

ZOO CITY

"The One About The Cat"

Written by

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FADE IN.

EXT. JACKSONVILLE ZOO PARKING LOT - DAY

A vintage NISSAN MAXIMA, circa 1990, sits in an isolated area of the zoo's parking lot. A giant sign displaying "Jacksonville Zoo" looms overhead nearby.

INT. NISSAN MAXIMA

SETH RYAN (20s, skinny with an OCD attention to his appearance) is dressed in a nice shirt and tie and waiting impatiently in the back seat.

Zookeeper LAURA WHITMORE (20s) ENTERS. Her uniform and boots are caked in mud. She straddles Seth.

SETH

What took you so long? I've only got fifteen minutes before my interview.

LAURA

So, what are we gonna do with the other ten minutes?

Seth and Laura begin to kiss.

SETH

What is that smell? Is that you?

LAURA

Probably. Another asshole threw a hotdog in the gorilla paddock again. Do you have any idea what processed meat does to a gorilla's stomach?

Laura resumes kissing Seth.

SETH

I think it's your shoes. Let me just roll the window down.

Seth leans across Laura into the front seat, bending her back into an awkward position, and puts the window down.

LAURA

Jesus Christ, Seth! You're interviewing to work at a zoo. Shit's part of the deal.

SETH
I'm interviewing for the head of
marketing not the head of poop
scooping.

LAURA
Fine! I'll take them off!

SETH
Just watch the upholstery.

Laura tosses her boots out.

LAURA
Better?

SETH
(After a BEAT)
I can still smell it.

Seth reaches back across Laura and raises the window.

LAURA
I'm starting to understand why my
father wants to kill you.

SETH
Is he still mad about your
grandmother?

SMASH CUT TO:

FLASHBACK: INT. LAURA'S HOUSE - DAY

Laura and Seth are getting hot and heavy in her living room.
They bump up against a fireplace mantle, jarring an urn next
to a photograph of an elderly woman.

LAURA
Careful! That's my grandmother.

SETH
Well, no wonder she's always
cranky. You make her stay in that
tiny, little jar.

Seth and Laura resume making out. Seth peers at the
photograph of Laura's grandmother and faces it away from him.
When he moves his hand back he knocks the urn off of the
shelf.

LAURA
Nana?!

MR. WHITMORE (50s) ENTERS through the front door and freezes at the sight of Seth and Laura standing over the ashes of his mother.

The family DOG ENTERS, sniffs the ashes then urinates on the pile.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. NISSAN MAXIMA - PRESENT DAY

LAURA
If he finds out we're about to work
together, he'll lose his mind.

Laura and Seth kiss again.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Oh, baby..oh..DADDY?!

SETH
Yeah, okay. Who's your daddy, baby?

Laura points at the rear windshield.

LAURA
HE IS!

Seth turns to see Mr. Whitmore standing behind his car, cocking a shotgun.

SETH
HOLY..!

Seth dives over Laura into the driver's seat. Laura EXITS the car.

SETH (CONT'D)
Please start you piece of..

The engine turns over and Seth floors it. Mr. Whitmore fires a shot which shatters Seth's rear windshield.

EXT. JACKSONVILLE ZOO PARKING LOT

MR. WHITMORE
There's nowhere to hide, Seth!

LAURA
CALL ME!

EXT. INTERSTATE 80, PARK CITY, UTAH - DAY

It's a warm, spring morning in the Wasatch mountains of northern Utah. A small SEDAN drives along a canyon road surrounded by a beautiful mountain landscape.

Up ahead a street sign reads, "Park City, Utah".

INT. SEDAN

Seth, dressed in the same shirt and tie, sits in the backseat.

The DRIVER makes small talk.

DRIVER
Is this your first time?

SETH
No, I've taken *Uber* before.

DRIVER
I mean, Utah? Your first time in Utah?

SETH
Oh, yes. First time.

DRIVER
Well, you're gonna love it.
Beautiful mountains, lots of
outdoor activities and, believe it
or not, quite the festive night
life.

INT. STRIP CLUB, SALT LAKE CITY - NIGHT

In a dimly lit strip club, groups of YOUNG MEN (20-30s), all dressed in white shirts and black ties are cat calling and throwing money onto a stage.

Dancing on the stage is a WOMAN (20s), dressed in a long, conservative pioneer dress and bonnet. She slowly moves around a pole while carrying a BABY. Three more CHILDREN sit on the stage with her, entertaining themselves with toys.

