(Name of Project)

by (Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by (Names of Subsequent Writers, in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by (Current Writer, date)

Name (of company, if applicable) Address Phone Number SUPER THE QUOTE

NARRATOR (O.S.)

A REPORT FOR AN ACADEMY Esteemed gentlemen of the academy!... you show me the honour of calling upon me to submit a report to the academy concerning my previous life as an ape.

-FRANZ KAFKA- (1883-1924)

EXT. AFRICAN JUNGLE, CHIMP COMMUNITY - DAY - PRESENT

BOBO, a chimp sporting a safari hat, his wife AJA, wearing a yellow ribbon, sit close to her FATHER (GRANDFATHER).

Bunches of bananas litter the forest floor.

AJA grooms Bobo's fur.

AJA

Another gray hair, Bobo.

FATHER

You're getting to be an old fogy like me.

BOBO

Old and forgotten.

Bobo hangs his head.

Aja's and Bobo's son, KUDO, comes careening in like the Tasmanian devil.

He flings mud at Bobo.

He flings mud at his Grandfather.

Aja throws up her hands in frustration.

вово

It's the third time today he's hit us with something!

AJA

I warn you, Kudo. Keep it up and no supper tonight!

KUDO

Gee! You mean no bananas?
 (Sarcastically)
Oh, boo hoo!

Kudo begins throwing bananas.

Grandfather, flabbergasted, ducks as one sails past.

AJA

Kudo!

KUDO

Morning noon and night. Same food...bananas, bananas, bananas!

GRANDFATHER

(eyebrows raised)
The boy's gone bananas!

Kudo approaches a bunch of bananas.

He tumbles on them and squashes them.

Slips onto his butt, decorating the family with mashed banana spray.

GRANDFATHER

The boy's... gone ape!

Kudo stands and huffs.

KUDO

Swinging from tree to tree!

He mimes dizzy swinging motions as if seasick.

Kudo puts his nose to Bobo's nose.

KUDO

Ever hear the phrase, 'going nowhere fast?'

Bobo is charmed by the chimp theatrics.

Kudo moves away, scratching his armpits, his head...

KUDO

And all that armpit-scratching and (screaming at the top of his lungs)
HYSTERICAL SCREECHING!

Grandfather plops over backwards in shock.

KUDO

EEEE! EEEE! EEEE! EEEE!

Aja tests her father's vital signs.

Grandfather dusts himself off.

GRANDFATHER

Why, you little rapscallion... society is founded on the inalienable rights...

Grandfather puffs his chest and stretches his feeble arms.

GRANDFATHER

...to gobble bananas, swing from tree to tree, and beat our chests while screeching hysterically!

He attempts a good chest-beating, but ends up in a coughing fit.

He scowls.

Kudo laughs.

GRANDFATHER

The boy needs a good vine thrashing!

AJA

Poor daddy dear.

Aja glares at Kudo, then at Bobo who is grinning idiotically.

AJA

BOBO? Aren't you going to do something?

Bobo leaps over and squeezes Kudo in his arms.

BOBO

My precious son!

GRANDFATHER

WHAT!

AJA

Bobo!

Grandfather inspects the father-son embrace like a boot camp sergeant.

GRANDFATHER

(suspiciously)

He insults us, our family... and you embrace him like a hero?

Bobo holds Kudo apart from him, looking into his eyes.

вово

(to Kudo)

I can't tell you how much you remind me of a close, close friend!

GRANDFATHER

Who?

BOBO

Who else? Udo!

AJA

You mean, Kudo?

BOBO

Not Kudo; Udo. Don't you remember Udo?

Aja wrinkles her face in thought.

BOBO

When I first came here?

Aja scratches her head, trying to remember.

BOBO

He was with me when we first met!

AJA

You weren't alone?

GRANDFATHER

WAIT! I recall another chimp. A walking nightmare! Bungled everything he got his hands and feet on.

Aja begins to pick the mud out of Bobo's fur.

AJA

Mostly I just remember you, Bobo.

She smiles winningly at him.

They make eyes at each other.

KUDO

I like this chimp already. Dad, tell me. Did Udo have something to do with your silly hat?

BOBO

It's too complicated for a chimp to understand.

Grandfather shoots Bobo a proud, affronted look.

BOBO

And you're too young, Kudo.

Kudo snatches Bobo's hat and takes off.

Bobo grabs his hairy head.

BOBO

My hat! The one thing I warned you never... oh, you've done it! Get back here you little brat!

Kudo chuckles, climbing a distant tree, holding up the widebrim safari hat.

Bobo is hopping mad.

