

It's All Happening at the Zoo





Wow! It was a long drive, but they finally arrived at the Monterey Zoo!

They entered at the gate and they saw something something totally unexpected: an elephant!

The elephant ignored them; he just keep eating sliced carrots.

They were excited!

Tomorrow, they hope to see the elephants and other animals, but for now, they wanted to head to their bungalow.

Their bungalow had a funny name, it was called Pachyderm Palace.

Fiona spoke up, "What! That is a strange name. I know what a palace is. Elsa lives in one, but what is a pachyderm?"

Dad then replied, "The word pachyderm is another name for an elephant."

Adam then spoke, "Whatever! I prefer the name elephant and I hope to see plenty tomorrow."



They opened the door and looked in! There were no elephants, but the room did look like a jungle. They dropped their bags and explored.

Fiona noticed the lamp and said, "That is strange!"

Strange it was indeed. The lamp was made to look like the trunk of an elephant.

Adam liked the curtains that surrounded the bed. It reminded him of a tent.

It was just mid-afternoon.
The zoo looked inviting.
They were anxious to get
outside and explore.

So, they turned, headed
back to the door, opened it
and looked at the majesty
of the zoo!

“Wow! It is a super zoo!”
Fiona exclaimed as she
walked closer to one of
those enormous
pachyderms.

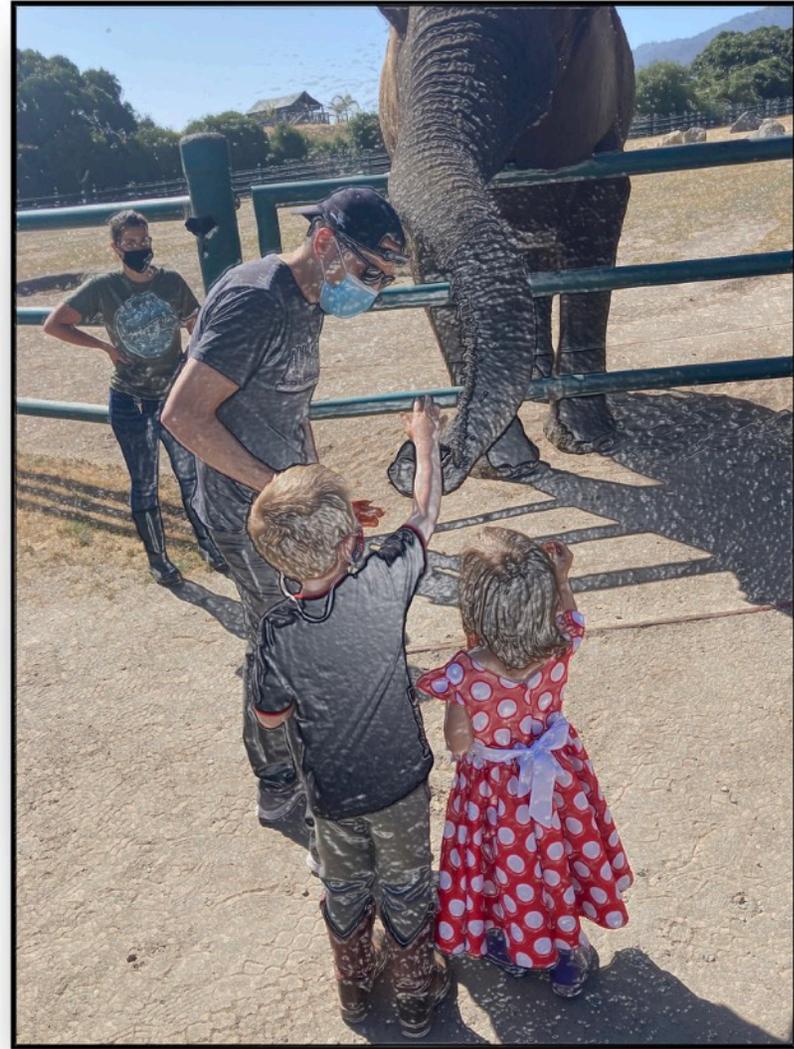
“Can we feed them?” Adam
asked.

Mom said, “Let’s talk to the
staff, I bet we can get some
elephant food from them.”

Dad headed over to a staff
person and he had a bucket
of carrots.

The elephant watched them
and when he saw the
carrots, he started to move
closer to the fence. He was
hungry and carrots are a
favorite treat.





