

FAMILY MANIAML

"The Rain Forrest Conundrum (Piolt)"

Written by

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DRAFT NAME
First Draft

SERIES TITLE

"Episode Title"

CAST

CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR
CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR
CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR
CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR
CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR
CHARACTER NAME..... ACTOR

GUEST CAST

TBD..... ACTOR

SERIES TITLE

"Episode Title"

SETS

Teaser, Scene A - Scene Heading

Act One, Scene B - Scene Heading

Act Two, Scene C - Scene Heading

Tag, Scene D - Scene Heading

EXT. UNIVERSITY COURTYARD - LATE AFTERNOON

A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR (MARK) IS WALKING THROUGH THE COURTYARD AT THE UNIVERSITY. HE SEES TWO BULLIES PUSHING A FRESHMAN GIRL AROUND. ONE BULLY HAS A KNIFE

MARK

Hey, you two cut that out! Cut that out right now!

BULLY #1

What are you going to do about it?
You're just a wimpy professor.

BULLY #2

Yeah! what do you teach here anyway...
Fart History?

BULLY #1 STARTS MAKING FART NOISES WITH HIS HANDS

MARK

Nooooo. I teach zoology, and
criminology, and fart history, I mean
art history, ughhhh.

BULLIES CHUCKLE BULLY #2 THROWS THE KNIFE UP INTO THE AIR
CATCHES IT THEN HOLDS IT TO THE SCARED FRESHMAN GIRL'S THROAT

BULLY #2

What are you going to do about it Fart
Teacher?

MARK

You don't want to see the kind of Bull-
E I can become.

ONLY THE BULLIES CAN SEE MARK'S SKIN SLOWLY BUBBLING UP AND
HORNS ARE STARTING TO GROW OUT OF HIS FOREHEAD

BULLY #1

Pfft...boring. (To BULLY #2) Come on pal, let's get out of here. Let's leave this professor to play with his snakes.

THEY BOTH LAUGH AND SKIP AWAY

SCARED FRESHMAN GIRL

Thanks Teach.

MARK

Don't thank me. Thanks my killer instinct.

THEY BOTH LAUGH. TO HIMSELF

MARK (CONT'D)

But something tells me that's not going to be the last of those two.

SCARED FRESHMAN GIRL

Huh?

MARK

Okay back to class you. Little Rascal.

SCARED FRESHMAN GIRL

I have no more classes today.

RIGHT THAT INSTANT MARK SEES THAT HE'S MISSING HIS BUS AND STARTS RUNNING TO GET IT. AN ERRAND FRISBEE GOES BY, MARK RUNS JUMPS OFF A TREE AND CATCHES IT, THEN THROWS IT BACK TO THE KIDS ALL IN ONE MOTION.

KIDS

Thanks teach!

STILL RUNNING HOME WITH HIS BRIEFCASE

MARK

Don't thank me, thank my killer
instincts!!

INT. INSIDE MARK'S HOME LIVING ROOM / KITCHEN - NIGHT

ALL THE LIGHTS IN THE HOUSE ARE TURNED OFF. MARK KNOWS
SOMETHING IS A LITTLE OFF.

MARK

I'm home.... Hello?

HE ENTERS THE LIVING ROOM THE TV BLARING SOME NATURE SHOW.

T.V (V.O.)

The rhinoceros has the ability to
break through strong wood crates with
just its nose.

THERE IS A DEAD BODY ON THE FLOOR IT'S HIS FRIEND JHAVIER.

MARK

Good God!

MARK SNEAKS PAST. WE HEAR SOME POTS AND PANS BANGING IN THE
KITCHEN

MARK (CONT'D)

Time to step into action and let my
killer instinct out!

MARK'S SKIN STARTS TO BUBBLE UP, HE'S IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN,
HIS CLOTHES RIP OFF AND HE TURNS HIMSELF INTO THE HOUSEHOLD
CAT "PENELOPE"

MARK (CONT'D)

Meow.

HE PROWLs INTO THE KITCHEN PUSHING THE SWINGING DOOR OPEN

CHERYL

Surprise Birthday!!!!

MARK

Meow.

CHERYL

Oh false alarm. It's just the cat
everyone. Where have you been hiding
Penelope?

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

That's a nice cat.

MARK

Meow?

CHERYL

Hmmmm well, that's Odd. I could have
sworn that I heard Mark come in.

MARK, AS A CAT, RUNS OUT OF THE ROOM AND UPSTAIRS TO HIS
ROOM. MARK COMES DOWNSTAIRS IN A ROBE WITH WET HAIR DRYING
HIS HEAD WITH A TOWEL

MARK

(To JHAVIER) Hey, Jhavier.

