

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

FIELD TRIP

Written by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(All roles are and may be played by any ethnicity and any gender)

TERRENCE: Penguin.

MILLIE: Penguin.

LING-LING: Panda.

ZOOKEEPER: Human.

SETTING:

An unnamed museum.

TIME:

June, 2020.

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Field Trip, Daniel Prillaman, 1.

An unnamed museum.

*Immaculate period art hangs on
the walls.*

*In the background, on the
floor, there is also a
significantly more modern
installation.*

*But staring at a particularly
captivating period piece
(centered in the audience so
their gaze faces us), are
TERRENCE and MILLIE.*

They continue to stare in awe.

TERRENCE

Wow.

MILLIE

It's absolutely beautiful.

TERRENCE

I can't take my eyes away from it.

MILLIE

It's like the Window People, but dressed weird and two-dimensional.

TERRENCE

And there's so many of them.

MILLIE

I know!

TERRENCE

What is this place?

MILLIE

Well. If my observations are correct, I would feel comfortable hypothesizing that it's some sort of exhibit of some kind.

TERRENCE

Exhibit?

MILLIE

Precisely. Whatever these rectangles are, I get the impression that they are here for us to look at.

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Field Trip, Daniel Prillaman, 2.

TERRENCE
Like the Window People look at us?

MILLIE
Precisely.

TERRENCE
Wow.

MILLIE
I know. What a metaphor.

Beat.

TERRENCE
Do you wanna go look at another room?

MILLIE
Oh. Well. I don't know.

This one is nice. And private.

TERRENCE
That is true.

We are alone. In this room.

MILLIE
I really like looking at this rectangle with you, Terrence.

TERRENCE
Really?

MILLIE
Yeah.

TERRENCE
I like looking at it with you, too, Millie.

MILLIE
You do?

TERRENCE
Yeah! I really like...

MILLIE
What?

Beat.

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Field Trip, Daniel Prillaman, 3.

TERRENCE

The rectangle.

It's got a nice ambiance.

MILLIE

...Yeah.

TERRENCE

Yeah.

MILLIE

Kind of a...romantic...ambiance.

TERRENCE

Yeah.

MILLIE

This might be the prettiest rectangle I've ever seen.

TERRENCE

Yeah, me too.

I'm sorry.

MILLIE

What?

TERRENCE

I--I really like you, Millie, I do.

MILLIE

Yeah?!

TERRENCE

I'm just really nervous.

MILLIE

It's okay! You don't have to be nervous.

TERRENCE

No?

MILLIE

You don't have to be sorry either. You haven't done anything to apologize for.

TERRENCE

No?

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Field Trip, Daniel Prillaman, 4.

MILLIE

No! Of course not.

I really like you, too, Terrence.

TERRENCE

You do?

MILLIE

Duh.

Beat.

*They get closer, that first
kiss of the relationship
energy in the air.*

*But before they make contact,
a LOUD CRASH from offstage.*

TERRENCE

What was that?

MILLIE

I don't know.

Whatever.

*MILLIE goes back in for the
kiss.*

TERRENCE

Wait, what if somebody's hurt?

MILLIE

They're probably fine.

*Again, MILLIE goes back in for
the kiss.*

TERRENCE

Do you think we should check it out?

MILLIE

Are you suggesting this because you're actually concerned or
because you're too nervous to kiss me?

TERRENCE

Uhhh, I mean if I'm fully analyzing myself it's probably a
little of both.

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Field Trip, Daniel Prillaman, 5.

MILLIE

You don't need to be nervous but I do want to point out that the window of opportunity is statistically getting shorter.

MILLIE again goes in for the kiss.

And is again cut off by another CRASH.

LING-LING (O.S.)

Oh, that one looked expensive!

MILLIE

See?! Someone's coming this way.

TERRENCE

Hang on.

MILLIE

What?

TERRENCE

That voice sounds familiar.

MILLIE

Well, we all live in the same enclosure.

LING-LING enters, running across the room.

LING-LING

Gotta hide gotta hide gotta hide gotta hide!

(Passing the penguins)

Howdy, penguins!

Gotta hide gotta hide gotta hide!

LING-LING exits.

Beat.

LING-LING (O.S.)

TERRENCE?!

TERRENCE

Oh boy.

LING-LING re-enters, screaming in excitement, beelining for TERRENCE, who screams in less excitement as LING-LING

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Field Trip, Daniel Prillaman, 6.

*reaches them and picks them up
in a huge bear hug.*

Pun intended.

MILLIE

Woah!

LING-LING

(Overlapping)

Oh wow this is so amazing I can't believe you're here and that I'm here and that we're both here this is so cool and unexpected and AMAZING I never would have believed this day would come am I crushing you you can tell me if I'm crushing you sometimes I get a bit excited and don't remember my own strength and I crush folks when I hug them my dad tells me all the time "Candace, you need to remember to not crush folks when you hug them" and I'm like "Daaaaaaaad, I don't do that all the time just some of the times" hey are you breathing?