BOBO

When I get my hands on the ungrateful, stubborn...

AJA

Bobo, is that any way to talk?

Bobo does a double take.

BOBO

... but a minute ago you...

GRANDFATHER

Chimps don't wear hats. Didn't need them in my day... don't need them now!

AJA

And he freaks out every time I ask him to take it off!

BOBO

(enraged)

I'm warning you! Give it back!

KUDO

On one condition!

Aja, Grandfather and Bobo perk up.

BOBO

CONDITION?

KUDO

Tell me about your adventures with Udo.

AJA

(to Bobo)

Please. Finally. All I can remember is a moment of paradise. (beat)

Then, you disappeared...

Bobo beckons to Kudo furiously.

AJA

... and you came back like a prince, wearing that... that horrible hat.

GRANDFATHER

You never bring up your past, boy. Spill the beans.

Kudo brings Bobo the hat.

BOBO

On my head, please.

Kudo puts it on Bobo's head.

Bobo, glaring at Kudo, clutches the hat to his head.

вово

You rascal, you'll hear it when you're old enough!

The family is appalled.

GRANDFATHER

Well, I'M old enough!

Let's hear it!

They move into a storytelling circle.

BOBO

To start, I've always loved chimp life here in the jungle...

GRANDFATHER

(glaring at Kudo)

Who wouldn't?

Bobo grabs Kudo by the shoulders.

BOBO

... but I was bored, once, too. Probably... can you believe it? - more bored than you!

Kudo folds his arms, smiling.

KUDO

I can't believe it.

BOBO

(growing mysterious)
It was the strangest life
imaginable. I was close to home...
but as far as far can get!

GRANDFATHER

Dispense with the riddles, boy!

BOBO

Let me put it this way...

CUT TO:

## YEARS EARLIER

I/E. RESEARCH BUILDING - DAY

A wooden building is bordered by plush trees and thick brush.

Engraved in the building is the sign: TANZANIA ANIMAL RESEARCH LABORATORY.

BOBO (V.O.)

... I had it bad.

Inside, a door reads: CLONING.

Bleak corridors sputter with florescent lights, echo with the cries of drugged animals.

White jacketed figures operate on Bobo, and, in a nearby bed... also Bobo?!

CLONE, a white spot on his forehead, is given a shot in the arm.

Alongside him is ANOTHER CLONE, CLONE's clone, with the identical white spot.

The DOCTOR directs the NURSE to administer a specific chemical to CLONE.

DOCTOR

Nurse, please pay attention. UDO requires 30 cc's of Primatol.

Nurse is staring anxiously out the window.

NURSE

There's a man in the bushes, Doctor. The radio report said antigovernment rebels are camping in this area.

Doctor goes to the window and peers out.

DOCTOR

It's in the blue bottle.

Still staring, the nurse takes a syringe.

NURSE

Wait, which one is Udo?

DOCTOR

He's BOBO's clone.

NURSE

I know, but which is which?

DOCTOR

To your left, to your left.

The nurse's shaking hand mistakenly pokes the needle into the red bottle on the left.

She injects the arm of one of the chimps.

The nurse calls to ATTENDANTS.

NURSE

They can go back, now.

The sleeping chimps are returned to a cage by ATTENDANT #1 and ATTENDANT #2.

One of the chimps moans in his sleep.

ATTENDANT #1

Don't worry, buddy. Everything's going to be all right.

INT. LAB ANIMAL CAGE - DAY

Bobo and Udo are swinging on the iron bars, slamming into each other and stepping on each other's toes.

Bobo jumps off, stands in front of a mirror, and proudly asserts himself.

BOBO

(flashing his teeth)
I AM SO UNBELIEVABLY HANDSOME!
THE MIRROR LOVES ME!

Udo stands back warily.

UDO

Thanks for the compliment, CLONE!

BOBO

Don't kid yourself. You're my clone. I'm not yours!

UDO

Well, do you want to argue all day or do you want to escape?

BOBO

(sighing)

The wire cutters were too far away. All I got was a paperclip and some string!

He displays them in his open hand.

UDO

Can you reach your arm around to the lock?

Bobo looks at his arms, the lock, then Udo.

BOBO

It'll be a delicate maneuver.

Loud noises frazzle the two.

There are sounds of smashing glass, a woman screaming, shouting, machine gun fire.

A cockatiel screeches and grips its perch.

A caged mongoose runs frantically on its wheel.

A trembling snake ties itself into a knot.

Bobo grips the bars of the cage, and bares his teeth.

BOBO

Do you smell smoke?

Udo raises his head, sniffing.

UDO

(mortified)

Something's burning!

