

The Pfloobers: TV Pilot

Written By

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EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Amazonian trees and foliage blow peacefully, packed dense to a cliff's edge extending over a breathtaking waterfall. A forest of ineffable beauty. The peace is almost tranquil.

-SLICE-

A MACHETE cuts through the brush and two tall, imposing silhouettes emerge.

They come into the light. It's KRIS PFLOOBER (imagined), tall, handsome, built like Chris Evans' Captain America, and RILEY PFLOOBER (imagined), short, stubby, more like DANNY DAVITO's Penguin, both dressed in Indiana Jones Garb.

KRIS
Follow my lead.

Kris peers over the cliff's edge.

He falls, plummeting to certain doom. He pulls a rip cord releasing a parachute, which slows his descent to the valley below.

The music soars as he tucks and rolls out of frame once he lands.

EXT. PFLOOBER BACKYARD, DECK - DAY

Music ends abruptly.

Everything that just happened was projected from Kris Pfloober's imagination. On a deck in the Walker back yard, we see KRIS PFLOOBER (real), 7, tall, thin, dressed in Batman pajamas, hop to the bottom of the deck's two stairs and then roll out of frame. RILEY PFLOOBEER (real), short, pudgy, 5, dressed in old-fashioned long underwear and underwater aquatic gear, stands patiently while Kris rolls out of frame.

Riley takes a deep breath and then follows, descending each step slowly and delicately. Once at the bottom, he lays on his stomach and rolls out of frame in imitation of his older brother.

EXT. CITY ROOFTOP (IMAGINATION) - DAY

Mission Impossible-style music crescendos as Kris (imagined) is now looking out over an incredible metropolis from the roof of a skyscraper. He's in a black jump-suit and equipped from head-to-toe in spy-tech.

He throws a GRAPPLING HOOK off screen. Tugs to make sure it's secure and sails dramatically out of frame.

EXT. PFLOOBER BACKYARD, TREE - DAY

Kris' (real) feet swing out of frame completing his last motion in the previous scene.

Riley waits patiently for something. The string of a YO-YO Kris just used as a grappling hook sways back into frame and gently taps Riley in the cheek.

He sneezes and then takes hold. Inhales dramatically, tugs the yo-yo twice and waddles forward holding the string as if it's supporting him. He hums the same tune we heard in the previous scene.

EXT. OPEN KANSAS FIELD (IMAGINATION)- DAY

Superman-esque theme plays as Kris stands heroically in a SUPERMAN-STYLE CAPE, flowing behind him in a beautiful, open field.

KRIS

Come on Riley! We're close!

He gestures for his presently unseen brother. Then he bounds once. Twice. And flies out of frame.

EXT. PFLOOBER BACKYARD, TRAMPOLINE - DAY

Kris'(Real) feet sail elegantly out of frame. Camera tilts down to reveal Riley is standing in front of a TRAMPOLINE. Riley steps back, prepping himself for a running start while humming the same tune we heard in the previous scene. Then he does one hop in the middle of the trampoline and then climbs gingerly off.

INT. LABORATORY (IMAGINATION) - DAY

Kris is in a lab coat carefully mixing chemicals in a lab, exotic and sci-fi like something out of a Dr. Frankenstein film.

KRIS

We've much to do, please sit. Rest your weary limbs while I work to test my latest invention.

(MORE)

KRIS (CONT'D)

We'd have more time if you'd have exercised less caution and hurried your pace, which did in turn cause you to take...

EXT. PFLOOBER BACKYARD, SWINGSET - DAY

Kris stands in front of Riley, who is tied to a SWING with SHOELACES. Next to him is ELMO THE CAT, a skittish family pet who trembles with the fallout of so many of these similar antics.

KRIS

Forr-evvv-errrrr to get here!!!
Finally we get to try our...

INT. LABORATORY (IMAGINATION) - DAY

We're back in Kris' imagination. He's a scientist again.

KRIS

Teleportation Device!

Kris rushes to a futuristic control panel.

KRIS (CONT'D)

Begin launch sequence! Set chair to locked position.

EXT. PFLOOBER BACKYARD, SWINGSET - DAY

Kris stands behind Riley and pulls him backward on the swing ropes, which are elastic. Kris locks him into a quick release latch. The swing set was a creation by PFLYP PFLOOBER, Kris and Riley's father. Pflyp works at a rubber band factory and obsesses over rubber bands. The swing, like many homemade items around the house, was built out of elastic materials Pflyp has taken from work.

INT. PFLOOBER HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

PFLYP, 30s tall and thin, watches the boys play from the Pfloober kitchen window. His wife NORMA JEAN, 30S, thin, blonde, is with him. On her back in a backpack is the youngest Pfloober HAILEY, barely 1, sitting peacefully.

