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FADE IN:

I/E. AIRCRAFT STORAGE BAY - DAY

An aircraft is in flight.

CLARA climbs out of a huge storage trunk inside the dark baggage compartment.

She quickly proceeds toward a large animal carrier draped in a flag.

Clara injects a sedative into the caged animal.

She lifts the heavy cage, places it in the huge trunk, and crawls in.

In the upper seating section, NICK nervously glances at his watch.

The plane lands.

INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

FOUR SUITED FBI AGENTS, each sporting identification badges, watch the turnstile.

On the side is an entourage of MEDIA PEOPLE.

A huge trunk arrives near the turnstile.

Nick anxiously struggles to remove it.

Two agents lend a hand.

A faint smile, and nod of thanks, crosses Nick's face.

He wheels the trunk away.

The agents appear confused.

The last piece of baggage is a suitcase, followed by a discarded cloth that reads: SIBERIAN HUSKY - FIRST PLACE SHOW DOG.

The agents frantically begin scouring.

EXT. AIRPORT PARKING LOT - DAY

There's a heavy rain leading to parking area.

Nick pulls the trunk to the back of van, shoves it in, enters the van, and opens the top of the trunk.

Clara jumps out coughing.

NICK
Did you get the dog?

Clara stares at the cage.

CLARA
The first question should be: HOW
ARE YOU?

NICK
Well, how are you, darling?

CLARA
Awful. As rotten as it gets.

NICK
It's over.

He glimpses at the trunk.

NICK
Any problems?

Clara smells her blouse.

CLARA
No...except for the smell. Whoa!

NICK
C'mon. Let's get out of here.

Waving her arms.

CLARA
SHOWER TIME!

The van rapidly leaves the airport.

CUT TO:

INT. BROOM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Nick rolls the locker into their house.

NICK
Lot lighter!

Clara's sprawled out on the couch.

CLARA
How would you like your head shoved
where the sun don't shine?

NICK
No. No. I mean it's lighter with
only the dog inside.

CLARA
Oh sure!

Nick stands over the trunk.

NICK
Whew!

Nick opens the trunk.

NICK
Mighty heavy.

CLARA
Old age is kickin' in.

A flag covering the cage is embroidered with the words:
GREETINGS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Nick removes the flag.

NICK
WHAT'S THIS? This ain't a mutt.

Carla peers at the a black and white animal, with large flat
face, and black eyes.

CLARA
It's black and white. But it's not
a Husky.

A bewildered Nick takes peek.

NICK
So...what the hell is it? Huh?

Clara squeezes her chin.

CLARA
It was dark!

NICK
Yeah, so what the hell is it?

CLARA

A panda.

NICK

How's that?

CLARA

The Chinese bear.

NICK

Where's the dog?

Clara displays increasing agitation.

CLARA

I ALREADY SAID IT WAS PITCH BLACK.

NICK

Christ. A bear. Not a dog. How could you...? We have a bear hostage?

Clara throws herself back on the couch.

CLARA

A mistake!

The panda begins to stretch.

NICK (CONT'D)

Damn, what do we do now? I wanted the dog, not the slammer.

CLARA

Stop whining.

NICK

What a stupid idea. Stupid! Stupid!

CLARA

Wasn't stupid when YOU thought of it.

INT. BROOM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - **FLASHBACK**

Nick and Clara are seated in the living room.

Westminster Dog Show is on television.

CLARA

What should we do?

NICK
About?

CLARA
About your gambling debts. No job.
No money.

NICK
I said I'd stopped.

CLARA
You owe big money! RIGHT?

Nick focuses on the television.

NICK
Hey, turn it up.

Clara raises the volume.

Television announcer is on the TV screen.

A slew of pedigree dogs are in the background.

TV ANNOUNCER
...first place prize of twenty-five
thousand dollars goes to the folks
with the Siberian Husky. It means
a flight to New York for another
competition on Thursday. What a
prize!

Nick springs up.

NICK
That's it!

CLARA
What's IT?

NICK
We're gonna kidnap the winning dog.

CLARA
You're nuts!

NICK
It'll work.

CLARA
Why?

NICK
The word's...RANSOM. Listen, we
can use the cash more than the dog.

CLARA
Uhm. I don't know?

NICK
Out of debt!

CLARA
Behind bars!

NICK
Be positive.

CLARA
You're nuts!

NICK
I've got a plan!

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. TEASH'S HOME - DAY

Teenager MOLLY TEASH is sitting at the edge of her bed.

Bags are packed near the door.

Young ZACK rushes in Molly's room.

He's wearing a backpack, and lugging a duffle bag.

ZACK
Ready?

Molly jumps up.

MOLLY
Almost.

ZACK
Think of it as a vacation.

MOLLY
Vacation? I'd rather stay home.

INT. BROOM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Both Nick and Clara Broom are staring at the young panda.

The panda stares back.

CLARA

Oh crap. I forgot! Zack and Molly are staying with us until FRAN gets out of the hospital.

NICK

Come again?

CLARA

Fran asked.

NICK

Bad timing!

CLARA

What could I say?

NICK

You could've told me!

CLARA

Sorry. I forgot.

Nick looks at the panda.

NICK

Where should we hide him?

CLARA

Hide him?

NICK

Where?

CLARA

We can tell the kids we're animal sitting for friends traveling in Europe?

NICK

(pointing at panda)
HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?

Clara grins.

CLARA

Exotic animals are their hobby!

Knock at the front door.

NICK

Okay. Okay.

Clara opens the front door.

CLARA
Welcome.

ZACK
We're here.

CLARA
Make yourselves at home.

Clara points to the spare room.

CLARA
Plop your things down.

ZACK
Thank you, Mrs. Broom.

Molly spots the caged panda.

MOLLY
Wow! Did you see this Zack?

ZACK
A panda?

CLARA
That's right. A panda.

ZACK
Never saw a live one.

CLARA
Yeah. We're animal sitting for
friends traveling Europe.

ZACK
They're nearly extinct. We studied
pandas in science class.

CLARA
You're right, Zack. Our friends
got the panda in China.
(hesitation)
No one must know, though. Or,
they'll take it. You wouldn't want
that, would you?

Molly and Zack shake their heads NO.

ZACK
Don't worry.

MOLLY
Yeah. We'll keep it secret.

Panda lets out a loud groan.

CLARA
He acts tame.

Molly reaches into the cage and strokes the panda's head.

MOLLY
He's such a cuddly ball.

CLARA
How would you like to take care of him?

MOLLY
We can feed him.

ZACK
Even play.

MOLLY
What's his name?

Clara turns to Nick.

CLARA
Ah. Funny, I didn't ask. You can name him.

MOLLY
SUPER COOL!

INT. SPARE ROOM - DAY

Clara rolls the trunk holding the panda.

CLARA
Sucker is not light!

MOLLY
Poor baby.

CLARA
Don't forget. Hush-hush.

ZACK
Mum's the word.

Clara exits the room.

Molly ponders over the panda.

MOLLY
A snowball with black eyes.

Molly ruffles his head.

MOLLY
Cute.

ZACK
What do we call him?

Molly imagines for a moment.

MOLLY
Snowball?

ZACK
Na. Too girlie.

MOLLY
Huggy?

ZACK
Sound like Buggy. Dumpy?

MOLLY
Nah.

Molly squeezes her chin.

MOLLY
No name comes to mind. For now,
let's feed him.

ZACK
That's a problem.

MOLLY
A problem?

ZACK
Yep. Pandas only eat bamboo.

Molly's face lights up.

MOLLY
I GOT IT! We'll name him BAMBOO.

ZACK
Not bad. Not bad at all. Bamboo.
Bamboo is cool.

MOLLY

What about food for Bamboo?

Bamboo widens his eyes.

ZACK

I'll run down to the store. What about dog food and lettuce.

MOLLY

Heck. Bamboo would eat that.

Bamboo widens his eyes.

Zack leaves for the store.

Molly turns on the television.

NEWSCASTER

...a young panda is believed to have been stolen from the luggage section of the aircraft on route to Kennedy Airport. Details are sketchy. We can report that the Chinese and American governments called for a full investigation...

Molly faces Bamboo.

MOLLY

Are you stolen?

CUT TO:

INT. FBI OFFICE - DAY

The desk plate identifies SPECIAL AGENT ED GRAY.

Around the desk are three males and one female.

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY

I believe you know each other.

Special agent Gray points as he walks.

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY

Agents TOM MARTIN, FRED LEVINE, HECTOR RYE, AND ANNETTE STROM.

AGENT LEVINE

We've crossed paths.

AGENT STROM
Hector and I worked together.

Special Agent Gray removes his glasses.

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY
I want you to investigate a stolen
panda.

Tom begins to snicker.

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY
What's so funny?

AGENT MARTIN
Panda! Struck me. Sorry.

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY
Yeah. We're animal hunting. Since
this expression of friendship means
a great deal to Chinese-American
relations, the panda is tied to
national security.

AGENT RYE
Where does one hide a panda?

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY
The panda is believed to be in the
New York City area.

AGENT STROM
What's first?

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY
Contact every vet, school, and
media outlet. Someone knows!

INT. SPARE BEDROOM - DAY

Zack returns with a grocery bag.

Molly is petting Bamboo.

MOLLY
Woolly hair!

Zack removes the dog food and lettuce.

ZACK
Here it is! Bamboo's probably
starved.

MOLLY
I've been giving him water. If he
doesn't eat, he'll get sick.

