

ZOOTOPIA

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IN BLACK --

We hear the feral, primeval sounds of a jungle at night. A timpani bangs an ominous beat.

FADE IN ON:

A JUNGLE - NIGHT

A BUNNY nervously walks through the dark, foreboding forest, frightened by every shadow and moving leaf.

YOUNG JUDY (V.O.)
Fear. Treachery. Bloodlust!
Thousands of years ago, these were
the forces that ruled our world. A
world where prey were scared of
predators. And predators had an
uncontrollable biological urge to
maim and maul and...

The timpani crescendos. A JAGUAR leaps out of the shadows, attacks the bunny, who screams--

CUT TO:

INSIDE A BARN - A JUNGLE (SET) - NIGHT

The action continues-- as imagined by an amateur stage production.

YOUNG JUDY
Blood, blood, blood!

Reams of red papier mâché entrails ooze from the bunny. And when those run out-- projectile ketchup.

Reveal: These are ANIMAL KID ACTORS. The bunny, JUDY HOPPS, 10, is our hero. And this is her play being staged. A banner reads: *CARROT DAYS TALENT SHOW!*

YOUNG JUDY (CONT'D)
And death.

The CROWD looks on, confused. The music goes discordant as BOBBY CATMULL, a bobcat, bangs a drum.

YOUNG JUDY (CONT'D)
Back then, the world was divided in
two. Vicious predator or Meek prey.

TWO BOXES drop down, labeled VICIOUS PREDATOR and MEEK PREY. The PREDATOR box lands on the jaguar. The MEEK PREY box lands on Judy. Her entrails get stuck outside the box. She drags them underneath with her.

YOUNG JUDY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

But over time, we evolved, and moved beyond our primitive savage ways.

A YOUNG SHEEP wearing a white muumuu and a cardboard rainbow on his head does an improvisational dance across the stage. Judy and the jaguar burst out of their boxes, now wearing white muumuus, too.

YOUNG JUDY (CONT'D)

Now, predator and prey live in harmony.

Judy and the jaguar shake hands as the sheep throws glitter.

YOUNG JUDY (CONT'D)

And every young mammal has multitudinous opportunities.

ASTRONAUT SHEEP

Yeah, I don't have to cower in a herd anymore.

The Jaguar rips off his muumuu. She's wearing a homemade astronaut costume.

ASTRONAUT SHEEP (CONT'D)

Instead I can be an astronaut.

Catmull plays a slide whistle.

ACTUARY JAGUAR

I don't have to be a lonely hunter any more.

The Jaguar rips off his muumuu. He's dressed in a suit.

ACTUARY

Today I can hunt for tax exemptions. I'm gonna be an actuary!

YOUNG JUDY

And I can make the world a better place! I am going to be...

Catmull plays a 70s-style cop show theme on the boom box. Judy rips off her muumuu, revealing a POLICE OFFICER UNIFORM.

YOUNG JUDY (CONT'D)
A police officer!

Judy's parents, BONNIE & STU, look stunned. A mean fox kid, GIDEON GREY, snickers. He's sitting next to a WEASEL KID.

GIDEON GREY
Bunny cop. That is the most
stupidest thing I ever heard.

YOUNG JUDY
It may seem impossible to small
minds--
(points at Gideon)
I'm looking at you Gideon Grey.

Catmull drops down a backdrop showing a bright city skyline. He hits play on an uplifting song.

YOUNG JUDY (CONT'D)
But just 211 miles away stands the
great city of Zootopia! Where our
ancestors first joined together in
peace, and declared that anyone can
be anything! Thank you and good
night!

Judy gives a mighty thespian bow, to the sound of Catmull on organ. The audience applauds. Judy's parents look concerned.

EXT. CARROT DAYS FESTIVAL - LATER THAT DAY

A festival replete with food booths, games and rides-- all aggressively carrot-themed. Judy, in her Cop Costume, bounces along with her folks. We catch their conversation mid-stream.

STU HOPPS
Judy, you ever wonder how your mom
and me got to be so darn happy?

YOUNG JUDY
Nope.

STU HOPPS
Well, we gave up on our dreams and
we settled, right Bon?

BONNIE HOPPS
Oh yes, that's right, Stu. We
settled hard.

STU HOPPS

See, that's the beauty of complacency, Jude. If you don't try anything new, you'll never fail.

YOUNG JUDY

I like trying, actually.

BONNIE HOPPS

What your father means, hon, is it's gonna be difficult-- impossible even-- for you to become a police officer.

STU HOPPS

Right. There's never been a bunny cop.

BONNIE HOPPS

No.

STU HOPPS

Bunnies don't do that.

BONNIE HOPPS

Never.

STU HOPPS

Never.

YOUNG JUDY

Oh. Then I guess I'll have to be the first one. Because I am gonna make the world...

(parkours against a vendor's stand)

A better place!

STU HOPPS

OR... um, heck, you wanna talk about making the world a better place--

The trio arrives at the Hopps Family Farm carrot booth, which is manned by too many children to count.

STU HOPPS (CONT'D)

--no better way to do it than becoming a carrot farmer.

BONNIE HOPPS

Yes! Your dad, me, your 275 brothers and sisters-- we're changing the world.

STU HOPPS

Yep.

BONNIE HOPPS

One carrot at a time...

STU HOPPS

Amen to that. Carrot farming is a noble profession.

Judy spots GIDEON GREY stalking some SMALL ANIMALS. She remains fixed on Gideon as Stu and Bonnie yap on obliviously.

BONNIE HOPPS (O.S.)

Mmm hmm. Just putting the seeds in the ground.

STU HOPPS (O.S.)

Ahh, at one with the soil.

We're back on Bonnie and Stu's conversation now.

BONNIE HOPPS

You get it. I mean, it's great to have dreams.

STU HOPPS

Yeah, just as long as you don't believe in em too much.

(finally noticing Judy's absence)

Where in the heck'd she go?

ACROSS THE FAIR... From behind a tree, Judy watches as Gideon Grey intimidates the astronaut sheep, SHARLA.

GIDEON GREY

Gimme your tickets right now, or I'm gonna kick your meek little sheep butt.

SHARLA

Ow! Cut it out, Gideon!

GIDEON GREY

Baa-baa. What're ya gonna do, cry?

Gideon swipes Sharla's fair tickets.

YOUNG JUDY (O.S.)

Hey!

Judy charges toward the danger.

YOUNG JUDY (CONT'D)

You heard her. Cut it out.

Gideon turns. There's Judy, projecting the image of a tiny Clint Eastwood.

GIDEON GREY

Nice costume, loser. What crazy world are you living in where you think a bunny could be a cop?

YOUNG JUDY

Kindly return my friends' tickets.

Gideon pats the tickets in his pocket.

GIDEON GREY

Come and get 'em.... But watch out, 'cause I'm a fox-- and like you said in your dumb little stage play, us predators used to eat prey. And that killer instinct's still in our Dunnahh.

TRAVIS THE WOLF HENCHMAN KID

(sotto, to Gideon)

Uh, I'm pretty much sure it's pronounced D-N-A.

GIDEON GREY

Don't tell me what I know, Travis.

YOUNG JUDY

You don't scare me, Gideon.

Gideon shoves Judy. Hard. She falls. The other prey animals flee to safety behind a nearby tree, leaving her to face the thugs alone.

GIDEON GREY

You scared now?

Judy starts to tear up. Her nose starts to twitch.

TRAVIS THE WOLF HENCHMAN KID

Lookit her nose twitch. She is scared!

GIDEON GREY

Cry little baby bunny. Cry, cry --

Suddenly-- BAM! Judy kicks Gideon in the face with her hind legs. He stumbles back, then checks his lip for blood.

GIDEON GREY (CONT'D)

Oh, you don't know when to quit, do ya?

He unsheathes his claws like a switchblade, then slaps her, drawing blood from her cheek. She cowers, as do her scared friends behind the tree.

GIDEON GREY (CONT'D)

I want you to remember this moment-- the next time you think you will ever be anything more than just a stupid, carrot farming dumb bunny.

Gideon and his pal head off, laughing and high-fiving. The prey animals run back over to Judy, who wipes the blood from her cheek. She fights tears, defeated.

GARETH THE DOUBTING SHEEP BOY

That looks bad.

SHARLA

Are you okay, Judy?

YOUNG JUDY

Yeah... Yeah, I'm okay.

Judy smiles and then whips out the tickets as she gets up.

YOUNG JUDY (CONT'D)

Here you go.

SHARLA

Wow! You got our tickets!

GARETH THE DOUBTING SHEEP BOY

You're awesome, Judy!

SHARLA

Yeah! That Gideon Grey doesn't know what he's talkin' 'bout.

YOUNG JUDY

Well, he was right about one thing...

Judy picks up the cop hat, puts it on her head.

YOUNG JUDY (CONT'D)

I don't know when to quit.

CUT TO:

EXT. POLICE ACADEMY TRAINING FACILITY - DAY

Hopps and the comparatively huge CADETS sit in a circle as MAJOR FRIEDKIN, an intimidating drill instructor, lectures.

MAJOR FRIEDKIN

Listen up Cadets! Zootopia has 12 unique ecosystems within its city limits-- Tundra Town, Sahara Square, Rainforest District, to name a few. You're gonna have to master all of them before you hit the streets-- or guess what?

(to Hopps)

You'll be dead!

IN SAHARA SQUARE SIMULATOR:

Hopps struggles through the sand.

MAJOR FRIEDKIN (CONT'D)

Scorching sandstorm. You're dead, bunny bumpkin!

ON THE VINE-COVERED MONKEY BARS:

Hopps swings across the bars, simulating the RAINFOREST DISTRICT. She falls off, landing face first in the mud.

MAJOR FRIEDKIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

1000 foot fall. You're dead, carrot face!

TUNDRA TOWN ICE WALL:

Judy and the cadets sprint toward the wall. The CLAWED ANIMALS dig into the ice wall. Hopps slides off.

MAJOR FRIEDKIN (CONT'D)

Frigid ice wall. You're dead, farm girl!

IN THE BOXING RING:

Hopps gets in the ring with a BIG BISON.

MAJOR FRIEDKIN (CONT'D)

E-normous criminal.

Hopps gets punched in the nose.

MAJOR FRIEDKIN (CONT'D)

You're dead!

THREE QUICK CUTS OF FAILURE:

MAJOR FRIEDKIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Dead! / Dead! / Dead!

IN THE TOILET:

Hopps ruses into a stall. The toilet is considerably larger than she is. She shuts the door. We see her climb up the toilet. In the next stall, we see the feet of a Hippo.

Then, KERSPLASH! Hopps falls into the toilet.

MAJOR FRIEDKIN (CONT'D)
 Filthy toilet. You're dead, fluff
 butt!

HOPPS ON HER OWN--

She runs at sunset-- after everyone else has called it a day. We HEAR the drill instructor's voice echoing in her mind.

MAJOR FRIEDKIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Just quit and go home, fuzzy bunny!

Then those of her parents...

STU HOPPS (V.O.)
 There's never been a bunny cop.

BONNIE HOPPS (V.O.)
 Never.

STU HOPPS (V.O.)
 Never.

Then Gideon's...

GIDEON GREY (V.O.)
 Just a stupid, carrot farming dumb
 bunny.

OVERNIGHT, IN THE BARRACKS:

Hopps stays up late studying, doing sit ups.

ON THE ICE WALL:

Hopps bounds up the wall, jumps off of the backs of the big animals and makes it over, impressing the Major Friedkin.

IN THE RING:

Hopps dodges a few swings. The Bison misses. Hopps bounds over him and uses his momentum-- kicking his other hand into his face, knocking him down.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. POLICE ACADEMY - DAY

It's graduation day. MAYOR LIONHEART is at the podium.

LIONHEART

As Mayor of Zootopia, I am proud to announce that my Mammal Inclusion Initiative has produced its first police academy graduate.

Judy stands proudly in her cop uniform.

LIONHEART (CONT'D)

Valedictorian of her class, ZPD's very first rabbit officer... Judy Hopps.

Judy walks to the stage as those in attendance cheer-- her FAMILY chief among them. ASSISTANT MAYOR BELLWETHER applauds. She smiles at Judy, lost in the moment.

LIONHEART (CONT'D)

(clearing his throat)
Assistant Mayor Bellwether? Her badge.

BELLWETHER

Oh! Yes right.

LIONHEART

Thank you.

Bellwether steps forward to pin Hopps' ZPD badge on her.

LIONHEART (CONT'D)

Judy, it is my great privilege to officially assign you to the heart of Zootopia: Precinct One, City Center.

Judy can barely contain her glee. Her parents are in shock.

BELLWETHER

Congratulations, Officer Hopps.

JUDY

I won't let you down. This has been my dream since I was a kid.

BELLWETHER

Ya know, it's a... It's a real proud day for us little guys.

LIONHEART

Bellwether, make room will ya? Come on.

Lionheart shoves Bellwether out of the way.

LIONHEART (CONT'D)

Okay, Officer Hopps. Let's see those teeth!

A group of PHOTOGRAPHERS aim their cameras. Lionheart steps in front of Bellwether, edging her out of the photo. The flashbulbs pop.

EXT. BUNNYBURROW TRAIN STATION - DAY

Stu, Bonnie, and several SIBLINGS accompany Judy to the train station.

BONNIE HOPPS

We're real proud of you, Judy.

STU HOPPS

Yeah. Scared, too.

BONNIE HOPPS

Yes.

STU HOPPS

Really, it's kind of a proud-scared combo. I mean, Zootopia. It's so far a away... It's such a big city.

JUDY

Guys-- I've been working for this my whole life.

BONNIE HOPPS

We know. And we're just a little excited for you, but terrified.

JUDY

The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

STU HOPPS

And also bears. We have bears to fear, too. To say nothing of lions, and wolves...

BONNIE HOPPS

Wolves?

STU HOPPS

...weasels...

BONNIE HOPPS

You play cribbage with a weasel.

STU HOPPS

And he cheats like there's no tomorrow. You know what, pretty much all predators-- and Zootopia's full of 'em.

BONNIE HOPPS

(scolding)

Oh, Stu.

STU HOPPS

And foxes are the worst.

BONNIE HOPPS

(retreating)

Actually, your father does have a point there. It's in their biology. Remember what happened with Gideon Grey.

JUDY

When I was 9. Gideon Grey was a jerk, who happened to be a fox. I know plenty of bunnies who are jerks.

STU HOPPS

Sure. Yeah, we all do. Absolutely. But just in case, we made you a little care package to take with you.

BONNIE HOPPS

And I put some snacks in there.

Stu begins pulling a bunch of PINK FOX DETERRENTS from a bag.

STU HOPPS

This is fox deterrent.

BONNIE HOPPS
Yeah that's safe to have there.

STU HOPPS
This is fox repellent...

BONNIE HOPPS
Okay, the deterrent and the repellent. That's all she needs.

STU HOPPS
Check this out!

Stu removes a Fox Taser, fires it up. It sizzles.

BONNIE HOPPS
Oh for goodness sake. She has no need for a fox taser, Stu.

STU HOPPS
Oh c'mon. When is there not a need for a fox taser?

JUDY
Okay, look-- I will take this to make you stop talking.

Judy grabs the pink fox repellent from the bag as the train pulls up.

STU HOPPS
Terrific! Everyone wins!

TRAIN CONDUCTOR
Arriving-- Zootopia Express!