PFLYP

See Norma - I told you those kids would enjoy a rubber swingset!

(MORE)

PFLYP (CONT'D)

Pushing them in the swing is a thing of the past. You pull it back once, lock it in place, release and the swing swings itself!

NORMA

Tyler, why don't you go out and play with your brothers?

Enter TYLER PFLOOBER, 3, wearing glasses which obscure his eyes entirely. He's a 90-year-old man trapped in the body of a three-year-old.

Tyler is rarely seen without a newspaper in one hand and a raised fist as the other. He speaks all languages except English, probably by choice because at best Tyler only just barely tolerates the antics of the rest of his dysfunctional family. He looks up from his paper and responds in indiscernible Mandarin.

TYLER

(Mandarin response)

INT. LABORATORY (IMAGINATION) - DAY

Kris stands in his lab coat, counting down to lift-off with his hand on the switch.

KRIS

6...5...4...3...

EXT. PFLOOBER BACKYARD - DAY

Riley wiggles free from the ropes, his attention captured by a floating BUTTERFLY. He follows it away as Kris continues counting without noticing. ELMO THE CAT, who was next to him in the chair, attempts to do the same but is stuck.

KRIS

2...1...initiate!

INT. LABORATORY - DAY

Kris runs for cover as flashes of light and signal the activation of the machine.

EXT. PFLOOBER BACKYARD - DAY

The swing releases and fires Elmo like a slingshot. Kris peers slowly from behind a rock and sees an empty swing.

KRIS

Did it work? Where's Riley? It's not a real teleportation machine unless he..

Riley waddles back over with a butterfly resting on his face.

KRIS (CONT'D)

...Reappears somewhere else! Riley it worked! Oh no! A bug was caught in the machine and now he's become a horrendous creature composed of both fly and human parts! Why!?!?!?

Riley sneezes and the butterfly flutters harmlessly off his face.

KRIS (CONT'D)

Oh...We did it! We did it Riley!!!

Both cheer and dance until they become dizzy and fall to the grass.

KRIS (CONT'D)

Ready to go?

Riley nods. The two walk back to the back porch.

From high above a screeching cat is heard rocketing further from Earth.

INT. PFLOOBER HOME, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kris and Riley walk in past Tyler, whom is reading. Enter Norma.

NORMA

Tyler it's time for your favorite show!

Tyler looks down at his watch suddenly surprised. Norma turns on the television and Tyler locks his gaze to the screen. Puppet creatures appear in an opening sequence not unlike Sesame Street.

Tyler watches with his hand tucked into his front shirt button like Napoleon Bonaparte.

NORMA (CONT'D)

Have fun my baby boy.

Norma leaves. Tyler watches as HERMIT THE TOAD (A large green toad puppet) hosts an audience of children in an interactive counting game.

HERMIT THE TOAD
How many flies do you see?

TYLER
Nuevé

HERMIT THE TOAD
There are nine...

He catches one the flies with his tongue.

HERMIT THE TOAD (CONT'D)
..Eight flies

TYLER
Estúpido

Tyler grabs the remote and changes the channel to a French News Station. A FISCAL ANALYST on the screen breaks down stock in France.

FISCAL ANALYST
(Speaks in indiscernible
French)

TYLER
Oui, oui.

Fiscal Analyst gestures to a clearly bad day on the market.

TYLER (CONT'D)
...no(he mutters in grumpy french.)

Two MOVERS enter the house and begin to carry off the TV Tyler is watching. Tyler shuffles laterally with the TV to stay in front of it.

INT. PFLOOBER HOME, KRIS' ROOM - DAY

Norma Jean is boxing up toys and items in Kris' room. It's moving day for the Pfloobers. Kris waves toys frantically in front of Norma's face.

KRIS
Momma, please let me keep this one!

NORMA

Kris they're all going to the same place, you'll get to keep all of them.

KRIS

Well then can I keep this one?

Kris holds up his collectable BATFAN action figure. BatFan is a comic book nerd action figure who is overweight and dresses as Batman.

NORMA

Kris, you can keep whichever one you want but you need to put it in the box for now so we can move it.

KRIS

But mom! It's my favorite BatFan action figure! It has comic book cataloging action and nine Bat-fabulous catch phrases.

Kris pushes BatFan's beer belly.

BATFAN ACTION FIGURE

Quick! To my parents' basement!

KRIS

Look mom, he even has a repulsion-to-vegetable action.

Kris places tiny cucumber accessory in BatFan's hand.

BATFAN ACTION FIGURE

Gross get it away!