ZACK
Be right back.

Zack returns with the dog food.

Bamboo inspects the food, then turns away.

MOLLY
Try the lettuce.

Again, Bamboo refuses it.

MOLLY
Why ain't you eating, Bamboo?

Bamboo's lips stir.

BAMBOO
I DON'T EAT DOG OR RABBIT FOOD!

Zack and Molly are stunned.

ZACK
Huh?

BAMBOO
THIS FOOD'S NOT FIT FOR ANIMALS!

MOLLY
YOU TALK!

BAMBOO
So do you!

MOLLY
But you're not supposed to.

BAMBOO
I don't. Only when I have
something to say.

ZACK
But...

BAMBOO
Forget the but's. I need chow!

Zack and Molly quickly remove the food.

MOLLY

What should we get you, Bamboo?

BAMBOO

Not to worry. Cheese and crackers will do nicely. Mr. Chang, the zookeeper in China, used to give me cheese and crackers.

MOLLY

China?

BAMBOO

Yep. I was born in the China Zoo.

MOLLY

Did you ever live in the wild?

BAMBOO

Nope.

Panda frustrated.

BAMBOO

And the name Bamboo. Who's called Bamboo?

MOLLY

We considered Dumpy.

BAMBOO

Dumpy!

(weary)

Well, it's far better than my Chinese name...Poo Poo. Hello? What were they thinking?

MOLLY

You eat bamboo, don't you?

BAMBOO

Of course. But I need a diet change.

MOLLY

What do you want?

ZACK

Name it!

BAMBOO

Cheese and crackers.

ZACK
Alright. I'll search the kitchen.

Molly peers flabbergasted.

Zack returns with cheese and crackers.

BAMBOO
Yum. Now we're talking!

Bamboo devourers the food.

ZACK
Why didn't you speak earlier.

BAMBOO
Do you know what they do to animals
who talk? Testing. Experiments.
NOT ME! NO. NO.

ZACK
Then why tell us?

BAMBOO
TRUST! Besides, nobody would
believe you.

Licking his paw.

BAMBOO
Tasty cheese and crackers!

Noise at the front door.

MOLLY
Shhh...the Brooms are back.

Bamboo speaks in a gentle and wise tone.

BAMBOO
Brace yourselves. Your neighbors,
the Brooms, don't have friends in
Europe. They stole me for ransom.
Hah. Thought I was a prize dog!
Can you imagine? IMBECILES!

INT. BROOM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Molly views news a television reporter standing near the
airport turnstile.

NEWS REPORTER

...the FBI is searching for a stolen panda sent to us by the Republic of China. Each person is asked to report any sighting of a panda as pictured on the screen...

The screen flashes a picture of Bamboo.

MOLLY (V.O.)

Oh no. Bamboo!

BAMBOO

PANDAS LOOK ALIKE TO HUMANS!

INT. SPARE ROOM - DAY

Molly returns throwing her books on the bed.

MOLLY

Can't wait for school to end!

BAMBOO

School?

MOLLY

Yeah. Just two weeks left. THEN SUMMER VACATION!

Molly is upset.

BAMBOO

What's the matter, kid?

MOLLY

They're looking for you. I won't let you go. I WON'T!

BAMBOO

Calm down.

MOLLY

They announced you're stolen.

BAMBOO

Brilliant!

Bamboo sits at the end of the bed.

Molly hugs Bamboo.

Bamboo loses his balance.

He tumbles off the bed and hits his head on the end table.

The fall knocks him out cold.

MOLLY
BAMBOO. PLEASE WAKE UP. BAMBOO!
BAMBOO!

Molly runs to the kitchen.

She comes back with water and a cloth.

Bamboo is shaking his head.

BAMBOO
Who hit me? Where is he? COWARD!

MOLLY
You fell on the table. Are you
hurt?

BAMBOO
Humiliated! A bear falling off a
bed. How lame!

Molly raises a glass.

MOLLY
Would ya like water?

BAMBOO
No thanks. I wish I had bamboo to
chew on. You kinda miss the
stuff.

Bamboo stalks loom.

MOLLY
How did you do that?

BAMBOO
Do what?

Molly's eyes fixed on the floor.

MOLLY
Make bamboo stalks appear?

BAMBOO
Got me. I only wished. Maybe when
I banged my head...?

Bamboo gobbles down the bamboo.

He pauses in contemplation.

BAMBOO
I wish the lights go on.

Lights in the room turn on.

BAMBOO
I wish the lights go off.

Lights turn off.

MOLLY
WOW!

BAMBOO
Some rare pandas get a WISH POWER.
The only drawback is it can
suddenly disappear.

MOLLY
How long does it last?

BAMBOO
No idea, little lady. No idea.

INT. SPARE ROOM - DAY

Zack returns sporting a dirty baseball uniform.

He gently pets Bamboo.

MOLLY
Zack. You won't believe this.

ZACK
After a talking panda, I'll believe
anything.

MOLLY
Bamboo can wish for something! And
it happens!

Zack's leery.

MOLLY
Show him Bamboo!

Bamboo appears insulted.

BAMBOO
I'm no circus act.

MOLLY
Please! For me.

BAMBOO
Okay. For you.

Zack watches. Bamboo bows his head.

BAMBOO
Bowing is not required. Feels
official!

Mumbles a few words.

BAMBOO
I wish Zack's baseball uniform is
crystal clean.

A second passes.

Zack's entire uniform is sparkling.

ZACK
Totally sweet. How did you do
that?

BAMBOO
Don't ask, kid.

They overhear the Brooms' discussing Bamboo's future.

Zack, Molly, and Bamboo, listen intensely.

NICK (O.S.)
Things are hot.

CLARA (O.S.)
Too hot. Jail's not for me.

Silence.

NICK (O.S.)
We've got to ditch the panda.

CLARA (O.S.)
Yea. How?

NICK (O.S.)
Any place we bring it, we might get
caught.

CLARA (O.S.)
We're screwed!

NICK (O.S.)
Why don't we just toss him?

Bamboo's face comes alive.

CLARA (O.S.)
Don't even think that. How would he survive?

NICK (O.S.)
Get this. I know a guy, who knows a guy, who collects exotic animals. I'll get his name and feel him out. Maybe we can end up making a few bucks?

Bamboo, Molly and Zack's jaws drop.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Nick Broom is greeted by Mr. BETTS.

BETTS
Good to meet you, Mr. Broom. What can I do for you?

NICK
Mr. Sy Betts? You purchase exotic animals?

BETTS
Sometimes.

NICK
Think I've got an animal you may be interest in.

Sy leans back in his chair.

Nick leans closer.

BETTS
Go on.

NICK
What's a panda worth?

BETTS
Prison time!

NICK
Money. What's it worth?

BETTS
At least fifty or sixty grand.

Nick reclines.

NICK
What if I told you I could obtain
one.

BETTS
Mr. Broom. Getting a buyer is not
difficult. Messing with the law
is. They're illegal to own. Very
illegal.

NICK
Could mean a tidy profit.

Sy bends forward.

BETTS
The stolen panda?

NICK
A panda. Interested?

BETTS
Give me a couple of days.

NICK
Fair enough.

Nick leaves the office.

NICK (V.O.)
Blood sucker!

Sy picks up phone.

BETTS
FBI please.

INT. SPARE ROOM - NIGHT

Molly is stroking Bamboo.

MOLLY
Aren't you scared? I am!

BAMBOO
Scared? They're scared. Little
lady, nobody's gonna hurt me.

MOLLY

But...

Bamboo grins.

BAMBOO

Been percolating an idea. No
memory, no problem.

ZACK

Huh?

Zack props up.

BAMBOO

I'll WISH the Broom's panda memory
away.

ZACK

Can you do that?

BAMBOO

Sonny, are mosquitos annoying?

MOLLY

Do it now!

Bamboo bows his head.

BAMBOO

I wish Clara and Nick Broom have no
memory of stealing a panda. ME!
Done!

MOLLY

They won't remember?

BAMBOO

Nope. Unless the wish doesn't
work?

Zack jumps out of bed.

ZACK

Hide in the closet!

BAMBOO

(mumbling)
Non-believers.

Zack closes the closet door.

Zack and Molly climb into bed.

Clara and Nick quietly enter.

ZACK
MR. AND MRS. BROOM!

MOLLY
We wanted to say good night.

ZACK
Yeah.

Youngsters glance at each other.

CLARA
That's very nice.

ZACK
Oh, by the way, our class is doing
a project on panda bears. Do you
know about them?

CLARA
Not much. They're from China...I
think?

ZACK
Mr. Broom?

NICK
Never saw one. Only in pictures.
Sorry.

CLARA
Sweet dreams.

Clara and Nick leave.

Zack and Molly open the closet.

MOLLY
It worked! It really worked!

BAMBOO
Any doubt?

MOLLY
One question.

BAMBOO
Spill it.

MOLLY

With the power, you could wish
yourself back into the zoo or
jungle. Why delay?

BAMBOO

Big decision! Forget the jungle.
I wouldn't survive a day!

(beat)

Anyway, you guys are growing on me.

INT. SPARE ROOM - DAY

Bamboo wakes first, followed by Zack and Molly.

MOLLY

I dreamed of a panda named Bamboo.

Bamboo lifts his head.

BAMBOO

Not so fast kiddo. I'm real fur
and bones.

Molly wipes her eyes.

MOLLY

You're real!

BAMBOO

Yep.

MOLLY

What a relief!

