

RUDY THE RUDDY DUCK

by

Wade J. Ramponi

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - BOAT DOCK ONE - DAY

A warm fall morning. Birds and crickets chirp while geese swim with their young.

RUDY (8), a Ruddy Duck with a prominent blue bill, snores while sleeping in a kiddie pool. A pinup calendar of female ducks hangs on the post while a nearby clock ticks past 10:38AM. All other ducks are packing as they prepare to head south for the winter.

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - SHORE - DAY

ROSIE (7), Rudy's wife, looks at him in the distance. Her brow crinkles as she shakes her head. She clinches her fists as steam billows from her ears.

ROSIE

Wake up! We've got business to take care of. Don't make me drag you out of there.

Rudy continues sleeping. Rosie mumbles.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

(to self)

Meathead. An entire lake around him and he sleeps in a kiddie pool instead of helping me pack.

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - BOAT DOCK ONE - DAY

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

RUDY

Ouch! What's wrong with you, woman?

ROSIE

You do nothing but sleep in a kiddie pool all day without a care in the world.

RUDY

That's what ducks do.

ROSIE

Ducks don't sleep in kiddie pools. We need to head south for the winter, and we are weeks behind schedule.

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - AIRSPACE OVER THE DUCKS - DAY

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

BUSTER BLACKHAWK

Well, look who it is. They are the ones that humiliated me last summer by yelling vulgarities. They are going to pay.

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - BOAT DOCK ONE - DAY

Both ducks continue bickering.

RUDY

This is the first I am hearing about heading south.

ROSIE

Are you kidding me with this right now?

RUDY

With what? Watch this.

He gets up and stretches, then cannonballs into the lake. He surfaces, spitting an arch of water from his bill. A female duck nearby squints and shakes her head.

RUDY (CONT'D)

If I had crackers, this would be perfect.

Rosie's eyes fill with red, and steam billows out of her ears. She charges at Rudy, biting him in the backside. His eyes balloon as he screams. He tries to break free from her grip while feathers fly and litter the water.

RUDY (CONT'D)

What in all things holy is wrong with you?

Geese and ducks nearby point while they laugh aloud. One of them imitates Rudy by prancing and making faces.

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - AIRSPACE OVER THE DUCKS - DAY

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

BUSTER BLACKHAWK

What a moron.

3.

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - BOAT DOCK - DAY

ROSIE

(sarcastic)

I've got no idea what you are talking about. How do you like that?

Rudy, with tears in his eyes, sits up tall and flaps his wings in a show of dominance. Plucked feathers cause several bald spots on his back.

RUDY

That was bitter and unprovoked.

ROSIE

There's more where that came from. Don't test me.

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - RUDY AND ROSIE'S NEST - DAY

Both ducks return to the shore while Rudy limps toward the nest, rubbing his backside. He looks at Rosie with glassy eyes and a deep, arching frown.

RUDY

I'll help pack right away, dear.

ROSIE

Oh, I know!

Rosie continues packing, but Rudy is distracted and chases hornets. He knocks over valuables as he runs in circles, stirring up a cloud of dust. He freezes in place.

RUDY

Whoa! Did you see that enormous shadow?

ROSIE

I can't see anything because of all the dust you just stirred up.

RUDY

What are you talking about?

ROSIE

The shadow, meathead! Two seconds ago, you told me a shadow passed by.

RUDY

Oh yeah, I forgot. Just a dragonfly, I am sure.

4.

ROSIE
A dragonfly, my bill.

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - AIRSPACE OVER THE DUCKS - DAY

Buster Blackhawk circles closer.

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

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - RUDY AND ROSIE'S NEST

Rosie puts her wing up to her forehead and squints while
looking up into the sky.

ROSIE
Sure doesn't look like a dragonfly to me.
I bet he heard your commotion. We don't
have time for this nonsense!

RUDY
What commotion?

Rosie slaps Rudy in the back of the head, causing a few
feathers to float to the ground.

ROSIE
You have got to be kidding me. You made
too much noise!

RUDY
Me? You're the one who ripped out all my
feathers and made me scream when you bit
me. I'm bald now. BALD!

ROSIE
Never the less. You better come up with
an idea. Fast.

RUDY
The boat dock at the end of the cove
would make a great hiding spot.

ROSIE
This better not be your plan to get back
in the kiddie pool.

RUDY
Nah. Only a plan to get away from this
skinny lunatic.

5.

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - BOAT DOCK ONE - DAY

The ducks swim underwater. They hide underneath the walkway. Rudy yells.

RUDY

We are like ninjas!

ROSIE

Now who is the lunatic? Be quiet.

Buster circles one last time before aiming for the boat dock roof. He dives and skids on the thin metal, his talons screeching. He peeks over the edge.

BUSTER BLACKHAWK

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

The ducks are motionless under the walkway. Their eyes are opened wide as they look around. They whisper to each other.

RUDY

No way he can get us under here. I bet he can't even swim.

ROSIE

You never know with this one. I'm sure he is hungry enough to try anything.

The ducks see Buster peering in the opposite direction.

RUDY

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

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - BOAT DOCK TWO - DAY

As the ducks reach the second boat dock, Buster continues creeping around dock one. A racing boat starts with a thunderous roar.

RUDY

Yikes!

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

6.

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - LOG CABIN - DAY

Rudy and Rosie hide behind a cement duck statue that sits on the porch of a log cabin.

ROSIE

Don't move.

Buster spreads his wings and heads toward the cabin. His velocity makes a whoosh. He misidentifies the statue and PLOWS into it with a THUD, crumbling the concrete and laying him out flat.

RUDY

Dude!

Stars circle Buster's head as he lets out a final breath. The ducks take off, leaving a vapor trail behind them.

EXT. FRIEND'S LAKE - RUDY AND ROSIE'S NEST - DAY

The ducks arrive at their nest and collect necessities for their trip. Rosie compliments Rudy.

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 procrastinating and causing so many problems. I realize I've been selfish, but now I am a changed duck.

ROSIE

I will learn to consider your feelings in the future. I love you!

RUDY

(eyes mist up)
I love you also!

They pack the rest of their essentials and prepare to take flight.

7.

EXT. AIRSPACE OVER FRIEND'S LAKE - DAY

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