

THE GENTLE ELEPHANT

BY

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EXT. INDIAN JUNGLE- DAY

FADE IN:

Midday, a lush jungle landscape; tangled forestation, crickets CHIRPING, tropical birds SING, monkeys CALL to one another; an exotic paradise.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATERING HOLE, INDIAN JUNGLE- DAY

The hot orange sky beats down on a crowded watering hole: antelopes, jackals, a pack of wolves, a family of monkeys etc. peacefully drink the water.

There is a RUSTLING in the trees.

SILENCE

The sound of slow and heavy FOOTSTEPS shakes the ground; the animals prick their ears.

The FOOTSTEPS become LOUDER, a MONKEY pulls her baby close to her chest.

SILENCE

Suddenly, a great INDIAN ELEPHANT with enormous white tusks emerges from the greenery.

The Elephant excitedly stumbles and trips over a low hanging vine.

The animals yelp at the sight of him. Clutching their young they manically FLEE the scene; skittering up trees and disappearing into the jungle foliage.

Flat on his belly, the Elephant heaves himself to his feet. He looks about but is alone.

The Elephant STOMPS his way to the edge of the water and SLUMPS his great body down. He SIGHS, staring at his reflection.

The sky clouds over, the lonely Elephant SPLASHES his reflection with his trunk.

A shimmering SILVER FISH glides through the water, it darts around the Elephant's trunk.

The wide eyed Elephant crouches over the fish, he watches it dance in the water.

A dark shadow looms over the water.

The fish disappears into the deep.

The Elephant looks up.

Stood before him on the opposite side of the watering hole is a huge BENGAL TIGER; powerful and muscular, with golden wide-set eyes framed by a striped face.

The Elephant's jaw drops.

The Tiger looks down her nose at the Elephant. She puffs out her chest and struts over to the water.

Head held high the Tiger paces up and down the watering hole.

The Elephant's eyes are glued to the Tiger.

The Tiger sniffs the air and looks him up and down.

The Elephant flashes a broad grin at the Tiger.

The Tiger raises an eyebrow at the Elephant, she looks away and drinks from the watering hole.

Using his trunk, the Elephant scratches his head in thought. He jolts up and claps his front feet together.

The Elephant picks up a twig with his trunk and draws a smiley face in the dusty ground.

He smiles at the Tiger and tosses her the twig.

The Tiger catches the twig in her mouth and crushes it with her jaws. She spits out the broken stick and continues to drink the water.

CUT TO:

EXT SCRUB, INDIAN JUNGLE- DAY

Hidden in the scrub, the crowd of animals' peer through the vegetation.

With wide eyes they stare at the Elephant and Tiger.

A MONKEY swings from a vine and pushes his sister towards the watering hole. She pushes him back and sticks her tongue out at him.

A YOUNG ANTELOPE, looks at the other animals. He is graceful and slight, with two spiralling horns sat delicately on his forehead.

The Antelope turns and looks at the Elephant. The Antelope cocks his head to one side and furrows his brow.

The Young Antelope steps forward, towards the watering hole.

The YOUNG ANTELOPE'S MOTHER nudges him with her horns.

He looks up at his mother.

She shakes her head and leads him back to hide in the scrub.

CUT TO:

EXT WATERING HOLE, INDIAN JUNGLE- DAY

The Elephant picks up his trunk and flops it into the water.

Gently the Elephant BLOWS BUBBLES into the fresh water.

The Tiger glares at the Elephant and whips her tail from side to side.

The Elephant smiles at the Tiger.

The Tiger squints her golden eyes at the Elephant and gives a warning LOW GROWL.

The Elephant quickly pulls his trunk out of the water and forces a smile at the Tiger.

SILENCE

A small black fly BUZZES around the Elephant's head and lands on the bridge of the Elephant's trunk.

The Cross-eyed Elephant squints at the fly and slowly raises his trunk in the air.

The Elephant brings his trunk down with an almighty force, hitting himself in the face.

The Tiger bursts into a fit of LAUGHTER. She pats her tears dry with a paw.

The Elephant rubs his sore face with his long trunk.

The untouched fly BUZZES off into the red sky.

Shaking her head, the Tiger SCOFFS at the Elephant.

The Elephant looks at his own reflection and SIGHS.

Floating on the water, a delicate white lotus flower drifts towards the two animals.

The Elephant sees the flower and vigorously flaps his ears in delight.

The Tiger glares at the elephant and rolls her eyes, she ignores the flower.

The Elephant leans across the water.

He stretches out his trunk and takes the flower.

Drawing the lotus flower into his chest, he caresses the petals.

The Elephant looks at the Tiger and then back at the flower.

THE ELEPHANT AND THE TIGER FANTASY MONTAGE

-Euphoric orchestral MUSIC plays and the cheesy sequence begins. The Elephant and Tiger playfully splash water at each other in the watering hole.

-The Elephant and the Tiger skip merrily together through lush grass land.

-They throw flowers at each other while they leap into the sunset.

END MONTAGE

The Elephant takes the flower and leans across the water.

He bows and places the Lotus flower in front of the Tiger.

There is an awkward pause.

The Tiger scowls at the elephant.

She grabs the Elephant's trunk and yanks him into the water.

The Elephant CRASHES head first into the watering hole.

The Tiger Looks down her nose at the drenched Elephant.

With one giant paw, the Tiger stamps on the Lotus Flower, crushing the white petals into the dirt.

The proud cat YAWNS and stretches. She turns her back on the Elephant and swaggers off into the distance, flicking her tail with each step.

The Elephant looks at the now trampled and dripping Lotus Flower.

The Elephant places the flower back onto the water.

The flower sinks into the lake, and fades into the darkness.

The Elephant looks at his reflection and sniffs. He blows his trunk with his giant ears, as his tears ripple the water.

The Silver Fish reappears.

The Elephant looks down and dips his trunk into the water.

The fish glides around the Elephant's trunk.

The Elephant caresses the glimmering fish.

There is an unseen RUSTLING sound behind the Elephant.

The Elephant twitches his ears.

FOOTSTEPS

The Elephant hauls himself to his feet and turns round.

CUT TO:

EXT. INDIAN JUNGLE, CROWD OF ANIMALS

The entire herd of animals first shown drinking at the watering hole stare at the Elephant with wide eyes.

SILENCE

A ball of tumble weed rolls past the still crowd.

One of the Monkeys has his mouth hanging open- his monkey companion shuts it with his paw.

The Young Antelope steps forward from the gathering. The Antelope trots over to a bush of exotic flowers and plucks a single Marigold.

He walks slowly to the Elephant and places the flower at the Elephant's feet.

The Elephant leans over the Marigold and smells the flower with his trunk.

The Elephant looks around him and picks up the crushed lotus flower with his trunk. He places it in front of the Antelope.

The Antelope picks up the lotus flower in his mouth and grins at the Elephant.

The Elephant blushes and his ears flap with delight.

The animals look at each other and smile.

One by one each animal joins the elephant by the watering hole.

CUT TO:

EXT. INDIAN JUNGLE- DUSK

A lush jungle landscape, alive with the sounds of paradise. Almost camouflaged, the Bengal Tiger strides through the heavy forestation.

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