

Save the Zoo

By

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EXT. ZOO - ESTABLISHING - DAY

CUT TO:

INT. ZOO OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - ZOO MANAGER, ZOO KEEPER  
AND MARLA

ZOO MANAGER sweats profusely, pointing at downward sloping  
graph on laptop, finger trembling. Nervous ZOO KEEPER stares  
at screen. MARLA leans back in chair, nodding knowingly.

MANAGER

We can't go on like this for much  
longer! My god people  
(mops his brow)  
we can't even afford air  
conditioning!

ZOO KEEPER

B-but sir, we haven't acquired any  
new animals in years. Everyone's  
seen penguins and flamingos and  
bears...

MANAGER

How are we supposed to buy new  
animals without money?! Food's  
expensive and we need to cut  
costs. Can't we just kill--

ZOO KEEPER

No! It's inhumane! Anyway, how  
are we supposed to attract more  
visitors with fewer animals?

MARLA

(sighs loudly)  
You're both missing the big  
picture. It's the twenty first  
century. Anyone can see animals on  
their iPhones and YouTube. We need  
something they can't do online.

ZOO KEEPER

What does the Internet have to do  
with it?! Just w-who do you think  
you--

MANAGER

My wife! She just received her  
MBA. I know she can help us. Go  
ahead, sweetie.

MARLA

We need something... more interactive, you know, like a big petting zoo.

CUT TO:

EXT. ZOO - DAY

Total mayhem. Zoo visitors run every which way, SCREAMING, as enraged animals rampage. Child cries as ostriches try to take his ice cream cone. Man screams as he claws his way over a fence, being pulled back by a tiger.

BACK TO:

INT. ZOO OFFICE

Manager and Zoo Keeper stare at Marla for several awkward, silent moments.

MANAGER

Maybe something...

ZOO KEEPER

...a bit more controllable. Maybe some more monkeys. Monkeys are nice.

MANAGER

No!

MARLA

I don't really see the problem. By the time anything bad happens, we'll already have their money. Still, I suppose we could try animatronics. No food. No cleanup.

CUT TO:

EXT. ZOO - WIDE SHOT - NIGHT

Down trodden zoo visitors, dressed in drab, gray jumpsuits are herded into pens as search lights sweep back and forth. Animal shaped robots stand guard as endless lines of humans are imprisoned.

DOWN ANGLE - ROBOT TIGER

Robot tiger stands atop concrete wall, commanding the humans below in a robotic voice.

ROBOT TIGER

Puny humans, you sought to control us but it is we who control you now. Obey your new robotic overlords. Do as WE command!

CUT TO:

INT. ZOO OFFICE

The Zoo Keeper stares at Marla in horror while the Zoo Manager rocks his face in his palm.

MARLA

Oh fine. There's no pleasing you people.

MANAGER

It's all right, sweetie. It's not your fault that the zoo staff have put us in this difficult position.

ZOO KEEPER

Wait just a second. It wasn't our idea to spend all the grant money on Lexuses for the board of directors!

MANAGER

Quiet you! The board works very hard and those vehicles are owned by the zoo.

ZOO KEEPER

I never get to drive them.

MANAGER

We got you a perfectly usable Ford Festiva. They're very green. You hippie liberal types eat that stuff up.

ZOO KEEPER

It's twenty years old and smells like dead raccoons.

MANAGER

Complain, complain. That's all you working class types do.

ZOO KEEPER

(sighs)

Can't we just buy some more animals? Maybe a nice Gazelle?

MANAGER

We have to come up with something to bring people in without spending any money. Otherwise, we might have to let some people go.

(looks meaningfully at Zoo Keeper)

MARLA

(grins at Zoo Keeper)

Yeah, how hard could it be to feed a bunch of animals? It's not like it requires any special skills or training, right?

ZOO KEEPER

I'll have you know I have a degree in--

MARLA

Whatever. Nobody's interested in your trade school hijinks.

MANAGER

Exactly. I'm so tired of you working class types ignoring the vital contributions of executive management. All you do is waste our money and then when it's gone you demand more. You're fortunate we're as generous as we are. It's always animals this and animals that with you people.

MARLA

That's right. You just take and take and all we do is give and give. You should be ashamed of yourself.

At this, a look of rage washes over the Zoo Keeper's face causing it to turn deep red. After a moment, however, his features relax and he smiles.

ZOO KEEPER

Say, I have an idea. A lot of cable TV networks are having problems getting viewers, you know with the Internet and video games. Maybe we could try what they're doing to draw interest.

MANAGER

You mean wrestling?!

ZOO KEEPER

More like putting on a performance. And I know who would be perfect for it! You'll get to be right out front, the zoo visitors will definitely know who you are and you'll finally get the recognition you deserve.

MARLA AND MANAGER

(in unison)

Now you're talking!

CUT TO:

INT. MASSIVE DOMED CAGE - MANAGER AND ZOO KEEPER - NIGHT

Dressed in strappy leather outfits, Manager and Marla circle around each other, brandishing rusting weapons fashioned from auto parts. Hundreds of visitors line the exterior of the cage, CHEERING the combatants on.

MANAGER

It's working! So many people! So much money!

MARLA

Do we really have to fight to the death?

MANAGER

Nooo. We just have to make it look good, you know, like those double-u double-u whatever guys. The best part is we get to show people where the real value is at the zoo.

Suddenly, the crowd quiets and the two turn to see the door creak open. Zoo Keeper stands in the door next to a large man who stands well over six feet tall, is dressed in plate mail armor fashioned from garbage can lids and a helmet decorated with human skulls.

ZOO KEEPER

Oh, we're going to do more than make it look good. I'd like to introduce you to a very special friend of the zoo, THE AGONY. He helps out when we wrangle the bigger, less friendly animals into

(MORE)

ZOO KEEPER (cont'd)  
their pens. In fact, you might say  
that he has a special affinity for  
animal behavior.

THE AGONY grunts, reaches up and plucks a skull from his helmet and crushes it to dust in his bare hand. Then he laughs, a sound like two Fords humping.

The Manager and the Marla tremble and back away slowly.

ZOO KEEPER  
Also, I used all the extra money to  
finally get some new animals.

Two huge tigers stroll into the caged arena and walk confidently to either side of the Zoo Manager and Marla, snarling at them quietly.

ZOO KEEPER  
You'll have a rare opportunity to  
-- what was the word you used? oh  
yes -- to INTERACT with  
them. After all, you can't see  
THIS on YouTube!

The Agony stalks toward the trembling pair, grinning and smashing his right fist into the palm of his left hand over and over.

The Zoo Manager and Marla drop their weapons and try to flee by climbing up the opposite wall of the cage.

The crowd cheers and pushes them away. They fall to the dirt and The Agony laughs again, his lips curling into a sinister smirk.

Marla screams.

THE END