Zack and Molly get dressed.

MOLLY

We'll visit mom at the hospital.

BAMBOO

She might be afraid of me!

ZACK

Oh. You can't come.

BAMBOO

Why?

ZACK

You'd be spotted.

BAMBOO
If I'm myself.

MOLLY
You're a panda!

BAMBOO
What if I was a kid?

Bamboo shrugs his shoulders.

BAMBOO
Tell me, who would know?

Bamboo closes his eyes, mutters to himself, and transforms into a teenage boy.

The teenage boy is tall, blond, has a scratched earring in his left ear, and spiked hair.

MOLLY
Kickin'.

BAMBOO (BILLY)
How's that?

MOLLY
You're hot!

BAMBOO (BILLY)
Hot?

Bamboo feels his arms.

Zack and Molly are fascinated.

ZACK
Man, a human!

BAMBOO (BILLY)
Everyone in the country fancies capturing a missing panda. Not a kid!

MOLLY
We can go anywhere.

BAMBOO (BILLY)
American zoos are considered four star establishments.

MOLLY
Nick and Clara are at Bingo.

Bamboo holds the door open.

BAMBOO (BILLY)
Let's fly.

EXT. CITY ZOO - DAY

Billy (Bamboo), Zack, and Molly observe caged animals.
They stop for cotton candy.

BILLY
Dude, how do you eat this?

ZACK
Jam it into your mouth.

Billy bites a humongous piece.

ZACK
Well?

BILLY
(mouth full)
Itt'ss goooodd.

Billy's face is covered.

Molly runs for the monkey cage.

MOLLY
Ain't they cute?

BILLY
If you enjoy flies!

Two of the monkeys approach the bars.

MOLLY
Wait a minute. Billy, what are
they doing?

Monkeys spit at the spectators.

BILLY
Oh, Great Panda. Nasty!

Billy pulls back.

They continue down a crowded path.

A caged lion belts-out a menacing growl.

Molly grabs Billy's arm.

MOLLY
The roar is scary!

BILLY
Nothing but a bona fide house cat!

Molly loosens her grasp on Billy.

They pass near a hot dog stand.

MOLLY
Scrumptious, hot dogs.

ZACK
I'm starved.

BILLY
Hot dogs? What are they?

ZACK
Ground beef in a bun.

BILLY
Beef! You eat animals? Yuck!

Billy gulps.

BILLY
Oy, how barbaric!

MOLLY
I'll eat fries.

ZACK
Me too.

BILLY
HUMANS!

Zoo keeper feeds the elephant.

He hoses down the large creature.

BILLY
Wonder what his shoe size is?

ZACK
He'd be stylish in sandals.

A PERSON's feeding the large colorful parrots.

MOLLY
They're beautiful!

BILLY
Birds talk, talk, talk. Yakkity-
Yak. Drove me crazy in the China
zoo!

Molly stares at Billy in admiration.

MOLLY
Annoying.

BILLY
Nature's humor.
(reflects)
On the other hand, some zoo keepers
are former gifted pandas.

ZACK
How's that?

BILLY
Wish power! They wanted to be near
animals. So, they transform into
zoo keepers.

ZACK
Yikes!

They maneuver toward the exit gates.

BILLY
Interesting.

MOLLY
What is it, Bamboo...? I mean
Billy.

BILLY
(questioning)
Ha. Who's really behind the bars?
If you're human, it's the animal.
If you're the animal, it's the
spectator.

I/E. BROOM HOUSE - DAY

Two suited men ring doorbell.

Nick answers.

Behind Nick is Clara, holding a dish towel.

Each man flashes a badge.

AGENT GRAPE
Hello. I'm FBI AGENT GRAPE and
this is AGENT HUNT.

NICK
Yes. How can we help you?

AGENT GRAPE
Do you know a Sy Betts?

Nick assumes a pensive pose.

NICK
No...not that I recall.

AGENT HUNT
Mind if we step in?

CLARA
Please.

Agents sit in the living room.

NICK
What's up?

AGENT GRAPE
A rare panda has disappeared.

NICK
How does it involve us?

AGENT HUNT
Sy Betts said you'd sell a panda to
him.

NICK
Absurd! It's a mistake.

CLARA
You got the correct address?

AGENT HUNT
We handle thousands of leads. He
gave us a full description.

CLARA
We've never even seen a real panda!

Nick shakes his head in disbelief.

CLARA
Listen, the house is yours. See if
you find a panda!

AGENT HUNT
Appreciate it, Mrs. Broom.

Each room inside the house is superficially searched.

AGENT GRAPE
Appears empty.

AGENT HUNT
No panda.

NICK
Told you! Why the hell did this
guy describe me? Hah?

AGENT GRAPE
Says he spoke directly to you.

NICK
What would I do with a panda? I
don't even have a dog!

Agents start out the door.

AGENT HUNT
You may hear from us again.

They go towards their car.

AGENT HUNT
What do you think?

AGENT GRAPE
Sounds credible. Could be an act?

Agents drive away.

INT. MEDICAL CENTER - AFTERNOON

Three teens sneak down the hospital corridor.

Doctors and nurses busily tending to clerical matters and
patients.

Zack, Molly, and BILLY, examine the directory.

BILLY
A morgue?

ZACK
Em. For dead people?

BILLY
No kidding! I've never witnessed a
dead human.

MOLLY
Neither have I.

ZACK
Ah...I don't think it's a good
idea.

BILLY
Scared?

MOLLY
No...no!

Molly clutches Billy's shirt.

BILLY
Are you okay?

MOLLY
Guess so.

BILLY
SO, TO THE BASEMENT. TO THE
MORGUE. TO THE STIFFS. HEH, HEH.

Sign outside the room reads: HOSPITAL MORGUE.

BILLY
Place is DEAD. GET IT?

ZACK
Weird, if you ask me.

MOLLY
Gives me the chills!

They cautiously enter an empty laboratory.

BILLY
Must be lunch. No emergency here.

A sheet covered slab is at the center of the room.

ZACK
Check under the sheet.

MOLLY

Not me!

BILLY

Step aside. The doctor is in!

Billy uncovers the head of a male a cadaver.

ZACK

Yikes!

MOLLY

Eek! Why's he gray.

Billy carefully inspects the dead man's face.

BILLY

One word. DEAD.

ZACK

Creepy. Let's split!

Smile crosses Billy's face.

BILLY

Hold on. We'll find out how he died. I'll wish him to life, and then send him back.

MOLLY

To where?

BILLY

Wherever he came from.

Billy mumbles.

The DEAD MAN opens his eyes.

DEAD MAN

Where am I?

BILLY

Doesn't matter.

DEAD MAN

I feel strange.

Molly and Zack are frozen.

BILLY

What's the last thing you recall?

Silence can be heard.

DEAD MAN

AMANDA, my cow, kicking me in the head. She never did it before!

(confused)

What am I doing here? Lord, my head is killing me. Where's my wife?

BILLY

Patience. She'll join you.

DEAD MAN

My head!

BILLY

Rest, old timer.

DEAD MAN

Yeah. I'm tired.

The man slowly closes his eyes and dies again.

BILLY

I knew it! Can't trust cows.
Behind the blank stare is a devil.

Billy covers the dead man.

BILLY

Zack! Show me how to use the bathroom. Fast!

ZACK

Yuck!

INT. MEDICAL CENTER - AFTERNOON

Teens stand outside Fran's hospital room.

BILLY

Go in. I'll wait.

MOLLY

I want you to meet mom. You're one of us.

BILLY

Please! I'll always be a panda.

MOLLY

Why? You're human.

Takes a slight breath.

BILLY

I'm a born panda. Now, what can we do to cheer up your mom?

MOLLY

Seeing us cheers her.

BILLY

A favorite flower?

ZACK

Carnations.

BILLY

Art?

MOLLY

Yea, especially wood sculpture.

BILLY

Music?

ZACK

Classical stuff.

Billy tips his head.

BILLY

She'll notice the room change, but will forget after you leave.

Zack and Molly scoot into the room.

The single room is filled with colorful carnations, wood carvings, and soft classical music.

Fran gazes at the room's atmosphere.

FRAN

What's going on? These drugs must be strong!

She eagerly hugs her children.

FRAN

It's as if I'm dreaming.

Molly leans on her mom.

MOLLY

When are you coming home?

FRAN
Soon pumpkin. Very soon.

MOLLY
We've got something unbelievable to
tell you

FRAN
You have?

Zack interrupts.

ZACK
What she means is the Brooms are
treating us fine. Real fine!

FRAN
Don't make yourselves too much at
home.

Zack pulls Molly to the side in the hallway.

ZACK
You almost blew it.

MOLLY
Heck, mom won't tell.

ZACK
No one can know. No one!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Clara is drying the dishes.

Molly walks in.

CLARA
Hi Molly.

MOLLY
Hey, Mrs. Broom.

CLARA
Need anything?

MOLLY
Thank you for taking care of us.

CLARA
A pleasure. Nick and I never had
kids of our own.

MOLLY
We feel like family.
(smiling)
By the way, would you mind if we
used the storage house to play?

CLARA
It's kinda dirty.

MOLLY
That's okay. We thought it would
be a great place to hang out.

CLARA
Enjoy. I'm sure Nick wouldn't
mind.

INT. STORAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Molly prepares sleeping area for Bamboo.

Storage house is virtually bare.

Molly is juggling a small flashlight.

BILLY
Place is not fit for an animal.

Molly places her hand on his shoulder.

