Embracing the Unexpected

My Getaway Story by Anthony Graziano

Here's a story about embracing the unexpected and letting it guide you to something even more surprising.

It was a frigid day in early January, and I was making my way home from a snow-seeking trip in the Adirondacks. My daughter sent me a note letting me know she was staying at a cabin in the Catskills for the next couple of days. Always the adventurer, she had found yet another unique spot to explore. I was planning to drive through the Catskills on my way home, so we decided to meet up for a cup of coffee and a quick visit.

As I drove south, the frigid weather turned into a full-blown snowstorm with whiteout conditions and roads covered in snow and ice. When I finally got to her, she needed a bit of help to make it up the icy hill leading to her cabin, so we put my Jeep to good use. Once settled into her quaint little cabin in the woods, I decided, considering the weather, it was best to hit the road again and deal with the rest of the stressful ride home. She said, "No need, Dad, I booked you a cabin for the night." Our quick visit morphed into an overnight stay with a cabin-cooked dinner and a plan to take in the local sights in the morning.

It was getting dark, so I went to get settled into my own cozy little cabin. As I was making my way back to my daughter for dinner, I found myself in need of some assistance. In the dark and raging snowstorm, I ended up in a ditch that even the Jeep couldn't escape. While waiting for a tow, I took in my surroundings. From what I could see in the darkness, I was in a sort of camp with tiny cabins widely spread out. Each cabin, I discovered, was a beautifully retrofitted shipping container with all the amenities. I thought to myself, what a great idea. The tow truck arrived, and my daughter kept dinner warm until I finally got to her.

That night, I slept better than I had in a long time and woke to a stunning morning awash in sunlight and surrounded by tranquil woodlands blanketed in freshly fallen snow. Over breakfast, my daughter explained that we were at the “Getaway Outpost - Western Catskills” and gave me a quick rundown. The Getaway company is putting “Outposts” close to metropolitan areas to provide easy access to a relaxing escape in nature. This Catskills location is one of three NYC-area Outposts. We headed out for our morning hike and to visit nearby towns. Eventually, it was time for me to finish the ride home. But now, I felt refreshed and thrilled that I got to spend some quality time with my daughter. I was intrigued and wanted to learn more about Getaway Outposts.

What I discovered is that Getaway is founded on the belief that “free time should be a right and a ritual for everyone.” I love that idea, so I looked into their vision: “Our outposts are designed to be more than a destination; they create distance from the relentless demands of work, schedules, and technology. We want our guests to experience unscheduled, unstructured, and uninterrupted free time—not just for rest and rejuvenation, but to foster inspiration, creativity, and connection. At Getaway, we believe joy is found when we slow down, wander, and marvel at the world.” I loved that sentiment even more and experienced it firsthand during my short stay.

I read that their founder’s experience and motivation are based on a personal conviction that being in nature is critical to well-being, productivity, and happiness. I share this belief and hope to convey it through my photography. Feeling a connection, I reached out to introduce myself and have a chat. That chat resulted in an invitation to participate in Getaway’s Artist Fellow Program. The program hosts artists at Outposts, providing uninterrupted time away from the hustle and bustle of daily life and an inspiring space in nature to create their art.

Since that first brief visit, I have experienced the other New York area Outposts at Catskills East and Moodus, CT. For this opportunity, I am truly thankful. During my

stays, I created a body of work that I hope supports our shared motivation to help others take the time to Getaway and inspires them to embrace the restorative powers of nature.

So, in the end, a blinding snowstorm led to an unexpected overnight stay that guided me to something even more surprising—a new, mutually beneficial, and rewarding relationship. I would have never imagined this while I was stuck in that ditch, waiting for the tow truck on that frigid winter's night.