EXT. INTERSTATE 80 - DAY

The sedan turns down a side road towards a billboard for "Zoo City".

EXT. ZOO CITY PARKING LOT - SECONDS LATER

The sedan pulls into an employee parking lot and parks near a tall, wooden fence. Seth EXITS the car and thanks the driver who DRIVES OFF.

Seth's phone rings. The screen displays a picture of Laura. Seth answers.

SETH

Hey. I just got to the zoo. Are you sure about this?

LAURA'S VOICE (O.C.)

My father can't shoot you if you're three thousand miles away in Utah.

SETH

Then why do I jump every time someone pops their gum?

LAURA'S VOICE (O.C.)

Just get that marketing job so you can put in a good word for me and we can finally be together.

SETH

Yeah, piece of cake. Listen, I gotta go or I'm going to be late.

LAURA'S VOICE (O.C.)

I Love you.

SETH

Love you, too.

EXT. ZOO CITY GROUNDS - DAY

Seth is WALKING through the zoo passing by a few ANIMAL HABITATS. The architecture of the habitats and shops gives the zoo a rustic, mountain resort feel.

Other than Seth, the zoo seems abandoned.

Zookeeper CLARY NOBLE (20s, blonde and beautiful) ENTERS from behind.

CLARY

Sir?! Excuse me! We don't open until nine! How the hell'd you even get in here?

SETH
I tunneled in with the prairie
dogs. Hard workers but their small
talk can be a little "ruff".

Clary stares stone faced.

SETH (CONT'D)
I'm Seth. Seth Ryan. I'm here for
an interview with Allistar Fox?

CLARY
Then follow me. And try to keep up.

Clary LEADS the way at a quick pace.

EXT. HOLDING PEN, ZOO GROUNDS - DAY

Zoo Director ALLISTAR FOX (50s, slightly pudgy and balding
with large eye glasses) is leaning against the fence post of
a small corral. In the distance the Wasatch mountain range
wraps around the zoo.

Clary and Seth ENTER.

CLARY
Sir? I've got a Shaun Ryan here?

SETH
Seth Ryan.

CLARY
Don't care.

SETH
I'm supposed to have an interview
today?

DIRECTOR FOX
Interview? Oh my god, the Florida
boy. No one told you?

SETH
Told me what?

DIRECTOR FOX
Thank you, Clary.

Clary EXITS.

SETH
Am I here on the wrong day? I get
confused by the time differences.

DIRECTOR FOX

I'm sorry you had to fly all the way out here. I know that's a long flight.

SETH

The pilot did most of the flying so, it wasn't that bad. Why do I feel like I'm about to be asked to do the eulogy at my own funeral?

Director Fox motions Seth over to the fence.

DIRECTOR FOX

I'll have to be honest with you, Shaun.

SETH

Seth.

DIRECTOR FOX

Seth. I can't hire you as our marketing director. My assistant was supposed to send you an email.

SETH

May I ask why? When I talked to you on the phone you made me feel like I'd be a good fit here. Those were your words. I even paid for my own ticket. Round trip.

DIRECTOR FOX

It's not you, Seth. Your resume is great and I do think you'd be a great fit but I just can't hire you or anyone else for that matter. We're going to be closing soon.

SETH

Closing? Why?

A TRUCK ENTERS the pen towing a flatbed trailer with a male BLACK RHINOCEROS secured in a harness.

DIRECTOR FOX

Ah. It's showtime.

Clary EXITS the truck along with DR. ROBERT RANLY (50s, with a cool, Matthew McConaughey vibe). Clary puts on a pair of latex gloves and climbs onto the trailer.

DIRECTOR FOX (CONT'D)
Between you and me, we haven't hit
our attendance numbers for some
time now.

Clary begins to manually stimulate the rhinoceros, catching
Seth completely off guard.

DIRECTOR FOX (CONT'D)
With Covid and inflation and that
other zoo down in Salt Lake City,
whose name we won't mention, it's
costing more money to keep this
place open than it's making. We're
already fifteen hundred people
short for this month.

Director Fox notices Seth's fixation on Clary.

DIRECTOR FOX (CONT'D)
Clary's quite the keeper. Knows
more about the animals here than
anyone.

SETH
She seems really..hands on.

DIRECTOR FOX
Did you sneak a peak at her hooters
when you came in?

