

Recombinant - Pilot

Written By:

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1 EXT. MENAGERIE ZOO ENTRANCE- NOON 1

The sun shines on a new day in Menagerie, Oregon. The birds are chirping and the sky is clear and blue. Suddenly, birds scramble into the air with hurried flapping of wings. The clear blue air becomes clouded with dust and dirt as people begin running out of the Menagerie zoo in a panic. People are screaming and grabbing their children, producing more and more dust clouds.

2 INT-MENAGERIE ZOO- NOON 2

A clearing in the cloud of dust reveals a fully grown white rhinoceros. He has a terrified look in his eyes and his head darts back and forth as people run around him in all directions. He sees a shimmer from the snack stand to his left and makes a beeline for it. The man running the snack stand has just enough time to jump to safety as the massive horns smash the stand into kindling. The rhino teeters back, shaking its head from the impact. He looks around frantically, searching for an escape. His eyes meet the green uniforms of three zookeepers, armed with tranquilizer guns and ropes.

ZOOKEEPER #1

Easy there fella...

The frightened rhino rears its head, just as the second zookeeper fires the tranq gun. His own fright at the sudden movement of the massive creature causes him to miss and hit the third zookeeper right in the arm.

ZOOKEEPER #3

Dang Flabbit Carl!

The third zookeeper drops his rope and falls to his knees. He tumbles forward onto his stomach, out cold. The rhino stomps off towards another exhibit, narrowly missing the zookeeper's tranquilized head. The remaining zookeepers run over to their fallen comrade, desperately trying to wake him up.

CARL

OMYGOSH I'm so sorry! C'mon Gene!
Get up man!

ZOOKEEPER #1

(slaps Carl and grabs his walkie)
Attention all zoo personnel...This is John...We have a definite 8-92 in progress. Rhino is terrified and dangerous. Use caution upon approach. Suspect was last sighted heading for the monkey exhibit.

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CARL
(shoots him a look) Suspect?

John slaps Carl again, the latter yelping with pain.

CARL (cont'd)
(camera moves away from the two)
AGH! Dude you hit the same spot!!!

Despite all of the commotion, a family who had been inside of the monkey exhibit exits to find the utter chaos outside. The father, Doyle, turns to see the frightened rhino running straight for them. He gathers his family, consisting of his wife Linda and daughter Maddie, quickly and they all start to run from the gigantic creature.

DOYLE
Maddie! Linda! Lets go! Hurry!

Linda and Doyle run ahead, gaining a little distance from Maddie. Maddie's knee catches the side of one of the zoo benches, causing her to fall and scrape her knees. She winces and looks up; the rhino is nearly upon her. Suddenly, from out of nowhere, a green and blue streak swings down right in front of her; it puts itself between her and the rhino. Maddie turns her face, expecting the impact, but slowly turns back when nothing happens. She looks up, seeing the familiar fabric of denim shorts. Confused, she looks up further, revealing the back of a young girl's head. The young girl is clad in jean shorts and a green t-shirt; her short hair hangs in a short ponytail that just touches her shoulders. She is visibly struggling and grunting, using all of her physical body to hold something back. Maddie looks just past the girl in shock; she is pushing against the entire weight of the full size rhino, gripping him around his massive horns and chest. The girl's face suddenly turns to Maddie, with a nervous smile.

MYSTERY GIRL
Heh...well...this definitely wasn't
the right stop for the rhino
express!

Maddie looks at the girl confused, the color leaving her face. Seeing that Maddie clearly isn't getting her joke, the girl's smile turns into slight frown. She grits her teeth and turns her attention back to the rhino.

MYSTERY GIRL
Okay well...You might want to move
a bit.

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Maddie snaps out of her trance and shuffles herself to the left of the pair. Oddly, the girl leans into her struggle against the massive rhino horn and whispers something inaudible to the rhino. She strokes the rhino's head gently, his fright calming in an act of true spectacle. The rhino, calmed, lays down from physical exhaustion. Amazed, Maddie makes her way to her feet slowly. The other girl gently strokes the rhino's ears, smiling and looking to Maddie. She nudges the rhino's huge neck.

MYSTERY GIRL (cont'd)

Let's get you back home big guy.

She turns to walk away. Doyle and Linda embrace Maddie, having witnessed the whole event.

MADDIE

Wait!

The girl and the rhino stop. They both turn back towards the frightened young girl and her parents.

MADDIE

How...How did you do that?!

The girl looks at the rhino, who acknowledges her. She looks back to Maddie and winks, before walking the rhino back to his pen. Maddie stands there, blinking in disbelief. The chaos dies down as the zookeepers regain control of the zoo. A short, older man in his fifties, Liam, exits his office and runs immediately to Maddie and her family. The man's daughter, a tall, burnette, eighteen year old girl named Rebecca, follows suit with her ukulele in hand.

LIAM

District Attorney Jones! So nice of you to visit my zoo today! (gulps)
Can I take you back to my office for a quick moment of your time?

Linda gives him a stink-eye look, just as a sign falls and shatters behind him.

LINDA

Yes Mr. Fruitvale...I believe we need to talk.

LIAM

(gulps and wipes sweat from his brow) Right this way ma'am.

Liam begins to lead the Jones family towards his office. He signals to his daughter.

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LIAM (cont'd)
Beck! Go check on our little
"situation" for me, would you?

REBECCA
Right...

Liam leads the Jones family to his office, shutting the door behind him. Rebecca turns her head to the nearest directional sign; she begins the trek towards the rhino exhibit, calling out a name.

REBECCA
Hannah!!!!

Rebecca, getting no response, picks up her pace to a brisk jog. She calls out the name again.

REBECCA (cont'd)
Hannah!? Where are you?

A voice responds from a little ways ahead of Rebecca.

HANNAH O.S.
Over here!

3

INT-MENAGERIE ZOO-RHINO EXHIBIT- AFTERNOON

3

Rebecca makes her way towards the voice, arriving at the rhino exhibit. She sees the young girl leaned up against the exhibit wall, stroking the outer rims of a rhino sized hole. Her appearance is strangely different from a normal child's: her features are an amalgam of the human and animal kingdom's; almost as if she is the perfect combination of the two. She grins upon Rebecca's approach, with two massive bottom fangs accompanying her other human teeth. She points to the hole.

HANNAH
There was a weak spot in the
concrete here...

She gets up and walks over to the rhino; she begins to pet his head gently.

HANNAH (cont'd)
Hubert told me he has a cold. He had a really big sneeze and accidentally broke open the wall. When he went to look at it, some kids scared him and he ran right through it.

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