

Summary Night at the Museum

Part 1:

Larry Daley is running late and finds a ticket on his car. There is also a "boot" on his car, so he can not drive it. He gets to his son's school and is surprised to learn that Nicky has already gone home. It is a half day of school because it is parent career day. Larry goes to Erica's, his ex-wife's, house. He talks with Erica and her fiancé. When he asks why no one told him about parent career day, Erica asks, "Nicky said he would tell you."

Nicky and Larry go to Nicky's hockey game. After the game, Larry tells Nicky that he is pretty good at hockey. "I think the NHL is a distinct possibility." Nicky says that he doesn't want to be a hockey player anymore. He wants to be a bond trader, like Don, his mother's fiancé. He says, "Hockey is a fall back."

Nicky asks his dad if he is really moving again. Larry explains that things have been difficult for him recently. He knows this has been hard for Nicky, but he really thinks things are going to get better soon.

The next day Larry is at a job placement center. The woman he talks to says that she doesn't have any jobs for him. He tells her he really needs a job. She says she has one possibility. They have turned down everyone she has sent over so far, but maybe.....

Larry goes to the Museum of Natural History. He meets Rebecca Hutman, who directs him to the security office. Here Larry meets Cecil Fredericks, Reginald and Gus. They tell him that the museum is downsizing. It is replacing all three of these night guards with just Larry. Cecil shows Larry around the museum. He shows him the diorama room where the miniature scenes from history are. He scares Larry by wearing a mask and costume and jumping out at Larry. Then he tells Larry, "No fooling around!" The stuff in here is really old. He shows Larry Atilla the Hun, Easter Island Head and the Hall of African Mammals. Then he shows Larry the temple of the Pharaoh Ahkmenrah. In the tomb is the Pharaoh and the Tablet of Ahkmenrah. It is 24 karat gold. It is worth a fortune. Larry needs to report for work at 5:00 the next afternoon. Cecil and his friends will walk him through his duties.

First Night at the Museum:

The next day Larry gets his torch, his keys and the instruction manual. Cecil tells him to do all the things on the instruction manual list.

"Do them all. Do them in order. Do them quickly." He also tells Larry to not let anyone in to the museum and to not let anyone out.

Larry turns on some lights in the museum and then starts playing with the public announcement system. Then he falls asleep. When he wakes up, he notices something is wrong. The dinosaur is missing. Then he sees that the dinosaur is alive. He calls Cecil and asks for help. Cecil tells him to follow the information in the instruction manual. #1 on the instruction manual says to throw the bone. So, Larry throws the bone. The dinosaur likes to play fetch. Then Larry sees that everything is alive—the elephants, the cavemen, the Easter Island head, Attila the Hun, and everything in the museum. Larry escapes from Attila the Hun by going into the elevator. Larry asks himself, "What is happening?"

#2 on the instruction manual is lock up the Lions or they will eat you. Larry locks himself in with the Lions. The monkey steals his keys, bites his nose, and goes to the bathroom on Larry. Then the monkey, Dexter, tears up the instruction manual.

Larry goes into the diorama area. Some small people shoot darts into his face. He gets up and moves away from the darts. Then the western people tie ropes around him and make him fall onto the railroad tracks. They have a train that they are going to run into Larry's face. The leader is Jedadiah. Larry also meets Octavius, the leader of the Roman Empire. Octavius is also a small person from the diorama.

Teddy Roosevelt, who is a full sized person, arrives on his horse. He gives Larry a ride and helps him escape. Larry asks Teddy Roosevelt "What is happening? Why aren't all the things in the museum dead?" Teddy says that he will answer only one question because he believes in self reliance. He thinks each person needs to figure out problems by him or her self. Teddy explains that the Tablet of Ahkmenrah arrived in 1952 at this museum. Since the day it arrived, all the animals and creatures in the museum come alive every night. Your job is to make sure everyone stays inside the museum. If we are outside at dawn, we turn into dust. As Larry walks away, he says, "This job is so not worth \$11.50 an hour."

The next day Larry meets with Cecil, Reginald and Gus. He is angry. He says that he needs a job that is not life threatening. He wants to quit, but decides to keep the job. He really wants to make his son proud of him. He

asks Cecil if there is another instruction manual. Cecil says no. But he tells him to read some books and learn more about history. Larry follows a children's tour at the museum that Rebecca Hutman is leading. She doesn't understand why Larry is asking her questions. He tells her he wants to learn more about the museum because he works there. She agrees to have coffee with him in 20 minutes.

She tells him that she is working on her Phd. She is writing a dissertation, a very long paper on Sacagawea. She really admires Sacagawea. Larry tells her that he needs this job because he is a divorced father of a 10 year old. He needs a steady situation for his son. Rebecca tells him some things about the people represented in the museum.

Later Larry goes to the bookstore and reads about Attila the Hun, and other people in the museum. He also looks at information on the internet.