SETH
I..maybe?

DIRECTOR FOX
They're breathtaking. Award
winning, actually. She takes
excellent care of them.

SETH
Now that you mention it, they are
pretty nice. Almost perfectly
cylindrical.

DIRECTOR FOX
What are you talking about? They're
up front in our owls of North
America exhibit.

SETH
Oh..right.

Dr. Ranly catches the end result in a garbage bag just as Clary finishes. They high five then, Clary lights herself a "post stimulation" cigarette.

DIRECTOR FOX

Now I have to tell them they're out of a job.

SETH

What if you didn't have to tell them?

DIRECTOR FOX

Good idea. Make human resources do it.

SETH

No, I mean, what if they didn't have to lose their jobs? You need fifteen hundred people to make your goal for this month, right? So, give me one week. One week to meet your quota. And, if I do, you can hold off on closing and I can stay on as your marketing director. What do you say? Please? I need this job.

DIRECTOR FOX

You must really want to get out of Florida, kid.

SMASH CUT TO:

FLASHBACK: EXT. JACKSONVILLE ZOO PARKING LOT - DAY

MR. WHITMORE

There's no where to hide, Seth!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. HOLDING PEN - PRESENT DAY

SETH

You have no idea.

INT. MARKETING OFFICE - DAY

Seth ENTERS the marketing office where a handful of EMPLOYEES sit at computers. The room has a very low energy vibe. They look at Seth.

SETH

Which one of you handles the social media accounts?

REGGIE (12 yrs old) raises his hand.

SETH (CONT'D)

That, strangely makes sense.

(Handing Reggie a piece of paper)

I need you to post this message for me. Half off admission to all visitors tomorrow only. Make sure it's bold and flashy. Stevie Wonder should be able to see it.

REGGIE

Cool. Who's Stevie Wonder?

EXT. ZOO CITY GROUNDS - THE NEXT MORNING

Seth, wearing the same outfit, WALKS through the zoo. This time there are ZOO KEEPERS and other EMPLOYEES RUSHING around everywhere.

A MERCHANDISE EMPLOYEE ENTERS, RUSHING past Seth with a lantern.

MERCHANDISE EMPLOYEE

The Mormons are coming! The Mormons are coming!

Director Fox ENTERS, comically RUNNING towards Seth.

DIRECTOR FOX

(Winded)

Seth! Seth! We have a huge problem! You posted something about half off admission to the zoo today?

SETH

Yes, and?

DIRECTOR FOX

Well, there happens to be a Latter-Day Saints conference in town this weekend and they saw the post.

SETH

What's a Latter-Day Saints conference?

DIRECTOR FOX

Twice a year every Latter-Day Saint in the lower 48 comes to Salt Lake City to binge themselves on Jesus and frozen yogurt and they're coming here, today!

SETH

Okay. What does that mean, they? How many is they?

DIRECTOR FOX

All of they! The typical conference can host up to ten thousand people!

SETH

TEN THOU...??!!

DIRECTOR FOX

You have a plan, right? Tell me you have a plan?

SETH

Can you just, I need, one minute, I'll..yeah.

Seth quickly RUNS OFF.

DIRECTOR FOX

Seth?! So, I'll just wait here, then?

INT. GROOMING ROOM - DAY

JESSICA MOWEN (20s, very conservative, everything about her screams boring and sheltered) is grooming ZARA (An African Black Footed Cat) on a small grooming table. It's the size of an average house cat with brown fur and black stripes along its body and feet.

Seth BURSTS into the room, opens a window and sticks his head out, breathing erratically.

JESSICA

Are you okay?

Startled, Seth hits his head against the window.

SETH

Ouch!..I'm fine. I'm just having a slight panic attack.

JESSICA
I get those all the time.
(Demonstrating)
Breath IN and OUT. IN and OUT.

After a few slow breaths, Seth slumps onto the floor.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
I'm Jessica. You must be the new
guy?

SETH
Seth. And I'm the guy who somehow
managed to gather more Mormons in
one spot than a Donny Osmond
concert.

JESSICA
I know, it's going to be so fun!

SETH
I'd use a different F word.

JESSICA
Fabulous?

SETH
Uh-huh. That's the one.

JESSICA
Hey, can you watch Zara for a
second? I need to wash my hands.

Jessica WALKS to a sink and starts washing her hands.

SETH
Zara?