MOLLY
You can't stay in the house.

BILLY
And they stole me. What a joke!

Molly straightens up the storage area.

She finishes fluffing Billy's pillow.

Molly places a blanket over his shoulders.

MOLLY
Better?

BILLY
Yep. Much.

A red flush crosses Molly's face.

MOLLY
Maybe you can visit our school in
the morning?

Billy shrugs his shoulders.

BILLY
Might be interesting.

Billy wipes his shirt.

BILLY
And spray this place for bugs!
Bugs are disgusting.

MOLLY
Under the blankets! 'Sleep tight,
and don't let the bed bugs bite.'

BILLY
BED BUGS?

MOLLY
Everything's fine. Trust me.

BILLY
Bed bugs?

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Charts, skeleton, and chemicals, adorn the room.

Molly grabs MRS. TAYLOR before class.

MOLLY
Mrs. Taylor. This is my cousin,
Billy from Ohio.

Addressing Billy.

MRS. TAYLOR
You're welcome to join us.

BILLY
GREAT!

MRS. TAYLOR
We'll be discussing animal testing.

Billy's jaw drops.

BILLY
I'm sure it'll be interesting!

Mrs. Taylor settles students down.

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

Billy is seated in the back.

MRS. TAYLOR
Why animal experimentation?

Student's hands raised.

STUDENT #1
For medicines and cures.

STUDENT #2
Animals are sacrificed for science.
Who's going to miss a monkey or
dog?

Girl waving her hand.

STUDENT #3
Animals are living creatures. What
gives us the right to kill them?

Billy is noticeably impacted.

MRS. TAYLOR
What do you think, Billy?

Molly's apprehensive.

BILLY
Well, I see it this way. Animals
are never asked if they want to be
butchered or killed. No one raises
a stink. Worst of all, the
medicines are for humans, not for
animals. Savage, if you ask me!

Students can be seen nodding in agreement.

STUDENT #4
I've got a dog, Bo. I never
thought of him as being used for
experiments.

BILLY
BINGO! Humans don't think.

STUDENT #4
And extinct animals?

BILLY
 (sarcastic)
 Bring them back. So humans can do
 'research.'

Mrs. Taylor listens.

MRS. TAYLOR
 Billy gives us something to
 seriously consider.
 (surveying the room)
 By the way, can you name any
 creatures heading for extinction?

BILLY
 PANDAS! They're safer in zoos.
 Given the limited food, poachers,
 and low birth rate, the future
 isn't bright.

Mrs. Taylor places her pen on the desk

MRS. TAYLOR
 You're familiar with pandas?

BILLY
 Should be. I'M A PANDA.

Molly buries her head.

MOLLY (V.O.)
 AND I'M HISTORY!

MRS. TAYLOR
 You read of pandas?

BILLY
 Nope. I said I'm a panda.

MRS. TAYLOR
 Funny. I enjoy a sense of humor.

BILLY
 No kidding.

Student #2 chimes in.

STUDENT #2
 And I'm a frog.

BILLY
 I AM A PANDA!

Class breaks out in laughter.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Mrs. Taylor is seated in the reception area.

The principal, MR. LOCKMAN, approaches Mrs. Taylor.

MR. LOCKMAN
I apologize for keeping you
waiting. The phone never stops.

MRS. TAYLOR
I understand.

They enter Mr. Lockman's office.

He offers jelly beans from a bowl on his desk.

MRS. TAYLOR
No thanks. Watching my weight.

MR. LOCKMAN
Me too. Watching it expand.

Mr. Lockman grabs his stomach.

MR. LOCKMAN
Is everything alright?

MRS. TAYLOR
Actually, this may be nothing.

MR. LOCKMAN
What?

MRS. TAYLOR
Molly Teach brought her cousin from
Ohio to class. I got weird vibes.

Mr. Lockman removes his glasses.

MRS. TAYLOR
This kid, Billy, talked as if he
knew pandas, personally. It sounds
crazy!

Leaning back in chair.

MR. LOCKMAN
He reads up on pandas?

MRS. TAYLOR

The kid doesn't speak his age. He sounds like...well, like the late comedian, George Burns. Wise and mature beyond his years.

MR. LOCKMAN

Hardly enough to be a concern.

Mrs. Taylor sits upright.

MRS. TAYLOR

(troubled)

He said he's a panda.

MR. LOCKMAN

Why I think he's playing.

MRS. TAYLOR

He was serious.

MR. LOCKMAN

It sounds ludicrous. I'd like to speak to him.

MRS. TAYLOR

I believe Molly said he's leaving tonight.

MR. LOCKMAN

Should he return in the morning, bring him down.

Mrs. Taylor nods in agreement.

She leaves the office with a preoccupied pose.

INT. STORAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Molly and Billy are next to each other.

MOLLY

Why did you tell the class you're a panda?

BILLY

Trust me. Do you really think they believe me? C'mon. It sparks concern. SAVE THE PANDA!

Molly folds her arms.

MOLLY

But what if someone believes you?
What if someone reports it?

BILLY

What if? What if? Then they would
be laughed at. Right? A human is
a panda. Get it kid?

MOLLY

Guess so.

Molly hesitates.

MOLLY

Being a panda...how does it feel?

Billy displays a curious expression.

MOLLY

Do you like it?

BILLY

Of course. That's why I'm a panda!

MOLLY

Make me a panda!

BILLY

No way!

MOLLY

(insistent)

Why not? Use your panda power.

BILLY

If you change to a panda, and I
lose my power...you stay a panda.

MOLLY

And you'd always be Billy.

BILLY

A perplexing, perplexing dilemma.
Hey, I was awfully excited about
going to an American zoo. The high
point of my life.

(conflicted)

Then all this happened to me. On
one hand, I DESPERATELY WANT TO BE
WITH YOU AS BILLY. BUT THE FACT IS
I'M STILL A PANDA.

Molly persists by tugging on Billy's earring.

MOLLY
A quick changeover.

BILLY
You sure?

MOLLY
Dude. Do your thing.

BILLY
Dude?

Billy reluctantly shakes his head yes.

He mumbles a few words.

Molly feels her nose.

Sees her panda facial reflection on the window.

Swings her head seeking Billy.

Billy's not spotted.

Molly is gradually fearful.

MOLLY
BILLY! BILLY! It's not funny.
PLEASE!

Out of the dark comes Billy.

BILLY
What's not funny? I laughed.

MOLLY
Oh. Forget it.

She strokes her paws.

MOLLY
Holy swamp dog. I'm a panda. A
talking panda!

BILLY
Kid, I did my best.

Molly touches her stomach.

MOLLY
I'm a fur ball.

BILLY

Well?

MOLLY

I crave bamboo shoots!

BILLY

Huh. Been there. Better get you back into your body, little lady.

MOLLY

Longer, Billy. Please!

BILLY

Can't take a chance.

MOLLY

This is fun.

BILLY

I'll get you a hideous stuffed panda.

Molly takes a last stare at her panda body.

MOLLY

FAR OUT. REALLY FAR OUT!

There's a noise of scampering feet.

BILLY

What's that?

MOLLY

Probably a mouse.

BILLY

Oh no! Get it out!

MOLLY

Pandas don't chase mice.

BILLY

I'm a panda.

MOLLY

Wait. You're a guy.

BILLY

Guy. Panda. Who cares? I don't involve myself with small creatures.

MOLLY
Okay. Change me back.

Billy magically changes Molly back to human.

BILLY
Enough panda tricks! Catch the
scoundrel!

Molly takes the flashlight and combs the room.

MOLLY
He's gone.

BILLY
Scoundrel. Give animals a bad rep.

INT. BROOM HOUSE - DAY

A knocking at the front door.

Two uniformed police greeted by Mrs. Broom.

OFFICER CARTER
Yes ma'am. I'm OFFICER CARTER and
this is OFFICER UNDERS.

OFFICER UNDERS
Hello ma'am. We're looking for a
Molly Teash.

CLARA
What's wrong?

OFFICER UNDERS
Just a few questions.

Clara shouts for Molly.

CLARA
MOLLY! HEY MOLLY!

Molly dashes out.

CLARA
Two police officers here to see
you.

Molly is alarmed.

Clara stands by and listens.

MOLLY

Yes.

OFFICER CARTER

You're Molly Teash?

MOLLY

Yes, sir.

OFFICER CARTER

Your school called us. We have questions regarding your cousin, Billy.

MOLLY

He's back home...in Ohio.

OFFICER CARTER

We're searching for a stolen panda?

MOLLY

I heard it on the school announcements.

OFFICER UNDERS

We understand Billy was a visitor in your science class.

Molly conceals her fear.

MOLLY

For one class.

OFFICER CARTER

During the class, he expressed an unusual concern for pandas.

MOLLY

He hasn't done anything wrong!

OFFICER UNDERS

We're not saying that.

Molly ponders.

MOLLY

When Billy was young, his parents took him to a zoo to see pandas. Ever since, he's been obsessed.

OFFICER CARTER

And him being a panda?

MOLLY
If you met Billy, you'd recognize
his strange type of humor.

Molly inhales a breath of air.

OFFICER CARTER
We have to follow up every lead.

Officers leave premises.

CLARA
Billy?

MOLLY
Came and went. A short visit.

INT. MALL - DAY

Molly, Zack, and Billy, stroll through a mall.

They pass in front of FEMALE LINGERIE store.

Billy curiously stares into the window.

BILLY
What's in this place?

ZACK
You'd better explain it, Molly.

