

The Northwest corner of 7th St and Cedar Ave, the UBS Building. One floor above the loading dock, on a ledge. Occasional traffic going by, including the light rail on Cedar. A raccoon is making its way toward a pigeon nest.

RACCOON

(Some kind of hungry, panting sound, almost obscene)

Eggs, eggs, pigeon eggs, I love the eggs, must get the pigeon eggs.

Overlapping:

PIGEON 1

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaah!

PIGEON 2

Whaaaat?!?

PIGEON 1

It's a raccoon!!!!!!

RACCOON

Pigeon eggs, pigeon eggs, love the sweet sweet pigeon eggs.

PIGEON 1

It's coming for our nest!!!!!!

PIGEON 2

Noooooo!

CUSTODIAN 1

Yeah, so I said how 'bout we just screw these two by fours together and then connect a little platform for him to crawl out onto. Here grab that end -

CUSTODIAN 2

This is ridiculous, it's like 20 feet long, how high up is this thing?

CUSTODIAN 1

See, right there, above the loading dock, on the ledge?

CUSTODIAN 2

Would ya, look at that, he's just a little thing.

CUSTODIAN 1 *(Heaving, grunting, getting it into place)*

We gotta just heave this up ... like a ramp. Can you ... ugh ... just hold that ...there, OK, let's walk it forward ... and up ...

Overlapping:

RACCOON

Pigeon eggs, eggs, eggs, nom, nom, eggs.

PIGEON 1 and 2

Aaaaaaaah!

CUSTODIAN 2

He looks scared. Careful there.

RACCOON

Noooo! Stupid humans!!! (*hissing*) Nooo!

CUSTODIAN 2

Careful, CAREFUL!

CUSTODIAN 1

Ope, dang it.

CUSTODIAN 2

He's running. Whoa, straight up, ya see that?

Overlapping:

PIGEON 1 & 2

Yaaaaaaay!

RACCOON

Humans, stupid humans. Aaaargh!

The sound of a news bulletin

MPR REPORTER

Reporting here from the corner of 7th Street and Cedar Avenue in downtown Saint Paul, we're catching up on the story of a raccoon, who apparently, got stuck on a ledge. Some maintenance folks tried to help him, but he took off across the side of the building. And then crawled up the corner toward the roof there. It's a little heart-breaking cause now he's beyond anyone's help, as he scales the building, floor by floor by floor, he's currently seven stories up.

Back outside, high up. We hear RACCOON'S claws as she climbs.

RACCOON

Stupid humans. So hungry. Gaaah!

LADY IN THE OFFICE

You guys, you guys, the MPR racoon, he's right here outside my window.

MPR REPORTER

I'm afraid the windows in this skyscraper don't open. People inside can only watch this poor guy out there, clinging to the wall, clinging to ledges outside windows.

RACCOON

Wait. *(pant, pant)* What's that? Yogurt?

(The sound of a paw scraping a window)

LADY IN THE OFFICE

Look he's waving. Oh, there he goes.

MPR NEWS REPORTER

He's been perched up there on a ledge on the 20th floor. The Fire Department came, there's no safe way for humans to go down and get him.

RACCOON

Sleepy, sunny, *(yawn)* Naptime, think I'll just stretch out a bit. *(She falls asleep)*

INTERNATIONAL REPORTER

We have a story all the way from Minnesota, USA about a furry daredevil, transcending a building downtown, while his story transcends the globe in newspapers across the world, on late night TV, and on social media.

Social media posts punctuated by some kind of sound effect

SOCIAL MEDIA VOICE 1

I woke up this morning with no inspiration or sense of purpose. And then Hashtag MPR Racoon changed all of that. For all of us. He may not be the hero we deserve, but he's certainly the one we need right now.

SOCIAL MEDIA VOICE 2

Break the freaking window and save the little fellow. I will happily pay for the damages. Get the building owner, DM me - let's get this done.

SOCIAL MEDIA VOICE 3

How is **anyone** doing anything but think about Hashtag MPR Raccoon's safety right now.

MPR REPORTER

At this point the Animal Control folks think that if he can get up to the roof, they can entice him with some food, trap him, and bring him safely downstairs. Now, as it gets dark, he's crawling up the smoothest part of the building, no columns to cling to, just a flat surface, 25 stories up.

SOCIAL MEDIA VOICE 2

At this point I am more invested in Hashtag MPR Raccoon than I am in my own life

SOCIAL MEDIA VOICE 3

Sending Thoughts and Prayers! Hashtag Raccoon Strong.

MPR REPORTER

It was about 2:30 a.m. when MPR Raccoon climbed up, at last, over the roof of the UBS building, where Wildlife Management Services had traps waiting with food inside.

RACCOON

(Climbing, harumphing over the ledge, sitting down, sighing)

Oof, what a day. *(sniffing)* Hang on, is that cat food, oooo, cat food, mmm.

(Climbing into the cage, then the cage door shutting)

Doh!! Human trap, noooo!

WILDLIFE MANAGER

So yeah, she, uh, turned out to be a healthy, one-year-old female, and, uh, we took her out to a private wooded property in the Southwest part of the state. She'll be a lot happier out here.

INTERNATIONAL REPORTER

For a few brief moments, the MPR raccoon captured hearts across the globe and united us all as we shared in the struggle of a small creature against seemingly insurmountable odds.

SOCIAL MEDIA VOICE 1

Because we are all Hashtag MPR Raccoon. Scared, determined, waiting, for a hero to rescue us.

A cage door opens. RACCOON walks out. The sound of birds, wind.

RACCOON

What? The woods? Now I have to walk all the way back to St. Paul. Stupid humans! Gaaah!