JESSICA
She's an African black footed cat.

The sound of a bird outside attracts Zara's attention and she
JUMPS across Seth and EXITS through the open window after it.

Jessica returns to the table.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
WHERE'S ZARA?!

SETH
Breath IN and OUT. IN and OUT...

EXT. NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS OF PREY HABITATS - DAY

Clary and Seth pace along the outside of a pen housing several TURKEY VULTURES.

CLARY

This is a total clusterfuck!
I can't believe this is happening!

SETH

I know, I know but that's why I
came to you first. If there's
anyone who can find this thing
discretely and without anyone
knowing it's you.

CLARY

Shit, this is so against protocol.
Promise me you're serious about the
zoo closing?

SETH

I heard it from the big guy
himself.

CLARY

Shit.

SETH

But you can fix this, I know you
can. When it comes to the animals,
everyone says you're the best.

CLARY

Everyone?

SETH

Well, Director Fox anyway. You
should've heard the way he went on
about your hooters.

CLARY

Excuse me?

SETH

Point is, Jessica's already out
there looking but there's a lot of
ground to cover. She really needs
your help.

CLARY

OUR help. You're coming with me.

SETH

What? No. I can't. I mean, I can't.
I've got the Mormons coming any
minute.

CLARY

Maybe instead of marketing you
should've applied to be the new
janitor because you've got two
messes to clean up now. Or, I can
go tell Fox there's a wild animal
lose in the zoo?

SETH

Alright, fine. I'll help. What do
you want me to do?

CLARY

First thing's first. There's no
telling where she is by now. Lost,
alone, terrified..we'll need
something to lure her out into the
open.

SETH

Maybe a bowl of milk or something?

CLARY

I'm talking about Jessica, not the
cat. Go to the commissary and get a
snare pole; Meet me at the training
yard behind reptile house.

SETH

Right, yes. What's a snare pole?

CLARY

It's the thing I'm going to hang
you with if you don't hurry up.

Clary EXITS.

SETH

Okay. This is fine. This is all
going to work out. I can feel it.

A bird squawks. Seth looks over his shoulder to see a vulture
perched above him with it's wings spread wide.

SETH (CONT'D)

Oh, shut up.

EXT. ELEPHANT PADDOCK - DAY

A FOOD SERVICE and MERCHANDISE EMPLOYEE are near the elephant habitat in the middle of a discussion. Two ASIAN ELEPHANTS meander around their habitat behind them.

Seth ENTERS, HURRYING for the commissary.

FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEE
(Stopping Seth)
Hey, hey, hey! You're the guy who
invited all of the children of the
corn here, right?

SETH
I.. 'm not sure what that means?

FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEE
Maybe you can solve some problems
for us?

SETH
I'm really in a hurry..

FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEE
Okay, good. So, we're not going to
have enough turkey legs to cover
all of these people..

MERCHANDISE EMPLOYEE
And I only have two employees to
run the front shop. That's just not
going to be enough unless we rope
off half of the shop?

SETH
If you could just give me a few
minutes..

FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEE
So, should we go with hotdogs
instead? Or can they even eat pork?

MERCHANDISE EMPLOYEE
Hotdogs aren't real pork and
they're Mormon not Jewish.

FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEE
I'm just trying not to cause an
international incident.

MERCHANDISE EMPLOYEE
This is Park City not the Gaza
Strip for Christ's sake.

SETH

Guys, guys..

(To the merchandise
employee)

Just rope off the turkey legs for
now..

(To the food service
employee)

And I'll do my best to find you
some more Jews, okay?

Seth EXITS.

MERCHANDISE EMPLOYEE

We could always just go across the
street, grab a beer and watch the
whole thing burn?

FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEE

Sounds good to me.

EXT. ANIMAL TRAINING AREA - DAY

Jessica is concealing herself behind some bushes near a
small, grassy area where cat trees, houses, rope bridges and
bird perches are placed for animal training. A white string
stretches across the field to a stick propping up a box.

Clary ENTERS next to Jesscia.

CLARY

Okay, I've got a trail of treats
all the way to the box.

JESSICA

Now what?

CLARY

Now we wait for shithead.

JESSICA

You mean, Seth?

CLARY

That's what I said. Shithead.

JESSICA

(After a BEAT)

He seems kind of nice, right?

CLARY

No, Jess. He's not right for you.

JESSICA

Why? Because I'm "Mormon"?