Molly rolls her eyes.

MOLLY
Billy. Women buy sexy clothes. It
makes them attractive.

BILLY
Where's the men's lingerie store?

Molly glimpses at Zack, and then Billy.

MOLLY
Aha...there's no men's lingerie
store.

BILLY
Why not?

MOLLY
It's a women's thing.

BILLY
I don't get it?

Zack tugs on Billy's shirt.

ZACK
Let's move on.

Billy has a puzzled expression.

They pass a window displaying stuffed animals.

BILLY
Why?

ZACK
Why what?

BILLY
Why do you stuff animals?

ZACK
Got me!

BILLY
Why not humans?

ZACK
Maybe, if we had fur?

BILLY
Why do humans wear silly animal
outfits? Have you ever noticed an
animal dressed as a human?

ZACK
Good questions, man.

BILLY
Animals are toys, inferiors.

MOLLY
You're certainly not inferior. By
any stretch.

BILLY
But I'm an animal. How insulting!

The three nod in agreement.

MOLLY
Billy, come to this window!

A camera is set up to photograph the people.

MOLLY
Check out the screen.

Billy maneuvers back and forth.

BILLY
Me again?

ZACK
That's you old boy.

BILLY
Check out the earring. What's with
my hair though? A bird's nest.

Pushes his hair back.

BILLY
Molly, what do you think?

MOLLY
Handsome!

Molly spots a sporting goods store.

MOLLY
Follow me.

Billy leaves the sporting goods store in a new Yankees' baseball cap.

BILLY
Thank Lord Panda. We don't wear
clothes!

They continue walking.

ZACK
Before we leave, we'll show Billy
the arcade.

MOLLY
Yeah. You'll dig this place.

INT. MALL ARCADE - DAY

Arcade is filled with noises of the game machines and change.

It's beset by sounds of bells, screaming, and flashing color lights.

ZACK

Here's where I spend time and money.

MOLLY

Way too much time and money!

BILLY

What's the horrible noise?

ZACK

You mean the music?

BILLY

No. I mean the noise.

Zack pans the speakers.

ZACK

Rap. Rap music.

BILLY

Noise. Bad noise!

ZACK

Gotta get with it!

BILLY

I'd rather be without it.

Billy roams the facility.

He observes a particular game being played.

Sprints back to Molly and Zack.

BILLY

Lord Panda. Did you see it?

MOLLY

See what?

BILLY

The game, little lady. The one where you shoot moving animals. And that's not all. One of those targets is a panda. I'm going to gag!

ZACK

You alright?

BILLY
Why don't they use humans? Hah?
They'd probably clog the machines.

ZACK
We'd better scram.

INT. FBI OFFICE - DAY

Special Agent Gray is with Tom Martin and Annette Strom.

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY
Progress report?

AGENT MARTIN
Not much. We followed over a
thousand leads. Nothing!

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY
Where were the leads from?

AGENT MARTIN
The New York area.

Special Agent Gray places a pen to his mouth.

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY
A number of organizations offered
rewards.

AGENT MARTIN
Everyone is searching.

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY
Government pressure is on. Even
the Chinese want their own
investigation.

Agent Annette Strom leans forward.

AGENT STROM
What if the panda is dead?

SPECIAL AGENT GRAY
We'll find out.

INT. STORAGE HOUSE - DAY

Molly and Billy sprawl on the floor.

The flashlight casts a dim brightness.

MOLLY
If you could have anything, what
would it be?

BILLY
I'm confused. At first, I wanted
to be a panda. Then, I met you and
Zack.

BILLY
And you?

MOLLY
I'd like my mom back.

BILLY
CONSIDER IT DONE!

Billy bows his head and speaks a few words.

MOLLY
What was that?

BILLY
I wished your mom gets well and
returns tomorrow.

MOLLY
Oh Bamboo!

INT. BROOM'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Molly dials the phone.

RECEPTIONIST (V.O.)
Good morning. Farnsworth Medical
Center.

MOLLY
Room 211, please.

The phone is picked up.

FRAN (V.O.)
Hello.

MOLLY
Hi mom.

FRAN (V.O.)
Hi pumpkin.

MOLLY
When you coming home?

FRAN (V.O.)
I'll be here for an extra few days.
The doctors are checking my arm.
Slow to heal.

Molly's surprised.

MOLLY
But you're suppose to...never mind!

FRAN (V.O.)
Are you and Zack behaving?

MOLLY
Yes, mom.

FRAN (V.O.)
Stay away from junk food. And
don't hang at the mall.

MOLLY
Okay mom. Got to catch the school
bus.

FRAN (V.O.)
Give me a call later. Love you!

MOLLY
Bye mom.

INT. STORAGE HOUSE - DAY

Molly drops the phone.

She rushes to the storage house.

Billy is holding both hands on his face.

BILLY
You know?

MOLLY
Yea. I called mom.

BILLY
I wished for bamboo shoots.
Nothing happened!

MOLLY
You lost your wish power?

Billy pounds the wall.

BILLY
I'm trapped in a Billy body. Oh,
Lord Panda!

MOLLY
Honest. We'll think of something.

BILLY
A human panda. HOW ABSURD?

Molly places her arms on Billy's shoulders.

MOLLY
Say, being human ain't so bad.

BILLY
Not bad if you're a human.

MOLLY
I don't have the answer, right now.

BILLY
Eternal optimism of a kid!

Molly raises her hands in cheer.

MOLLY
Aha, listen. I've got an idea!

BILLY
Any idea will do.

MOLLY
Shoots! Chinese restaurants have
shoots. We'll go for a Chinese
dinner.

BILLY
I could use that.

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Beautiful ORIENTAL WAITRESS greets Molly, Zack, and Billy.

WAITRESS
(Chinese accent)
You like to order?

Billy takes a last glance at the menu.

BILLY
Anything with shoots. Surprise me!

WAITRESS
House special has bean shoots.
Very good.

BILLY
I'll take it.

Molly and Zack shake their heads in agreement.

MOLLY
Us too.

Waitress removes menus.

ZACK
Gees. There's got to be a way.

BILLY
Yeah.

MOLLY
For now, eat the meal.

BILLY
Maybe it'll turn me back to a
panda. Don't I wish!

Waitress brings dishes of food, along with chop sticks and
fortune cookies.

MOLLY
What's this? Chop sticks? I'm
still working on a spoon and fork.
Ha.

After completing dinner, they wipe their lips.

ZACK
Fine meal.

BILLY
Fit for a panda king.

Molly holds her stomach.

MOLLY
I'm full.

ZACK
FORTUNE COOKIES!

Billy is holding a cookie.

BILLY
You believe?

ZACK
Nah. But they're fun. Molly, you
go first.

Molly breaks open the cookie.

MOLLY
(reads)
'Someone is entering your life.
Loneliness fades away.'

She gives the paper a double-take.

MOLLY
Wonder what it means?

BILLY
A boyfriend?

MOLLY
Who knows?

Zack unravels his fortune.

ZACK
(reads)
'Keeping a low profile changes with
age.'

MOLLY
That's right! You're secretive.

ZACK
BULL. I talk.

MOLLY
To yourself!

ZACK
Ho. Ho. Ho.

Billy stares at his fortune cookie.

ZACK
What does it say?

BILLY
 Strange. Says, 'If you're seeking
 an answer, come to the top floor.
 Find MR. FING.'

ZACK
 A joke!

MOLLY
 What if it's not?

BILLY
 We've got time. And I'm desperate!

INT. UPSTAIRS OF RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Molly, Zack, and Billy, go to a long, dimly lit hallway.

The hallway is covered with paintings and sculptures of
 animals.

Only one door is visible.

The three stand in front of the door.

Zack knocks. No answer.

Zack knocks again. No answer.

They begin to leave.

ZACK
 Figures. It's a joke.

BILLY
 Hilarious!

The run-down door slowly opens.

An elderly CHINESE MAN (MR. FING) appears.

MR. FING
 (Chinese accent)
 Molly, Zack, and Billy?

ZACK
 Cripe. How do you know our names?

MR. FING
 Some questions must remain
 unanswered.

They skeptically probe an unusual room.

MR. FING
I'm Honorable MR. FING. Do not be
fearful Billy.

Billy backs up.

MR. FING
Billy, a panda trapped in a human
body?

BILLY
Who told you? Who?

MR. FING
Questions.

MOLLY
How do you know us? We know
nothing about you.

MR. FING
What matters is getting Billy back
to pandahood.

Molly quickly glances at Mr. Fing's room.

She sees a bamboo bed, bamboo table and chairs, and a stack
of dusty books.

(INSERT)

On one wall is a framed photograph of a panda. Under the
photo is a piece of bamboo inscribed with the letters F.F.

MOLLY
Is this a magical power? Black
magic? Wizardry? Occult? Huh?

MR. FING
Actual power, young lady, belongs
to Billy.

Billy jumps up.

BILLY
And how do you know about me? How?

MR. FING
Does not matter, how. What matters
is my help.

Mr. Fing rummages through a number of dusty books.

MR. FING
Ah, here it is.

Mr. Fing pulls out a book title MYSTERIES OF THE PANDA.

Flips several pages.

MR. FING
(reads)
'A wish powered panda who, by loss
of the wish power, is entrapped in
a human body, may regain wish power
by doing the following: SAVE THE
LIFE OF ANOTHER ANIMAL.'

BILLY
A joke. Right?

MR. FING
No time for jokes.

BILLY
Simple enough.

