

RUDY THE RUDDY DUCK
"Pilot"

by

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EXT. RESTLESS COVE - BOAT DOCK ONE - DAY

A sunny fall morning. Vibrant trees surround a mountainous area. Birds and crickets chirp while deer graze with their young.

RUDY (8), a Ruddy Duck with a prominent blue bill, snores while sleeping in a kiddie pool that sits at the end of a boat dock. A pinup calendar featuring female ducks hangs on the post while a nearby clock ticks past 10:38AM.

EXT. RESTLESS COVE - SHORE - DAY

ROSIE (7), Rudy's wife, peers at him in the distance. Her brow crinkles as she shakes her head. Her face turns red, and she clinches her fists and yells across the cove.

ROSIE

Wake up! We've got business. Don't make me haul you out of that pool.

Rudy stretches momentarily, moans and goes back to sleep. Rosie mutters.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

(to self)

It's madness. An entire lake around him and he sleeps in a kiddie pool. All the other ducks went south weeks ago, and we are not even packed yet.

She flings items into her bags.

EXT. RESTLESS COVE - BOAT DOCK ONE - DAY

Rudy continues sleeping as the clock shows 2:42PM. Rosie swims toward the dock and launches a walnut through the air, clonking him in the head. His eyes become crossed as he falls over sideways, creating a splash.

RUDY

Ouch! What's wrong with you, woman?

ROSIE

You snooze in a kiddie pool all day without a care in the world. Are you listening to me?

Rudy stretches his arms into the air and yawns.

2.

RUDY

Hey, I need my sleep before I can even think of heading south for the winter.

ROSIE

Ducks don't sleep in kiddie pools! You ate too many crackers last night and now you're bloated and out of energy. We are weeks behind schedule.

EXT. AIRSPACE OVER BOAT DOCK ONE - DAY

BUSTER BLACKHAWK (6), scraggly with a sinister brow, flies overhead. He looks below, drools, and licks his lips while watching the ducks quarrel.

BUSTER BLACKHAWK

(to self)

Well, look who it is. He is the foul little duck that humiliated me last summer by trying to dive-bomb me while I was with my friends. Now he is going to get it.

EXT. RESTLESS COVE - BOAT DOCK ONE - DAY

Both ducks continue to bicker.

ROSIE

You have about two seconds before I lose it.

RUDY

Lose what? Watch this.

He gets up, shakes his tail and cannonballs into the lake, while waves cause the dock to pitch and creak. He surfaces and spits an arching stream of water. A nearby goose squints and shakes her head while Rudy climbs back onto the dock.

RUDY (CONT'D)

Ah, cheese and June bugs would make this a perfect afternoon. I'm just going to take a little siesta. Wake me up in a few hours, darling.

Rosie snarls while steam billows out of her ears. She charges at Rudy and bites him on the backside. His eyes balloon as caterwauls echo throughout the hillside. He attempts to break free from her grip while tattered feathers litter the water.

3.

RUDY (CONT'D)

You're deranged! What's the matter with you, anyway?

Nearby deer, geese and raccoons point and belly laugh. A heron imitates Rudy by sashaying and making faces while holding his backside. Rosie opens her eyes wide and points to their nest.

EXT. RESTLESS COVE - AIRSPACE OVER THE DUCKS - DAY

Buster Blackhawk, still circling high above, snorts and shakes his head.

BUSTER BLACKHAWK

What a pea brain.

EXT. RESTLESS COVE - BOAT DOCK - DAY

Rudy, with tears in his eyes, sits up tall, thrashes his wings. Plucked feathers cause enormous bald spots on his backside. Rosie grabs a hand full of feathers and shakes her fist at Rudy.

ROSIE

If you don't shape up, I'll take these feathers back and make a pillow. You want to rumble? You better get back to our nest and help pack.

RUDY

Right away, dear.

EXT. AIRSPACE OVER THE HILLS OF RESTLESS COVE - DAY

Buster Blackhawk practices barrel roll skills.

BUSTER BLACKHAWK

Still got it.

EXT. RESTLESS COVE - RUDY AND ROSIE'S NEST - DAY

Rudy totters toward the nest, rubbing his backside while whimpering. With glassy eyes and a deep, arching frown, he snuffles and turns back to look at Rosie.

4.

ROSIE

The sooner we get this done, the faster we can head south and be with all the other ducks. I don't have a good feeling about this place.