CLARY

No, because he's an idiot. Besides, I thought you and Doug were still dating?

JESSICA

Doug? No. He dumped me because he said I wasn't "circular" enough for him.

CLARY

Secular. You weren't secular enough.

JESSICA

No, circular. He's always had a thing for chubby women.

Seth ENTERS with a snare pole.

CLARY

Where the hell have you been?

SETH

Averting an international incident,
I think?

JESSICA

(Enamored)
Sounds important.

CLARY

It wasn't.

SETH

It was.

Zara ENTERS, eating from the trail of treats.

CLARY (CONT'D)

(Hushed)
There he is!

JESSICA

What now?!

CLARY

Shh! Don't get your magic underwear
all twisted.

JESSICA

Undergarments are not magic, Clary.
I wish people would stop saying
that.

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

The only magical thing that happens
with my underwear runs on two
double A batteries.

(Instantly embarrassed)

Oh, my goodness, I can't believe I
just said that!

Zara MOVES close to the box.

SETH

Look, it's close!

CLARY

Okay, get the pole ready. Nobody
move until I drop the box.

A BEE ENTERS and lands on Jessica's nose.

JESSICA

Clary, Clary, Clary! THERE'S A BEE
ON MY NOSE!

CLARY

Relax, Amber Heard, it's just a
bee.

JESSICA

But I think I'm allergic to bees!

Jessica feels a sneeze coming on.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

And I have to sneeze!

CLARY

Don't you do it. Don't you fucking
do it. You better hold it in.

Jessica tries holding back her sneeze as Zara MOVES under the
box, but just as Clary begins to pull the string, she sneezes
in Clary's face. Clary drops the string and Jessica stands
up, grabbing her nose.

JESSICA

IT STUNG ME!! IT STUNG ME!!

Zara SCURRIES OFF. Seth throws the snare pole like a javelin
at Zara but it bounces way off target. She EXITS into the
zoo.

CLARY

DAMN IT! And what the hell was
that, Seth?

SETH
I don't know?! I panicked!

Out of frustration, Clary picks up a rock and hurls it. The rock sails into a cat house sending out a swarm of BEES.

CLARY
HEAD FOR WATER!

INT. AFRICAN PENGUIN UNDERWATER VIEWING AREA - DAY

In a dark room CHILDREN watch AFRICAN PENGUINS swim underwater behind a giant glass aquarium window.

Jessica SPLASHES down into the icy water, startling some of the children. She swims towards the surface.

EXT. AFRICAN PENGUIN HABITAT - DAY

A freezing Jessica pulls herself up onto a rocky island with Seth, surrounded by PENGUINS. Seth's phone rings and he retrieves it from his pocket.

JESSICA
Who is it?

Seth tilts his phone and water pours from the side.

SETH
I don't know? Jacques Cousteau?

Laura's picture displays across the screen just as Clary EMERGES from the water similar to the way Ursula Andress emerges from the water in "Dr. No."

Jessica catches Seth gawking at Clary and looks at her own chest in disappointment. Seth's phone stops ringing.

CLARY
(Noticing the stares)
What? Is there still a bee?

A garbled voice comes over Seth's water logged radio...

VOICE (O.C.)
Attention, everyone..
(Poltergeist style)
They're here.

INT. TICKET BOOTH - DAY

Director Fox stands in a tiny ticket booth along with an ADMISSIONS EMPLOYEE. The line of VISITORS, all dressed in their "Sunday best", grows increasingly longer at the window.

Seth ENTERS the booth, soaking wet.

SETH
You wanted to see me, sir?

DIRECTOR FOX
Where have you been?

SETH
I've been, uh, helping Clary.

DIRECTOR FOX
With what? Her backstroke?

Zookeeper CHLOE (20s) ENTERS the booth with a BURMESE PYTHON around her neck.

CHLOE
Where do you want me for the encounter?

DIRECTOR FOX
What do you think, Seth?

SETH
Um..Maybe start at the end of the line and *snake* your way through?

CHLOE
(Dryly)
You're hissssterical.

Zookeeper BECKY (20s) ENTERS the now, crowded booth, with a TWO TOED SLOTH.

BECKY
Someone order an encounter?

CHLOE
I'm already here, Becky.

BECKY
Bite me, Chloe.

SETH
Should those two be in the same room together?

DIRECTOR FOX
They're professionals. Right,
ladies?

