

THE MISERABLE MOON

by

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(based on the book by Wong Ching Hsia)

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FADE IN:

1. EXT. GREEN MEADOWS - NIGHT

The night is bright and the meadows are empty.

There is nothing but silence.

WIDE SHOT OF EMPTY GREEN MEADOWS

There's a hint of bright light but we could not see where it is coming from.

The camera pans far to the right to reveal:

THE BRIGHT FULL MOON being covered by passing dark clouds.

Rays of lights are coming out of the Moon and is planted onto the meadows.

ZOOM INTO THE FULL MOON

The Moon turns 180 degrees to disclose a frown on the Moon.

His eyes are down and there is no hint of excitement and fun in it. The Moon is very sad.

MOON

(still frowning)

Hi, I'm the Moon. You folks know me as the Moon.

He has a deep voice and sounds like he doesn't want to be there.

NARRATOR(V.O)

That is the Moon, and he looks sad.

MOON

(eyes at audience)

I am sad. Just like any other day.

(beat)

I want to look for a friend. Can you help me find a friend?

NARRATOR(V.O)

Alright, Moon. I'll try and help.

MOON

(still frowning)

Thank you very much, weird voice.

NARRATOR(V.O)

(softer)

No problem, Moon.

The fantasy-esque music starts playing.

CUT TO:

2. EXT. CITY - NIGHT

WIDE SHOT OF THE LIGHTLESS CITY SKYLINE, WITH MOON IN THE DISTANCE

The Moon is frowning as he looks at the buildings from left to right.

NARRATOR(V.O)
Find anything, Moon?

A beat.

MOON
(eyes on buildings)
Not yet.

NARRATOR(V.O)
No worries. Keep looking.

3. EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

The Moon is in the distance, still frowning. Eyes left to right.

The shops are all closed. Nothing is bright except for the Moon.

NARRATOR(V.O)
Anything?

MOON
Nothing yet.

CUT TO:

4. INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

We are now inside the bedroom of a child. It is untidy and there are toys scattered all over the floor.

A boy is on the bed, sleeping soundily under his blanket. Nothing in the world is bothering him.

Through the window, the Moon just looks at the sleeping boy with a frown.

NARRATOR(V.O)
You don't wanna bother him, Moon.
He seems comfortable in that thick blanket.

MOON
Whatever, weird voice.

NARRATOR(V.O)
(calm)
There is no need to be rude.

MOON
(eyes on child)
Whatever.

CUT TO:

5. INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

The Moon just stares through the window of the apartment.

A woman is sitting on the couch while watching the TV. A cat is sleeping on her lap while she rubs the cat's head.

NARRATOR(V.O)
This one is awake.

MOON
(eyes on woman)
I can see that.

NARRATOR(V.O)
Do you want to talk to her?

MOON
I don't want to bother her. She's just enjoying her late night show.

NARRATOR(V.O)
Why not? She even has a kitty on her lap.

CLOSE UP ON THE SLEEPING CAT

MOON(O.S)
Yeah. A sleeping kitty.

CUT TO:

6. EXT. ZOO - NIGHT

CLOSE UP ON THE FACE OF A SLEEPING LION

The lion gives out a monstrous snore. It is sleeping while being surrounded by lionesses.

NARRATOR(V.O)
The king is sleeping.

The Moon looks over the sleeping lions and lionesses.

MOON
Strange, isn't it?

NARRATOR(V.O)
Strange how?

MOON
The king is sleeping even though he
has a kingdom to look over.

The Narrator chuckles softly.

NARRATOR(V.O)
You know what, let's go.

MOON
(eyes at audience)
Alright.
(looks down at lions)
Night-night, king.

CUT TO:

7. EXT. ANTARTICA - NIGHT

WIDE SHOT OF THE ICY TERRAINS OF ANTARTICA, AN IGLOO IN THE
DISTANCE

We get closer to the igloo. Inside the igloo are two penguins
with their eyes closed, cuddling against each other.

Just like before, the Moon looks at the igloo from the
distance, with an upside-down smile.

There is only natural light around the area, which is from
the Moon itself. A huge ray of light directed at the igloo.

NARRATOR(V.O)
Fun fact: Penguins can sometimes
walk faster than humans.
(soft chuckle)
Imagine that.

MOON
That's so cool. No pun intended.

The Narrator giggles.

NARRATOR(V.O)
It's almost crazy how a species can
live in such a cold and hostile
environment like this one. I can't
imagine myself living here.