JUDY
OK. Gotta go. Bye!

Judy heads for the train, head held high. No turning back.

Stu and Bonnie watch, both holding back tears. Suddenly, the emotion catches up with Judy. She turns, runs back to her parents, hugs them tight.

JUDY (CONT'D)
I love you guys.

BONNIE HOPPS
Love you, too!

One more squeeze, then Judy runs off and jumps on the train.

STU HOPPS
Oh cripes, here come the
waterworks.

BONNIE HOPPS
Oh Stu, pull it together.

JUDY
Bye everybody!

COTTON
Bye, Judy! I love you!

CROWD OF BUNNIES
Bye!

As the train pulls away, her family runs next to it, waving.

JUDY
Bye!

Judy looks back as their faces recede into the distance. The train blasts past Bunnyburrow, passing its exponentially increasing population sign.

Judy pulls out her iPhone and clicks play... her new life is about to begin and we

CUT TO:

A MONTAGE --

As Hopps takes the train, it rounds a curve. She looks up. Her eyes light up. There in the distance is...

EXT. ZOOTOPIA CITY - ESTABLISHING

...THE UNBELIEVABLE ANIMAL METROPOLIS of ZOOTOPIA, which is comprised of amazing habitat "boroughs." The train whips past TUNDRATOWN, SAVANNA CENTRAL, RAINFOREST DISTRICT, MEADOWLANDS, SAHARA SQUARE, etc.

INT. ZOOTOPIA CENTRAL STATION - A LITTLE LATER

Hopps spills out of the train... and we are now in a MULTI-SCALE ENVIRONMENT: everything from mice to elephants.

EXT. DOWNTOWN ZOOTOPIA - A LITTLE LATER

Hopps emerges into the main Zootopia central plaza. It's an amazing, magnificent place.

A JUMBOTRON featuring a gazelle pop star, GAZELLE, blares its message in a loop.

GAZELLE

I am Gazelle. Welcome to Zootopia!

CUT TO:

INT. HOPPS'S APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY - DAY

DHARMA ARMADILLO, Hopps's older ARMADILLO LANDLADY, opens the door to Hopps' new apartment-- which we can't see yet.

DHARMA ARMADILLO

And welcome to the Grand Pangolin Arms. "Luxury Apartments with Charm."

Hopps discovers the room is a tiny, crappy studio apartment.

DHARMA ARMADILLO (CONT'D)

Complimentary de-lousing once a month.

(handing over the keys)

Don't lose your key.

HOPPS

Thank you!

As Dharma leaves, Hopps' volatile, artsy NEIGHBORS, KUDU and ORYX POOTOSSER, pass by in the hall.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Oh hi, I'm Judy! Your new neighbor!

KUDU POOTOSSER

Yeah? Well we're loud.

ORYX POOTOSSER

Don't expect us to apologize for it.

Before Hopps can respond, they're gone, leaving Hopps alone. She looks around... blank-faced so it's tough to read her emotions.

HOPPS

Greasy walls... rickety bed...

KUDU POOTOSSER (O.S.)
Shut up!

ORYX POOTOSSER (O.S.)
You shut up!

KUDU POOTOSSER (O.S.)
No! You shut up!

HOPPS
Crazy neighbors...
(big smile as she flops on
the bed)
I love it!

As the shouting continues, she stretches out on her bed, exhausted but overjoyed.

WAKE UP MONTAGE - MORNING

Quick, rhythmic cuts of:

- Alarm clock: Beep. Beep. Beep.
- Dressing: Vest. Badge. Belt.

On the bedside table sits the PINK FOX REPELLENT. Judy glances at it and smirks-- taking it would be silly-- she walks out of frame. HOLD on the table. One second. Then Judy's hand comes back into frame and grabs the Repellent.

INT. ZOOTOPIA POLICE DEPARTMENT - MORNING

Utter mayhem. COPS parade PERPS through the lobby-- one is wearing cuffs and a plastic (not scary) safety muzzle, he complains to the BEAR COP marching him by.

LEOPARD
C'mon! He bared his teeth first.

We land at the front desk and find CLAWHAUSER, a PUDGY CHEETAH COP, happily eating a bowl of Lucky Chomps cereal.

HOPPS (O.C.)
Scuse me! Down here? Hi.

Clawhauser leans over the desk to find Hopps.

CLAWHAUSER
O-M goodness! They really did hire
a bunny. What?!
(MORE)

CLAWHAUSER (CONT'D)

I gotta tell ya, you are even cuter than I thought you'd be.

HOPPS

(a little wince)

Ooo, uh, you probably didn't know, but a bunny can call another bunny "cute," but when other animals do it, it's a little...

CLAWHAUSER

(gasps, realizing)

I am so sorry. Me, Benjamin Clawhauser, the guy everyone thinks is just a flabby, donut-loving cop, stereotyping you...?

HOPPS

It's okay-- oh, you've actually you've actually got a-- there's a-- in your neck-- the fold-- the-- there's--

Clawhauser removes a small donut from under some neck fat.

CLAWHAUSER

Oh, there you went, you little dickens!

He crams the donut into his mouth.

HOPPS

(awkwardly laughing)

I should get to roll call, so... which way do I?

CLAWHAUSER

Oh! Bullpen's over there to the left.

HOPPS

Great, thank you!

Clawhauser watches admiringly as she heads to the bullpen.

CLAWHAUSER

(to himself, wistful)

Aw... That poor little bunny's gonna get eaten alive.

INT. ZPD - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Hopps enters the bullpen, by far the smallest animal in the room: rhinos, buffalo, hippos, elephants, etc. Hopps holds her paw out to a tough RHINO, MCHORN.

HOPPS

Hey. Officer Hopps. You ready to make the world a better place?

McHorn gives Hopps a reluctant fist bump, nearly knocking her off the chair.

OFFICER HIGGINS (O.S.)

TEN HUT!

In walks CHIEF BOGO, a gruff CAPE BUFFALO. He takes the dais. Everyone snaps to attention and starts stomping the floor.

BOGO

All right, all right. Everybody sit.

As Hopps sits, she disappears below the DESK that is meant for a rhino.

BOGO (CONT'D)

I've got three items on the docket. First... we need to acknowledge the elephant in the room.

(nods to ELEPHANT)

Francine, happy birthday.

An elephant, FRANCINE, blushes as other cops clap.

BOGO (CONT'D)

Number two: There are some new recruits with us I should introduce. But I'm not going to, because I don't care. Finally...

He turns to a push pin-pocked MAP that's covered in photos of MISSING MAMMALS. Hopps's eyes go wide.

BOGO (CONT'D)

...We have 14 missing mammal cases. All predators, from a giant polar bear, to a teensy little otter. And City Hall is right up my tail to find them. This is priority number one. Assignments!

HIGGINS hands Bogo a stack of CASE FILES. Bogo puts on his reading glasses, examining the files as he assigns cases.

BOGO (CONT'D)
 Officers Grizzoli, Fangmeyer,
 Delgato-- your teams take Missing
 Mammals from the Rainforest
 District. Officers McHorn,
 Rhinowitz, Wolfard, your teams take
 Sahara Square. Officers Higgins,
 Snarlov, Trunkaby: Tundratown. And
 finally, our first bunny, Officer
 Hopps.

Hopps sits up, expectant but steely. Bogo looks at the final
 case file in his hand. He takes a dramatic breath, then:

BOGO (CONT'D)
 Parking Duty. Dismissed!

HOPPS
 Parking duty?
 (runs after Bogo)
 Uh, Chief? Chief Bogo?

Bogo looks around... then down to find Hopps.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
 Sir, you said there were 14 missing
 mammal cases?

BOGO
 So.

HOPPS
 So I can handle one. You probably
 forgot, but I was top of my class
 at the academy.

BOGO
 Didn't forget. Just don't care.

HOPPS
 Sir, I'm not just some "token"
 bunny.

BOGO
 Well, then writing a hundred
 tickets a day should be easy.

He goes, slamming the door behind him. Judy stomps her foot.

HOPPS
 100 tickets...? I'm not gonna write
 100 tickets... I'm gonna write 200
 tickets!

(MORE)

HOPPS (CONT'D)
 (then, to the closed door)
 Before noon!

INT. / EXT. METER MAID CART - DAY

Hopps dons a vest, buckles her seat belt, floors the pedal and... takes off at 2 miles an hour. Which leads to a

PARKING METER MONTAGE --

Hopps zooms past a row of cars, marking their tires. Cruising the streets, her super-sensitive ears hear a meter ding. She slams her brakes-- then proudly issues Ticket #1.

Ding! Another meter goes off. Then another. And another. She's on a roll. She looks down at her counter. It's at 200.

HOPPS
 Boom! 200 tickets before noon.

A final ding... Reveal: her own traffic cart is at an expired meter. Hopps rolls her eyes and writes herself a ticket.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
 201.

As Hopps puts the ticket on her windshield, she hears a voice across the street:

TRUCK DRIVER (O.S.)
 Hey, watch where you're going, Fox!

Hopps looks across the street to see... a RED FOX. Hopps looks at him, a little suspicious.

The Fox looks around, then slinks into a café. Hopps runs across the street and peeks in the window. It's an ice cream parlor, but... the FOX IS GONE.

HOPPS
 (sotto)
 Where'd he go...

INT. JUMBEAUX'S CAFE - MOMENTS LATER

Elephants scoop ice cream with their trunks, suck up nuts with their trunks. It's cute but also disgusting. As Hopps enters, she spots the fox, NICK WILDE, at the front of the line and overhears the proprietor, JERRY, addressing him.

JERRY JUMBEAUX, JR.
 Listen, I don't know what you're
 doing skulking around during
 daylight hours, but I don't want
 any trouble in here... So hit the
 road.

Hopps unsnaps the holster of her PINK FOX REPELLENT.

NICK
 I'm not looking for any trouble
 either, sir. I simply want to buy a
 Jumbo Pop for my little boy.

Ready for action, slowly creeping forward, Hopps's expression
 changes when she sees that Nick is with his TODDLER SON.

NICK (CONT'D)
 (to the boy)
 You want the red or the blue, pal?

Staring at the cute little boy, Hopps is embarrassed by her
 impulse. She snaps the Repellent holster and begins to leave.

HOPPS
 (disgusted with herself)
 I'm such a...

JERRY JUMBEAUX, JR.
 Oh come on, kid. Back up. Listen,
 buddy, what? There aren't any fox
 ice cream joints in your part of
 town?

Hopps suddenly stops. Her ears go up and she turns around.

NICK
 Uh, no no, there are. There are.
 It's just, my boy--
 (tousles boy's hair)
 --this goofy little stinker-- he
 loves all things elephant. Wants to
 be one when he grows up.

The boy gives a TOOT-TOOT with his toy elephant trunk.

NICK (CONT'D)
 Isn't it adorable? Who the heck am
 I to crush his little dreams, huh?
 Right?

JERRY JUMBEAUX, JR.
 Look, you probably can't read, fox
 but the sign says...
 (MORE)

JERRY JUMBEAUX, JR. (CONT'D)
 (slowly reads SIGN,
 belittling)
 WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE
 SERVICE TO ANYONE. So beat it.

ELEPHANT
 You're holding up the line.

The little fox is about to cry, when Hopps walks up.

HOPPS (O.S.)
 Hello? Excuse me?

JERRY JUMBEAUX, JR.
 Hey, you're gonna have to wait your
 turn like everyone else, metermaid.

HOPPS
 Actually...
 (revealing badge)
 I'm an officer. Just had a quick
 question. Are your customers aware
 they're getting snot and mucous
 with their cookies and cream?

An ELEPHANT COUPLE overhear and spit out their ice cream.

JERRY JUMBEAUX, JR.
 What are you talkin' about?

HOPPS
 Well, I don't wanna cause you any
 trouble, but I believe scooping ice
 cream with an un-gloved trunk is a
 Class 3 Health Code Violation...

A guilty EMPLOYEE releases a scoop from their trunk.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
 ...Which is *kind of* a big deal. Of
 course-- I could let you off with a
 warning if you were to glove those
 trunks and, I don't know, finish
 selling this nice dad and his son
 a... what was it?

NICK
 A Jumbo Pop. Please.

HOPPS
 A Jumbo Pop.

JERRY JUMBEAUX, JR.
 (stews for a beat, then)
 Fifteen dollars.

NICK
 Thank you so much.
 (to Hopps)
 Thank you.
 (then, digs for wallet)
 Oh no, are you kidding me? I don't
 have my wallet. I'd lose my head if
 it weren't attached to my neck,
 that's the truth. Oh boy, I'm sorry
 pal. Gotta be about the worst
 birthday ever. Please don't be mad
 at me.
 (kisses him, to Hopps)
 Thanks, anyway.

He turns to go. Hopps slaps some money on the counter.

HOPPS
 Keep the change.

EXT. JUMBEAUX'S CAFE - MOMENTS LATER

Hopps has the Toddler's hand. Nick holds a HUGE JUMBO-POP.

NICK
 Officer, I can't thank you enough.
 So kind, really, can I pay you
 back?

HOPPS
 Oh no, my treat-- it just-- y'know,
 it burns me up to see folks with
 such backward attitudes toward
 foxes. I just wanna say, you're a
 great dad and just a... a real
 articulate fella.

NICK
 Ah, well, that is high praise. It's
 rare that I find someone so non-
 patronizing... Officer...

HOPPS
 (totally misses his dig)
 Hopps. Mr...

NICK
 Wilde. Nick Wilde.

HOPPS
 (to Toddler)
 And you little guy, you want to be
 an elephant when you grow up... you
 be an elephant-- because this is
 Zootopia, anyone can be anything.

Hopps puts a STICKER BADGE on the boy's chest.

NICK
 Ah, boy, I tell him that all the
 time. All right here ya go--
 (hands him popsicle)
Two paws. Yeah. Oh, look at that
 smile, that's a happy birthday
 smile! All right, give her a little
 bye-bye toot toot.

The kid toots.

HOPPS
 Toot, toot!

NICK
 Bye now!

HOPPS
 Goodbye!

Hopps walks off with a spring in her step.

EXT. SAHARA SQUARE - DAY

Hopps continues to write tickets. As she leaves a ticket on
 another car, she can see a few blocks away. It's NICK and his
 KID. Hopps gives them a wave, but they don't notice her.

HOPPS
 Oh! Hey, little toot toot--

Hopps realizes they are melting their jumbo-pop in the hot
 sun, channeling the juice into jugs. Huh? Nick and his kid
 pack the jugs into a van and NICK'S SON gets in the driver's
 seat. They drive off, passing Hopps, who stares, confused.

EXT. TUNDRATOWN - A LITTLE LATER

Hopps follows them to... Tundratown, where Nick's "son" uses
 his little paw prints to create molds they pour the popsicle
 juice into, creating dozens of smaller popsicles. Hopps looks
 on, scandalized.

EXT. SAVANNAH CENTRAL - A LITTLE LATER

Hopps watches them resell the "Pawpsicles" at marked-up prices to LEMMINGS... when one buys one, they all do.

NICK
Pawpsicles! Get your pawpsicles!

Nick rakes in the cash. As the lemmings leave, they throw their used popsicle sticks into a RECYCLING BIN. A second later, Nick's "son," FINNICK, emerges from the bin with a bundle of used popsicle sticks. Hopps is mortified.

