

***Zootopia*: Empowerment in Animation**

- Maeve Reilly

You've probably heard the name and you've probably seen the ads. Maybe you've thought "just another typical animated film," but Disney's latest animated release, *Zootopia*, is not to be passed over. *Zootopia* tells the story of a small bunny, Judy Hopps, who dreams of becoming a police officer in a world filled with other larger species. Her dream is shot down by nearly everyone, regardless of how hard she works, because, after all, a bunny can't be and has never been a cop. However, Judy doesn't give up. She's determined to prove to everyone that she can be what she sets her mind to, no matter what species she was born.

In terms of surface features, *Zootopia* is excellent and beautifully put together. From the detail of the furry animation, to the many action-packed adventures, to the wide variety of color used in each scene, the film is visually captivating. Additionally, *Zootopia*'s writing is hilarious and fresh. The movie is filled with moments that will make the audience break out into collective laughter, but it also lacks lines that feel forced or overly cliché. The many quirky and unique personalities developed in *Zootopia*'s different creatures— from a flamboyant leopard to a glamorous mole—make the film even more absorbing and endearing.

There's no doubt that *Zootopia* is a fun and entertaining watch for audiences of all ages. However, *Zootopia* has more to offer than just what meets the eye. The film uses the inequality in opportunity and status between animals of different species, predators and prey, to symbolize racial inequality that exists today. *Zootopia* sends the message that although racial discrimination and stereotypes exist, you—like Judy Hopps—shouldn't allow them to limit you. With enough hard work and perseverance, anyone can defy society's expectations and become anything they dream, regardless of their race. *Zootopia* is funny, exciting, colorful, unique, and oozing with empowerment. Disney hit the nail on the head with this latest animated must-see.