MOLLY
Will it work?

Mr. Fing places his two hands together and bows.

MR. FING
Try and you will see.

All proceed toward the door.

A curious Molly can't take her eyes off the panda photograph.

MOLLY
Who is F.F.?

MR. FING
Billy and I have much in common.

MOLLY
You? That's you!

MR. FING
My decision. Stay human. Help
pandas.

BILLY
Damn. You're a panda too. A panda
with wish powers. I should've
known. Damn.

MR. FING

After leaving, you will have no
memory of me.

The three depart bearing puzzled expressions.

EXT. ROAD NEAR LAKE - DAY

Zack wipes his forehead.

Molly grabs a flower.

Billy skims a stone on the lake.

He hears a sound beyond the trees.

The sound of a yelping dog gets louder.

Billy runs beyond the trees to a series of rocks.

Molly and Zack follow.

A puppy is wedged between two boulders extending into the
lake.

MOLLY

We've got to save him. He'll die.

Billy, straightens his baseball cap.

He starts balancing himself across the slippery rocks.

MOLLY

BE CAREFUL BILLY!

ZACK

WATCH YOUR STEP!

Billy notices it's an excited black and white SIBERIAN HUSKY
puppy.

Billy attempts to dislodge the animal.

After several shaky tries, Billy releases the puppy.

He carries the dog carefully over the wet boulders.

Billy gently puts the puppy down.

MOLLY

Yippee! You did it.

BILLY
Yep. Another carpet wetter.

The puppy shakes off the water.

BILLY
They say don't sweat the petty
things. I say don't pet the sweaty
things.

Molly cuddles the puppy.

MOLLY
He's so lovable.

BILLY
SWEET PANDA!

Dog pees on a bush.

BAMBOO
No manners!

ZACK
What should we call him?

BILLY
Nothing. Just send him home.

MOLLY
He has no home.

BILLY
Neither have I!

MOLLY
Our home is your home.

BILLY
Okay. Okay. Maybe for a little
while.

The dog runs to Billy.

Tail wagging at high speed.

BILLY
Hush runt! Noisy paws give me a
headache.

Puppy continues romping.

BILLY
Oh, my head!

Billy tries wiping off his pants.

BILLY
Puppies are a nuisance!

MOLLY
He found a friend!

BILLY
(to puppy)
FIND A DOG FRIEND!

Dog closely follows Billy.

Occasionally it shouts a bark.

MOLLY
No dog tags.

ZACK
He can hang with us. But what do
we call him?

Puppy nips at Billy's pant cuffs.

BILLY
Keep it up doggie. You'll be back
on the rocks!

ZACK
Rocky?

MOLLY
That's weak.

ZACK
What's your suggestion big mouth?

Puppy barrels between Billy's legs.

BILLY
Keep it up. You know what they do
to dogs in China.

MOLLY
What?

BILLY
IT'S DINNER TIME!

MOLLY
They...that's awful!

BILLY
Some might say.

The pup stops in his tracks.

MOLLY
What about SHOOTs? Get it? Bamboo
shoots!

ZACK
Not bad. Not bad.

Puppy starts running by Billy.

BILLY
SHOOTs! Relax. Calm your motor.

Three teens, and Shoots, disappear out of sight.

INT. STORAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Molly, Zack, and Billy, sit inside the storage house.

Shoots is sleeping.

ZACK
What a wild day.

MOLLY
Even I'm tired.

BILLY
I wish I had a cold glass of water.

A cold glass of water appears.

Each youngster has a dumbfounded expression.

MOLLY
The magical wish power...!

BILLY
I know, I know. Might be a one
time thing. I don't understand?

ZACK
Maybe it's back?

MOLLY
Wish for something else.

Billy closes his eyes.

A doggie bed appears next to Shoots.

BILLY
It works!

Shoots goes to sleep on the bed.

BILLY
Typical dog.

MOLLY
Would you try healing mom again?

BILLY
Sure.

Billy wishes for Fran's healing.

MOLLY
I'll call mom...

Molly yawns.

MOLLY
In the morning.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Molly is on the phone.

MOLLY
How you feeling?

FRAN (V.O.)
Good news pumpkin. I'm so excited.

MOLLY
Well?

FRAN (V.O.)
The pain mysteriously vanished.

MOLLY
TERRIFIC!

FRAN (V.O.)
The doctors are amazed. I'll be discharged early.

Molly sighs in relief.

MOLLY
Call me and Zack. We'll come and
get you.

FRAN (V.O.)
Thanks pumpkin. Behave. Mom loves
you both.

INT. STORAGE HOUSE - MORNING

Billy is sleeping.

Shoots is snuggled by his side.

Molly rushes into the storage house.

MOLLY
YOUR WISH POWER. IT'S BACK. I
phoned mom. Your wish power is
back!

Billy slowly gets up.

Shoots shakes.

BILLY
I suspected as much.

Billy adjusts his baseball cap.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Nick is watching television from the couch.

In comes Clara.

CLARA
What's on?

NICK
Nothing.

CLARA
I'm worried.

NICK
Money?

CLARA
Yes, money. Bills, bills, and more
bills.

NICK
Ah. Don't worry. I'll eat
hotdogs.

CLARA
We can't afford hotdogs.

Nick flicks stations.

NICK
Then we'll play the lottery.
PEOPLE WIN!

CLARA
They can afford tickets!

In the background is the television ANNOUNCER of the
Westminster Dog Show.

ANNOUNCER
And here it is...

A Chow Chow, wearing a winning scarf saying: First Prize -
\$25,000.

NICK
I figured out how to pay our debts.

CLARA
Tell me genius.

Nick stares at the television.

NICK
We'll kidnap THAT dog. Ransom is
the money maker.

CLARA
I thought you were crazy. Now I'm
certain.

Nick bursts out laughing.

NICK
Get real! I'm only kidding.

CLARA
Scared me. I thought you lost it.

NICK
Broke. But still sound in
judgment.

Nick continues to change channels.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Molly, Zack, and Billy, sit on the park bench.

Shoots is chasing the pigeons.

BILLY
We gotta talk.

ZACK
I've done more talking since we
met.

BILLY
Great! Sonny, this is a SERIOUS
talk.

MOLLY
Serious?

BILLY
I wanna tell you what I gotta do.

Molly moves closer.

BILLY
I WANNA BE A PANDA AGAIN!

MOLLY
You can stay in our back shed.

BILLY
Molly, girl. You don't understand!

MOLLY
We'll take care of you.

ZACK
No one will ever find you.

MOLLY
And Shoots can keep you company.

Shoots tugs at Billy's pant leg, then scampers off.

He comes to rest at Billy's feet.

BILLY
I'll never forget you.

MOLLY

Where are you going?

BILLY

Back to the zoo. I wouldn't last
in the wild. I'm a zoo panda.

MOLLY

Why?

BILLY

I am an animal.

MOLLY

I promise. Zack and I will play
with you. Shoots too! We'll feed
you lots of cheese and crackers.

Billy's body language is increasingly determined.

BILLY

NO. NO. My reasons for going to a
zoo have nothing to do with our
friendship.

MOLLY

I don't get it.

BILLY

A pandas gotta do, what a pandas
gotta do.

ZACK

Now I'm mixed up.

BILLY

From my point of view, humans hurt
each other. Hunting, killing, and
stuffing animals. IT'S NOT FOR ME!

MOLLY

We would never do that.

BILLY

You're special. That's why I'll
never forget you. Being a panda is
what I'm about.

ZACK

But, a zoo is a cage.

BILLY

One way of seeing it. For me,
though, it's three hots and a cot.
Animal friends and free medical
care.

Billy takes a moment.

BILLY

And where else can you meet the
public? When I'm bored, I go to
sleep. No one runs my life.
People say I'm cute!

MOLLY

Don't bars bother you?

BILLY

Again. Depends on which side
you're looking from.

INT. DINER - NEXT MORNING

Molly, Zack, and Billy, are eating breakfast.

Shoots is laying down alongside.

MOLLY

What should we do?

ZACK

A movie?

MOLLY

Nah. Boring.

BILLY

It's too nice to sit inside.

MOLLY

We'll do something outside. What
do you say?

BILLY

Yeah. A baseball game?

ZACK

The Yankees are playing!

MOLLY

Think we'll get tickets?

ZACK
Shouldn't be a problem. Lot of 'no shows.'

MOLLY
We'll use our allowance.

ZACK
Cool.

BILLY
What are we waiting for?

I/E. BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

Three youngsters, Molly, Zack, and Billy, approach the baseball stadium ticket window.

ZACK
Three general admissions, please.

TICKET SELLER
We have tickets, but the seats are scattered.

MOLLY
Can't we be together?

TICKET SELLER
Mob of fans today. You might get lucky.

BILLY
We will.

Zack pays the cashier.

The stadium packs a full house of anxious fans.

They briefly stop at the gift shop.

Billy picks out an inscribed shirt saying GO YANKEES!

MOLLY
Matches your baseball cap.

BILLY
Part of the fan game.

ZACK
Yep.

Molly notices a red dog collar and leash.

MOLLY
A gift for Shoots. Even reads
YANKEE FAN!

Molly pays for the items.

They head for the stands.

Billy holds up the baseball shirt.

BILLY
Wait a second. I'm going to change
in the men's room.

Billy returns flashing a GO YANKEES shirt logo.

MOLLY
Pretty neat!

BILLY
Got to give this place class.

They pass an INEBRIATED MAN slumped over an iron railing.