EXT. LITTLE RODENTIA - A LITTLE LATER

Hopps watches Nick plop down a big bundle of USED POPPSICLE STICKS in front of a MOUSE CONSTRUCTION WORKER.

NICK
Lumber delivery!

MOUSE CONSTRUCTION WORKER
What's with the color?

NICK
The color? Uh... It's redwood.

Hopps has now graduated to genuine anger.

EXT. OUTSIDE LITTLE RODENTIA - MOMENTS LATER

Nick hands Finnick a wad of cash.

NICK
39...40. There you go. Way to work that diaper, big guy. Hey, no kiss bye-bye for daddy?

FINNICK
(super-deep voice)
You kiss me tomorrow, I'll bite your face off. Ciao.

As Finnick drives off in his van, BLARING LOUD FRENCH RAP MUSIC. We discover HOPPS behind it, and she is not happy.

HOPPS
Well. I stood up for you, and you lied to me. You liar!

NICK

It's called a hustle, sweetheart.
And I'm not the liar, he is.

Nick points behind Hopps. She turns... no one. She turns back. Nick is gone-- his tail disappears around a corner.

HOPPS

Hey!

Nick walks on, calmly. Hopps hurries up to him.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Alright, slick Nick, you're under arrest.

NICK

Really, for what?

HOPPS

Gee I don't know, how 'bout selling food without a permit, transporting undeclared commerce across borough lines, false advertising...

Nick smiles and produces those documents.

NICK

Permit. Receipt of declared commerce. And I didn't falsely advertise anything. Take care.

HOPPS

You told that mouse the popsicle sticks were redwood!

NICK

That's right. "Red wood." With a space in the middle. Wood that is red.

(then)

You can't touch me, Carrots, I been doing this since I was born.

HOPPS

You're gonna wanna refrain from calling me Carrots...

NICK

My bad. I just naturally assumed you came from some little carrot-choked podunk, no?

HOPPS

(isn't it obvious?)
 Ah, no. Podunk is in Deerbrooke
 County, and I grew up in
 Bunnyburrow.

NICK

Okay. Tell me if this story sounds
 familiar:

(harsher now, rapidly)

Naïve little hick with good grades
 and big ideas decides, "Hey lookit
 me, I'm gonna move to Zootopia--
 where Predators and Prey live in
 harmony and sing Kumbaya!" Only to
 find-- whoopsie, we don't all get
 along. And that dream of becoming a
 big city cop? Double whoopsie!
 She's a meter maid. And whoopsie
 number threesie-- NO ONE cares
 about her or her dreams. And soon
 enough those dreams die and our
 bunny sinks into emotional and
 literal squalor living in a box
 under a bridge. Til finally she has
 no choice but to go back home with
 that cute, fuzzy wuzzy little tail
 between her legs to become-- you're
 from Bunnyburrow, is that what you
 said?-- so how 'bout a carrot
 farmer... That sound about right?

She's speechless-- *How did he get my number so quickly?* A
 RHINO almost crushes her.

NICK (CONT'D)

Be careful now, it won't just be
 your dreams getting crushed.

HOPPS

(ever-so-slightly rattled)

Hey! Hey! No one tells me what I
 can or can't be! Especially not
 some jerk who never had the guts to
 try to be anything more than a
 popsicle hustler!

NICK

Alright look, everyone comes to
 Zootopia thinking they can be
 anything they want. Well you can't.
 You can only be what you are.

(points to himself)

Sly fox.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)
 (points to her)
 Dumb bunny.

HOPPS
 I am NOT a dumb bunny.

NICK
 Right. And that's not wet cement.
 She looks down. She's landed in wet cement.

NICK (CONT'D)
 (as he goes)
 You'll never be a real cop. You're
 a cute meter maid though. Maybe a
 supervisor one day. Hang in
 there...

INT. HOPPS'S APARTMENT, HALLWAY - EVENING

CLOSE ON HER WELCOME MAT: Hopps wipes off her cement covered feet. Then she enters

THE APARTMENT --

Hopps turns on the radio. *Everybody Hurts* plays. She changes the station. A sadder song comes on. She changes the station repeatedly, each song progressively sadder. Finally, she lands on a treacly instrumental that will score the scene.

She puts in a microwave dinner: CARROTS FOR ONE. Hopps takes her food (A SINGLE CARROT) and sits at a small table.

Her phone rings. INSERT: MOM & DAD FACETIME. Hopps shakes her head, sighs, then puts on a fake smile and answers.

HOPPS
 Oh hey, it's my parents!

BONNIE HOPPS
 Aw there she is! Hi sweetheart!

THE FACETIME cuts between Bonnie on her phone. Stu will pop in and out of frame.

STU HOPPS
 Hey there, Jude the Dude! How was
 your first day on the force?

HOPPS
 It was real great.

BONNIE HOPPS
Yeah? Everything you ever hoped?

HOPPS
Mmm. Absolutely. And more.
Everyone's so nice. And I feel like
I'm really making a difference--

STU HOPPS
(pops head into frame)
Hey, wait a second. Holy cripes,
Bonnie! Look at that!

BONNIE HOPPS
(a discovery)
Oh my sweet heaven-- Judy, are you
a meter maid?

Hopps is still wearing her vest, and her hat is on the chair.

HOPPS
(panicked)
Oh this? No! Oh, no no! This is
just a temporary thing--

BONNIE HOPPS
It's the safest job on the force!

STU HOPPS
Ah, she's not a real cop! Our
prayers have been answered!

BONNIE HOPPS
Glorious day!

STU HOPPS
Meter maid, meter maid!

HOPPS
Dad! Dad--

STU HOPPS
Meter maid, meter maid!

HOPPS
DAD! You know what-- it's been a
really long day, I should really--

BONNIE HOPPS
That's right. You get some rest!

STU HOPPS
Those meters aren't gonna maid
themselves.

BONNIE HOPPS
Bye bye!

HOPPS
(eye roll)
Buh-bye.

She hangs up, defeated. The SELF-PITYING MUSIC comes up full.

ORYX POOTOSSER (O.S.)
Hey Bunny! Turn down that
depressing music!

KUDU POOTOSSER (O.S.)
Leave the meter maid alone! Didn't
you hear her conversation? She
feels like a failure!

Judy turns off the music.

ORYX POOTOSSER (O.S.)
Oh, shut up!

KUDU POOTOSSER (O.S.)
You shut up!

ORYX POOTOSSER (O.S.)
You shut up!

HOPPS
(quietly to herself)
Tomorrow's another day...

ORYX POOTOSSER (O.S.)
Yeah, but it might be worse!

Off Judy's exhausted look, we:

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS OF ZOOTOPIA - THE NEXT DAY

Hopps, on meter maid duty, thunks a ticket on a windshield.

MOOSE
I was 30 seconds over!

Another meter dings, Hopps puts another ticket on a very
small windshield.

ANGRY GERBIL LADY
Ugh! Yeah you're a real hero, lady!

DING! Another ticket down. A MOTHER HIPPO picks up the ticket, her SMALL CHILD looks right at Hopps.

HIPPO CHILD

My mommy says she wishes you were dead.

ANGRY DRIVER (O.S.)

Un-cool, rabbit. My tax dollars pay your salary.

INT. METER MAID CART

After what has clearly been a series of these encounters, Hopps repeatedly bangs her head on the steering wheel.

HOPPS

(less convinced with each utterance)

I am a real cop. I am a real cop. I am a real cop. I am a real cop...

FRANTIC PIG (O.S.)

Hey!

Suddenly, a PIG bangs on the cart's window. Hopps startles.

FRANTIC PIG (CONT'D)

You! Bunny!

HOPPS

(rote)

Sir, if you have a grievance, you may contest your citation in traffic court.

FRANTIC PIG

What're you talking about? My shop! It was just robbed! Look, he's getting away! Well are you a cop or not?

Hopps sees a WEASEL running with a bag of stolen goods.

HOPPS

(snapping out of it)

Oh, yes! Yes! Don't worry, sir, I got this!

EXT. STREETS OF ZOOTOPIA - CONTINUOUS

Hopps jumps out and gives chase-- ditching her silly vest.

HOPPS

Stop! Stop in the name of the law!

DUKE WEASELTON

Catch me if you can, Cottontail!

The chase is on. McHorn screeches up in his cop car.

DUKE WEASELTON (CONT'D)

Whoa. Coming through!

MCHORN

This is Officer McHorn, we got a 10-31.

Hopps slides across his hood.

HOPPS

I got dibs! Officer Hopps, I am in pursuit!

Hopps chases the Weasel, who races through Savannah Central. As Hopps advances, the Weasel ducks into... LITTLE RODENTIA. Thanks to her small size, Hopps follows him in.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

You! Freeze!

MCHORN

(arriving, but too big to enter)

Hey! Metermaid! Wait for the real cops!

EXT. LITTLE RODENTIA - CONTINUOUS

Hopps emerges in Little Rodentia, teeming with tiny rodents.

HOPPS

Stop!

Hopps spots the Weasel, who's using two mouse cars as skates. She chases after him, smashing through Little Rodentia. As the Weasel jumps off the top of a mouse building, he knocks it over, but Hopps is able to save them from crashing.

Resuming the chase, Hopps jumps off the building-- landing precariously in the midst of a large group of mice.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Oh! Oh, sorry! Coming through!
'Scuse me! 'Scuse me. Pardon...

Hopps locates Weaselton, who's safely making his escape on the top of a tiny mouse train.

DUKE WEASELTON
Bon voyage, flat foot!

But Hopps won't quit. She takes a short cut and knocks him off the train. Rodents scream and run amidst the chaos.

HOPPS
Hey! Stop right there!

The Weasel throws an ornamental donut at Hopps.

DUKE WEASELTON
Have a donut, coppah!

But the donut misses and rolls towards some SHREWS coming out of "Mousies."

FRU FRU SHREW
Ohmygawd, did you see those leopard
print jeggings?
(sees the donut about to
kill her)
Aaaaaaaaaaaaaagh!

But at the last second... Hopps stops it! Deep breath...

HOPPS
I love your hair.

FRU FRU SHREW
Aw... thank you.

Meanwhile, the Weasel spots the bag he was stealing and smugly picks it up, ready to leave.

DUKE WEASELTON
Come to papa...

Then out of nowhere, Hopps dumps the donut on his head.

INT. ZPD - LOBBY - A LITTLE LATER

The lobby is overflowing with ANIMALS filing MISSING MAMMAL REPORTS. Clawhauser is dealing with an otter, MRS. OTTERTON.

CLAWHAUSER
Okay, you're gonna have to be
patient and wait in line just like
everyone else, Mrs. Otterton, okay?

Just then: BAM! The Weasel (in donut) rolls through the front door and hits Clawhauser's desk. It settles, revealing Hopps.

HOPPS
I popped the weasel!

Behind her, Chief Bogo yells from the second floor.

BOGO
HOPPS!

INT. ZPD - BOGO'S OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER

Hopps sits in a big chair in front of Bogo, like a kid in the principal's office. Bogo looks over a report.

BOGO
Abandoning your post, inciting a scurry, reckless endangerment of rodents... but to be fair, you did stop a master criminal from stealing two dozen... moldy onions.

HOPPS
Hate to disagree with you, sir, but those aren't onions. Those are a crocus varietal called Midnicampum Holicithias. They're a Class C Botanical, sir. I grew up in a family where plant husbandry was kind of a thing.

BOGO
Shut your tiny mouth, now.

HOPPS
Sir, I got the bad guy. That's my job.

BOGO
Your job is putting tickets on parked cars.

CLAWHAUSER (INTERCOM)
Chief, uh, Mrs. Otterton's here to see you again.

BOGO
Not now.

CLAWHAUSER (INTERCOM)

Okay, I just didn't know if you wanted to take it this time, she seems really upset--

BOGO

Not now!

HOPPS

Sir, I don't want to be a meter maid... I wanna be a *real* cop.

BOGO

Do you think the Mayor asked what I wanted when he assigned you to me?

HOPPS

But sir, if you--

BOGO

Life isn't some cartoon musical where you sing a little song and your insipid dreams magically come true. So let it go!

MRS. OTTERTON barges in, with Clawhauser trailing, wheezing.

MRS. OTTERTON

Chief Bogo please-- five minutes of your time. Please...

CLAWHAUSER

I'm sorry, sir, I tried to stop her, she is super slippery. I gotta go sit down.

BOGO

Ma'am, as I've told you, we are doing everything we can...

MRS. OTTERTON

My husband has been missing for ten days. His name is Emmitt Otterton.

BOGO

Yes, I know.

MRS. OTTERTON

He's a florist. We have two beautiful children. He would never just disappear.

Mrs. Otterton reveals her own sweet little photo of Emmitt with her and the family.

BOGO

Ma'am, our detectives are very busy.

MRS. OTTERTON

Please. There's got to be *somebody* to find my Em.

BOGO

Mrs. Otterton--

HOPPS (O.S.)

I will find him.

Mrs. Otterton races over to Hopps and gives her a big hug of relief. Bogo looks to Hopps, ready to explode.

MRS. OTTERTON

Oh, thank you! Bless you, bless you little bunny!

(hands picture of family)

Take this. Find my Emmitt. Bring him home to me and my babies. Please?

Bogo grunts and ushers Mrs. Otterton back outside.

BOGO

Mrs. Otterton? Please wait out here.

MRS. OTTERTON

Of course. Oh, thank you both so much.

BOGO

One second.

He closes the door and turns to Hopps, furious.

BOGO (CONT'D)

You're fired.

HOPPS

What? Why?!

BOGO

Insubordination. Now, I'm going to open this door and you're going to tell that otter you're a former meter maid with delusions of grandeur who will not be taking the case.

Bogo opens the door, to find... Bellwether, hugging Mrs. Otterton.

BELLWETHER

I just heard Officer Hopps is taking the case!

BOGO

Assistant Mayor Bellwether...

BELLWETHER

(texting)

The Mammal Inclusion Initiative is really starting to pay off! Mayor Lionheart is just gonna be so jazzed!

BOGO

No! No, let's not tell the mayor just yet--

BELLWETHER

And I sent it, and it is done, so I did do that. All right, well I'd say the case is in good hands! Us little guys really need to stick together! Right?

HOPPS

Like glue!

BELLWETHER

(amused laughter)

Good one! Just call me if you ever need anything, okay? You've always got a friend at City Hall, Judy. Alright, bye bye!

HOPPS

Thank you, ma'am.

Bogo forces a smile and closes the door, even more pissed.

BOGO

I will give you 48 hours.

HOPPS

YES!

BOGO

That's two days to find Emmitt Otterton.

HOPPS

Okay.

BOGO

But, you strike out-- you resign.

Hopps is taken aback by that for a moment... then nods.

HOPPS

Oh, uh... okay... deal.

BOGO

Splendid. Clawhauser will give you the complete case file.

INT. ZPD - DESK AREA - A LITTLE LATER

Clawhauser places the Otterton file on his desk for Hopps.

CLAWHAUSER

Here ya go! One missing otter!

Hopps opens the file. It's a single piece of paper. What?

HOPPS

That's it?!

CLAWHAUSER

Yikes! That is the smallest case file I've ever seen! Leads: none, witnesses: none-- and you're not in the computer system yet, so resources: none.

(chuckles)

I hope you didn't stake your career on cracking this one.

Clawhauser takes a bite of his donut and the crumbs land on a picture in the file, drawing Hopps's attention to it.