The figurine snaps laterally to throw the cucumber away like a boomerang. It flies toward Riley's own toy and decapitates the figurine.

Riley stares curiously at his seemingly broken figurine. Pflyp walks by and notices.

PFLYP

Oh, hey there, I can fix that.

Pflyp takes the toy and works feverishly on it. He hands the toy back to Riley. The toy's head is now adhered by a rubber band.

PFLYP (CONT'D)

Super Dad with Super Rubber Band
Action! (Chuckles earnestly) Good
as new there son.

Riley stares curiously at the figure for a moment. Suddenly one end of the rubber band snaps and propels the head into Riley's face. It hits him in the nose. He sneezes.

NORMA

Oh Riley, let me fix that.

Norma screws the head back on the toy, as if it belonged there all along.

NORMA (CONT'D)

There you go, your face-launcher
action figure is as good as new.

She leaves and Riley ponders it again. He pushes a button on its side, which fires the head and hits him in the nose again. He sneezes again.

KRIS

This is wrong. All of it is wrong.
Moving out...? Why move out when
everything we need is right here?

Riley shrugs (When he shrugs he squeaks like a dog toy).

Enter PFLOYD, the Ploober dog. Pfloyd is a 4ft tall husky with amiable features and a faded brown coat. On hearing the sound of Riley's squeak, he rushes in to play. He stops excitedly in front of Riley and nudges him.

Riley falls over like a broken weeble. Pfloyd places his paw on top of the now capsized Riley in a show of dominance. Riley *squeaks again.

KRIS (CONT'D)

And what about Pfloyd? What is he
going to do if we leave? How's he
going to chase the mail man, or
leave presents in dad's shoes?

Pfloyd Barks.

KRIS (CONT'D)

And what about everybody else? What
is Tyler going to do if he can't
watch the special channel on his
TV? Or talk on his special phone?

Tyler crosses urgently yelling on his phone.

TYLER

Oh... Oui Oui!!! (French accent)

Norma misheard and thinks he said 'Wee-Wee.'

NORMA (O.S.)

Tyler you're a big boy now, you can do it yourself.

KRIS

And what about Dad? Where's he going to test his half-baked rubber-based inventions?

INT. PFLOOBER HOME, GARAGE - DAY

Pflyp is at a workbench surrounded by a dissary of tools and equipment.

Norma is closing a box as Hailey hands her tape from the backpack on her back.

NORMA

Thank you Hailey.

She turns to Pflyp.

NORMA (CONT'D)

Pflyp, we've gotta leave soon. The movers are ready to go.

PFLYP

Just a second Norm, I'm just about to finish my latest half-baked rubber-based invention. We've all heard of the 'rubber band.' Well that's a thing of the past. Prepare yourself for the greatest advance in rubber-based products since the rubber band ball: Rubber Sand!

Pflyp gestures excitedly to what looks like a typical sandbox.

PFLYP (CONT'D)

Come here Tyler, try it out!

Picks up Tyler and tosses him on to the sand mound. Tyler maintains his conversation, bounces off the sand, which is elastic but doesn't move when Tyler hits it. Tyler is bounced up and lands back on the sand. He walks away slightly annoyed.

INT. KRIS' ROOM - DAY

KRIS

And what about mom. How is she going to do...well whatever she does.

Montage:

- Norma cooking.
- Vacuuming.
- Welding a sink line
- Changing the oil in a car
- Walking the dog
- Lifting weights
- Washing Riley
- Washing the dog.

End on triumphant visual of Norma standing heroically with a cape blowing in the wind.

KRIS (CONT'D)

And what about Hailey. And Riley. And Elmo...

Riley suddenly realizes he's missing something. He leaves slightly urgently. Kris continues to ramble as Riley exits.

KRIS (CONT'D)

And our bunk bed. And that fan. And these tissues...

EXT. PFLOOBER BACKYARD - DAY

Riley exits to the back porch. He returns to the swing set and waits quietly. The sound of a screeching cat grows louder and louder. Riley holds his arms out and Elmo falls exactly in his hands. He pets her as she trembles.

INT. KRIS' ROOM - DAY

Riley re-enters. Kris hasn't noticed he's left.

KRIS

And these shoes, and the wiggly chair. And this yo-yo...

Turns to Riley.

KRIS (CONT'D)

This yo-yo Riley...

He pauses a moment.

KRIS (CONT'D)

We need to stop this thing Riley.
For us, and all those things I just
mentioned. We have to do
something...but what?

The two stare at each other a moment.

KRIS (CONT'D)

You might just be on to something.
It could get dangerous, I hope your
ready for danger.

Riley hikes up his inner-tube in affirmation...

END OF EXCERPT