JHAVIER

Hey, Mark. Oh boy! Hey Mark, Don't
tell Miss Cheryl I broke character.

MARK

Okay, I won't.

MARK WALKING INTO THE KITCHEN PUSHING THROUGH THE SWINGING
DOOR

CHERYL

..just bleach and a scrub brush...

MARK

Hi.

ALL

Surprise birthday party!!!

CHERYL

Well that wasn't much of a surprise at all. Geez, aren't you just quiet as a cat.

MARK

Yeah sometimes.

MARK CHUCKLES TO HIMSELF

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Congratulations Mark!

MARK

Yeah, Thanks. *(To Cheryl Cowan)* How come Jhavier is pretending to be dead on the floor?

CHERYL

Oh yes! It was supposed to be a murder mystery party, but I forgot about that after a while. I just know how much you love them murder mystery shows.

MARK

More then you know.

MARK CHUCKLES TO HIMSELF

CHERYL

Exactly.

JHAVIER

(From the other room) Miss Cheryl? Was Mark surprised?

CHERYL

No he wasn't. *(To MARK)* How was your day at school, sweet? Any problems with bullying?

MARK

There were these two bullies picking on a freshman girl. They were pushing her...

CHERYL

Oh my. That's not right.

MARK

One of them had a knife.

CHERYL

No!

MARK

... But I saved the day.

CHERYL

My hero.

MARK

They got bored and walked away.

CHERYL

Good job. See I told you living just your boring life would come in handy one day.

MARK

I just get the feeling that it's not
the last I'll be seeing of those guys.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

A bunch of punk teens, huh?

MARK

(a bit annoyed) Uhhhhh, yeah.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

I used to be a punk teen.

MARK

Oh yeah?

CHERYL

Cake anyone?

MARK'S CRIME FIGHTING APP STARTS BUZZING. NO ONE KNOW THAT HE
HAS THIS APP

MARK

There's a problem at the zoo. I have
to go.

MARK KISSES CHERYL COWAN ON THE CHEEK IN A RESPECTFUL WAY,
RUNS OUT OF THE HOUSE SEES THAT HE'S MISSING HIS BUS AND JUST
STARTS RUNNING TO THE ZOO

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Why's he going to the zoo?

CHERYL

He works there part time. There's
always some kind of problem going on
there.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Oh cool. This cake is good.

END OF ACT ONE

EXT. OUTSIDE THE ZOO GATES - NIGHT

MARK IS SITUATED IN THE BUSHES BEHIND THE ZOO GATES. HE CAN SEE TWO HIGH CLASS EXOTIC ANIMAL THIEVES PUTTING A BUNCH OF ANIMALS INTO CRATES, HE CAN'T MAKE OUT THEIR FACES THOUGH

MARK

If they take all these animals from
the zoo. All the kids who come to the
zoo tomorrow will have no animals to
look at. I've got to do something.

MARK'S SKIN STARTS TO BUBBLE, HE'S IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN AND ALL OF HIS CLOTHES RIP OFF. HE TURNS HIMSELF INTO A BLACK PANTHER. HE USES THE NIGHT'S SKY AND DARKNESS TO SNEAK BY THE THIEVES AND GET OVER TO THE PANTHER CAGE

MARK (CONT'D)

(To the panther) Hey I'm MARK. Don't
worry I'm going to get you out of
here. Just stay close to me.

DOROTHY

I'm Dorothy. I'm really afraid.

MARK

Don't be. I'll get us out of here.
I've got pretty killer instincts.

THE THIEF NOTICES THE TWO PANTHERS BEING REALLY CLOSE AND HE JUST HEARS THEM ROARING AT EACH OTHER.

THIEF #1

Hey Dan, check out these panthers I
think they're talking to each other.

(MORE)

THIEF #1 (CONT'D)

What about these panthers? Are they on
the list?

THIEF #2

(Checking the list) Yeah. Says here
one female panther.

THIEF #1

But there's two panthers in here.

THIEF #1 TAKES A LOOK UNDER THE HOOD OF MARK AS A PANTHER

THIEF #1 (CONT'D)

And this ones a male panther.

THIEF #2

Well just kill the male one.

THIEF #1

I think they're a family though. You
can't split up a family.

THIEF #2

Bring both of them. We'll kill the
male one later. Maybe make a stew.

THIEF #1

Good thinking. I'm hungry. My eyes are
as big as my stomach.

THE THIEVES USE A KNIFE TO SCARE THE PANTHERS INTO THE CRATE
TOGETHER.

MARK TRIES TO GATHER AS MUCH INFORMATION ON THESE GUYS AS HE
CAN.