Flames shoot down the corridor.

The lone attendant #1, his face dirty and bloody, hastily opens the cages and frees the lab animals.

Bobo and Udo dash out of their cages, through smoke and flame, past destruction and charred bodies.

They bound out the door, passing a couple of rebels in camouflage, into the jungle.

The lab building is ablaze.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF AFRICAN JUNGLE - DAY

Bobo and Udo squint, shielding themselves from the glaring sunlight.

They are dazed by the trees, plants, animals.

Dwarfed by the immensity, they stand, mouths agape, heads back, scratching themselves.

BOBO

I never knew anything could be so big and colorful.

Udo staggers about, unsure of where to go.

BOBO

I heard other animals saying something about a jungle, but I thought...

UDO

(shudders)

Do you think we're being monitored? (calls out)
Uh... hello?

His voice echoes.

BOBO

Maybe we should go back to the lab, Bobo.

Bobo beckons, moving forward.

BOBO

Don't worry. I've heard there are chimps living out here. We'll find them and make a home.

They enter the dense woods.

EXT. AFRICAN CHIMP COMMUNITY - DAY

Standing on a tree, Bobo and Udo observe a community of chimps.

BOBO

Where are their cages?

They leap down.

At the bottom, Bobo crouches behind a bush and observes Udo.

UDO

I thought you were excited to meet other chimps. Why are you hiding?

BOBO

Get down... they might see us.

A chimp spots Bobo and Udo, then takes off.

When others sight the strangers, their lips pucker, they bare their teeth, and make screaming 'wraaaa' sounds.

Bobo and Udo are shocked.

BOBO

What's their problem... eh? They're not very polite.

UDO

Hold on! We're strange lab chimps, not jungle chimps.

BOBO

What's the difference?

Udo points to the screaming jungle chimps.

UDO

Um... ask them?

BOBO

Not me, dude. Not me!

A motley sneering group approaches them.

The group parts to let pass the ELDER, a hefty gray chimp with tightly shut eyes, guided by a chimp soldier.

The Elder (Kudo's Grandfather) taps the earth with a long stick and feels the air ahead of him with his free fingers.

ELDER

Ah, so your tribe sent you to spy on us! Planning another attack, are you?

The Elder gestures for guards come to him.

Bobo examines his eyes curiously.

ELDER

SEIZE THEM! At sunrise tomorrow, the Evil Doers shall die!

Bobo and the Udo bodies go limber.

BOBO

Evil Doers?

**ELDER** 

BUTCHERS!

Bobo, gazing back at the Elder, covers his face and crouches as two burly chimps grab him and OTHER CLONE.

ELDER

(to Udo)

Stop snivelling. Justice is justice.

A MOTHER and CHILD chimp are in the crowd.

CHILD

That one's not a real chimpanzee.

MOTHER

Which? They look the same to me.

EXT. CHIMP COMMUNITY - TREE - DAY

Bobo and Udo, their backs to either side of a tree, are bound in vines.

UDO

What did I say? You can't trust other chimps. Just because somebody looks like you doesn't mean he likes you.

вово

Shut up!

EXT. CHIMP COMMUNITY - TREE - NIGHT

They are in the same situation.

UDO

If you tell me to shut up one more time I'll slap you across the muq.

Silence.

вово

Shut up.

Silence.

UDO

I'm warning you. One more time...

BOBO

SHUT UP, SHUT UP, SHUT UP!

They stand there, motionless.

A female chimp (AJA) is weeping nearby.

BOBO

Hey! You! What's wrong?

Aja looks up and sees them.

She walks over.

AJA

Why are you guys tied up? Are you twins?

UDO

Long story!

BOBO

We were only trying to find out when this ugly dude called 'The ELDER' said we were intruders and we had to die. Can you imagine that?

AJA

(electrified)

I sure can! That ugly dude is my father! He doesn't understand who I am, where I'm going or what I want to do.

(despair)

He's blind, even to me.

UDO

Well, who are you, where are you going...

BOBO

...and what do you want to do?

AJA

I don't know!!!

She buries her face in her hands, weeping.

UDO

Want us to help you kill him?

BOBO

Shut up!

Aja comes closer, raving.

He never lets me go anywhere or do anything. That's why I'm running away.

(whimper)

This time for good!

UDO

(cheerily)

Let's all run away!

EXT - CHIMP COMMUNITY - NIGHT

The three creep through bushes and brambles, passing a guard who is standing upright with a pointed stick.

Bobo trips and plows into Udo.

They tumble a ways.

AJA

Shhh! Quiet!

**GUARD** 

Who's there!