MOON
(eyes on igloo)
Me neither.

A beat.

MOON

Well at least they have igloos to sleep in. That's a good thing already.

CLOSE UP ON THE SLEEPING PENGUINS

MOON

(straight to audience)
Wanna check on the horses?

NARRATOR(V.O)

They're always asleep at this time--

MOON

Let's check on the horses.

CUT TO:

8. EXT. STABLES - NIGHT

CLOSE UP ON A SNORING BROWN HORSE

The Moon sighs in the distance. His frown curved deeper than before.

Tears started pouring out of the Moon's eyes. He starts crying furiously.

NARRATOR(V.O)

(comforting)
Hey-hey, why are you crying? Don't be sad.

MOON

(a bit sluggish, crying)
How can't I be sad, everyone is asleep except for me.

NARRATOR(V.O)

I'm not asleep.

MOON

(clearer tone)
I couldn't even see you.

The Narrator sighs in sympathy.

NARRATOR(V.O)

They're probably asleep from a long day of work. You know how hard horses work.

SLOWLY ZOOMS IN ON THE MOON

MOON

No, I don't know. The Sun does.

The Narrator sighs.

The Moon continues to cry out loud.

MOON

Why can't I just be the Sun? I want
to enjoy socializing with animals
in zoos and people on the beaches.
This is so unfair.

HOOT! HOOT!

HOOT! HOOT!

The sound is heard from the distance.

The Narrator slowly shushes Moon's uncontrollable crying.

NARRATOR(V.O)

Do you hear that?

The Moons stops crying.

MOON

Hear what?

HOOT! HOOT!

HOOT! HOOT!

NARRATOR(V.O)

That.

The Moon's eyes widen. His frown turns upside down.

MOON

(in disbelief)
No way.

CUT TO:

9. EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

An owl inside a tree bark starts hooting loudly. Again and again.

The owl turns up to see the Moon staring at it and starts hooting much louder.

The Moon's smile becomes wider. He chuckles, along with the Narrator.

NARRATOR(V.O)
See that, Moon. Not everything is
asleep at night.

MOON
(focused at the owl)
You're right, weird voice.

Suddenly, a ray of light struck the Moon's eye, causing him
to close them.

MOON
(eyes still closed)
What is that?

The Moon squints to see where the light is coming from:

10. EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

It is a LIGHTHOUSE. Shining it's light around in a circle.
The Moon eyes becomes wider. He is still in disbelief.

MOON
Woah! A lighthouse!

The Moon chuckles his heart out.

NARRATOR(V.O)
More friends.

The Narrator joins the Moon with the chuckling.

MOON
The lighthouse workers must be
crazy enough to entertain me.

NARRATOR(V.O)
I know right.

The Moon turns up with a smile and his jaw dropped lower than
before.

11. EXT. NIGHT SKY - NIGHT

Dark clouds pass by to reveal:

GROUPS OF BRIGHT STARS.

MOON
Wooooowww..

The stars are all twinkling as the Moon laughs.

MOON

I guess being a moon isn't that bad
after all.

NARRATOR(V.O)

See? You just have to be patient.
Good things will come after.

The Moon smiles and turns away to look into the distance.

MOON

There he is. The Sun.

A beat.

MOON

Well, guess I'll see you in twelve
hours. Good morning, everyone.

12. EXT. FOREST - DAWN

HOOT! HOOT!

The owl exclaims and closes its eyes.

13. EXT. OCEAN - DAWN

The lighthouse stops spinning and the light switches off.

14. EXT. NIGHT SKY - DAWN

The stars start twinkling much slower and dissolves into the
sky.

15. EXT. HORIZON - DAWN

The Moon smiles as he is taken into the horizon and is
transported to another time zone.

The smiling Sun comes up and starts to brighten the day.

WIDE SHOT OF THE SLEEPING OWL, THE LIGHTHOUSE, THE SKY AND
THE SMILING MOON AND SUN TAKING EACH OTHER'S PLACES.

NARRATOR(V.O)

That is the end of the tale of the
miserable Moon, who isn't as
miserable as he is in the
beginning.

A beat.

NARRATOR(V.O)
Guess you can say he saw the bright
side, am I right?

The Narrator chuckles by himself.

NARRATOR(V.O)
(serious tone)
I hate myself sometimes.

TITLE CARD: **"THE MISERABLE MOON"**

FADE OUT