MARK

I need you to look away for a second.

DOROTHY

Why?

MARK

There's no time for questions!

HIS HANDS BEGIN TO BUBBLE UP, HE'S IN A LOT OF PAIN, AND JUST HIS HANDS BECOME HUMAN. HE THEN PULLS OUT A NOTE PAD AND WRITES DOWN: "*TWO WHITE MALES, THIEVES, KNIFE, COULD BE THOSE BULLIES, REFER TO EARLIER PAGES.*" THE TRUCK BEGINS TO DRIVE AWAY.

DOROTHY

We're moving!

MARK PEEKING OUT OF AN OPENING IN THE BOX.

MARK

Looks like we're getting on the highway 401.

DOROTHY

You're brave and smart just like the humans are.

MARK

You have no idea.

MARK CHUCKLES TO HIMSELF

DOROTHY

It's strange. I've never seen you around the cage before.

MARK

I'm new. I'm from a different part of the world.

DOROTHY

What's a world?

MARK

(A bit panicked) Ahh. A different zoo.

DOROTHY

A different world....*(The truck hits a huge bump)* Oh boy. I'm so scared.

MARK

We're all scared, but it's about what you do in the moments when you're scared that matter.

THERE'S A LONG PAUSE THEN MARK AND DOROTHY START KISSING PASSIONATELY BUT STILL IN A VERY RESPECTFUL WAY. THE TRUCK COMES TO A SUDDEN HALT. THE CRATE IS TAKEN OUT OF THE BACK OF THE TRUCK AND THROWN INTO A WAREHOUSE. MARK PEEKS OUT OF THE HOLE IN THE CRATE. HE SEES A RHINOCEROS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM.

MARK (CONT'D)

Of course! Look away Dorothy. I've got a plan.

DOROTHY LOOKS AWAY MARK'S MOUTH STARTS TO BUBBLE AND HE GROWS A GIANT RHINOCEROS HORN AND LIPS. HE USES THE HORN TO SMASH THE CRATE OPEN. HE QUICKLY TURNS BACK INTO A PANTHER.

MARK (CONT'D)

We're free! Come on quick Dorothy!

MARK AND DOROTHY RUN OUT OF THE WAREHOUSE AND RUN ON THE 401 HIGHWAY ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE ZOO.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE ZOO GATES - THE SUN IS JUST STARTING TO RISE

MARK

(To Dorothy) We made it just in time. You've got to go back in there, so the kids will have at least some animals to look at tomorrow.

DOROTHY

You're not coming? Will I ever see you
again?

MARK

I'll see you but you might not see me.

MARK CHUCKLES TO HIMSELF THEN BEGINS TO RUN OFF

DOROTHY

What about a date?

MARK

Friday. Eight O'clock. Meet me out
back in the alleyway outside the Rain
Forrest cafe.

MARK RUNS OFF WHILE DOROTHY LOOKS ON WITH AMAZEMENT AT THE
NEW PANTHER SHE JUST MET.

MARK (CONT'D)

(To himself) What a day! But my killer
instinct tell me that that's not the
last I'm going to see of those two.

INT. IN THE MAIN HALLWAY OF MARK'S HOME - SUNRISE

MARK

Woo. What a night. I think I've done a
pretty good job. But those thieves are
still out there.

MARK STARTS REVIEWING HIS NOTES, AS CHERYL COMES DOWNSTAIRS
YAWNING.

CHERYL

You're just getting home now?

MARK

Yeah, it was a long night

CHERYL

Well I've got a surprise for you!

MARK

I love surprises!

CHERYL

Well I booked us a very romantic.

Eight P.M. dinner for two Friday night

at....(a dramatic pause) The Rain

Forrest Cafe!!!

MARK

Oh boy.

END OF ACT 2

INT. MARK'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - FRIDAY NIGHT

MARK'S SITTING ON THE COUCH WATCHING AS THE CLOCK SLOWLY APPROACHES EIGHT O'CLOCK SWEAT IS FALLING FROM HIS BROW. CHERYL ENTERS

CHERYL

How do I look?

MARK

(a bit defeated) Great.

CHERYL

(Bowing) Thank you. Thank you. Well

let's boogie! (Does a little dance)

THEY BOTH GET INTO THE CAR. MARK IS ADJUSTING THE MIRROR AND WHILE ADJUSTING HE CAN SEE A LONE BLACK PANTHER WALKING DOWN THE STREET IN THE DIRECTION OF THE RAIN FORREST CAFE

MARK

(all panicked) Can you check in the glove compartment for my driving gloves!

CHERYL

What! You don't wear driving gloves.

