



ABC CLARION

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Zootopia: A Must See for Kids and Adults

by Victoria Tian

Sometimes, it's the kids' movies that really get it right. Zootopia is a new Disney animated film that is startlingly relevant to our world today. Set in the world of Zootopia, where anthropomorphic predators and prey live together in harmony and "anybody can be anything", it tackles the real issues of prejudice and racism that have always existed in modern society.

Zootopia revolves around the character of Judy Hopps, a bunny who dreams of becoming a police officer. Unfortunately, numerous obstacles stand in her way. There has never been a bunny police officer before, and the dangers of being an officer may also be even more daunting for Judy because of her small size and lesser strength. Nevertheless, she perseveres and defies the odds by becoming the first police officer of her kind.

Once she joins the taskforce, though, Judy is confined to the

daily job of parking duty while the other officers are assigned to bigger crimes. After trying and being unsuccessful in proving herself to her boss, Judy is tasked with finding a missing otter within forty-eight hours. Failure to do so would mean her resignation as an officer. She gets the help of one of the only possible witnesses at the crime scene, a wily fox named Nick Wilde, who has been making money through working several dishonest jobs over the years. The two have to overcome their differences and preconceptions of each other in order to work together and solve the crime.

Even though Zootopia is considered such a desirable place to live in, stereotypes and discrimination still exist. For instance, Judy is often called "cute" and mistyped as a "dumb bunny." Many individuals think she should have just stayed on her parents' farm and sold carrots for

a living instead of trying something new. She is constantly being limited by other people's judgments about her. Nick, on the other hand, has been thought of as untrustworthy from a very young age, being a fox. His experiences cause him operate under the cynical mantra that "you can only be what you are" (not unlike many humans today). It's up to both of these characters to prove that they are defined by much more than the common typecasts that exist about them.

Zootopia subtly and masterfully weaves this core idea into its plot so that both kids and adults alike can enjoy the story at the surface and also absorb the underlying message of acceptance. However, its preachy theme does not detract from the more diverting aspects of the movie in any way. The animation is breathtaking, making the world of Zootopia look gorgeous and just as real as any human

city. There are hilarious sequences (one in particular that involves sloths at a DMV) that will make you laugh hysterically. Many more original and lovable characters beside Judy and Nick are introduced as well, and all with sharp, witty dialogue inter-

woven in the middle. Many movie references and Easter eggs are included if you look closely too.

Zootopia is yet another Disney classic that is worth watching, and worth watching more than once. There is a lot to learn from it for everyone.

The Persian Forces in the Night

by Paschal Park

The clock chimed and echoed throughout the vacant halls of the Tuff household. The winds whispered the calls of the Underworld around Samantha's fluorescent pink room. There are times when man is forced to ignore all instinct — all beckons to return to the haven of home — for he is called upon by the virtue of his soul and the fulfillment of his duty. This was one of those times, for Samantha's bladder could not hold back the Persian forces for much longer.

She took in a deep breath knowing that it may very well have been her very last. Her feet slowly approached the door. Her hand grasped and opened the door wide, fearful of any lurking monsters eagerly biding their time. She walked ever so gingerly on the hardwood floor of the hallway. It was colder than she could have ever imagined. Surely, the grasping bloodthirsty barbs of frostbite would soon take hold of her five year old feet and shred her calves apart. Her mind was blank, hurrying to make some rationality within the mind-numbing nightfall. What turn do I make? Would running be worth it? What if the Jabberwocky is sensitive to sound and could hunt prey down from the tremors of her footsteps? But waiting in the shadows for too long could easily prove to be fatal. Hellhounds can only stalk for so long before their appetite gets the better of them. Oh! How could I have been so foolish? My heartbeat! Its resonating beating and beating and beating to a crescendo, nothing more than a lunch bell ring for the beasts around!

Suddenly, a sound! A slow, agonizing creak of a rusty door hinge — or maybe the cry of a Chupacabra? It was now or never. Samantha was faced with a fork in the road. In the heat of the moment, her mind entered a pseudo-state of existentialism. What truly matters in the grand scheme? Maybe her life was predestined by some omniscient divine power or potentially something more...human? By breaking any sense in self-pride by wetting herself, how would that affect her parents, her own future? "We weren't ready," Mrs. Tuff would weep as her husband comforted her, knowing deep down that they have failed as parents. Samantha refused to accept that. She steeled her mind and stormed ahead. Her mind guided her feet. Fear meant nothing. All evils would tremble before her vigilance.

It's during those brief moments of life when emotions flow through your mind space like tributaries of rivaling rivers; those depraved instants where all morals become dubious at best. Can one not deny the sweetness of death when suffering the pain of one's hemorrhaging wounds during a fight for fraternity? Samantha stood still and the darkness was present no longer. Was she ashamed? Perhaps. However, in the end, she did not care anymore, for the experience had enlightened her to a wiser state. Samantha would later pen these lessons into three powerful codes.

- I) nights scaree bring daddy
- II) to much lemonaid is bed
- III) blaaimlittulbrothur

Struggles of a Foreigner in a Foreign Country... in the K-Pop World

by Tanya Wang

Huang Zitao, most commonly known as Tao from the Korean boy group EXO, is a foreigner in a foreign country. Tao is a Chinese rapper, singer, and actor. For 3 years, he was the lead rapper for EXO-M, the Chinese-based unit of the group EXO. He was in the group from 2012 to 2015. On August 24, 2015, Tao filed a lawsuit against SM Entertainment, the company EXO is under, to terminate his contracts. He claimed to be injured and treated unfairly with little medical attention and little sleep. After his departure from the group, he traveled to the United States. On July 23, 2015, Tao made his solo debut with a digital mini-album called T.A.O. Another self-titled album, Z. TAO, came out shortly after. He now has a new stage name, "Z.Tao".

Despite being a talented rapper, singer-songwriter, composer, actor, dancer, and mar-

tial artist, Tao was treated differently from the other members of EXO solely due to the fact that he wasn't Korean. Over the years, most Chinese members of EXO have left due to mistreatment and health issues.

Throughout all these difficulties, Tao is still an amazing idol that everyone admires, and he continues working very hard to make his fans happy. In his album T.A.O, his song T.A.O was very popular among fans and the music video has received more than 600,000 views. Other songs that Tao came out with include Yesterday, which was number 1 on the CHN CCTV Music Chart, M.O.M, Reluctantly, Imperial Crown, and I'm the Sovereign, which was number 1 on the CHN Billboard V Chart. Tao has also appeared on multiple TV shows including Charming Daddy, The Real Hero, New Generation Sound of China 3

(Let's Sing Kids), and will be appearing in Laws of the Jungle in 2016-2017 as part of the main cast.

Being a foreigner in a foreign country was a tough obstacle Tao had overcome. Despite all the hate from netizens and other Korean idols for leaving EXO and filing a lawsuit against SM Entertainment, Tao has been more and more successful. He won Best Stage Performance at the Migu Music Awards and Most Influential Male Singer in the Mobile Video Festival.

I'm proud to say throughout all these hardships/obstacles and hate, I've been supporting Tao. He's very strong, mentally and physically, and his fans are so happy he's been able to continue on with his passion despite all the hate and difficulties.

GO TAO!!! Our beautiful panda!

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