

"A Trip to the Zoo"

Screenplay by
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A TRIP TO THE ZOO

INT. FAMILY LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Grandpa is reading the newspaper (date of 2039 clearly visible) in a large fabric chair when his grandson Everett (6 yo) jumps enthusiastically onto his lap.

EVERETT

Granpa, Granpa! Tell me a story about Africa...about all the animals you saw there.

GRANPA

(chuckling) Ok Everett, just give me a chance to find my photo album.
(aside) Now, where did I put that old thing.

Granpa pulls out a large photo album, positions Everett comfortably on his lap, then flips through to some pictures of himself in Africa.

GRANPA

These photos were taken when I was a much younger man, with much more hair. Ah, here I am working at the Serengeti National Park in Africa. What do you think Everett?

EVERETT

(excited)

Wow Granpa! Are those real elephants behind you?

GRANPA

They sure are. In fact, there were many large families of elephants in the park where I worked. It was my job to study them.

Granpa sees the confused look on Everett's face so he explains a little more after considering his words.

GRANPA

I was a biologist. That's someone who studies animals so we can learn more about them.

EVERETT

Why did you wanna learn about the animals Granpa?

GRANPA

Well, by studying and learning about the animals I thought I could help them...help protect them.

EVERETT

Oh, are the animals in danger Granpa?

GRANPA

Yes, they were Everett, but not anymore.

Granpa diverts Everett's attention to another photo where Granpa is holding a lion cub.

GRANPA

Look at this little guy here.

EVERETT

Wow! Is that a baby lion?

GRANPA

That's right Everett, but we call it a lion cub. It's hard to believe that little guy grew up into this.

Granpa turns the page of the album and points to some photos of a full-grown male lion.

EVERETT

Wow! He's awesome! I bet he has like 500 teeth, all pointy and sharp.

GRANPA

(chuckling)

Yep, all of them very pointy and sharp. You certainly wouldn't want to meet a very hungry lion in the wild, would you?

EVERETT

(laughing) No way! It's a good thing I can run really fast, just in case.

Granpa, I want to really see the lions and elephants. Can we go to the zoo tomorrow! Please Granpa, pleeeeeease?

GRANPA

I don't see why not! Let me just check with your mom and dad to make sure it's ok with them. Alright, it's time for this little cub to get some sleep.

EVERETT

Aww Granpa, do I have to? I'm not tired at all.

INT. EVERETT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

GRANPA

C'mon now, up you go. I'm afraid even ferocious cubs need lots of sleep so they can run around all day. Now sleep tight and sweet dreams.

EVERETT

I'm gonna dream about all the cool animals we're gonna see tomorrow!

GRANPA

Well, sometimes a dream can be even better than reality.

Granpa realizes his mistake seeing the blank stare of his grandson and quickly tucks him in and gives him a kiss on the forehead.

GRANPA

Goodnight Everett.

EVERETT

Goodnight Granpa.

END SCENE

INT. FAMILY DINING ROOM - MORNING

Granpa, Everett's Dad and baby brother are all seated at the table for breakfast. Everett enters the room filled with excitement. Mom is serving some food at the table.

EVERETT

Mom! Dad! Did you hear? Granpa is going to take me to the zoo today! It's ok isn't it!?

EVERETT'S MOM

Hmm, what do you say Daddy, is it alright with you?

EVERETT'S DAD

Sure, he's finished all his chores. (Looking to Granpa) Besides, it will be a great chance for the two of you to hang out together.

EVERETT

Awesome! Thanks Mom and Dad! Let's hurry up and eat Granpa.

GRANPA

Now don't worry Britt, I promise to have him home before dinner.

EVERETT'S MOM

(lighthearted) You better Dad, cause I'm making my famous veggie lasagna tonight, Everett's favorite.

EVERETT

Not anymore Mom! Now, I'm a ferocious lion (roars). I only eat meat.

EVERETT'S DAD

Now that brings back memories.

Brittany interrupts Nathan before he can continue.

EVERETT'S MOM

Hush you. Let the boy have his imagination.

GRANPA

Ok, Everett. You ready to go?

EVERETT

You bet I am.

END SCENE

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO MEMORIAL ZOO - DAY

Granpa and Everett walk under a sign reading "Welcome to the San Francisco Memorial Zoo". Upon entering the park, it's full of sights and sounds and people. Granpa is being pulled by Everett who is anxious to see everything.

EVERETT

(very excited)

This way Granpa! This way. Look! There's a sign for the lion exhibition. C'mon.

GRANPA

Whoa, take it easy Mr. Speedy Pants. Don't you worry, we'll have plenty of time to see all the attractions.

EVERETT

Sorry Granpa. I'm just really excited about seeing all the animals. I never saw a lion for real, well...only in movies or in pictures like the ones you showed me.

GRANPA

That's fine Everett. I totally understand. Let's just hope these old legs can keep up with you. Now, what do you say we go see those ferocious meat-eaters with 500 sharp and pointy teeth?

EVERETT

YEA! Let's do it!

GRANPA

C'mon, I'll race you.

Granpa and Everett continue visiting the various animal attractions, oohing and aahing, mimicking animal behaviors and sounds and generally having lots of fun.

END SCENE

Granpa and Everett are hurrying toward the exit since the zoo is now closing. Everett clutches a lion plushy in one arm, Granpa's hand pulls at the other.

GRANPA

Hurry up Everett! They're closing the park.

EVERETT

That was great, Granpa! I love going to the zoo.

GRANPA

Me too Everett. Did you enjoy seeing all the animals?

EVERETT

Yea, they're so awesome! I hope we can see them again someday.

Granpa and Everett rush through the front gate. Everett, smiling ear-to-ear, struggles to keep pace with Granpa who glances back to see a worker turn off a large switch. As the switch is thrown, all of the life-like animals and their virtual surroundings shut down as well.

GRANPA

Me too Everett...me too.

END SCENE

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THE END