Second Night at the Museum:

The next night is the three guards, Cecil, Reginald and Gus's, last night of work. Reginald stays behind. He makes an impression of Larry's house key.

Larry is better prepared the second night. He has an electric car to pull the bone for the dinosaur. He gives a lighter to the cavemen. He has a big wad of gum for the Easter Island head. He uses a hockey glove so that he does not get hit with darts. At the diorama he tells the western guys and the Romans that they can be outside of their small spaces if they agree to "play nicely". He tricks the monkey with baby keys. Larry still has the keys he needs for his work at the museum. (Somewhere else, a person puts museum items in a drawer. This is Larry's apartment.) Larry does magic for Attila the Hun, and he likes it. Then Larry makes a mistake with his magic and Attila gets mad again.

Things start to go bad. The animals are loose. The monkey steals the real keys. The Romans and the western cowboys are fighting all over the diorama room floor. The cavemen are on fire. Larry uses the fire extinguisher to stop the fire. The cavemen eat the fire retardant foam. They like it. They throw foam on Larry. Larry chases Dexter, the monkey. One caveman goes outside when he sees a fire there. Larry does not see this happen. Larry catches up with the monkey. The monkey slaps Larry. Larry slaps the monkey. They have a fight. Teddy Roosevelt tells Larry to stop. Larry decides to quit his job. Teddy Roosevelt encourages him to stay.

Suddenly Larry sees the caveman outside the museum. Larry tries to get him inside, but he is too late. The caveman turns to dust.

Early the next morning, Nicky and his friends come to visit Larry at work. Larry gets fired by his boss Dr. McPhee. Larry asks Dr. McPhee for one more night. Dr. McPhee says okay. "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

Larry asks Nicky to visit him at work. At the end of the day, Rebecca sits watching Sacagawea. Larry tells her she has to leave. Rebecca says she wishes she could meet Sacagawea. Larry tells Rebecca that the people in the museum come alive at night. She doesn't believe him. She thinks he is making fun of her.

Third night at the museum:

On the third night, a night when Nicky is at work with his dad, none of the animals or people come to life in the museum. Nicky starts to leave because he is disappointed with his dad. Then Nicky and Larry see Cecil, Reginald and Gus trying to steal the Tablet of Ahkmenrah. Nicky gets to the tablet. He turns the key. Larry tells Nicky to run, and he does. Cecil, Reginald and Gus get a new life—they feel young again. They get an energy boost at the same time that the animals and people in the museum come alive. They want to steal the tablet. Cecil steals the tablet from Nicky. The animals are outside the museum. Larry asks Teddy for help. Teddy says, "You've got to finish the job this time. I'm made of wax. What are you made of?"

Larry hears Ahkmenrah making noise. He goes out the back and into Ahkmenrah's throne room. Larry opens the coffin. Ahkmenrah thanks them for their help and asks for the tablet so that he can assume his rule. Larry explains that they don't have the tablet. They go out into the museum to look for the tablet. Attila the Hun starts shouting at Larry. Larry yells gibberish to Attila the Hun. Ahkmenrah translates. Larry talks to Attila and comforts him.

Larry gets the attention (with the help of the Easter Island head) of all the people in the museum. He explains that they need to get the tablet back.

Octavius and Jedidiah go outside to try to stop the van by letting the air out of the tires. Larry asks Sacagawea to track the van. Cecil comes out with horses and a carriage. Cecil almost hits Sacagawea, but Teddy pushes her to safety. Teddy's wax body is broken in half.

Larry takes Teddy's horse and chases Cecil. Octavius and Jedidiah pull the bone to lead Rexie to block Cecil's escape. Octavius and Jedidiah crash. Larry beats Cecil because he has studied history. The horses only stop for a secret word that Larry knows. Larry gets the tablet from Cecil.

Sacagawea makes a fire and puts Teddy back together again. Larry asks Ahkmenrah to help get all the people and animals back into the museum. Larry calls Rebecca to come visit the museum while it is alive. Rebecca is very surprised. Larry and Ahkmenrah organize the people in the museum. Larry introduces Rebecca to Sacagawea. Unfortunately, the museum is very messy and there are dinosaur footprints in the snow. Octavius and Jedidiah come back at the last minute. Before dawn, when everything goes back to not living, Teddy Roosevelt tells Nicky that his father is a great man. Nicky says, "I know."

On TV the announcer talks about Tyrannosaurus Rex tracks going right into the museum of Natural History. Dr. McPhee fires Larry. Larry is upset and disappointed. Dr. McPhee and Larry walk out of the office into the museum and there are a lot of people, a crowd of people, visiting the museum. Dr. McPhee gives the keys and the flashlight back to Larry. He has his job back.

Nicky has his dad come to school for parent career day. Nicky is proud of his father and his job. The last scene is a big party at the museum at night with Larry, Nicky and all the folks at the museum. Larry snaps, and the movie ends.