great friend. Now I am starting a journey of finding myself and also discovering the inner child in me who I have neglected for a long time.

Here's a question for you all. Has anyone done something for you that was beyond the call of duty because, in the helping, it hurt them? Someone did for me and I don't yet understand why they did it other than they love me.

Now, I have made some really good friends here:

**Duke**

**Sam**

**Jacob & Sid**

**Jason**

**Patrick**

**Micheal**

**Aaron**

**Denny**

**Don W.**

**Dennis & Ray**

**Dwight Yoder & Jim Gray**

**Bill**

**Jeff & Frank**

One person who wasn't mentioned due to us losing him to a car accident was **James Buescher**

who

was from the same county I'm from, Solanco County, Pennsylvania.

**James Buescher**, I wish I got to know you better.

Thank you for taking the time for reading this.

Until next time ... Stay Tuned ...

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