HOPPS

Okay.

(deep breath)

"Last known sighting..."

Hopps brushes away the crumbs, revealing a picture of Mr. Otterton on the street. Clawhauser annoyingly slurps from a soda bottle. Hopps squints at the picture, intrigued.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Can I just borrow--

(grabbing soda bottle)

Thank you.

Hopps uses Clawhauser's bottle to enlarge the picture. She sees Mr. Otterton holding a PAWPSICLE.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
Pawpsicle.

CLAWHAUSER
The murder weapon!

HOPPS
Get your pawpsicle...

CLAWHAUSER
Yeah, 'cause that... What does that mean?

HOPPS
It means I... have a lead.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - LATER

We find Nick pushing a BABY STROLLER. HOPPS zooms up in her traffic cart, smiling.

HOPPS
Hi! Hello? It's me again!

NICK
Hey, it's Officer Toot Toot.

HOPPS
(fake laugh, humoring him)
Ha-ha-ho, no actually it's Officer Hopps, and I'm here to ask you some questions about a case.

NICK
What happened, meter maid? Did someone steal a traffic cone? It wasn't me.

Hopps looks ahead, Nick has gone around the corner. Hopps pulls in front of Nick and sounds her siren.

NICK (CONT'D)
Hey, Carrots, you're gonna wake the baby, I gotta get to work.

HOPPS

This is important, sir. I think your ten dollars worth of popsicles can wait.

NICK

I make 200 bucks a day, fluff. 365 days a year, since I was 12, and time is money, hop along.

HOPPS

Please, just look at the picture.

Hopps holds up the traffic cam picture of the Otter.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

You sold Mr. Otterton that popsicle right? Do you know him?

NICK

I know everybody. And I also know that somewhere there's a toy store missing its stuffed animal, so why don't you get back to your box.

Hopps' ears droop.

HOPPS

Fine. Then we'll have to do this the hard way.

She puts a boot on the stroller.

NICK

Did you just boot my stroller?

HOPPS

Nicholas Wilde, you are under arrest.

NICK

For what? Howting your feewings?

HOPPS

Felony tax evasion.

Nick smile drops a bit.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Yeah. 200 dollars a day... 365 days a year... since you were 12, that's two decades, so times twenty...

(calculating)

(MORE)

HOPPS (CONT'D)

...which is one million four-hundred sixty thousand-- I think, I mean I am just a dumb bunny, but we are good at multiplying-- anyway, according to your tax forms...

(presenting the forms)

...you reported let me see here: zero. Unfortunately, lying on a federal form is a punishable offense. Five years jail time.

NICK

Well, it's my word against yours.

Hopps clicks a button on her CARROT PEN, which SPEAKS!

NICK (ON CARROT PEN RECORDER) (CONT'D)

"200 bucks a day, fluff. 365 days a year, since I was 12."

HOPPS

Actually, it's your word against yours. And if you want this pen, you're going to help me find this poor missing otter or the only place you'll be selling popsicles is the prison cafeteria.

(dramatic smirk)

It's called a hustle, sweetheart.

Nick is utterly speechless.

FINNICK

She hustled you.

(rude laugh)

She hustled you good! You're a cop now Nick, you're gonna need one of these! Have fun working with the fuzz!

THWAP! Finnick slaps his JUNIOR OFFICER STICKER on Nick.

HOPPS

Start talking.

NICK

I don't know where he is.
I only saw where he went.

HOPPS

Great, let's go.

NICK

It's not exactly a place for a cute little bunny.

HOPPS

Don't call me cute.
(forceful)
Get in the car.

NICK

Okay. You're the boss.

INT. THE MYSTIC SPRING OASIS - LATER

The Mystic Spring Oasis is new agey, full of incense, etc. A meditating HIPPIE YAK sits with flies buzzing around his head, matching the tone of his ohm. Hopps enters with Nick and they approach the yak (still with his eyes closed).

YAX THE HIPPIE YAK

Oooooooooohmmmmmmmmmm.
Oooooooooohmmmmmmmmmm.

HOPPS

Hi, hello.

The yak continues his incessant chanting.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Um, hello? Hello? HELLO?!

The yak finally shakes out of his trance and notices Hopps.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Hello! My name is--

YAX THE HIPPIE YAK

Ooo, you know, I'm gonna hit the pause button right there, 'cause we're all good on Bunny Scout Cookies.

HOPPS

Uh, no... I'm Officer Hopps, ZPD. I'm looking for a missing mammal, Emmitt Otterton. Right here--
(shows photo)
--who may have frequented this establishment.

The Yak looks at Hopps' picture. His eyes go wide, as if he's about to say something really important, and then:

YAX THE HIPPIE YAK

AH-CHOO!

(flies go everywhere)

Yeah, Ol' Emmitt! Haven't seen him in a couple weeks. But hey, you should talk to his yoga instructor, I'd be happy to take you back.

HOPPS

Oh, thank you so much, I'd appreciate that more than you can imagine. It would be such a big--

(scream)

You are naked!

The Yak comes around the counter and he IS naked.

YAX THE HIPPIE YAK

Huh? Oh for sure, we're a naturalist club.

NICK

Yeah, in Zootopia anyone can be anything. These guys... they be naked.

Nick grins, Hopps isn't pleased.

YAX THE HIPPIE YAK

Nangi's just on the other side of the pleasure pool.

The Yak opens the doors to a POOL AREA, with tons of naked animals sunning themselves, playing in the pool, etc. Hopps' eyes nearly pop out of her head. Nick leans in.

NICK

Does this make you uncomfortable? Because, if so, there's no shame in calling it quits.

HOPPS

Yes there is.

NICK

Boy, that's the spirit.

EXT. NATURALIST CLUB - COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Nick revels in Hopps' discomfort over the nude animals everywhere. Lots of nude animals. Yax leads them, oblivious.

YAX THE HIPPIE YAK

Yeah, some mammals say the naturalist life is weird, but you know what I say is weird? Clothes on animals! Here we go.

Nangi's engaging in a string of fairly evocative yoga poses.

YAX THE HIPPIE YAK (CONT'D)

As you can see, Nangi's an elephant, so she'll totally remember everything. Hey Nangi, these dudes have some questions about Emmitt the Otter.

NANGI

Who?

YAX

Uh, Emmitt Otterton? Been coming to your yoga class for like 6 years?

NANGI

I have no memory of this beaver.

JUDY

He's an otter actually.

YAX

He was here a couple Wednesdays ago. 'Member?

NANGI

Nope.

YAX

Yeah, he was wearing a green cable-knit sweater vest, and new pair of corduroy slacks. Oh, and a paisley tie. Sweet Windsor knot. Real tight. Remember that Nangi?

NANGI

No.

Nangi doesn't want to be bothered. And she's useless. Yax is a gold mine, though! Hopps writes down everything he says.

YAX

Yeah, and we both walked him out and he got into this big ol' white car with a silver trim? Needed a tune up. The third cylinder wasn't firing. 'Member that, Nangi?

NANGI

Nope.

HOPPS

You didn't happen to catch the license plate number, did you?

YAX

Oh, for sure. It was 29THD03.

HOPPS

0, 3... Wow, this is a lot of great info, thank you.

YAX

Told ya Nangi has a mind like a steel trap. I wish I had a memory like an elephant.

EXT. SAHARA SQUARE - MOMENTS LATER

Nick and Hopps emerge.

NICK

Well, I had a ball. You are welcome for the clue. And seeing as how any moron can run a plate, I will take that pen and bid you adieu.

As Nick reaches to take it, Hopps realizes something and leaves him hanging.

HOPPS

The plate... I can't run a plate...
(frustrated grunt)
I'm not in the system yet.

NICK

Give me the pen please.

Hopps gets an idea...

HOPPS

(still withholding pen)
What was it you said? "Any moron can run a plate?" Gosh... if only there were a moron around who were up to the task...

NICK

Rabbit, I did what you asked, you can't keep me on the hook forever.

HOPPS

Not forever. Why, I only have 36 hours left to solve this case. So can you run the plate or not?

NICK

Actually, I just remembered I have a pal at the DMV...

EXT. DMV - LATER

They arrive at the DMV, the "Department of Mammal Vehicles."

NICK

Flash is the fastest guy in there, you need something done, he's on it.

HOPPS

I hope so, we are really fighting the clock and every minute counts.
(suddenly stops, alarmed)
Wait. They're all sloths?!

Unfortunately, every mammal working there is a... SLOTH.
INSERT: SLOTH EMPLOYEES taking extraordinary amounts of time to do the simplest of tasks-- stapling, stamping, etc.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

You said this was going to be quick!

NICK

(faux innocence)
What? Are you saying that because he's a sloth, he can't be fast? I thought in Zootopia anyone could be anything.

Nick smiles. Hopps doesn't. They head to Flash's station.

NICK (CONT'D)

Flash, Flash, hundred yard dash!
Buddy, it's nice to see ya.

Flash doesn't respond. Beat.

FLASH

Nice to...
(beat) (beat)
see you...
(beat) (beat)
too.

Hopps looks like she's going to die.

NICK

Hey Flash, I'd love ya to meet my friend-- uh, darlin' I've forgotten your name.

HOPPS

(fake smile, to Nick)
Officer Judy Hopps, ZPD.
(shows badge)
How are ya?

Flash doesn't respond... then...

FLASH

I am... doing... just...

HOPPS

Fine?

FLASH

...as well... as... I can... be.
What...

NICK

(to an impatient Hopps)
Hang in there.

FLASH

...can I... do...

HOPPS

Well, I was hoping you could run a plate--

FLASH

For you...

HOPPS

Well, I was hoping you could--

FLASH

...today.

Hopps pauses-- cautiously optimistic that he's finished.

HOPPS

Well, I was hoping you could run a plate for us. We are in a really big hurry.

Beat. Beat.

FLASH
Sure. What's the... plate...

HOPPS
2, 9, T--

FLASH
...Number?

Hopps takes a breath.

HOPPS
29THD03.

FLASH
(several beats)
2... 9...

HOPPS
THD03.

FLASH
T.

HOPPS
HD03.

FLASH
H.

HOPPS
D03.

FLASH
D.

HOPPS
Mmhm. 0, 3.

FLASH
0.

HOPPS
3!

Flash is just about to say three, but...

NICK
Hey Flash, wanna hear a joke?

HOPPS
No!

FLASH

Sure.

NICK

What do you call a three humped camel?

FLASH

I don't... know...

(beat)

What... do... you call... a...

HOPPS

Three humped camel.

FLASH

Three humped... camel?

NICK

Pregnant.

Nick laughs at his own joke. Flash doesn't react, then finally raises his head with a smile and....

FLASH

Ha... ha... ha... ha...

HOPPS

Ha, ha, yes very funny, very funny,
can we please just focus on the
task--

Flash slowly reaches over to the sloth next to him.

FLASH

Hey... Priscilla...

HOPPS

Oh no!

PRISCILLA

Yes... Flash?

FLASH

What... do...

HOPPS

No!

FLASH

You call... a...

HOPPS
 A three humped camel? Pregnant!
 Okay, great, we got it, please just-
 -

FLASH
 Three... humped...

HOPPS
 Agggggggghhhhhh--

INT. DMV - LATER

A slow DOT-MATRIX printer spits out the address for CAR
 LICENSE PLATE NUMBER: 29THD03.

FLASH
 Here...

HOPPS
 Yeah, yeah, yeah... thank you!

FLASH
 You... go.

HOPPS
 (frantically reads)
 29THD03-- it's registered to...
 Tundratown Limo Service? A limo
 took Otterton, and the limo's in
 Tundratown-- it's in Tundratown!

NICK
 Way to hustle, bud. I love ya. I
 owe ya.

HOPPS
 Hurry, we gotta beat the rush hour
 and--

EXT. DMV - CONTINUOUS

They go outside. It's night.

HOPPS
 IT'S NIGHT?!

EXT. SNOWY LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Nick and Hopps reach LEGITIMATE ENTERPRISE CAR SERVICE. Hopps
 tries to open the lock.

HOPPS
Closed. Great.

NICK
Mm. And I will betcha you don't
have a warrant to get in. Hm? Darn
it. It's a bumner.

There's a big gated parking lot which is chained shut... but
they can see a few limos parking inside, covered in snow.

HOPPS
You wasted the day on purpose.

NICK
Madam, I have a fake badge. I would
never impede your pretend
investigation.

HOPPS
It's not a pretend investigation!
Look, see--
(showing picture of
Otterton)
See him? This otter is missing.

NICK
Well then they should have gotten a
real cop to find him.

HOPPS
What is your problem? Does seeing
me fail somehow make you feel
better about your own sad,
miserable life?

Nick considers this for a moment.

NICK
It does. One hundred percent.
(then)
Now... since you're sans warrant, I
guess we're done?

Hopps considers this and sighs, defeated.

HOPPS
Fine. We are done. Here's your pen.

Hopps then casually throws it over the fence behind her.

NICK
Hey!
(staring at the pen)
(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

First off, you throw like a bunny,
second, you're a very sore loser.

(starts to climb)

See ya later, Officer Fluff, so sad
this is over, I wish I could've
helped more.

Nick jumps down onto the other side, but just as he reaches for the pen, Hopps is suddenly right there and snatches it.

HOPPS

The thing is, you don't need a
warrant if you have probable cause,
and I'm pretty sure I saw a shifty
low-life climbing the fence, so
you're helping plenty. Come on.

Hopps cheerfully heads off. Nick watches her, not quite smiling, but he's starting to respect his opponent.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Hopps wipes snow off a back bumper: LICENSE PLATE 29THD03.

HOPPS

29THD03... this is it.

INT. REFRIGOUSINE - MOMENTS LATER

They open the big door, which looks like it belongs on a refrigerator. As they snoop around, Hopps uses tweezers to pick up a clump of fur.

HOPPS

Polar bear fur.

NICK

(opening glove box)
OH MY GOD!

HOPPS

What? What?!

Hopps looks up, only to see Nick holding some JERRY VOLE CDs.

NICK

The Velvety Pipes of Jerry Vole!
But on CD? Who still uses CDs?

As Hopps rolls her eyes and goes back to collecting clues, Nick lowers the back partition and his eyes go wide.

NICK (CONT'D)
Carrots...? If your otter was
here... he had a very bad day.

Hopps' flashlight reveals CLAW MARKS covering the back seat.

HOPPS
Those are... claw marks. You ever
seen anything like this?

NICK
No.

Through the fog on the floor Hopps spots a wallet.

HOPPS
Oh, wait. Look.

They slink back into the back seat. Hopps opens up the wallet
to find a drivers license for Mr. Otterton.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
This is him. Emmitt Otterton. He
was definitely here. What do you
think happened?

Nick spots a cocktail glass... it's etched with a "B."

NICK
Well, now wait a minute...
(then, suspicious)
Polar bear fur... Rat Pack music...
fancy cup...
(suddenly terrified)
I know whose car this is. We gotta
go!

HOPPS
Why? Whose car is it?

Nick tries to put everything back the way he found it.

NICK
The most feared crime boss in
Tundratown. They call him Mr. Big
and he does not like me, so we
gotta go!

HOPPS
I'm not leaving, this is a crime
scene.

NICK

Well, it's gonna be an even bigger
crime scene if Mr. Big finds me
here, so we're leaving right now!

Nick ushers Hopps to the door, but opens it to find two big
POLAR BEARS.