SETH
I was referring to the animals.

Zookeeper MEGHAN (20s) ENTERS the packed booth with an
IGUANA. The admissions employee continues to help visitors
despite being practically smooshed against the glass.

MEGHAN
I'm here for the encounter?

SETH
(To Director Fox)
Did you take out an add in the
newspaper?

An ADMISSIONS SUPERVISOR ENTERS.

SUPERVISOR
Director Fox?

DIRECTOR FOX
In here.

The supervisor ENTERS the now, unbearably crowded, booth.

SETH
Hey, come in. We were just
commenting on how there weren't
enough people in here.

SUPERVISOR
I have the first batch of numbers.

DIRECTOR FOX
Great! Let me see them.

Starting with the supervisor, everyone takes a turn passing a
piece of paper to Director Fox despite their inability to
move their limbs.

DIRECTOR FOX (CONT'D)
(Reading the paper)
Please stop putting wasabi sauce on
other people's lunches. Some of us
have allergies..

SUPERVISOR
That's the wrong memo.

Everyone passes the paper back to the supervisor who then sends another paper around to Director Fox.

DIRECTOR FOX
Eight hundred people, that's
incredible! We'll be at capacity
soon!

Clary ENTERS, squeezing her way into the booth.

SETH
Speaking of being at capacity.

CLARY
I need to borrow Seth, ASAP.

DIRECTOR FOX
Well, I need Seth with me. We've
got to get on top of this from a
marketing standpoint. This could be
our biggest day in the history of
this zoo.

SETH
(Thinking quick)
Interviews! I'll get Reggie to find
a couple of people to talk about
what a wonderful time they're
having and put it all over social
media. It's free and better than a
commercial.

DIRECTOR FOX
I love that!

CLARY
Good. Now, let's get out of here.

SETH
How?

EXT. WALKWAY NEAR THE PETTING ZOO - DAY

Jessica, with a swollen, red bump on her nose, is waiting with three snare poles. Sounds of the petting zoo and the CHILDREN around it are audible OFF CAMERA.

Seth and Clary ENTER and immediately react to Jessica's nose. Clary averts her eyes but Seth can't stop staring.

CLARY
WHOA!

JESSICA

What?

CLARY

Nothing.

JESSICA

(Becoming self conscious)

Well, she's in the back of the
petting zoo barn, napping.

CLARY

Good, that should make this easy.

Clary grabs a pole and EXITS leaving Seth still staring at
Jessica's nose.

INT. PETTING ZOO BARN - DAY

Seth, Clary and Jessica ENTER a dimly lit barn where the
petting zoo animals are kept overnight. Stalls line both
walls.

SETH

Maybe we should let Jessica go in
front so she can..

(Pointing to his nose)

Light the way?

JESSICA

But I didn't bring a flashlight?

Clary motions for everyone to keep MOVING. They CREEP towards
the back of the barn when Seth's phone rings. He retrieves it
from his pocket. Laura's picture is displayed on the screen.

SETH

I should take this.

CLARY

Are you serious?

SETH

It'll only take a second.

CLARY

Seth!

SETH

Okay, fine.

Seth reluctantly declines the call. They spot Zara on a pile
of hay.

CLARY
Okay. Here's the plan..

Seth's phone rings, again. Zara jumps up and SCURRIES into a stall.

CLARY (CONT'D)
GET HER!!

Seth reaches the stall first but tries ENTERING the stall with his pole horizontal. It catches both sides of the stall and throws Seth onto his back.

Jessica FOLLOWS behind but trips over Seth, landing with her face in his crotch. Zara EXITS the stall and RUNS for the door.

CLARY (CONT'D)
No, no, no!

Clary PURSUES after her and EXITS. A PETTING ZOO ATTENDANT ENTERS the barn and sees Seth and Jessica in a "69" style position on the ground.

PETTING ZOO ATTENDANT
Whoops! My bad. Sorry, guys.

The attendant EXITS and shuts the door.

EXT. PETTING ZOO - DAY

Seth EMERGES from the barn, pole in hand. Director Fox ENTERS.

DIRECTOR FOX
Seth! There you are!

Startled, Seth throws his snare pole in the air. It hits the petting zoo attendant, carrying a box of feed, in the head. The attendant collapses, spilling the feed.

DIRECTOR FOX (CONT'D)
Some of the church elders want to use our fountain up front to perform baptisms! That would be a great place for some of those interviews! We should get up there!

