

Gregor and the Tiger

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EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

GREGOR, heavily scarred and bloody, runs through the thick jungle flora. He stops at a tree trunk to catch his breath.

DENO, a rugged enforcer of the town. Leads the chase to capture Gregor.

DENO (O.S.)
Over there!

Gregor continues his escape. Multiple PEOPLE pursue.

He trips over a large root, falls down a slope, and yells in pain. The PURSUERS stop at the top of the slope and watch.

Gregor breaks through the brush and plummets down a large drop into water. He hits the surface and scrambles to get his head above water.

The pursuers scale down the hill. Gregor hasn't been seen.

MAN
Where'd he go?

He looks around confused. His eyes land on a waterfall.

DENO
Find him!

Gregor swims to hide inside the waterfall.

INT. CAVE - DAY

The cave is dark and damp, stalactites hang from the ceiling.

Gregor swims through the waterfall, surprised to find the rock dug into itself.

He pulls himself up and catches his breath. He stands and looks deep into the cave.

Two glowing eyes appear out of the dark, accompanied by a low growl.

A tiger slowly approaches, off balance.

GREGOR
Hey, now. Whoa, whoa, whoa.

He backs up with his hand held up, the tiger continues, still growling.

GREGOR (CONT'D)
Hey, hey, hey.. Hey. It's alright,
it's okay.

The tiger stops as Gregor gets down on a knee. After a moment, he creeps towards the tiger. As he's close enough to touch its nose, the tiger snaps at his hand.

GREGOR (CONT'D)
Jeez!

The light shines through the falling water, to reveal the tiger's paw to be bloody.

Gregor goes back to the tiger, this time he's able to put his hand on the tiger's head.

GREGOR (CONT'D)
Don't worry. I'm here to help.

He gently lifts the bloody paw, he sees an arrow head lodged in the top of it. Carefully he removes it, the tiger whimpers as he does.

He cleans it up with the water, and rips a piece of cloth from his clothes to wrap the wound.

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT

Gregor and the tiger together stalk prey. They have become friends.

A deer moves between the trees. Gregor hits it with a spear and the tiger pounces for the kill.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

The pair sit around a fire. Gregor cooks his portion while the tiger eats its raw. Gregor smiles and rubs the tiger's ear.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Gregor sits at the bay of the water. He watches the tiger swim for some time.

He then looks around into the jungle.

GREGOR

I wonder what's changed since I got out. Maybe I should've brought some of them with me.

He looks back to the waterfall.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

Tygra! Here.

He beckons for the tiger, now named Tygra. Tygra approaches.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

Let's start the hunt.

The two venture into the jungle in search of food.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

The fire has been put out, animal bones are scattered next to it. Tygra sleeps in the back. Gregor sits on the edge, the waterfall right in front of his eyes.

GREGOR

I left them. They're still there.

Gregor turns to look at Tygra.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

But can I leave you behind as well?

He continues to look at Tygra, who is deep in slumber. Then turns his attention back to the water.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

They're still there. You're here.
You'll stay here. This is your
home. You will. I'll be back.

Gregor stands and jumps through the waterfall.

Tygra opens his eyes.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

From the trees, Gregor looks at the town he had escaped.

Men, women, and children all moving from shop to shop. Fruit vendors announce their prices to everyone who passes by.

Gregor walks towards the town.

FRUIT VENDOR

Sir!

The FRUIT VENDOR grabs Gregor's arm.

FRUIT VENDOR (CONT'D)

Take a look! Three bundles for only seven coin!

Gregor shakes his arm from the fruit vendor's grip.

GREGOR

No.

He continues to walk into town, he notices some eyes stuck on him. Someone grabs his arm again.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

I don't want any damn fruit!

Gregor turns to see the man is not a fruit vendor, it's DENO.

DENO

You'll never have fruit again.

Three more men move in to surround Gregor.

DENO (CONT'D)

Take him to the pit.

The men escort Gregor to a deep pit in the back of town. They throw him in. Gregor lands on his feet, one of his ankles break, he yells.

MAN

Welcome home, Gregor.

They walk off. Gregor lays in pain.

EXT. PIT - NIGHT

Torches are lit around the top of the pit. It has been sometime since Gregor was thrown in. He lives in his own filth, his ankle has not healed well.

DENO

Dinner time.

Deno throws raw deer meat to the opposite side of the pit from Gregor. Gregor has to crawl to get it. When he does, he wastes no time to eat it, dirt and all.

EXT. PIT - DAY

More time has passed, Gregor has grown a short, patchy beard.

A rope falls into the pit.

DENO

Climb.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Gregor has been taken to the arena.

The townsfolk have filled it to watch the deaths with excitement.

Gregor is thrown into a cell.

INT. CELL - CONTINUOUS

The cell is cramped and equally as dirty as the pit. ANTON, an older, frail man sits in the cell next to him.

ANTON (O.S.)

He who left us has now returned.

Gregor turns to see the man who spoke. It's ANTON, they were indentured servants of the town.

GREGOR

I'm sorry, Anton. It just-

ANTON

You will be. You will be sorry.

Anton turns away from Gregor. Deno and two men arrive and pull Gregor out.

EXT. ARENA - DAY

Deno and his men take Gregor to the arena grounds. Everyone watches with anticipation.

DENO

Enjoy yourself.

They leave. Gregor stays. A door on the other side opens. Tygra slinks out.

GREGOR

Tygra? It's me!

Tygra approaches, hostile. Like the night they first met.

GREGOR (CONT'D)
It's me, friend. It's Gregor!

Tygra circles him, showing his teeth. Gregor is covered in his own filth. Tygra smells him, but doesn't recognize his scent.

Gregor tries to walk towards Tygra, but trips on his broken ankle.

Tygra notices this, he covers his teeth and pounces at Gregor. Tygra lands next to him and lays down to comfort his lost friend.

The crowd goes silent.

Gregor, with the help of Tygra, stands up.

SPECTATOR
Hurray! Hurray! Gregor! Gregor the
beast tamer!

The crowd cheers. Gregor and Tygra have been reunited. Gregor raises an arm and the crowd cheers more.

Deno enters the arena. Tygra bares his teeth at him.

GREGOR
Wait, Tygra. Let him make the first
move.

DENO
Impressive. First time the crowd
doesn't want to see a death.

Tygra roars at Deno, he steps back. Gregor places his hand on Tygra's head and rubs his ear.

GREGOR
Tygra! It's okay.

Deno raises Gregor's arm, above both of their heads. The crowd cheers.

DENO
Gregor.

GREGOR
What?

DENO
Get out of my town.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Gregor and Tygra leave the town, headed back to their waterfall. The townsfolk watch as they disappear back into the jungle.