NICK (CONT'D)

(faux excitement)

Raymond! And, is that Kevin?! Long
time no see. And speaking of no
see, how about you forget you saw
me? Huh? For old time's sake?

The polar bears grab Nick and Hopps by their throats...

NICK (CONT'D)

That's a no.

...and yank them off screen.

INT. POLAR BEAR CAR - MOMENTS LATER

VROOM! A car whizzes by. Inside, Nick and Hopps sit nervously
in the back seat, sandwiched between the polar bears-- one of
whom casually scrolls through Zoogole Photos on his phone.

HOPPS

What did you do that made Mr. Big
so mad at you?

NICK

(sotto)

I uh, I may have sold him a very
expensive wool rug... that was made
from the fur of a... skunk's butt.

HOPPS

(pissed at Nick)

Oh, sweet cheese and crackers.

Pull out to reveal the car passing through the security gate
of a residential compound. A POLAR BEAR GUARD lets them in.

INT. MR. BIG'S RESIDENCE - MOMENTS LATER

Nick and Hopps are shoved into a room that's right out of The
Godfather. A POLAR BEAR enters...

HOPPS
 (sotto)
 Is that Mr. Big?

NICK
 (sotto)
 No.

Now an even BIGGER POLAR BEAR enters...

HOPPS
 What about him? Is that him?

NICK
 (sotto, frustrated)
 No.

...and then another. The BIGGEST POLAR BEAR yet...

HOPPS
 That's gotta be him.

NICK
 Stop talking stop talking stop
 talking--

The huge polar bear growls at Nick, then reveals a tiny chair upon which sits... a TEENY, TINY ARCTIC SHREW... this is MR. BIG. He sounds like Marlon Brando sped up to 78 rpm.

NICK (CONT'D)
 Mr. Big, sir, this is a simple
 misunder-

Mr. Big holds out a TINY FINGER for NICK to KISS HIS RING. Nick painstakingly does so.

NICK (CONT'D)
 This is a simple misunderstanding.

Mr. Big motions for Nick to shut up.

MR. BIG
 You come here unannounced... on the
 day my daughter is to be married?

NICK
 Well actually we were brought here
 against our will, so...
 (Mr. Big is not impressed)
 Point is, I did not know it was
 your car, and I certainly did not
 know about your daughter's wedding.

MR. BIG

I trusted you, Nicky... I welcomed you into my home... we broke bread together... Gram-mama made you her cannoli. And how did you repay my generosity? With a rug... made from the butt of a skunk. A skunk butt rug. You disrespected me. You disrespected my gram-mama who I buried in that skunk butt rug. I told you never to show your face here again, but here you are, snooping around with this...

(re. Hopps)

What are you, a performer? What's with the costume?

HOPPS

Sir, I am a c--

NICK

Mime! She is a mime. This mime, cannot speak. You can't speak if you're a mime.

HOPPS

No. I am a cop. And I'm on the Emmitt Otterton case, and my evidence puts him in your car, so intimidate me all you want, I'm going to find out what you did to that otter if it's the last thing I do.

Mr. Big considers this and makes that little grunt.

MR. BIG

Then I have only one request: say hello to Gram-mama. Ice 'em!

The Polar Bears snatch Nick and Hopps.

NICK

Whoa-- I didn't see nothing-- I'm not saying nothing--

MR. BIG

And you never will--

The polar bears open a hidden door on the floor, revealing an icy pool beneath.

NICK

Please! No no no! If you're mad at me about the rug I've got more rugs!

Nick and Hopps are about to be dumped in, when--

FRU FRU SHREW

Oh, Daddy, it's time for our dance.
(sees them trying to kill Nick)
What did we say? No icing anyone at my wedding!

MR. BIG

I have to, baby. Daddy has to.
(to Thugs)
Ice 'em.

Nick and Hopps scream and--

FRU FRU SHREW

Wait. WAIT! She's the bunny that saved my life yesterday. From that giant donut.

MR. BIG

This bunny?

FRU FRU SHREW

Yeah. Hi!

HOPPS

Hi.
(warm, whisper)
I love your dress.

FRU FRU SHREW

Aw, thank you.

Mr. Big motions for the Polar Bears to put Hopps down.

MR. BIG

Put 'em down.
(then, to Hopps)
You have done me a great service. I will help you find the otter. I will take your kindness... and pay it forward.

Hopps and Mr. Big kiss on the cheeks. Nick stares at them...
What is happening?

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - A LITTLE LATER

A lavish celebration full of arctic animals dancing. We find Nick and Hopps at the head table, next to Mr. Big. They all eat TINY pieces of WEDDING CAKE.

MR. BIG

Otterton is my florist. He's like a part of the family. He had something important he wanted to discuss. That's why I sent that car to pick him up. But he never arrived.

HOPPS

Because he was attacked.

MR. BIG

No... he attacked.

HOPPS

Otterton?

MR. BIG

Otterton. He went crazy. Ripped up the car, scared my driver half to death and disappeared into the night.

HOPPS

He's a sweet little otter.

MR. BIG

My child, we may be evolved... but deep down we are still animals.

Nick and Hopps trade a worried glance. OVER THE FOLLOWING WE CROSS-DISSOLVE TO NICK AND HOPPS WALKING IN THE RAINFOREST:

MR. BIG (V.O.)(CONT'D)

You want to find Otterton... talk to the driver of the car. His name's Manchas, lives in the Rainforest District. Only he can tell you more.

EXT. "RAINFOREST DISTRICT" - LATER THAT NIGHT

Nick and Hopps make their way across a mossy rope bridge high above the forest floor. It leads to a moss-covered apartment.

EXT. "THE CANOPY" - MOMENTS LATER

At the door of the DRIVER'S APARTMENT, they ring the bell.

HOPPS

Mr. Manchas? Judy Hopps, ZPD. We just want to know what happened to Emmitt Otterton.

Beat. The door creaks open.

MANCHAS (MUFFLED INSIDE)

You should be asking... what happened to me.

The door opens to the chain, revealing... MANCHAS is... a HUGE JAGUAR-- but he's been badly beaten up. He has a black eye, and a scratches. Nick and Hopps are taken aback.

NICK

Whoa. A teensy otter... did that?

HOPPS

What... happened?

Off Manchas's look, we

CUT TO:

A FLASHBACK --

Manchas is driving when he's attacked from the back seat.

MANCHAS (THROUGH DOOR GAP)

He was an animal... down on all fours... he was a savage.

The car spins out. Emmitt growls at Manchas then runs off.

BACK TO:

THE CANOPY --

MANCHAS

(haunted)

There was no warning, he just kept yelling about the "night howlers." Over and over, "the night howlers..."

Nick and Hopps share a subtle look-- they have no idea what "night howlers" are.

NICK

Oh. So you know about the night howlers too? Good, good, good. Because the night howlers are exactly what we are here to talk about.

(to Judy)
Right?

HOPPS

Yep. So, uh, you just open the door and tell us what you know and we will tell you what we know. Okay?

MANCHAS

(considering)
Okay.

Manchas closes the door and starts to unlock a series of deadbolts. Judy gives Nick an impressed look.

HOPPS

Clever fox.

There's a commotion inside, followed by a scream.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Mr. Manchas?

The door creaks open just an inch. Nick and Hopps seem startled... Hopps slowly pushes the door open, revealing Manchas in the center of the room, hunched over and grunting.

NICK

Buddy?

HOPPS

Are you... okay?

Hopps looks at Manchas.

RAAAGH!!! Manchas turns, right at them. His eyes are dilated, he's turned savage! He's poised to pounce on Nick and Hopps.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Run. RUN!

The Jaguar tears after them, he's deranged, primal. Nick and Hopps run! The jaguar is closing in.

NICK

What is wrong with him?!

HOPPS
I don't know!!

Nick and Hopps run across the bridge. Manchas closes in.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
Jump!

They jump off the bridge to a lower branch. They duck into a hollow log and Manchas follows them.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
(to Nick)
Head down!

Hopps frantically picks up her police radio.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
Officer Hopps to dispatch!

INT. POLICE STATION - DISPATCH - SAME

We find Clawhauser showing a handcuffed PERP a video on his phone of pop star Gazelle singing and dancing. A RED LIGHT blinks on the desk phone, but Clawhauser ignores it.

CLAWHAUSER
Are you familiar with Gazelle?
Greatest singer of our lifetime--
angel with horns-- okay, hold on,
keep watching. Who's that beside
her? Who is it?

Reveal: Clawhauser is dancing on stage with Gazelle.

GAZELLE (ON PHONE)
Wow, you are one hot dancer...
(digitized robo-voice)
...BENJAMIN CLAWHAUSER.

CLAWHAUSER
(joyous laughter)
It's me! Did you think it was real?
It looks so real! It's not. It's
just a new app.
(finally notices ringing
phone)
Hold on a second--

Clawhauser clicks the speaker button and--

HOPPS (V.O.)
CLAWHAUSER!

EXT. THE CANOPY - SAME

RAAGH! Manchas takes a swipe at Nick.

HOPPS

Clawhauser, listen to me! We have a
10-91! Jaguar gone savage! Vine and
Tu-junja!

NICK

It's Tujungja!

As they emerge from the log, Hopps slips, dropping her radio.

CLAWHAUSER (ON RADIO)

Okay, we're sending back up! Hopps?
HOPPS?!

Nick and Hopps run, sliding around a corner. Ahead is a
gondola station.

HOPPS

There! Head to the skytrams!

They run to the gondolas. Hopps darts out of Manchas' way,
but slips and is headed off the platform when she manages to
grab on-- dangling from the edge. Nick searches for her...

NICK

Get in! Carrots? Carrots!

He tries to hold on to the gondola for Hopps, who is
struggling to pull herself back onto the platform.

HOPPS

Go!

As the gondola pulls away, Nick tries to stop it to no avail.

NICK

No, no, no!

Nick backs up... the jaguar stalks him.

NICK (CONT'D)

Buddy, one predator to another--

*

The jaguar charges, but before it gets Nick-- clank! It's
yanked back in place. We see a HANDCUFF on its back paw,
attached to a metal post. Hopps cuffed him!

*

NICK (CONT'D)

Now, I can tell you're a little tense, so I'm just gonna give you a little personal space--

The jaguar thrashes, knocking Nick and Hopps over the edge. Hopps barely grabs a vine, but struggles to hold Nick in the other hand. As Manchas growls at them from above, Nick looks at the abyss below. Hopps looks around, her mind racing.

NICK (CONT'D)

Rabbit, whatever you do, do not let go!

HOPPS

I'm gonna let go!

NICK

No, you what? No, I said-- listen-- noooo!

HOPPS

One, two--

Hopps lets go, swinging them over to a netting of vines, kind of on top of each other. They can't believe they're alive. They look at each other, stunned, relieved...

NICK

Carrots. You saved my life.

HOPPS

Well. That's what we do at the ZP...

(the branch snaps)

Deeeeeeeeeeeeeee.....

Nick and Hopps plummet. They are about to hit the ground, but a vine attached to their legs stops them right before impact.

Woo! A convoy of police arrive, screeching in front of them. Out steps... Bogo. Hopps smiles, the cavalry has arrived.

BOGO

Well, this should be good.

MOMENTS LATER --

Hopps leads the cops up to the canopy, full of confidence.

HOPPS

I thought this was just a missing mammal case, but it's way bigger.

(MORE)

HOPPS (CONT'D)
Mr. Otterton did not just
disappear. I believe he and this
jaguar, they... went savage, Sir.

BOGO
(scoffing)
Savage? This isn't the Stone Age,
Hopps. Animals don't go savage.

HOPPS
I thought so too, 'til I saw this:

Hopps pulls back some leaves to reveal: the jaguar is gone.
There is no sign of him... or his handcuffs. It's like it
never happened. Hopps' eyes go wide.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
What? He was right here...

BOGO
(not buying it)
The "savage" jaguar.

HOPPS
Sir, I know what I saw-- he almost
killed us.

BOGO
Or maybe any aggressive predator
looks savage to you rabbits.
(calls out, to cops)
Let's go.

HOPPS
Wait-- Sir, I'm not the only one
who saw him!
(to Nick)
Nick!

Hopps turns to Nick, but before he can explain:

BOGO
(incredulous)
You think I'm going to believe a
fox?

HOPPS
Well he was a key witness and I
enlisted--

BOGO
(the last straw)
Two days to find the otter...
(MORE)

BOGO (CONT'D)
or you quit... that was the deal.
Badge.

Bogo extends his arm, waiting for Hopps to hand it over.

HOPPS
But, Sir, we...

BOGO
Badge.

Hopps looks at Bogo, then looks at her badge, she's about to reach for it, when...

NICK (O.S.)
Uh, no.

Bogo stops, and glares at Nick.

BOGO
What did you say, fox?

NICK
Sorry, what I said was, "no." She will not be giving you that badge. Look, you gave her a clown vest and a three-wheel joke-mobile and two days to solve a case you guys haven't cracked in two weeks? Yeah, no wonder she needed to get help from a fox, none of you guys were gonna help her, were you?

Hopps looks at Nick, stunned he's sticking up for her.

NICK (CONT'D)
Here's the thing Chief, you gave her the 48 hours, so technically we still have 10 left to find our Mr. Otterton... and that's exactly what we're gonna do, so if you'll excuse us... we have a very big lead to follow and a case to crack. Good day.

Nick guides Hopps to a PASSING GONDOLA, motioning her in.

NICK (CONT'D)
Officer Hopps?

The gondola pulls away, leaving Bogo and the rest of the police watching, flabbergasted.

INT./EXT. GONDOLA - CONTINUOUS

Hopps and Nick both stare straight ahead.

HOPPS
Thank you.

NICK
Never let 'em see that they get to
you.

Hopps looks at Nick, a little surprised. Nick looks out.

HOPPS
So, things do get to you...

NICK
No... I mean, not anymore. But I
was small and emotionally
unbalanced like you once.

HOPPS
Har-har.

NICK
(retreating into the
memory)
No, it's true. I think was 8, or
maybe 9, and all I wanted to do was
join the Junior Ranger Scouts.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. YOUNG NICK'S BEDROOM - DUSK (FLASHBACK)

YOUNG NICK, tiny and cherubic, looks in the mirror. We see
MOTHER'S paws tying the scout kerchief around his neck.

NICK (V.O.)
...so, my mom scraped together
enough money to buy me a brand new
uniform because, by God, I was
gonna fit in.

EXT. SCOUT BUILDING - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Young Nick bounds down the sidewalk and up the stairs.

NICK (V.O.)
Even if I was the only predator in
the troop--

INT. SCOUT MEETING - MOMENTS LATER (FLASHBACK)

Young Nick enters a church basement, spots a GROUP OF PREY KIDS, all in scout uniforms. They wave him over.

NICK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...the only fox.

MEAN KID ANIMAL (O.S.)
Okay, Nick!

NICK (V.O.)
I was gonna be part of a pack.

MEAN KID ANIMAL
Ready for initiation?

YOUNG NICK
Yeah! Pretty much born ready.

They high five Nick. It looks promising and fun.

NICK (V.O.)
I was so proud.

Suddenly, a BIG KID turns off the lights. Other KIDS switch on FLASHLIGHTS, shining them on Nick like gestapo spotlights.

MEAN KID ANIMAL
Okay. Now raise your right hand and deliver the oath.

YOUNG NICK
I, Nicholas Wilde, promise to be brave, loyal, helpful, and trustworthy.