They approached cautiously; they had never seen such a large animal. At first, the elephant was watching the staff person, hoping that she would feed him carrots, but as the group got closer, the elephant looked their way. He knew that zoo visitors often gave out carrots. He held out his trunk.

Yes! Elephants are gigantic. Dad approached first and put some carrots into the elephant's trunk.

Adam and Fiona, now feeling more confident, approached with their carrots and offered them to the expecting elephant.





It was getting late. They were tired. They also had all day tomorrow to explore the zoo.

They decide to head back to the place they were staying, Pachyderm Palace.

They climbed up the steps, opened the door, and sat on the comfortable bed.

After a late dinner, Fiona took out her little toy unicorn that she brought with her.

Adam brought a transformer and he played with that for a while.

It grew dark.

They grew tired.

The bed beckoned.

They climbed into bed; they were almost asleep when they heard it.

A sound. A strange sound. A sound like some animal right outside their door was laughing.

The sound lasted all night. They could hardly sleep.

In the morning, they were groggy and asked what that sound was.

Mom said that she had talked to the staff and the staff said that animals made sounds all night. Mom said that the sound they heard was made by the laughing hyena.

Adam and Fiona then knew what they should look for at the zoo: the laughing hyena!





So, right after a pancake breakfast, they set out. The elephants were close by. They waved their tusks and this time Mom, Dad, Adam, and Fiona passed by.

They didn't see the hyena here. They kept moving. Up ahead was a barn. They could hear animals inside, but none of the animals were laughing.

They continued on.

Soon, they came to a staff person. It was morning and she was feeding some of the animals.

Fiona explained the noise they heard last night. Fiona talked about the laughing sound they heard all night.

The staff person smiled then she started to laugh.

“Oh no! Too bad that they kept you awake! They make very strange sounds! The good news is that they are just up ahead, and guess what, these laughing hyenas can actually talk! Have fun!”

They continued. Up ahead was a clearing. Something was moving in the clearing. Adam got there first; peering around a bush, he saw something!

A hyena also heard a noise and spotted Adam. He knew that Adam liked jokes so this is what he said to Adam and Fiona.

“I was brought up in the wild by a pack of hyenas.”

When he got Adam and Fiona’s attention, he finished the joke.

“Times were hard, food was scarce, but we had some great laughs.”



Adam and Fiona stared in disbelief. They looked at each other and then they began to laugh as well.

Then both hyenas started laughing with them, and all of the creatures became silent, curious about those new visitors to the zoo!



A man suddenly appeared, he approached the gate, and walked in. One of the hyenas walked over to him. The man sat on the ground and the hyena stopped laughing and sat on his lap.

The man smiled and spoke, "This is Harry the hyena. I hope he didn't frighten you. He is very friendly and when not laughing tells great jokes! I hope you have a great day, enjoy the animals in the park!"

They said goodbye, and as they walked away, they heard the hyena laughing again.