MARK

I started with out telling you cause I was embarrassed about it.

CHERYL STARTS RIFFLING THROUGH THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT. MARK IS STARRING OUT THE REARVIEW MIRROR

CHERYL

I don't see anything in here.

THE BLACK PANTHER GOES DOWN A BACK ALLEYWAY OUT OF SIGHT.

MARK

Oh that's right, I don't wear driving gloves. That was just a dream I had.

HE WIPES SWEAT FROM HIS BROW

MARK (CONT'D)

Let's go, shall we.

MARK BEGINS TO DRIVE.

CHERYL

Wee!

INT. INSIDE THE RAIN FORREST CAFE - NIGHT - FRIDAY NIGHT

THE RAIN FORREST CAFE IS A NICELY DECORATED JUNGLE THEMED RESTAURANT WITH MANY LIVE AND STATUE ANIMALS. IT SEEMS MORE EXOCTIC THEN MOST OTHER RAIN FORREST CAFES

CHERYL

I have a reservation for Mark and
Cheryl.

HOST BOY

Oh yes. I can see it on this paper
here. Right this way.

HE SEATS THEM RIGHT BESIDE THE LARGE AQUARIUM FISH TANK

MARK

Thank you.

CHERYL

Wooooowwww. This is nice! Check that
out! It's a real live gorilla! pretty
neat stuff!

MARK

(looking at his watch) Yeah, yeah,
neat.

MARK LOOKS ACROSS THE RESTAURANT AND SEES THE TWO BULLIES
FROM BEFORE SHARING A NICE PLATE OF ESCARGOT.

MARK (CONT'D)

Oh my god. It's the two bullies from
before. I knew I'd see them again. I
just didn't think it would be here,
now.

CHERYL

I should go over there and give them a
piece of my mind!

CHERYL GETS UP AND STARTS WAVING HER HANDS IN THE AIR TRYING
TO ATTRACT THE BULLIES ATTENTION. THE BULLIES SEE HER AND
BEGIN TO WALK OVER.

BULLY #1

Well if it isn't the high class
university fart teacher...

THEY START MAKING FART NOISES WITH THEIR HANDS

MARK

Would you keep it down. We're in a
very fancy restaurant.

BULLY #2

Oh look and he's on a date.

CHERYL

I'll have you know that I'm his wife.

MARK TAKES A LOOK AT HIS WATCH HE SEES THAT THE TIME IS 7:58
P.M.

MARK

(a little panicked) I've got to go to
the loo.

BULLY # 1 AND BULLY #2

Ooooooh the loo the loo who loo dee da.

MARK SPEED WALKS OUT TO THE BACK ALLEYWAY.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Hi, Mark.

MARK

(dismissive) Uh yeah, hi.

HE OPENS THE DOOR AND HE SEES THE PANTHER THERE WAITING THE
PANTHER LOOKS UP AND ROARS AT HIM.

MARK (CONT'D)

Ahhhh!

HE CLOSES THE DOOR IMMEDIATELY. HE REMEMBER THAT HE LOOKS JUST LIKE A HUMAN. HIS SKIN STARTS TO BUBBLE HE'S IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN AND ALL OF HIS CLOTHES RIP OFF AND HE BECOMES A BLACK PANTHER. HE OPENS THE DOOR

MARK (CONT'D)

Dorothy! You made it. Did you find the place alright?

DOROTHY

Yeah. But I think I may have also made the six O'clock news.

MARK

Sounds like a fun day. (*Looking around the alleyway*) Well this is it. Pretty neat, huh?

DOROTHY

This is it... We're not going inside?

MARK

Inside what's inside that's so good that isn't out here.

DOROTHY

Mark, I want to go inside.

MARK

I was just kidding of course we're going inside. Let's go inside.

THEY BOTH ENTER IN THROUGH THE BACK DOOR IN THE ALLEYWAY AND SNEAK INTO A TABLE THAT'S RIGHT BESIDE A HEAVILY JUNGLE LEAF POPULATED AREA.

DOROTHY

Wooooowwww. This is nice! Check that out! It's a real live gorilla! pretty neat stuff!

MARK

(To himself) I sure have a type don't I...

MARK CHUCKLES TO HIMSELF. JUST THEN MARK SEES THE TWO HIGH CLASS EXOTIC ANIMAL THIEVES EATING A PLATE OF CHICKEN WINGS

MARK (CONT'D)

Oh man, it's those two high class exotic animal thieves from the other day! I never thought I would have see then here. But I knew I was going to for sure see them again.

DOROTHY

Where! I want some revenge.

MARK LOOKS OVER AND SEES CHERYL STILL ARGUING WITH THE TWO BULLIES.