MEAN KID ANIMAL
Even though you're a fox?

YOUNG NICK
What?

Then, a bunch of KID ANIMALS tackle Nick. Soon, all of the animals pile on, kicking and shoving him.

YOUNG NICK (CONT'D)
No! What did I do wrong, you guys?!
No! Please tell me, what did I do wrong?!

With Nick pinned, the primary mean kid straddles him. Someone hands him a MUZZLE. The mean kid snaps it on Nick's snout.

YOUNG NICK (CONT'D)
 (muzzled)
 What did I do?!

MEAN KID ANIMAL
 If you thought we would ever trust
 a fox without a muzzle, you're even
 dumber than you look.

Nick breaks free from the kids. Scrambles away from them in
 fright. As they laugh, he races out the door.

MEAN KID ANIMAL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Aw, is he gonna cry?

Once out sight, Nick panics as he struggles to remove the
 muzzle. It won't come off. Finally-- painfully-- he pulls it
 off and throws it to the ground. He collapses, weeping.

THE GONDOLA --

NICK
 I learned two things that day. One,
 I was never gonna let anyone see
 that they got to me.

Hopps looks at Nick, who avoids eye contact.

HOPPS
 ...And two?

NICK
 If the world's only gonna see a fox
 as shifty and untrustworthy,
 there's no point in trying to be
 anything else.

HOPPS
 Nick, you are so much more than
 that...

Hopps touches Nick's arm as the gondola pierces the clouds.
 The city at dawn comes into view. It's gotten too real for
 Nick. He abruptly changes the subject.

NICK
 Boy, look at that traffic down
 there.
 (putting on radio voice)
 How about we go out to Chuck in
 Traffic Central-- Chuck, how are
 things looking on the Jam Cams?

HOPPS
Nick, I'm glad you told me...

NICK
(lightbulb moment!)
The Jam Cams...!

HOPPS
Seriously, it's okay...

NICK
No-n-shh-shush! There are traffic
cameras everywhere. All over the
canopy. Whatever happened to that
jaguar--

HOPPS
The traffic cams would have caught
it!

NICK
Bingo!

Hopps gives him a chuck on the arm, impressed.

HOPPS
Pretty sneaky, Slick.

NICK
However. If you didn't have access
to the system before, I doubt Chief
Buffalo Butt is gonna let you into
it now.

HOPPS
(beat, then)
No... But I have a friend at City
Hall who might.

INT. CITY HALL - LATER THAT MORNING

We find BELLWETHER trying to balance a stack of binders while
struggling to keep pace with Mayor Lionheart, who is walking
quickly in front of her.

BELLWETHER
Sir? If we could just review these
very important--
(almost drops binders)
Sir?

She almost steps on a LITTLE MOUSE LADY.

BELLWETHER (CONT'D)

Ooo, I'm so sorry... sir?!

LIONHEART

Okay. I heard you, Bellwether. Just take care of it!

(setting another binder atop her stack)

Please. And clear my afternoon, I'm going out.

BELLWETHER

No, no! But, sir, you do have a meeting with Herds and Grazing... sir, if I could just--

He continues through a door. Bellwether tries to follow, but the door shuts on her, spilling the binders to the floor.

BELLWETHER (CONT'D)

Oh, mutton chops.

As Bellwether picks up her mess, Hopps and Nick appear.

HOPPS

Assistant Mayor Bellwether? We need your help.

INT. BELLWETHER'S OFFICE - LATER

We're in Bellwether's cramped little office. Nick and Hopps hover over her while she sits at her computer.

HOPPS

We just need to get into the traffic cam database.

Nick subtly touches Bellwether's wool puff.

NICK

(mouths, to Hopps)
So fluffy!

HOPPS

Hey!

NICK

Sheep never let me this close.

HOPPS

You can't just touch a sheep's wool...

BELLWETHER

Oh, dear. I better go --
 (to Hopps, while leaving)
 Let me know what you find. It was
 really nice for me to be--

LIONHEART (INTERCOM)

While we're young, Smellwether!

Bellwether finally opens her big heavy door and leaves.

NICK

You think when she goes to sleep
 she counts herself?

HOPPS

Shush. Okay, traffic cams...
 (looking at computer)
 Tujunga, Tujunga... we're in.

Nick and Hopps watch the footage from the night before. We can see the jaguar going nuts. Then a BLACK VAN skids up, and some WOLVES hop out.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Who are these guys?

NICK

Timberwolves. Look at these
 dumdums.

The Wolves suddenly capture the jaguar with a net. Judy GASPS, shocked. Nick is unfazed.

NICK (CONT'D)

Betcha a nickel one of em's gonna
 howl.

The wolves howl...

NICK (CONT'D)

And there it is. What is it with
 wolves and the howling? It's like--

HOPPS

(light-bulb moment)
 Howlers! Night howlers! That's what
 Manchas was afraid of... wolves!
 The wolves are the night howlers.
 If they took Manchas...

NICK

...I bet they took Otterton too.

HOPPS

All we gotta do is find out where they went.

She clicks the monitor... but as the wolves drive off, they disappear through a tunnel and don't come out the other side.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Wait. Where'd they go?

NICK

You know, if I wanted to avoid surveillance because I was doing something illegal-- which I never have-- I would use the maintenance tunnel 6B... which would put them out...

He clicks on another camera. Nothing... then... the wolves emerge in the van.

NICK (CONT'D)

...right there.

Hopps looks at Nick, impressed.

HOPPS

Well, look at you, Junior Detective. You know, I think you'd actually make a pretty good cop.

NICK

How dare you.

Hopps goes back to clicking... we track the wolves through alleys and back roads.

NICK (CONT'D)

Acacia alley... Ficus underpass... South Canyon...

HOPPS

They're heading out of town... Where does that road go?

EXT. CLIFFSIDE ASYLUM - GOLDEN HOUR

The imposing CLIFFSIDE ASYLUM sits on the edge of a waterfall. Nick and Hopps, hidden on the side of the road, spy from a hundred yards away.

Nick and Hopps sneak up to the guard gate, where TWO WOLVES are stationed.

Using elaborate hand signals, Nick motions he's going to sneak past first. He gets around the gate, but as he gets close... a wolf sniffs the air... he's onto him.

Nick reaches around and grabs a piece of wood to use as a weapon. The wolf moves toward Nick... but before he reaches him... Ooooooooooooo!

A distant howl grabs his attention. It's Hopps, cupping her mouth to make the howl sound distant. The wolf hears it and can't help but howl as well. Another guard approaches.

WOLF GUARD

Gary, quit it, you're gonna start a howl.

GARY THE WOLF GUARD

I didn't start it.
(more howling off-screen)
Ooooooooooooo!

WOLF GUARD

Ooooooooooooo!

More wolves start to howl. Nick looks at Hopps, impressed.

HOPPS

Come on!

Nick and Hopps use the distraction to jump the fence and sneak into the complex.

NICK

You are a clever bunny.

Above, they notice a drainage pipe leading into the building.

INT. CLIFFSIDE ASYLUM - LARGE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Nick and Hopps emerge from the drain pipe into the creepy asylum. They're in a large, cavernous room, full of old MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. It's like a combination of an old hospital and a turn-of-the-century zoo.

HOPPS

It looks like this was a hospital.

Judy shines her light down a corridor, at the end of which is a metal door with a blue light shining within. Nick nears the door, about to open it... the tension builds and then...

NICK
 (turns to Hopps)
 You know, after you, you're the
 cop.

INT. CLIFFSIDE ASYLUM - MEDICAL WARD - MOMENTS LATER

Hopps cautiously pushes the door open to reveal: a room with modern medical equipment. Nick pops up behind her.

NICK
 Okay. All clear.

Hopps rolls her eyes and cautiously enters and looks around.

HOPPS
 All this equipment is brand new...

NICK (O.S.)
 Carrots...?

Nick points to the ground, which is scuffed with CLAW MARKS.

HOPPS
 Claw marks...

NICK
 Yeah. Huge, huge, claw marks. I
 mean, what kind of--

RAAGH! A SAVAGE TIGER emerges behind the glass of a nearby cage, startling Nick and sending him running to Hopps.

Hopps swivels her flashlight to reveal: dozens of reflective eyes. Nick and Hopps make their way down a long corridor of cages, looking for the jaguar.

HOPPS
 Mr. Manchas.

He's still feral, on all fours and pacing in a cell. They continue on, passing three, four, five, cages until finally, in the last cage: a FERAL OTTER. It's EMMITT OTTERTON.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
 It's him. We found our otter.
 (to the otter, gently)
 Mr. Otterton, my name is Officer
 Judy Hopps. Your wife sent me to
 find you. We're gonna get you out
 of here now.

Otterton screeches at her and lunges toward the glass.

NICK

Or not. Guess he's in no rush to get home to the Missus.

Hopps looks back down the corridor of cells, counting.

HOPPS

...11, 12, 13, 14. Not including Manchas it's 14...

(lightbulb)

Chief Bogo handed out 14 Missing Mammal files... They're all here. All the missing mammals are right here.

Before she can respond-- CLICK! A door starts to open, Nick and Hopps retreat, stuck next to a DARK CELL.

LIONHEART (O.S.)

Enough! I don't want excuses, Doctor, I want answers.

Reveal: Mayor Lionheart berating the BADGER DOCTOR by his side. He looks serious, intense, tired.

BADGER DOCTOR

Mayor Lionheart, please, we're doing everything we can.

Hopps whips out her phone, starts recording.

LIONHEART

Really? Cuz I got a dozen and a half animals here who've gone off the rails crazy-- and you can't tell me why. Now, I'd call that awfully far from *doing everything*.

BADGER DOCTOR

Sir, it may be time to consider their biology.

LIONHEART

What? What do you mean biology?

BADGER DOCTOR

The only animals going savage are predators. We cannot keep it a secret. We need to come forward.

LIONHEART

Hmm... Great idea. Tell the public.
And how do you think they're gonna
feel about their mayor, who is a
lion?! I'll be ruined!

BADGER DOCTOR

Well, what does Chief Bogo say?

LIONHEART

Chief Bogo doesn't know. And we are
going to keep it that way.

Beep-beep-beep-- Hopps' parents call in. She frantically
tries to silence her phone.

LIONHEART (CONT'D)

Someone's here!

BADGER DOCTOR

Sir, you need to go, now!
(calls out)
Security! Sweep the area!

AN ALARM SOUNDS. The door to the cell Hopps and Nick are in
triggers shut. They notice WOLVES approaching.

NICK

Great! We're dead. We're dead.
That's it. I'm dead. You're dead.
Everybody's dead.

This gives Hopps an idea. She looks at the HUGE TOILET.

HOPPS

Can you swim?

NICK

What? Can I swim? Yes, I can swim.
Why?

The Wolves storm in, searching for the intruders... and see
the swirling water of a toilet disappearing down the drain.

Hopps and Nick fly through the water slide like tubes of the
sewer system, cascading over a waterfall. Both scream. They
land in the river below. Nick pop up first. He looks
desperately for Judy.

NICK (CONT'D)

Carrots?! Hopps?! Judy?!

She emerges, gasping for breath, holding up the bagged phone.

HOPPS
We gotta tell Boggo!

INT. BOGO'S OFFICE - DAY

CLOSE ON BOGO'S PHONE: Gazelle and Boggo dance on stage. It's the same app Clawhauser used earlier.

GAZELLE (ON PHONE)
Wow, you are one hot dancer...
(robo-voice)
...CHIEF BOGO.

Boggo is dancing along when, suddenly, Clawhauser bursts in.

CLAWHAUSER
Chief Boggo!

BOGO
(guilty)
Not now!

CLAWHAUSER
Wait, is that Gazelle?

BOGO
(struggling to silence his
phone)
No!

GAZELLE (ON PHONE)
I am Gazelle, and you are one hot
dancer.

CLAWHAUSER
You have the app too?!
(ecstatic)
Oh, jeeeeez!

BOGO
Clawhauser, can't you see I'm
working on the missing mammal
cases?!

CLAWHAUSER
Oh, yes of course! About that,
sir... Officer Hopps just called...
She found all of 'em.

Boggo's eyes widen.

GAZELLE (ON PHONE)
Wow! I'm impressed.

EXT. ASYLUM - DAY

Cop cars and helicopters surround the asylum. Hopps, flanked by Bogo and other COPS, leads Lionheart out of the building.

HOPPS

Mayor Lionheart, you have the right to remain silent. Anything--

LIONHEART

You don't understand. I was trying to protect the city.

HOPPS

You were just trying to protect your job.

LIONHEART

No. Listen, we still don't know why this is happening. It could destroy Zootopia.

HOPPS

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law...

Nick hangs back, proudly flashing his Junior Detective badge.

INT. ZPD - LOBBY

Bogo addresses the press. Behind him, POSTERS of the Savage Animals-- each one MUZZLED.

BOGO

Ladies and Gentlemammals... 14 mammals went missing and all 14 have been found by our newest recruit, who will speak to you in a moment. But first, let me remind you--

Bogo's voice trails off in the background as Nick and Hopps watch from the side. Hopps bites her nails, nervous.

HOPPS

Rrrgh. I am so nervous...

NICK

Okay, press conference 101: You wanna look smart?

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

Answer their question with your own question and then answer that question. Like this, "Excuse me. Officer Hopps, what can you tell us about the case?"

(pretending to be Hopps)

"Well, was this a tough case? Yes. Yes it was." You see?

HOPPS

You should be there with me. We did this together.

NICK

Well, am I a cop? No. No, I am not.

HOPPS

Funny you should say that, because I've been thinking... it would be nice to have a partner.

She hands Nick an APPLICATION. Then-- click-- she holds out the carrot pen to him.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Here. In case you need something to write with.

BOGO (O.S.)

At twenty-two hundred hours, we found all these missing animals...

Bellwether gestures to Judy to come up.

BELLWETHER

Officer Hopps, it's time.

As Hopps goes, Nick smiles. He's touched...

BOGO

So now, I'll turn things over to the officer who cracked the case. Officer Judy Hopps.

Hopps takes a deep breath and steps up to the dais.

PRESS

Officer Hopps! / Over here! / Here!

HOPPS

(pointing to a REPORTER)

Yes?

REPORTER

What can you tell us about the animals that went savage?

HOPPS

Well, the animals in question...
(glances at Nick)
Are they all different species?
Yes. Yes they are.

Nick smiles, gives a thumbs up.

REPORTER 2

Okay, so what is the connection?

HOPPS

Well, all we know is that they are all members of the predator family.

ANOTHER REPORTER

So, predators are the only ones going savage?

HOPPS

That is accu-- Yes, that is accurate. Yes...

REPORTER 3

Wow. Why is that happening?

HOPPS

We still don't know--

More disappointed rumbling.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

(trying to appease)

Ah, it may have something to do with biology.

On Nick-- huh? The press reacts, too... big time.

REPORTER (O.S.)

What do you mean by that?

HOPPS

A biological component. You know, something in their DNA...

REPORTER 4

(more aggressive)

In their DNA? Can you elaborate on that, please?

HOPPS

Yes. What I mean is, thousands of years ago... um... predators survived through their aggressive hunting instincts. For whatever reason, they seem to be reverting back to their primitive, savage ways.

Nick doesn't like what he's hearing.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Of course they did.