SETH
Yeah, of course, I'll be right there. I just need to..grab a camera.

EXT. FOOD PAVILLION - DAY

A rustic style food shack is busily serving a variety of deli foods to VISITORS. HAROLD and MARGE (60s) SIT at a table with their food.

HAROLD
Six dollars for a bowl of soup?
This place should be reported for
extortion!

Zara stealthily stalks a RABBIT in the brush next to the table. The rabbit LEAPS from the brush onto the table, landing in Harold's soup.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Great! AND there's a hare in it?!

The rabbit SCURRIES OFF with Zara at its heels. Clary ENTERS, GIVING CHASE. She leaps onto the table, squishing Marge's sandwich under her boot before jumping off.

MARGE
Would you like my sandwich?

EXT. FLAMINGO POOL - DAY

Zara RUNS past a wading pool of FLAMINGOS and EXITS into the zoo. Clary ENTERS shortly after but stops.

CLARY
Shit!

Jessica and Seth ENTER.

CLARY (CONT'D)
I think she's headed for the
fountain.

SETH
The fountain? Like, the fountain in
the front, fountain? That's not
good. That's not good at all.

CLARY
I think it's time to bring in Dirty
Harry.

JESSICA
The maintenance guy?

EXT. ELEPHANT PADDOCK - DAY

A MAN gives his interview to the camera while two ASIAN ELEPHANTS MEANDER around their paddock in the background.

MAN

Yeah, you know, it's a pretty nice zoo. It could use some better animals, though. Like one of those Liger. That's a lion and a badger mixed.

INT. BIRD AVIARY - DAY

A WOMAN gives her interview to the camera inside of an enclosed bird aviary. BIRDS from all over the world chirp and FLY about.

WOMAN

I just love it here. There's nothing more enchanting than being surrounded by nature.

A giant stream of bird poop showers down on the woman's shoulder.

INT. VETERINARY ROOM - DAY

Jessica ENTERS a room used to perform medical procedures on the animals. Her bump has swollen twice as large as it was before.

She WALKS to a storage cabinet labeled "Emergency Use Only" and opens it. She pulls a rifle case off of the top shelf. Written on the case are the words, "Dirty Harry".

JESSICA

I could get so fired for this.

The door handle begins to jiggle. Panicked, Jessica quickly throws the case back on the shelf and scans the room for a place to hide.

On an examination table the arm of a deceased GORILLA sticks out from underneath a white sheet.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(Disgusted)

No..

As the door opens, Jessica climbs on top of the gorilla and covers herself with the sheet.

Dr. Ranly ENTERS and retrieves a vial of medicine from a counter. He notices the open cabinet.

DR. RANLY
How'd you get open?

Dr. Ranly shuts the door. As he EXITS he stops by the examination table.

DR. RANLY (CONT'D)
I'll get to you later, big guy.

Dr. Ranly smacks what he thinks is the gorilla but is actually Jessica's butt. She lets out a whimper.

DR. RANLY (CONT'D)
(Shaking off the sound)
I've been working here too long.

Dr. Ranly EXITS. Jessica flings off the sheet and gets off of the gorilla. She breathes a sigh and WALKS to the cabinet revealing the gorilla's face who now, mysteriously, has a smile.

EXT. FRONT GATE FOUNTAIN AREA - DAY

A CHURCH ELDER is in the process of baptizing a long line of hopefuls in the water fountain at the front of the park. Each time someone is baptized the others waiting shout, "Amen".

Reggie films the event on camera as Director Fox and Seth watch along with a crowd of SPECTATORS. Seth nervously keeps on the look out for Zara.

EXT. ZOO GROUNDS NEAR THE FOUNTAIN - DAY

Clary is kneeling behind some trash cans near the water fountain keeping an eye on Zara which has made herself comfortable under a VENDOR'S drink cart.

Jessica ENTERS with the rifle and kneels beside Clary. Her breathing is becoming labored and wheezy.

CLARY
What the hell took you so long?

JESSICA
I had to stop. I'm having trouble
catching my breath.

Clary opens the case to reveal a tranquilizer rifle.

CLARY
Make my day.

INTERCUT - THE FOUNTAIN AREA AND THE VENDOR'S CART.

The admissions supervisor ENTERS and APPROACHES Director Fox.

SUPERVISOR
Here are the latest numbers.