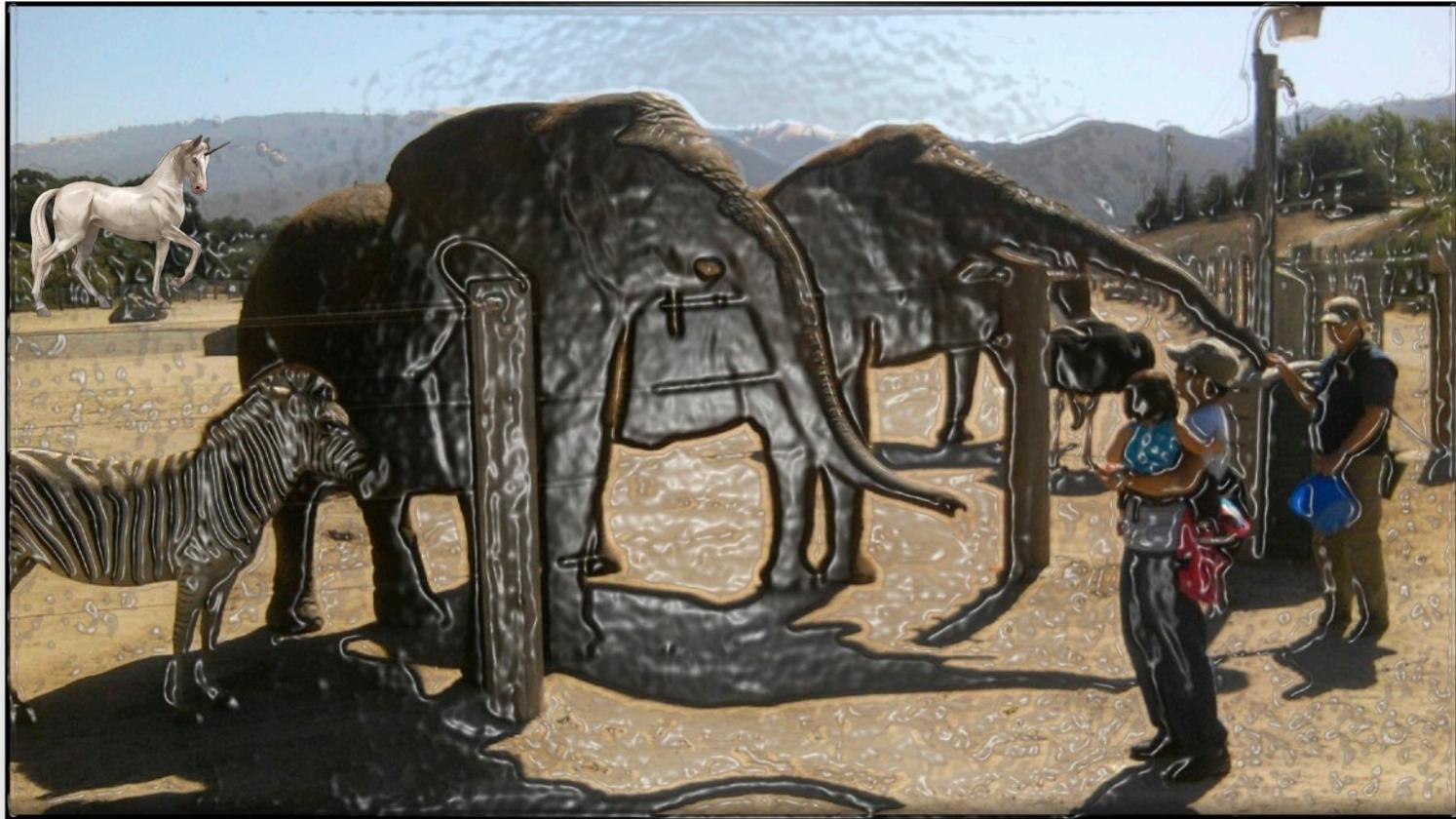
The trail narrowed. What new adventures will they have!

Fiona was curious; she spoke, "If there are laughing and speaking hyenas, I wonder if there are....."

She didn't finish. Everyone knew what she was thinking.

Adam the spoke up, “I know what you are thinking, and there isn’t one; there is no such thing as a unicorn!”

Fiona continued on silently.



They returned to the elephants. They were still eating. A zebra watched them eating, hoping for a treat.

Fiona walked onward with her head down. No unicorn.



Fiona looked up and saw the bear. Fiona turned and beside her was the same star girl that they had seen earlier. She was still feeding the animals, and she walked right up to the bear's cage, opened the door and placed the bear's lunch on a rock. The bear looked up and headed for his lunch. He was now happy.

Fiona smiled! It was a bear and not a unicorn, but the bear was now happy, and Fiona was happy for the bear!



They reached the tiger cage. The tigers did not even look at them. They were curious. They were looking someplace else. Possibly their lunch was also being brought to them.

Mom, Dad, Adam, and Fiona just stood and watched the tigers. They had never seen one up close before. They had awesome coats and such big heads and such riveting eyes.

The group moved on; there was so much more to see.



They arrived at the lions! The lions noticed them. They look so cuddly. Fiona wondered if they might make good pets. She stopped thinking about unicorn and looked into their curious eyes.

They decided to move on; there was plenty still to see at the zoo, and it was getting late and almost time to go home. They then saw a badger, a skunk, porcupine, and even a kangaroo. It was time to return to their bungalow get there stuff and head home. Slightly disappointed, Fiona, with head down followed her parents and Adam back toward their bungalow.



They walked quickly. Suddenly, Adam stopped and said, “Fiona, look up!”

She did! To her amazement, right in front of their bungalow was a unicorn and a rainbow unicorn!

Fiona then exclaimed, “Wow! A unicorn, this is the best zoo in the world!”

Then the unicorn spoke, “There are laughing and talking hyenas and magic unicorns. You always have to keep looking up! You will see me again; there is magic at the zoo and everywhere!”