MARK

Um, not on our special night. I'm going to go get a waiter.

MARK AS THE PANTHER RUNS TO THE BACK ROOM

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

How's it going Mark?

MARK

Uh, good or whatever.

HIS SKIN STARTS TO BUBBLE HIS IN TREMENDOUS PAIN HE TURNS INTO A HUMAN BUT HE HAS NO CLOTHES ON HE SNEAKS OVER TO THE COAT ROOM AND PUTS ON A BLAZER WITH NO SHIRT UNDERNEATH IT AND PANTS. GOES OVER TO THE TABLE WITH CHERYL

MARK (CONT'D)

Okay boys and girls I think we're all good here. Why don't we just bury our hatchets and I'll buy you another round of escargot and we will all be fine.

BULLY #1

That sounds like a might fine deal there fart teacher.

BULLY #2

Yeah that's really nice of you. Maybe we were wrong about you. We're sorry.

MARK

It's okay boys. Enjoy your meal.

THEY GO OVER TO THEIR TABLE PEACEFULLY

CHERYL

My hero!!! Where's your shirt?

MARK

I took it off in the loo and forgot all about it. All in a days work.

MARK LOOKS OVER AND SEES THE TWO HIGH CLASS EXOTIC ANIMAL THIEVES ALL UP IN THE GRITS OF THE FEMALE PANTHER DOROTHY

MARK (CONT'D)

I'm going to go try an find my shirt.

MARK RUNS BACK TO THE ALLEYWAY

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Where you going, Mark?

MARK

(annoyed) To the washroom.

HIS SKIN STARTS TO BUBBLE HE'S IN SO MUCH PAIN ALL HIS CLOTHES RIP OFF HE BECOMES A PANTHER HE RUNS OVER TO THE TABLE WHERE HIM AN DOROTHY WERE SITTING BUT SHE'S NOT THERE. HE CAN SEE THE BOY HOST POINTING AT THE TWO THIEVES CARRYING OUT A GIANT CREATE

MARK (CONT'D)

Noooooooo! Why!

HE STARTS WALKING BACK ALL DEFEATED UPSET WITH THE LOSS OF DOROTHY. HIS SKIN STARTS TO BUBBLE UP HE'S IN A TON OF PAIN HE'S MISSING ALL HIS CLOTHES HE SNEAKS BACK TO THE COAT ROOM AND PUTS ON A BLAZER AND SOME PANTS

MARK (CONT'D)

(To himself) I should have maybe taken my clothes off first before I changed.

MARK CHUCKLES TO HIMSELF

CHERYL

You're wearing a different blazer now?

MARK

Uh... yeah I told a guy in the washroom about me losing my shirt and he thought that was sad so he gave me his blazer but then I felt bad so i gave him mine. That's the story.

CHERYL

This has been such a great night. Are you ready to order.

MARK

You know what I'm just going to call
it a night and run home. You take the
car.

CHERYL

I totally understand.

MARK WALKS OUT INTO THE ALLEYWAY AND HE'S TAKING A LONG LOOK
DOWN THE ALLEY WHERE HIM AND DOROTHY WERE.

MARK

Phew. That was close. I can't believe
no one saw what just happened.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND COMES OUT AFTER HIM.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

I saw everything.

MARK

Saw what?

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

I saw everything that you just did in
there.

MARK

No you didn't see anything.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Yes I did. Oh I saw.

MARK

Then what did you see?

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

I saw you turn into a panther.

MARK

Darn it! Maybe you did see. What do you want?

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

I want to be more than just some random friend. I want to be your sidekick.

MARK

Sorry I don't do sidekicks.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Just call me your sidekick once, just once.

MARK

I'm not calling you my sidekick!

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

It's not that hard. You just do your thing and say to people this is my sidekick.

MARK

I DON'T DO SIDEKICKS!

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

I'm going to have to tell the newspapers about you then.

MARK

Go ahead who's going to believe you?
I'm a well respected university teacher.

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

You'll will regret the day. That you
didn't let me be your sidekick.

MARK

Today?

SOME RANDOM FRIEND

Yes. Today. You will regret today
forever. This isn't the last you've
seen of me. You just made an enemy.

THEN THE SOME RANDOM FRIEND WALKS OFF INTO THE CORNER OF THE
ALLEYWAY.

MARK

*(pondering a thought, whispering to
himself) Sidekick.*

SOME RANDOM FRIEND COMPLETELY DISAPPEARS INTO THE MOONS GLOW

MARK (CONT'D)

I'm probably going to see a lot more
of that guy. At least that's what my
killer instincts are telling me.

END