DIRECTOR FOX
(Reading the paper)
Two thousand?! That's five hundred more than we needed for the whole month! I can't believe you pulled this off, Seth! This is the best day this zoo has ever had. I think you'll make a fine marketing director for us, if you still want the job?

SETH
Yes, sir! Absolutely, sir! Thank you.

DIRECTOR FOX
We should celebrate! How about a couple of soda's from the cart over there? My treat.

SETH
Yes, sir.

Clary cocks the rifle and aims it at Zara under the cart.

JESSICA
(Wheezing)
Please don't miss?

CLARY
I never miss.

Seth STEPS UP to the cart to order the sodas, blocking Clary's shot.

CLARY (CONT'D)
Goddamnit, Seth! Move!

Jessica's wheezing stops and she faints, collapsing into Clary and causing her to misfire.

The tranquilizer dart sails into Seth's neck. A stunned Seth pulls out the dart and looks back at the trash cans and a shocked Clary.

SETH
Clary? Why?

As the tranquilizer takes affect, Seth STUMBLES his way back to the fountain. Completely intoxicated, Seth WANDERS into the fountain, bypassing all of the people in line and belly flops face first into the water.

THE CROWD
AMEN!

REGGIE
(Catching it all on video)
That was awesome!

Clary looks at the fountain and then at Jessica.

CLARY
Two murders in one day? This will
be hard to talk my way out of.

As Seth floats to the bottom of the fountain he sees a penny lying on the bottom. In his medicated state he sees the head of Abraham Lincoln speak to him.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
They got you too, huh?

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN.

INT. THE TONIGHT SHOW THEATER - DAY

JIMMY FALLON sits at his desk introducing his next guest in front of a live studio AUDIENCE.

JIMMY FALLON
So, our next guests come to us from
this little zoo out in Utah which
has gained a lot of social media
fame recently..

STEVE HIGGINS
Apparently, they let the male lion
have as many wives as he wants out
there.

JIMMY FALLON
I guess it really is good to be the
king? Let's welcome out, from Zoo
City, Clary Noble, everybody.

Clary ENTERS the set from behind the curtain to applause. She
has a GREAT HORNED OWL on her arm. She JOINS Jimmy by the
desk.

JIMMY FALLON (CONT'D)
Aren't you beautiful?

CLARY
(Blushing)
Thank you.

JIMMY FALLON
I was talking about the owl but,
okay. And what is his name?

CLARY
Owl.

JIMMY FALLON
Owl? You named your owl, owl? I
love that! Easy to remember.

STEVE HIGGINS
That's the way they do things in
Utah. As few vowels as possible.

INT. TONIGHT SHOW BACKSTAGE AREA

Seth watches the taping from a monitor when his phone rings.
He answers.

EXT. RINGTAILED LEMUR HABITAT, JACKSONVILLE ZOO - DAY

Laura is spraying down the lemur habitat while on the phone
with Seth. LEMURS jump and play all around her.

LAURA
Hey, how's the show going?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

SETH
Great, so far. All that press from
Mormon day last month really put us
on the map.

LAURA
Us? Listen to you; You've really
adopted that place, haven't you?
I'm beginning to wonder if you've
forgotten about the *real* US?

Seth is transfixed, watching Clary on the monitor.

LAURA'S VOICE (O.C.)
Seth?

Jessica, healthy and bump free, ENTERS with Zara in her arms.

JESSICA
Is it my turn? Do I go out now?

LAURA
You ARE sticking to the plan,
right?

SETH
(To Laura)
Yes, yes, of course. Absolutely.

Jessica takes that as her cue and EXITS through the curtains.

SETH (CONT'D)
I promise you, just as soon as I
get Fox to open up another keeper
position it's all yours.

LAURA
Okay, well, hurry up. Things are
boring without you around. My
father hasn't tried to shoot anyone
in weeks.

INT. TONIGHT SHOW STAGE

Jessica ENTERS on to the set and freezes in front of the
audience.

CLARY
Not now, Jess!

The sight of Zara scares Owl and he flaps his wings making it
hard for Clary to keep him under control.

Zara leaps from Jessica's arms and SCURRIES into the audience
causing a panic.

INT. TONIGHT SHOW BACKSTAGE AREA

Still on the phone, Seth watches the audience members scream and jump from their seats on the monitor.

SETH

That Jimmy Fallon sure knows how to
whip up an audience.

FADE OUT.

END.