A wallet is on the ground next to his foot.

Molly picks up the wallet.

MOLLY
(addresses the man)
Is this yours?

INEBRIATED MAN
What?

Molly stands directly in front of his face.

MOLLY
I SAID IS THIS YOURS, SIR?

Man glances at the wallet.

INEBRIATED MAN
Nothing but trouble. TROUBLE!
TROUBLE!

MOLLY
We found it.

INEBRIATED MAN
Keep the damn thing. Credit cards,
bills, and all.

ZACK
Mister. What do we do with it?

INEBRIATED MAN
(slurring words)
Hell, throw the sucker in the
river...river. The cards are...are
maxed. They're after my ass.
Plastic poison! Poison!

The three take off with the wallet.

As they walk, Molly thumbs through.

She discovers over two hundred dollars.

Molly goes back to find the man.

He cannot be found.

She returns to the boys.

Zack looks through wallet.

ZACK
No address here. Weird.

BILLY
Do we keep it?

MOLLY
No. He may want it when he's
sober.

ZACK
Uh, he did say keep it.

Billy is fed up.

BILLY
Never trust a human drunk.

MOLLY
Security! We'll turn it over to
security.

ZACK
The money too?

MOLLY
The money too!

INT. BASEBALL STADIUM - SAME DAY

Three seats are next to a heavy MALE SPECTATOR.

The three teens rush for the seats.

The heavy set fan is drinking, eating, and sweating.

The teams are introduced.

The male spectator's shirt has sweat stains.

Billy holds his nose.

BILLY

Zoos are luxurious compared to
this.

INT. BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

A fly ball is hit to right field.

It's fumbled by the fielder.

A heckler screams out.

HECKLER

'I've seen snakes with better
hands.'

Billy is astonished by the heckler.

BILLY

This is baseball?

MOLLY

You're allowed to root for your
team.

BILLY

By insulting players?

MOLLY

It's expected.

Billy adjusts his cap.

BILLY

Peculiar.

A player is at bat.

Batter wallops the ball over the fence.

It flies in their direction.

ZACK
A four bag homer. GONE!

MOLLY
Slam bang!

BILLY
Slam bang? What's that?

MOLLY
A home run cheer.

Billy's totally confounded.

The home run ball bounces off a nearby seat and hits the
sweaty man in the head.

He slumps over.

The ball ricochets and lands between Billy's legs.

A mob gathers.

Medical assistance arrives.

BILLY
This is baseball?

I/E. STORAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

Three teens and Shoots are moving inside the storage house.

Molly is holding a flashlight.

Nick Broom puts the newspaper down.

He goes on the back porch and stretches.

Nick notices a waving light in the storage house.

He returns inside, picks up the phone, and calls the police.

Police cars come down the street.

Molly, Billy (carrying Shoots), and Zack, flee.

Police officers pursue them on foot.

The three teens climb fences, travel through yards, roadways,
and bushes.

Everything is silent.

They end up at the lake where they first found Shoots.

BILLY
We lost them!

MOLLY
Hope so. I'm whipped.

ZACK
Me too.

BILLY
At least Shoots isn't tired.

MOLLY
Nope.

ZACK
They almost had us.

BILLY
'Almost' is not good enough.

I/E. LAKE SHORE - NIGHT

Molly, Billy, and Shoots, build a small campfire.

Zack leaves the group.

BILLY
I wanna talk.

MOLLY
Go ahead.

Billy fidgets nervously.

BILLY
It's no secret what I think about
you...you know...when one human
really digs another human.

MOLLY
A crush?

BILLY
Guess I didn't make my feelings
very clear.

Billy removes the scratched earring from his ear.

Places the earring in Molly's hand.

BILLY
For you. It's not much.

MOLLY
Why?

BILLY
Call it a keepsake.

Molly holds the earring to her chest.

BILLY
I wanted desperately to remain
Billy, and always be with you.
But, I'm a panda.

MOLLY
You're an exceptional panda.

She kisses him.

BILLY
I delayed and delayed. Took for
granted my wish power. Did I want
to be myself or Billy? I was mixed
up.

MOLLY
It's hard. But, I kinda
understand.

BILLY
I couldn't live with myself if I
stayed Billy.

Zack returns lugging wood for the fire.

He places the larger branches on the flame.

MOLLY
It's only a small fire.

Zack puts the remainder of wood on the ground.

ZACK
Never have enough firewood!

BILLY
Especially if you're building a
mansion!

Zack places his hands over the fire.

Zack yawns, lays prone on a patch of grass, and studies the stars.

EXT. ROWBOAT - DAY - **FLASHBACK**

Fran and YOUNG ZACK are in rowboat fishing.

One fishing line is in the water.

Fran is opening a lunch basket.

FRAN

When Molly's five, she too can fish.

YOUNG ZACK

Big fishies.

FRAN

Yep. Big fish.

Young Zack bites down on a sandwich.

FRAN

Good?

YOUNG ZACK

Yummy.

Young Zack's fishing line bolts out.

YOUNG ZACK

Me! Me!

FRAN

See if you can grab the handle.
Mom will help.

The line is being taken.

It's exhaustively reeled in by Fran.

YOUNG ZACK

Big fishie!

FRAN

Weights a ton!

Young Zack grabs the net.

Fran, sweating, brings the catch to the side of boat.

YOUNG ZACK
What's that mommy?

FRAN
A big turtle.

YOUNG ZACK
He don't like being caught.

FRAN
I don't like catching it.

Fran cuts the line.

Turtle swims off.

YOUNG ZACK
Why mommy? Why not keep the
turtle?

FRAN
Mommy doesn't know how to unhook a
turtle. We'll set him free. It
might have baby turtles to care
for. That's okay with you, isn't
it?

YOUNG ZACK
Yeah. Babies can't be left alone.

END OF FLASHBACK

I/E. LAKE SHORE - NIGHT

Molly rubs her feet together.

Shoots scratches his ear and returns alongside Billy.

MOLLY
You're really going to change?

BILLY
We discussed this.

MOLLY
Hey, you can't blame me for trying.

Billy bites his lip.

BILLY
It's not easy. Not at all.

They fall asleep.

Molly turns to Billy as the sun rises.

MOLLY

Billy...I mean Bamboo. You did it!
You changed!

BAMBOO

Had to be done, little lady. Had
to be done.

Shoots is not fazed by the changeover.

The puppy sits next to Bamboo.

BAMBOO

Time to wish myself back into a
zoo.

MOLLY

No. PLEASE. We'll take you to the
zoo. Then we can spend time
together.

BAMBOO

Do you plan to carry me?

Slight grin crosses his panda lips.

MOLLY

We can cover you.

ZACK

Yea. We can put a towel or
something over you and go to the
zoo.

Zack spots a dilapidated rowboat.

He marches over to the rowboat and picks up an old large
tarp.

Zack hustles back to the group dragging the tarp.

The youngsters drapes it over Bamboo.

They place the handkerchief on his face.

Shoots scoots under the tarp.

They begin traveling towards the zoo.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

On the road, a police car pulls next to them. POLICE OFFICER #1 shoves his head through the window.

POLICE OFFICER #1
Where are you kids going?

ZACK
To the zoo.

POLICE OFFICER #1
Who's under the tarp?

MOLLY
My baby brother.

POLICE OFFICER #1
Your brother has a funny shape.

MOLLY
He's different.

POLICE OFFICER #1
OH...I SEE! You kids have a nice day.

Police car drives away.

INT. POLICE CAR - DAY

POLICE CAR DRIVER #2
Could have a sickness?

POLICE OFFICER #1
Poor kid.

I/E. AN ANIMAL WORLD - DAY

Bamboo temporarily uncovers the tarp.

He gathers Molly, Zack, and Shoots.

BAMBOO
Before we go any further, I've got to say this. We've been close friends. I want to do something for you.

MOLLY
Being your friend is enough.

Bamboo thinks for a moment.

BAMBOO
Pick a fantasy. Any one.

ZACK
A fantasy?

BAMBOO
Yeah.

MOLLY
Well, I'd like to visit an animal
world. A place where animals live
together.

ZACK
Sounds good to me.

BAMBOO
Sure. I've got just the place.

They change into talking animals.

Molly is a Labrador.

MOLLY
Labradors are friendly lap dogs.

Zack turns into a talking Saint Bernard.

He wears a jug under his neck.

Shoots is himself.

Bamboo bows his head.

BAMBOO
I wish for an incredible animal
fantasy land.

They enter a fantasy world.

A bewildered Panda, Labrador, Saint Bernard, and Shoots, are
in the center.

They observe flying cows, pigs, turtles, and assorted
animals.

MOLLY
Hey guys. The animals speak with
accents!

BILLY
A multi-cultured fantasy.

The animals are busily working.

Robotic animal creations do many chores.

The stores are in the shape of animal faces.

Entrances resemble the animals' mouths.

The four friends enter one store that sells cat products.

A SALES RABBIT is behind the counter waiting on a CAT CUSTOMER.

SALES RABBIT

Sorry, you cannot get a refund on the yarn.

CAT CUSTOMER

What kind of place is this?

Four friends listening.

SALES RABBIT

It's our policy. No refunds.

CAT CUSTOMER

Pig!

SALES RABBIT

Insults won't get you a refund.

TWO HIPPOS drag the cat out of the store.

BAMBOO

Unfortunately, animals are biased too.

CAT CUSTOMER

PLACE IS FOR THE DOGS!

Molly covers Shoots' ears.