Rosie continues packing, but Rudy immediately distracts himself by chasing hornets. Valuables are knocked over as he runs in circles, stirring up a cloud of dust and feathers. He halts in his tracks.

RUDY

Whoa! Did you see that enormous shadow?

ROSIE

I can't see a thing because of all the dust and feathers you stirred up.

RUDY

Well, I think a large finch just passed over.

ROSIE

Yeah, right. I've had enough of your bushwa. Quit stalling and get packing.

EXT. AIRSPACE OVER RUDY AND ROSIE'S NEST - DAY

Buster Blackhawk continues circling high above.

BUSTER BLACKHAWK

Once that dust settles, it's dinnertime for me.

EXT. RESTLESS COVE - RUDY AND ROSIE'S NEST - DAY

The shadow again passes overhead. Rosie puts her hand up to her forehead and squints while looking up into the sky.

ROSIE

There it is. It's a Blackhawk, and I bet he heard your commotion. We don't have time for this nonsense!

RUDY

What commotion?

Rosie cracks Rudy in the back of the head, causing a few feathers to glide through the air.

5.

ROSIE

You made too much noise!

RUDY

Well, you're the one who ripped out all my feathers and made me shriek. I'm bald now, woman. Bald!

ROSIE

It'll be worse than that if we don't quickly come up with a plan to get out of here.

RUDY

Well, the boat dock at the end of the cove would make a great hiding spot.

ROSIE

Is this your plan to get into another kiddie pool and leave me alone?

RUDY

I'm just trying to outsmart that skinny maniac up there.

ROSIE

Let's do it.

EXT. RESTLESS COVE - BOAT DOCK ONE - DAY

The ducks swim underwater and hide underneath the boat dock. Rudy shouts.

RUDY

We are total ninjas!

ROSIE

Shush. Now who is the lunatic? Be quiet.

Buster aims for the roof. He lands on the thin metal, creating a screech from his talons. He peeks over the edge.

BUSTER BLACKHAWK

Hiding from something? There's nothing to be afraid of. From one bird to another, I just want to say hello.

Rudy wails and chortles.

RUDY

Lunatic!

6.

ROSIE

Didn't I just tell you to shush?

RUDY

There's no way he can get us under here.
I bet he can't even swim.

ROSIE

You never know with this one. I'll bet
he'll try anything.

The ducks watch as Buster peers in the opposite
direction.

RUDY

Follow me and we will swim underwater to
the second dock.

EXT. RESTLESS COVE - BOAT DOCK TWO - DAY

Buster continues creeping around. Suddenly, a race boat
starts its engines, creating a deafening roar.

RUDY

Jeez!

The ducks blast away from under the dock. Feathers and
duck droppings plop in the water as they flee towards
shore.

EXT. RESTLESS COVE - LOG CABIN - DAY

Rudy points to a log cabin below. The back porch is
decorated with colossal cement duck statues. They land
and take cover behind one of them.

ROSIE

Shh. Don't make a sound, and whatever you
do, don't move.

Buster sees motion below and spreads his wings to dive
toward the statues, creating a whoosh that echoes through
the hills. His eyes become enlarged as he closes in and
disintegrates a statue with a THUD, causing the concrete
to burst into pieces, laying him out flat.

RUDY

Dude!

Dust swirls, while stars and exclamation points circle
Buster's head as he lets out a final breath. The ducks
charge off, leaving a vapor trail behind them.

7.

EXT. RESTLESS COVE - RUDY AND ROSIE'S NEST - DAY

The ducks return to their nest and collect necessities for their trip. They pause and look into each other's eyes.

ROSIE

You know, you kept me safe.

Rosie puts her arm around Rudy.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Maybe I've been a little rough on you.
I'm sorry.

Both ducks sit on a log overlooking the lake as the sun goes down. Rudy puts his arm around Rosie.

RUDY

I am sorry for fooling around and causing so many problems. I realize I've been selfish.

ROSIE

I'll remember to consider your feelings in the future as well. I love you!

RUDY

(eyes mist up)
I love you also!

They grab their bags and prepare to fly south for the winter.

EXT. AIRSPACE OVER RESTLESS COVE - DAY

After takeoff, they look down to see other animals waving goodbye. Rosie and Rudy gain altitude. The sun sets to their right while they disappear into the horizon.