Nick looks at the posters of the muzzled animals and shakes his head, disbelieving. FLASH BACK to his memory of being muzzled as a child.

MEAN KID ANIMAL (V.O.)

(during flashback)

Aw, is he gonna cry.

REPORTER (O.S.)

(on Nick, as flashback ends)

Officer Hopps, could it happen again?

HOPPS

It is possible. So we must be vigilant. And we at the ZPD are prepared and are here to protect you...

This sends the Press into an absolute frenzy.

PRESS

Will more mammals go savage? / What is being done to protect us? / Have you considered a mandatory quarantine on predators?

Bellwether steps in, eager to put an end to the questions.

BELLWETHER

Okay, thank you Officer Hopps, uh, that's all the time that we have. No more questions...

Bellwether ushers Hopps off stage.

HOPPS

Was I okay?

BELLWETHER

Oh, you did fine.

Hopps walks across the lobby to Nick, completely unaware that she just started a controversy.

HOPPS

(excited)

That went so fast! I didn't get a chance to mention you or say anything about how we--

NICK

(upset)

Oh, I think you said plenty.

HOPPS

What do you mean?

NICK

(sarcastic, hard)

Clearly, there's a biological component? These predators may be reverting back to their primitive, savage ways. Are you serious?

HOPPS

I just stated the facts of the case. I mean, it's not like a bunny could go savage...

NICK

Right. But a fox could? Huh?

HOPPS

Nick, stop it. You're not like them.

NICK

Oh, there's a *them* now?

HOPPS

You know what I mean. You're not that kind of predator.

NICK

The kind that needs to be muzzled?
The kind that makes you think you need to carry around Fox Repellent?

Hopps sighs guiltily.

NICK (CONT'D)

Yeah, don't think I didn't notice that little item the first time we met.

(escalating anger)

So let me ask you a question. Are you afraid of me?

(Hopps looks heartbroken)

Do you think I might go nuts? Do you think I might go savage? Do you think I might try to... EAT YOU?!

He lunges, like he's going to bite her. She flinches and unthinkingly puts her hand on the repellent.

NICK (CONT'D)

(calm, hurt)

...I knew it. Just when I thought somebody actually believed in me...

He shoves the application at her.

NICK (CONT'D)

Probably best if you don't have a predator as a partner.

As he walks away, he takes off the sticker badge, crumples it and tosses it away.

HOPPS

No. Nick. Nick!

REPORTER 5

Officer Hopps! Were you just threatened by that predator?

HOPPS

No. He's my friend.

REPORTER 6

We can't even trust our own friends?

HOPPS

That is not what I said! Please!

REPORTERS

Are we safe? / Have any other foxes gone savage?

But no one will listen. Not anymore.

INT. NEWS STUDIO - DAY

Two ANCHORS sit in front of a graphic: TUNDRATOWN TRAGEDY.

FEMALE BOBCAT NEWS ANCHOR
More bad news in this city gripped
by fear.

News footage shows a CARIBOU being loaded into an ambulance.
Another shot shows a POLAR BEAR in a muzzle.

FEMALE BOBCAT NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)
A caribou is in critical condition,
the victim of a mauling by a savage
polar bear. This-- the 27th such
attack-- comes just one week after
ZPD Officer Judy Hopps connected
the violence to traditionally
predatory animals.

MALE MOOSE NEWS ANCHOR
Meanwhile, a peace rally organized
by pop star, Gazelle, was marred by
protest.

The news story cuts to footage of

THE PROTEST: Hopps is caught in the middle of the PROTESTERS,
trying to separate them.

PIG
Go back to the forest, predator!

LEOPARD
I'm from the savannah!

GAZELLE gives a sound bite to a NEWS REPORTER.

GAZELLE
Zootopia is a unique place. It's a
crazy, beautiful, diverse city
where we celebrate our differences.
(gestures to PROTESTERS in
background)
This is not the Zootopia I know.

Gazelle's interview plays as VO over a series of shots:

ON A SUBWAY: Hopps watches a MOTHER RABBIT bring her CHILD
close as a LION gets on the train.

GAZELLE (V.O.)
The Zootopia I know is better than
this.

(MORE)

GAZELLE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 We don't just blindly assign blame.
 We don't know why these attacks
 keep happening...

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Mrs. Otterton watches her husband flail like a madman in a padded room. Judy approaches her.

GAZELLE (V.O.)
 ...but it is irresponsible to label
 all predators as savages.

MRS. OTTERTON
 That's not my Emmitt.

On Hopps-- a look of exhaustion and distress. BACK ON
 Gazzelle's interview--

GAZELLE
 We cannot let fear divide us.
 Please-- give me back the Zootopia
 I love...

INT. ZPD OFFICE - DAY

The broadcast plays from Hopps' desk computer. As she watches, Bogo walks up behind her.

BOGO
 Come on Hopps. The new Mayor wants
 to see us.

HOPPS
 The Mayor? Why?

BOGO
 It would seem you've arrived.

INT. ZPD LOBBY - DAY

Clawhauser sighs and closes his laptop. He loads it into a box of his desk items. Hopps enters.

HOPPS
 Clawhauser? What're you doing?

CLAWHAUSER
 Um, they thought it would be better
 if a predator such as myself wasn't
 the first face you that you see
 when you walk into the ZPD.

HOPPS

What?

CLAWHAUSER

They're gonna move me to Records.
It's downstairs. By the boiler.

Hopps' face falls. Bogo waits for her in the background.

BOGO

Hopps!

Off Hopps' heartbroken look, we

MATCH CUT TO:

CLOSE ON:

A PHOTO of a SMILING HOPPS. Wider to reveal: The photo is on a PAMPHLET that reads, *ZPD: Integrity. Honesty. Bravery.*

INT. BELLWETHER'S OFFICE - DAY

Hopps looks at the pamphlet. Bellwether sits across from her at her desk.

HOPPS

Um... I don't understand.

BELLWETHER

Our city is 90% prey, Judy. And right now they're just really scared. You're a hero to them. They trust you. And so that's why Chief Bogo and I want you to be the public face of the ZPD.

Bogo sits next to Hopps. She looks at the pamphlet again.

HOPPS

(struggling to find words)
I'm not... I'm not a hero. I came here to make the world a better place, but I think I broke it.

BOGO

Don't give yourself so much credit, Hopps. The world has always been broken. That's why we need good cops-- like you.

HOPPS

With all due respect, sir, a good cop is supposed to serve and protect-- help the city. Not tear it apart.

(deep sigh)

I don't deserve this badge.

She removes her badge...

BOGO

Hopps.

BELLWETHER

Judy, you've worked so hard to get here. It's what you've wanted since you were a kid. You can't quit...

HOPPS

Thank you for the opportunity.

Hopps sets her badge on the desk and walks out. Bellwether and Bogo look at one another in shock and concern.

FADE OUT.

EXT. HOPPS' FARMS VEGETABLE STAND - DAY

Hopps, with a thousand yard stare, works the carrot stand. She wraps some carrots in a newspaper-- *Headline: GROWING UNREST DIVIDES CITY*-- and hands them to a RABBIT FAMILY.

HOPPS

A dozen carrots.

RABBIT MOM

Thanks!

HOPPS

Have a nice day.

RABBIT MOM

(to daughter)

Come on.

Hopps reads the paper as Stu and Bonnie approach, concerned.

STU HOPPS

Hey there, Jude-- Jude the dude, remember that one? How we doin'?

HOPPS.

I'm fine.

BONNIE HOPPS

You are not fine. Your ears are droopy.

Hopps remains fixed on the newspaper and lets out a sigh.

HOPPS

Why did I think I could make a difference?

STU HOPPS

Because you're a trier, that's why.

BONNIE HOPPS

You've always been a trier.

HOPPS

Oh, I tried. And it made life so much worse for so many innocent predators.

Off-screen, BEEP-BEEP.

STU HOPPS

Oh, not all of them, though. Speak of the devil. Right on time.

A truck pulls up. Its sign reads: *GIDEON GREY'S GOOD BAKED STUFF... With Fresh Produce From Hopps Family Farms.*

HOPPS

Is that... Gideon Grey?

STU HOPPS

Yep. It sure is. We work with him now.

BONNIE HOPPS

He's our partner. And we never would have considered it had you not opened our minds.

STU HOPPS

That's right. I mean, Gid's turned into one of the top pastry chefs in the tri-burrows.

HOPPS

That's really cool, you guys.

GIDEON GREY, now paunchy, climbs out his truck.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Gideon Grey. I'll be darned.

ADULT GIDEON GREY

Hey Judy-- I'd like to say I'm sorry for the way I behaved in my youth. I had a lotta self-doubt that manifested itself in the form of unchecked rage and aggression. I was a major jerk.

HOPPS

Well, I know a thing or two about being a jerk...

ADULT GIDEON GREY

Anyhow-- I brought you all these pies.

He holds out some pies. KID BUNNIES come tearing across the field, bee-lining for the pies. Stu shouts at the kids.

STU HOPPS

Hey kids! Don't you run through that midnicampum holicithias!

RABBIT KID

(holding back the others)
Whoa, whoa, whoa!

ADULT GIDEON GREY

Now there's a 4-dollar word, Mr. H. My family always just called them night howlers.

Wait. What?

HOPPS

I'm sorry, what did you say?

Stu gestures to the flowers growing on the edge of the crops.

STU HOPPS

Oh, Gid's talking about those flowers, Judy. I use 'em to keep bugs off the produce. But I don't like the little ones going near 'em on account of what happened to your Uncle Terry.

BONNIE HOPPS

Yeah, Terry ate one whole when we were kids and went completely nuts.

STU HOPPS

He bit the dickens out of your mother.

HOPPS
 (a dawning realization)
 A bunny can go savage...

We stay on Hopps as she pieces it together.

BONNIE HOPPS
Savage? Well, that's a strong word.
 But it did hurt like the devil.

STU HOPPS
 Well sure it did. There's a sizable
 divot in your arm. I'd call that
 savage.

HOPPS
 (as if doing an equation)
 Night howlers aren't wolves.
 They're flowers. The flowers are
 making the predators go savage.
 That's it! That's what I've been
 missing!

Hopps races away, then turns back.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
 Oh, keys! Keys! Keys! Keys! Hurry!
 Come on! Thank you, I love you bye!

Stu tosses her the keys to his pick-up. Hopps jumps into the
 truck, peels out, leaving Stu and Bonnie in the dust.

STU HOPPS
 You catch any of that, Bon?

BONNIE HOPPS
 Not one bit.

GIDEON GREY
 Well, that makes me feel a little
 better. I thought she was talking
 in tongues or something.

EXT. ZOOTOPIA - SAHARA SQUARE - STREET

Hopps drives the farm truck to Finnick's van. She knocks.

FINNICK
 Who is it?

HOPPS
 I need to find Nick. Please.

Finnick gives her a reluctant look, then softens.

EXT. BRIDGE - LATER

Hopps arrives at an underpass. She looks around, it's a desolate, sad place.

HOPPS
Nick? Nick!

There's Nick, sitting on a lawn chair under the bridge.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
Oh, Nick! Night howlers aren't wolves. They're toxic flowers. I think someone is targeting predators on purpose and making them go savage.

NICK
Wow. Isn't that interesting.

He gets up, walks under the bridge. She follows.

HOPPS
Wait! Wait, please-- I know you'll never forgive me. And I don't blame you. I wouldn't forgive me either. I was ignorant and irresponsible and small-minded... But predators shouldn't suffer because of my mistakes. I have to fix this, but I can't do it without you.

He sighs, but still won't look at her.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
(getting emotional)
And after we're done, you can hate me, and that'll be fine, because I was a horrible friend and I hurt you... and you can walk away knowing you were right all along, I really am just a dumb bunny.

It seems she lost him, then:

HOPPS (ON RECORDER) (CONT'D)
I really am just a dumb bunny. I really am just a dumb bunny.

Hopps cocks her head. Huh? Nick turns to her... holding her recording pen.

NICK
Don't worry, Carrots, I'll let you
erase it... in 48 hours.

Hopps sniffles and wipes a tear from her eye.

NICK (CONT'D)
Alright, get in here.

Hopps leans her head on Nick's chest. He gives her a hug.

NICK (CONT'D)
Okay. Oh, you bunnies... You're so
emotional. There we go. Deep
breath.

(then)
Are you just trying to steal the
pen. Is that what this is?

(then)
You are standing on my tail,
though. Off, off, off.

HOPPS
I'm sorry.

INT. HOPPS' FAMILY TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

Hopps drives as Nick sits shotgun-- eating blueberries.

NICK
I thought you guys only grew
carrots.

(then, eats)
What's the plan?

HOPPS
We are gonna follow the night
howlers.

NICK
Okay. How?

HOPPS
(shows picture of weasel)
Know this guy?

NICK
Uh-huh. I told you, I know
everybody.

EXT. ZOOTOPIA STREET - LATER

We find the weasel selling crappy knock-off merchandise on a street corner.

DUKE WEASELTON

Well, hello, step right up!
Anything you need... I got it. All
your favorite movies! I got movies
that haven't even been released
yet!

An ARMADILLO CUSTOMER scans an array of blatant knock-off movies like "Wreck-it Rhino," "Wrangled," and "Pig Hero 6."

DUKE WEASELTON (CONT'D)

Hey, 15% off! 20! Make me an offer!
Come on!

NICK

(suddenly appearing)
Well, well, look who it is. The
duke of bootleg.

DUKE WEASELTON

What's it to you, Wilde? Shouldn't
you be melting down a popsicle or
something?

(sees Hopps)

Hey, if it isn't Flopsy the Copsy.

HOPPS

We both know those weren't moldy
onions I caught you stealing. What
were you gonna do with those night
howlers, Wessleton?

DUKE WEASELTON

It's Weaselton. Duke Weaselton. And
I ain't talking, rabbit. And ain't
nothing you can do to make me.

Weaselton flicks a toothpick in her face. Hopps smiles at Nick.

INT. MR. BIG'S PLACE - A LITTLE LATER

We find polar bears holding the weasel over the ice pit.

MR. BIG

Ice 'em.

DUKE WEASELTON

Aaagh! Agh!

(to Nick)

Ya dirty rat! Why ya helping her?!
She's a cop!

MR. BIG

And the godmother to my future
granddaughter.

Reveal: FRU FRU is pregnant.

FRU FRU SHREW

I'm gonna name her Judy.

HOPPS

Aw.

MR. BIG

(to polar bears)

Ice this weasel.

DUKE WEASELTON

All right, all right, please! I'll
talk! I'll talk. I stole them night
howlers so I could sell 'em. They
offered me what I couldn't
refuse... Money.

HOPPS

And to whom did you sell them?

DUKE WEASELTON (PRE-LAP)

A ram named Doug. We got a drop
spot underground...

EXT. SUBWAY STATION - A LITTLE LATER

Nick and Hopps approach an abandoned subway station.

DUKE WEASELTON (V.O.)

...Just watch it. Doug is the
opposite of friendly. He's
unfriendly...

They arrive at the entrance and quickly sneak under the gate.

INT. ABANDONED SUBWAY STATION - MOMENTS LATER

They emerge on a platform and spot an abandoned subway car.

HOPPS

Come on!

As they sneak up to it... Hopps pulls open the window and looks inside the car. They both jump into...

INT. THE GREENHOUSE CAR - CONTINUOUS

They both see the rows of night howlers.

HOPPS

The weasel wasn't lying.