BAMBOO

Sorry, Shoots.

Bamboo leads his friends to the Animal Arcade.

Zack tries to hit the human figure using a water hose.

Molly plays the WACCO game.

She attempts to pound human figures with a Styrofoam mallet.

Bamboo and Shoots take pleasure in their friends' game enjoyment.

They leave and go on to a petting zoo.

MOTHERS are holding their young animal OFFSPRING.

Animals are petting other animals.

A GIRAFFE, wearing a long necklace, bends over a NEWBORN.

GIRAFFE
Precious little squirt.

Baby passes gas.

BAMBOO
The squirt let out a big boomer.

ZACK
MOVE OUT FAST!

They quickly depart the petting zoo.

BAMBOO
Take a look!

They stand near an establishment called THE PANDA CLUB.

Sign reads, "Everyone Welcome!"

They curiously enter.

Pandas dominate the crowd.

ZACK
Get a load of the MOOSE behind the bar.

Slight giggle from Molly.

MOLLY
Hefty.

Billy admires a female panda.

BAMBOO
Sensational! A hard body.

A LION requests proof of age.

BAMBOO
Can't you tell we're old enough?

MOLLY

We're heading to the restaurant,
anyway.

LION

Go ahead.

BAMBOO

'King of the jungle'. King of the
wimps!

The four leave the club.

They hear a band marching.

In front, there's a banner that reads: THE FRESH MEATS.

The friends listen to the beat.

Continuing on their journey, they pass by stores saying
ANIMAL HAIR DRESSER, ANIMAL DOCTOR'S OFFICE and ANIMAL
SCHOOL.

MOLLY

I'd like to see an animal school.

BAMBOO

Follow me.

He takes them through the entrance.

Inside, no classrooms, teachers, or books exist. The
building simply contains a playground. There's a sliding
pole, jungle gyms, trapezes, merry-go-round, trees, and a
roller coaster. Animal puppets, clowns, and magicians, fill
a stage.

An OCTOPUS D J is playing music.

Dogs dance in a circle.

They observe a bear picnic.

Gorilla construction workers are building picnic tables.

A BEE flies by buzzing the newcomers.

BAMBOO

Even insects are respected here.
There's a free insect flying zone.

ZACK

Amazing!

BAMBOO

When animals treat other animals as
less than human, they become human.

MOLLY

Wow! It's clear now.

They start to get tired from their travels.

BAMBOO

How about ice cream?

SHOOTS

YEA!

MOLLY

Ohmigod! SHOOTS! YOU CAN TALK!

ZACK

Why didn't you talk sooner?

SHOOTS

Nothing to say!

The ice cream parlor is called NUNS ICE CREAM.

Establishment is operated by penguins.

Each friend stuffs themselves.

BAMBOO

Time to return to reality.

They head for the zoo.

CUT TO:

EXT. ZOO - DAY

Molly, Zack, Bamboo, and Shoots, approach the zoo.

Molly secures the tarp on Bamboo.

ZACK

Why don't Molly and I get the
tickets? Bamboo and Shoots, you
can hide.

MOLLY

Heck. No one will ask questions.

Bamboo and Shoots hide in a secluded area.

They're covered securely.

MOLLY
We'll be right back!

BAMBOO
Shake it! This place gives me the
creeps

Molly and Zack leave.

TWO TEENS pass by and inquisitively observe the tarp.

The tarp moves.

TEEN #1
Dude, did you see that?

TEEN #2
Hell yea.

TEEN #1
Man, lets check it out.

TEEN #2
You check it out!

The teens stand by the tarp.

Teen #1 removes tarp.

TEEN #1
What the hell?

TEEN #2
A panda? A dog?

Shoots gives a growl.

TEEN #2
Damn.

TEEN #1
Wonder who owns them?

BAMBOO (V.O.)
No one owns us, idiot. We're not a
car.

Teen #2 mouth drops

TEEN #2

Ah, I know. The missing panda in
the news!

TEEN #1

REWARD TIME!

TEEN #2

We gotta show the boys.

TEEN #1

What about the hound.

BAMBOO (V.O.)

He's no hound, dirt face.

TEEN #2

Bring him along. He'll be good for
laughs.

Teen #1 picks up the growling puppy.

Teen #2 struggles to move the panda.

BAMBOO (V.O.)

Enough is enough, boys.

Bamboo bows his head. Wishes he and Shoots are in the zoo.

They disappear.

The two teens are shocked.

Only the tarp remains.

TEEN #1

What happened?

TEEN #2

Got me.

Teen #1 lifts the tarp and has a look of disbelief.

Teen #1 raises his arms.

TEEN #1

Gone!

INT. ZOO - DAY

Bamboo and Shoots are in a cage.

The cage begins to rapidly draw spectators.

SPECTATOR #1
A puppy and a panda? Never saw
that before.

SPECTATOR #2
Different.

More people gather.

YOUNG GIRL points at the cage.

YOUNG GIRL
What's that mom?

MOTHER
I think it's a Siberian Husky
puppy.

YOUNG GIRL
No. What's the other thing?

BAMBOO (V.O.)
Thing?

MOTHER
A panda. Isn't it cute?

YOUNG GIRL
Let's get one for the house. I
promise to feed it!

MOTHER
Well, you can only put them in
zoos. Not homes.

YOUNG GIRL
Heck.

Shoots starts giving off a squeaky bark.

He prances in circles.

Molly stops when she hears the bark.

MOLLY
Shoots!

Molly and Zack follow the sound.

They manage to get close.

MOLLY
What happened to you?

BAMBOO

A long story.

MOLLY

You don't belong behind bars.

BAMBOO

Bars? This is my security. MY
WORLD!

Shoots is lying down by Bamboo.

Molly begins weeping.

BAMBOO

Little lady. Tears are for
allergies.

MOLLY

Can't help it.

BAMBOO

I'm home.

MOLLY

(misty eyed)

All you will get to eat is bamboo.
That's not fair!

BAMBOO

Don't worry. A panda's got to do
what a panda's got to do. Anyway,
I never said I didn't like bamboo.
(looks both ways)
Come closer. I want to whisper
something to you.

Molly leans over.

BAMBOO

When you come to visit, remember to
slip me some cheese and crackers.

MOLLY

(sad tone)

Keep Shoots with you! You're his
soul mate.

Bamboo stares fondly at Shoots.

BAMBOO

A dog in a zoo?

Molly wipes her eyes.

MOLLY
We'll always visit.

ZACK
You'll get sick of us.

BAMBOO
Doubt it. Don't forget. Cheese
and crackers. And a bone for
Shoots.

I/E. BAMBOO'S CAGE - MORNING

Two FBI agents, wearing wind breakers with FBI logo, are
puzzled at the panda and the puppy.

AGENT #1
How did they get here?

AGENT #2
Most ridiculous thing I ever saw.

Bamboo grabs the bars.

Shoots lets out a quiet yelp.

AGENT #1
A panda with a baseball, a shirt,
and cap?

AGENT #2
Strange!

Bamboo smugly gloats between the bars.

BAMBOO (V.O.)
Get with the times!

AGENT #2
And the mutt?

BAMBOO (V.O.)
What do you mean mutt?

AGENT #1
Wonder where he was?

AGENT #2
Don't ask. He's here. That's what
counts.

AGENT #1

Guess so.

Agent #2 touches the bars.

AGENT #2

Howdy partner. Howdy.

Disgusted expression on Bamboo's face.

BAMBOO (V.O.)

That's pathetic. Find a human friend.

AGENT #1

One week of guarding a dumb animal.
This is why I went to the academy?

BAMBOO (V.O.)

Dumb animal? Who's the dumb one?

INT. ZOO - DAY

Fran, Molly, and Zack, are at at Bamboo's cage.

Shoots is proudly sitting next to Bamboo.

Fran's arm is in a sling.

FRAN

Feels good to be out.

MOLLY

We missed you.

FRAN

I missed you and Zack, pumpkin.

MOLLY

You'll like this panda and puppy.

Bamboo comes to the bars.

FRAN

Crackers and cheese? Honey. I think they eat bamboo.

MOLLY

Believe me. He's a special panda.

Molly feeds Bamboo cheese and crackers.

BAMBOO
 (whispering)
 Perfect timing. I had a hankering
 for cheese and crackers.

Molly also hands a big bone to Shoots.

FRAN
 It's as if they know you.

ZACK
 Kind of. In a way.

FRAN
 Cute. The baseball shirt and hat.
 And the black and white Husky pup
 wearing a red collar. Nice touch!

Fran, Molly and Zack leave at day's end.

BAMBOO
 (to Shoots)
 Remember. Pandas have a reputation
 to uphold. So don't embarrass me!

SHOOTS
 Not to worry.

CUT TO:

INT. MOLLY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Fran opens the blinds.

Light brightens up the dark bedroom.

Molly is in bed.

Her eyes are barely ajar.

She speaks in a groggy state.

MOLLY
 Bamboo? Shoots? Billy?

FRAN
 Who?

MOLLY
 Bamboo, the talking panda. Shoots,
 the puppy.

Fran is amused.

She finishes opening blinds.

FRAN

Sounds like a fun dream.

Fran starts for door.

FRAN

Zack and your dad are already
eating breakfast. Hurry, before
they eat all the food.

Molly begins dressing.

She bends over to turn on the lamp.

An object is by the lamp.

She notices Bamboo's scratched earring.

Embraces it.

Molly smiles.

FADE OUT.

THE END