*LING-LING lets go and TERRENCE
takes a HUGE gasp of air.*

MILLIE

Do you two know each other?

LING-LING

Oh bamboo there's two of you!

MILLIE

Hi, I'm Millie.

LING-LING

Hi, Millie! You can call me Candace! Ling-Ling is my slave name.

MILLIE

Oh, that's uncomfortable. Mine's Whiskers.

LING-LING

Wooooooow. You don't have whiskers.

MILLIE

I know! I don't get it.

TERRENCE

Candace? What are you doing here?

LING-LING

Hi, Terrence! I don't know!

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Field Trip, Daniel Prillaman, 7.

MILLIE

Well, how did you get here?

LING-LING

I don't know! I mean, I totally found a way to sneak out of Panda Palace and was just wandering around the zoo.

TERRENCE

What?

LING-LING

Yeah! Then I saw all of you getting on that big yellow thing with the wheels, and I thought, "Hey, look at those penguins! They're going somewhere! I want to go too!" So I hopped on the roof.

TERRENCE

What?!

MILLIE

Oh, so that was that sound.

LING-LING

Yeah, it was my butt! And then, next thing I knew, we were here!

Oh, and then I accidentally broke some stuff and the big yellow thing driver is chasing me now.

Hey! This rectangle's cool.

Beat.

TERRENCE

Wait. You mean someone's chasing you?

LING-LING

Oh, totally. It's super intense.

Oh, shoots, we gotta hide!

ZOOKEEPER (O.S.)

Ling-Ling!

LING-LING

We gotta hide faster!

TERRENCE

Where?! It's an open room!

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Field Trip, Daniel Prillaman, 8.

MILLIE
(Pointing a flipper
to the modern art
installation)

Behind that thing!

*TERRENCE, MILLIE, and LING-
LING all run behind the modern
art installation and hide.*

*It is a ineffective hiding
place.*

LING-LING
T-Doodle, can you move like a smidgen to your left?

TERRENCE
Oh man oh wow oh man oh wow.

MILLIE
Sshhhhhh! It's gonna be okay.

LING-LING
What even is this thing?

MILLIE
I don't know. Must be the toilet.

LING-LING
Ooooooh.

*ZOOKEEPER enters, looking for
LING-LING.*

ZOOKEEPER
(Into a walkie)
Okay, she's not in the West Hall. I'm heading into the
Baroque section.

(Calling out)
Ling-Ling!

LING-LING
What?

MILLIE
Shhh!

Beat.

ZOOKEEPER
Ling-Ling!

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Field Trip, Daniel Prillaman, 9.

What? LING-LING

Shhhhh! MILLIE

Candace! TERRENCE

Oh, right! LING-LING

Sorry.

Shhh! MILLIE AND TERRENCE

Beat.

ZOOKEEPER
Where are you, Ling-Ling?

Beat.

LING-LING
Okay, I know we need to be quiet.

But this is really exciting.

Miraculously, despite the ineffectiveness of the hiding place, ZOOKEEPER does not see them.

They approach the exit of the room.

Suddenly, the sound of a massive fart stops ZOOKEEPER in their tracks.

Beat.

MILLIE
(Admitting fault)
Sorry.

LING-LING
Bless you.

Beat.

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Field Trip, Daniel Prillaman, 10.

ZOOKEEPER

Huh.

Must've eaten too much chili for lunch.

(Into the walkie,
exiting)

Baroque is clear. I'm moving on.

ZOOKEEPER exits.

*The animals slowly shuffle out
from behind the modern art.*

TERRENCE

The fact you were able to get out of Panda Palace suddenly
makes a lot more sense.

MILLIE

How do you not feel your own fart?

LING-LING

Science.

Beat.

MILLIE

Well. It was really nice meeting you, Candace!

LING-LING

You too, Millie!

MILLIE

I guess we'll see you back at the zoo?

LING-LING

Wait, you guys don't wanna hang out?

MILLIE

Um...well...

LING-LING

What?

MILLIE

Terrence and I were...kind of in the middle of something.

LING-LING

Checkers?

*MILLIE thinks, then motions
that they want to whisper into
LING-LING'S ear. LING-LING*

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Field Trip, Daniel Prillaman, 12.

Really? MILLIE

Probably? TERRENCE

Well. You know...I think I know just the treatment for that. MILLIE

Yeah? TERRENCE

Oh, yeah. Come here. MILLIE

They both lean in again.

LING-LING re-enters, running across the room.

Why did I go that way?! LING-LING

Oh, Goddamnit! MILLIE

I should not have gone that way! We gotta go! Go go go! LING-LING

The animals all run, exiting the room on the other side.

ZOOKEEPER re-enters, chasing after them.

They slow and stop, breathing hard.

Beat.

ZOOKEEPER
(Looking at the art)
That's a really nice rectangle.

END OF PLAY.

NOTE ON ALTERNATE DIALOGUE:

In order to accommodate audiences of all ages, MILLIE'S "Oh, Goddamnit!" on page 12 may be replaced with any appropriate exclamation.