NICK

Yeah, looks like old Doug's cornered the market on night howlers...

Click! A door opens off screen! They quickly hide under a desk as a TOUGH SHEEP LABWORKER enters.

He goes through the process of harvesting the pollen, eventually producing a small, blue paint ball pellet of night howler toxin. Nick and Hopps watch it all.

The Sheep's phone RINGS.

DOUG

(into phone)

You got Doug here. What's the mark?
Cheetah in Sahara Square. Got it.

The Sheep loads a gun, cocks it. We see a MAP with pictures of a various animal targets.

DOUG (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Serious? Yeah, I know they're fast.
I can hit him. Listen, I hit a tiny little otter through the open window of a moving car.

Hearing this, the pieces of the puzzle start falling into place for Hopps. She looks up at the picture of Otterton-- we FLASHBACK to see Doug hitting him with a serum pellet. Then Hopps looks at Manchas's picture-- we FLASHBACK to that.

DOUG (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Yeah I'll buzz you when it's done.
Or you'll see it on the news. Ya know, whichever comes first.

BAM, BAM, BAM! The goons have returned.

WOOLTER (O.S.)
Hey Doug, open up! We've got your latte.

DOUG
(into phone)
Alright, Woolter and Jesse are back, so I'm leaving now.
(then)
Out.

Hopps looks around, what is she going to do. As Doug goes to the door to unlock it, Hopps creeps out of their hiding spot.

NICK
Hey. Hey! Where are you going? Get back here! What are you doing?! He's gonna see you! What are you looking at? Hey! Whatever you're thinking, stop thinking it. Carrots! Carrots!

DOUG
It better have the extra foam this time--

BAM! Hopps kicks Woolter in the back, knocking him into the other two Thugs. Hopps locks the door.

WOOLTER (O.S.)
Hey, open up!

The Thugs start banging on the doors.

NICK
What are you doing?! You just trapped us in here!

HOPPS
We need to get this evidence to the ZPD.

Nick picks up the case.

NICK
Okay. Great. Here it is. Got it.

HOPPS
No. All of it!

NICK
Wait, what?

Hopps rushes to the control room, tries to start the engine.

NICK (CONT'D)
Great, you're a conductor now? Hey,
listen-- It would take a miracle to
get this rust-bucket going.

The train starts moving.

NICK (CONT'D)
Well... Hallelujah!

INT. TRAIN TRACKS - SAME

DOUG
(on the phone)
We kinda got a situation at the
lab...
(noticing train)
Oh! It just got worse!

Doug and his minions race after the train.

BACK TO:

INT. SUBWAY CAR - SAME

Nick and Hopps race away, feeling fairly confident.

NICK
Mission accomplished. Would it be
premature for me to do a little
victory toot-toot?

HOPPS
All right. One toot-toot.

Nick blows the train whistle.

NICK
Well, I can cross that off the
bucket list.

Things are looking up, when:

BAM! Woolter just busted into the car. Nick slams the door
closed right before Woolter gets to them.

NICK (CONT'D)
I may have to rescind that victory
toot-toot.

Noise from the roof above them... BAM! BAM! BAM!

NICK (CONT'D)
Maybe that's just hail?

Uh-oh. Jesse busts through the window. He's stuck, but flailing at Hopps. Nick tries to pull him away.

NICK (CONT'D)
Back off!

Nick gets punched backward and notices Woolter charging toward the door at full speed. Right before Woolter arrives, Nick pulls the door open.

NICK (CONT'D)
Incoming!

Woolter's momentum carries him into Jesse-- dislodging him onto the tracks. Hopps is knocked out the window, but grabs onto Woolter's horn. Hopps tries to hang on as the subway car hurtles down the tunnel.

NICK (CONT'D)
Carrots?!

HOPPS
(to Nick)
Don't stop! Keep going!

JESSE
(about to get run over)
No! No! Please stop!

HOPPS
Do not stop this car!

Jesse dives to safety and Hopps gets bucked up onto the top of the train. Nick takes the wheel as the train emerges above ground. Hopps looks up to see... Another train coming toward them... on the same track! She sees a turn-off switch ahead.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
Speed up, Nick! Speed up!

NICK
(staving off Woolter)
There's another train coming!

HOPPS
Trust me! SPEED! UP!

Woolter sees the train coming and tries to get unstuck, but he can't. He struggles like crazy.

WOOLTER
Stop the train! Hey!

Then, at the last second, Hopps appears next to him:

HOPPS
Hey. Need some help?

Hopps kicks Woolter off the train and he lands perfectly on the turn-off switch on the tracks below. At the last possible second, their train switches tracks-- just avoiding the oncoming car.

Except...

NICK
Oh no! Oh no, no, no! Too fast!
Hold on!

The train derails as it takes the curve. The night howlers catch fire.

NICK (CONT'D)
I think this is our stop!

Hopps and Nick dive out of the car and onto a subway platform... Just as the lab car EXPLODES.

HOPPS
Okay... Maybe some of the evidence survived.

A second loud EXPLOSION. The train is destroyed.

HOPPS (CONT'D)
Everything is gone. We've lost it all.

NICK
(shaking head)
Yeah. Oh, except for this.

Nick holds up a case-- containing a gun and a pellet.

HOPPS
Oh, Nick! Yes!

Judy SMACKS him on the arm. Hard. Nick grimaces.

NICK
Ow.

HOPPS

Come on! We gotta get to the ZPD.
Cut through the Natural History
Museum!

INT. NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM - NIGHT

Nick and Hopps race through the empty museum. The ZPD
entrance is just ahead.

HOPPS

Oh! There it is!

They're going to make it.

BELLWETHER (O.S.)

Judy! Judy!

Judy and Nick stop and turn. There's Bellwether, standing
behind them with TWO RAM COPS.

HOPPS

Mayor Bellwether!
(out of breath, rapidly)
We found out what's happening.
Someone's darting predators with a
serum-- that's what's making them
go savage.

BELLWETHER

(applauding)
I am so proud of you, Judy. You did
just a super job.

HOPPS

Thank you, ma'am.
(troubling realization)
How did you know where to find us?

BELLWETHER

I'll go ahead and I'll take that
case now.

HOPPS

You know what... I think Nick and I
will just take this to the ZPD...

Hopps turns toward the ZPD. Uh oh. One of Bellwether's RAMS
is blocking the way. Nick just now gets what's going on.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Run!

NICK

Run!

They take off-- away from the ZPD-- down a dark corridor.

BELLWETHER

Get them!

Hopps looks over her shoulder as she runs-- not seeing a sharp WOOLY MAMMOTH TUSK sticking out. It slashes her leg, knocking her off her feet.

HOPPS

Ach!

NICK

Ah Carrots!

Nick goes to her. Her leg is bleeding badly.

NICK (CONT'D)

I got ya, come here, come here.

He carries her behind a pillar.

NICK (CONT'D)

Okay, now just relax.

Nick digs a handkerchief from his pocket. A few BLUEBERRIES fall out with it.

NICK (CONT'D)

Whoops... Blueberry?

HOPPS

Pass.

BELLWETHER (O.S.)

Come on out, Judy!

HOPPS

Take the case. Get it to Bogo.

NICK

I'm not gonna leave you behind.
That's not happening.

HOPPS

I can't walk.

NICK

Just, we'll think of something.

Bellwether finally appears, flanked by the Rams.

BELLWETHER

We're on the same team, Judy!

WITH BELLWETHER & THUGS --

Bellwether talks as they look for Hopps and Nick...

BELLWETHER

Underestimated. Under-appreciated.
Aren't you sick of it? Predators.
They may be strong and loud, but
prey out-number predators 10 to
one.

Bellwether sees a SHADOW-- RABBIT EARS. She gestures to the
RAMS-- *there they are.*

BELLWETHER (CONT'D)

Think of it-- 90 percent of the
population, united against a common
enemy. We'll be unstoppable.

The Rams are about to pounce on Hopps and Nick... only to
find the shadow is coming from a MUMMIFIED JACKALOPE being
illuminated by a shop light.

BELLWETHER (CONT'D)

(to Goons)
Over there!

Hopps and Nick are making a run for it. They're going to make
it to the ZPD! When suddenly...

BAM! A RAM tackles them both, knocking the case out of Nick's
paws. Both of them fall into a sunken diorama. Bellwether,
with case in hand, looks over the edge.

BELLWETHER (CONT'D)

Well, you should have stayed on the
carrot farm, huh? It really is too
bad; I really did like you.

HOPPS

What are you going to do? Kill me?

BELLWETHER

No! Of course not... he is.

Bellwether takes the dart gun out of the case, aims at Nick
and... THWICK! She darts him.

HOPPS

No! Nick?!

Nick starts to shake and crouch. Bellwether dials her phone.

BELLWETHER

Yes, police! There's a savage fox
in the natural history museum.
Officer Hopps is down! Please
hurry!

Nick is starting to turn.

HOPPS

No. Nick, don't do this. Fight it.

BELLWETHER

Oh, but he can't help it, can he?
Since preds are just *biologically*
predisposed to be savages.

Nick stalks Hopps, who tries to limp away.

BELLWETHER (CONT'D)

Gosh, think of the headline: "Hero
Cop Killed By Savage Fox..."

HOPPS

So that's it, prey fears predator,
and you stay in power?

BELLWETHER

Yeah, pretty much.

HOPPS

It won't work.

BELLWETHER

Fear always works. And I'll dart
every predator in Zootopia to keep
it that way.

HOPPS

(as Nick stalks her)
Oh, Nick! No!

BELLWETHER

Bye-Bye, Bunny.

Nick lunges. He attacks. Hopps screams. Bellwether smiles.

HOPPS

Blood, blood, blood! And death.

Bellwether looks confused. Nick stands up.

NICK

All right, you're milking it.
Besides, I think we got it, I think
we got it. We got it up there,
thank you yakkety-yak-- you laid it
all out beautifully.

BELLWETHER

What?

Bellwether looks at her gun, in disbelief.

NICK

Yea, oh, are you looking for the
serum?

(holds it up)

Well, it's right here.

HOPPS

What you've got in the weapon there--
- those are blueberries. From my
family's farm.

Livid, Bellwether sees a blueberry in the gun's chamber.

NICK

They are delicious.
(licking fingers)
You should try some.

BELLWETHER

I framed Lionheart, I can frame you
too! It's my word against yours!

HOPPS

Oooo, actually--

Hopps holds up the carrot pen.

BELLWETHER (ON CARROT PEN RECORDER)

*And I'll dart every predator in
Zootopia to keep it that way...*

HOPPS

--It's your word against yours.
It's called a hustle, sweetheart.
Boom.

Bogo and a TEAM OF COPS burst onto the scene. Bellwether
looks to run but there's nowhere to go. She's nailed.

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO - DAY

A PREDATOR-PREY news team reads the headlines. FOOTAGE shows Bellwether being led to jail in cuffs and an orange jumpsuit.

PREDATOR ANCHOR (V.O.)

Former Mayor Dawn Bellwether is behind bars today, guilty of masterminding the savage attacks that have plagued Zootopia of late.

PREY ANCHOR

Her predecessor, Leodore Lionheart, denies any knowledge of her plot, claiming he was just trying to protect the city.

A FELINE REPORTER, KITTY COWLICK, interviews Lionheart.

LIONHEART

Did I falsely imprison those animals? Well, yes. Yes I did. It was a classic "doing the wrong thing for the right reason" kind of a deal.

BACK TO THE NEWS DESK --

PRED ANCHOR

In related news, doctors say the night howler antidote is proving effective in rehabilitating the afflicted predators...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Mr. Otterton, who wakes up into the arms of his wife.

MRS. OTTERTON

Emmitt? Oh... Emmitt...

She hugs him and he holds her tight. We pull back to reveal Hopps in the room, watching their reunion.

MRS. OTTERTON (CONT'D)

(to Hopps)

Thank you.

EXT. ZOOTOPIA CENTRAL PLAZA - DAY

Hopps walks through the CENTRAL PLAZA of ZOOTOPIA. She looks around to see animals coming back together. She focuses on two KIDS: one pred, one prey playing soccer.

HOPPS (V.O.)

When I was a kid, I thought
Zootopia was this perfect place
where everyone got along and anyone
could be anything...

Hopps kicks the soccer ball with the kids.

HOPPS (V.O.)

Turns out, real life's a little bit
more complicated than a slogan on a
bumper sticker. Real life is messy.

AT THE ZPD: Hopps enters to find Clawhauser back at his desk, unpacking. What's more-- TWO COPS approach him with donuts.

HOPPS (V.O.)

We all have limitations. We all
make mistakes. Which means-- hey,
glass half full!-- we all have a
lot in common. And the more we try
to understand one another, the more
exceptional each of us will be. But
we have to try.

EXT. CADET TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

Reveal: Hopps is giving a commencement address to the GRADUATES of the Police Academy.

HOPPS

So, no matter what type of animal
you are, from the biggest elephant
to our first fox...

Reveal: Nick is a cadet. He removes his shades, winks at Hopps.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

I implore you... try. Try to make
the world a better place.

On stage, Hopps readies to pin a BADGE on Nick. As she approaches, they exchange a nod-- a small, sincere gesture. She places the badge, then gives Nick an official salute.

HOPPS (CONT'D)

Look inside yourself, and recognize that change starts with you. It starts with me. It starts with all of us.

Caps are thrown in the air. The music fades out, leaving just the APPLAUSE, which is interrupted by:

BOGO (PRE-LAP)

All right! All right...

CUT TO:

INT. ZPD BULLPEN - DAY

Hopps and Nick (now in uniform) sit together among ZPD's finest. Bogo stands at the podium.

BOGO

...Enough! Shut it! We have some new recruits with us this morning, including our first fox. Who cares.

NICK

Ha! You should have your own line of inspirational greeting cards, sir.

BOGO

Shut your mouth, Wilde.
Assignments! Officers Grizzoli, Fangmeyer, Delgato: Tundratown Swat. Snarlov, Higgins, Wolfard: Undercover. Hopps, Wilde...
(beat of anticipation)
Parking duty. Dismissed.
(beat)
Just kidding! We have reports of a street racer tearing up Savannah Central. Find him, shut him down.

INT. / EXT. COP CAR (DRIVING SHOTS) - DAY

Hopps drives. Nick rides shotgun, eating a Pawpsickle.

NICK

So are all rabbits bad drivers or is it just you?

She slams on the brakes. He lurches forward, accidentally jamming the Pawpsickle into his face.

HOPPS
Oops. Sorry.

NICK
(as he wipes off his face)
Sly bunny.

HOPPS
Dumb fox.

NICK
You know you love me.

HOPPS
Do I know that? Yes. Yes, I do.

They smile wide. They're stopped at a red light, when suddenly-- a TRICKED OUT RED SPORTS CAR blasts through the light! They look at each other and smile even wider.

Hopps stomps on the gas. Nick hits the siren. The patrol car takes off...

EXT. STREETS OF ZOOTOPIA - MOMENTS LATER

The fleeing sports car comes to a screeching halt. ANGLE ON the license plate: FST NML. Hopps and Nick exit their car and approach the driver.

HOPPS
Sir, you were going 115 miles per hour. I hope you have a good explanation.

But when they get to the driver's window...

NICK
Flash? Flash? Hundred yard dash?!

Yep. It's Flash the sloth.

FLASH
(several beats)
Nick.

CUT TO BLACK:

THE END