

Bertram the Siberian Tiger

By Reese S.

It was the thirteenth of July, 2020. The sun was just coming up in Russia. In the Russian zoo the animals were awakening. Lions were yawning fiercely. The chinchillas were squeaking to life and dwarf rabbits were sniffing around for their breakfast. Then there was Bertram, the only Siberian tiger in the Nutdux zoo.

Bertram had a very bad problem. He HATED the zoo and he wanted to be free! No-one knew that except for one person, Angela. She lived in Brazil with her parents, Cecil and Beverly. They were thinking of moving to a different Continent. Why? Mrs. Beverly was pregnant. She has been living in Brazil for so long she started to think it was boring. Angela agreed. Even though she was only nine, she wanted a new place to explore, somewhere new. Cecil liked Brazil and wanted to stay. Beverly's new baby would be living in Russia. They chose Russia because it was a part of two continents. So why not Russia? Angela and her parents already knew five different languages, English, Portuguese, Spanish, French, and German. They could probably figure out how to speak Russian from their known languages. So they took a plane from Brazil to Russia. Cecil told Angela, "Here's 30 dollars for being so good on the plane. Now, go spend it or save it. Whichever you want." As soon as Cecil finished, Angela came from standing at least a foot away from him to hugging him tight. "Thank you so much daddy! Can I go to the famous zoo here? I heard it was called the "Nutdux" zoo." "Sure." Beverly said, missing the "famous" part. "You guys coming? Or do you have to get a hotel while you'll be looking at houses." Angela was hoping they would come. "Sorry baby! We have to go get a hotel as you said." "That's OK."

Angela was still excited that she got to go to the zoo. She loved animals. She had two dogs, a cat, four fish, a shrimp, a starfish, and three parakeets. She walked with her parents to the hotel.

It was called “Fezt Op.” When the family got their room and unpacked, Angela got a backpack and put in snacks, a bottle of water, and a camera. She took the elevator down and started walking to the Nutdux Zoo. When she got there she paid for her ticket and went with the starting tour guide. She saw chipmunks, musk deer, and hogs! Soon she came upon the Siberian tiger, Bertram. As soon as their eyes met, Bertram thought, “She’s the one.”

Of course she was. Angela blurted out, “That tiger doesn’t want to be there.” Very firmly. “Excuse me?” the tour guide said. Now Angela had a hot temper, so she went ahead and raised her voice, saying, “I said, that tiger doesn’t want to be there! I’d like to have a meeting with the manager please.” The tour guide also had a short temper and did as she said, “Alright then.” He said in a snippy voice. Then he picked up his walkie-talkie out of his pocket. “Security? Do you have a minute? We’ve got a little girl out here that wants to talk to Mr. Clarence.” You couldn’t tell what the other person was saying, but it wounded serious. Soon two men in black suits came up at the chimpanzee exhibit. “Come with us ma’am.” They both said roughly together. “Okay.” Angela REALLY wanted to see the manager. She could see in Bertram’s eyes that he did NOT like this zoo. She needed to let him go into the wild again. Soon they were at a door that was marked “Manager’s Office.” One of the men opened the door while the other one pushed Angela lightly by her shoulders into the office. Angela saw no-one there. “What is the meaning of this?” When she turned around to see the

two men, the door was closed and she realized that she was alone. There was a closet behind her. It started creaking and opening slightly. Angela turned around slowly to see a man in the closet. "Cherrio. How did you want in here?" "He seems like a nice guy." Angela thought. Then she spoke aloud: "I was brought here. I wanted a meeting with you." "Ah, I see," he said in a rather calm voice. "Well come over and sit here at my desk." Angela did so and soon after Mr. Clarence sat down. First Angela started talking, "I was just at the Siberian Tiger exhibit and the tiger there, he doesn't want to be there." Then Mr. Clarence looked at her like he's heard that sentence before. "I've heard little girls your age say that many times. That tiger has had some rough years." Then he looked out into outer space looking like he had some flashback playing in his head. "Last year a little girl named Carol told me exactly what you said, but she said the next person who wants him free, will get just that." Then Mr. Clarence said, "Come with me."

They stepped into the closet where Mr. Clarence was a couple minutes before. Suddenly everything was blurry and then they saw that they were in front of Bertram. There was a gate that led in, and one in the back that led out. When everything came in sight, no-one said anything like they would today. Remember this is 2020. So teleport closets were invented. After they walked in through the gate, Angela asked, "Is this safe?" "Oh, yes." He said in an unsure voice. Out the back looked like a scene but was a real forest. Whenever Mr. Clarence opened the gate door Bertram came leaping toward Angela, rubbed his face on her elbow, and went out the gate.

The End