Bobo and Udo are hiding behind a bush, completely still.

AJA

Corky, it's only me: Aja.

**GUARD** 

Aja! Does your father know you're out?

AJA

Of course he does. He told me to go.

**GUARD** 

Why... why would he do that?

AJA

To surprise you, of course. You're the best guard in the tribe and everybody knows it.

**GUARD** 

TRUE! But why surprise me?

Must you spoil everything? I'm collecting berries to feed to you for the celebration!

**GUARD** 

(grinning)

Celebration?

AJA

Oh, now everything's ruined! Yes, we were going to surprise you with a celebration in the morning.

**GUARD** 

No, no! I haven't seen a thing, Aja! You go do what you have to do! My eyes are shut - tight!

The three take off running.

Bobo and Aja hug each other laughing, looking into each other's eyes.

вово

(to Aja)

Aja, eh?

AJA

That's right!

BOBO

Aja, I'm Bobo.

AJA

Hi, Bobo.

BOBO

Aja, the future is ours to decide!

UDO

I thought we were goners for a while.

вово

Has anybody told you that you are the more beautiful than a banana peeled sideways under a talking rainbow that calls for a thousand raindrops to hit the earth at once?

Yes, but I like the way you say it better.

Udo's arms are folded.

UDO

What about me?

Ruffling noises are heard beyond.

They spy the enemy chimps coming through the forest.

AJA

Those are the enemy chimps! They're headed for the village.

BOBO

We'd better get out of here! Let's go back to the lab!

UDO

Let's go back to the village and warn your father!

BOBO

Shut up!

AJA

Bobo, I'll love you till the day I die!

UDO

(puffing)

YOU'RE CRAZY!

EXT - CHIMP COMMUNITY - NIGHT

The three rush past Corky the guard, who is dumbfounded.

AJA

Corky, get your men on patrol. The Evil Doers aren't far behind us.

CORKY

(to Bobo and Udo)

I thought you guys were tied up!

They rush to the ELDER's bed, by which GUARD #2 is seated.

Elder is snoring loudly.

Sits upright.

ELDER

(groggy)
Who? Where? What?

BOBO

The Evil Doers are coming, the Evil Doers are coming!

AJA

He's right, father! I saw them!

Elder bellows.

ELDER

MARSHALL THE TROOPS!

Guard #2 gets up and runs outside.

GUARD #2 (O.S.)

ATTACK! ATTACK! ATTACK!

EXT. CHIMP COMMUNITY - NIGHT

There is a full moon.

Coming out of the forest, shadows of the Evil Doers crouching, bearing sticks, fleeting into the community.

The community chimps quickly evacuate and surround their deserted homeland.

They remain on the outskirts and wait for the Evil Doers to attack.

Bobo and Udo hold their sticks.

The Evil Doers charge.

They stand baffled in the center of empty dwellings

Down the hill come the community chimps.

There is a whole lot of fighting.

Silhouettes of chimps beat each other.

Wood smashes, rocks whizz and go "thwack", vines squeak and whistle, and there are grunts and cries.

A melee of chimp silhouettes.

CHIMP SILHOUETTE

(Bobo's voice)

OW! Udo! Don't hit me! Hit him!

OTHER CHIMP SILHOUETTE

(Udo's voice)

Oh! Sorry!

Bobo's silhouette turns about face and whacks one of the other chimps on the head.

BOBO'S SILHOUETTE

Udo! Udo! Are you ok?

UDO'S SILHOUETTE

I stubbed my big toe!

Evil Doer chimps gang up on Udo's silhouette.

UDO'S SILHOUETTE

Goodbye, Bobo! I'm going down!

BOBO'S SILHOUETTE

Shut up! No, you're not!

Bobo's silhouette fiercely battles several chimps and defeats them.

EXT - CHIMP COMMUNITY - SUNRISE

The early light reveals moaning chimps lying on the ground.

A few limp away in defeat.

VOICE IN CROWD

There's the leader! Let's get him!

A FAT LIMPING CHIMP quickens his pathetic pace.

FAT LIMPING CHIMP

You'll never catch me!

EXT - CHIMP COMMUNITY - SUNRISE

The ENEMY LEADER (the fat limping chimp) is now tied with vines to a tree.

The community is celebrating.

The Elder has his arm around Bobo and is raising his walking stick.

Aja is feeding Bobo grapes.

Udo is off pacing near the prisoner, chewing on something, glancing at Aja and Bobo.

He catches the prisoner's eye.

ENEMY LEADER

Hey. Yo, buddy.

UDO

Yeah? What!

ENEMY LEADER

Could you snag me some of those chips? They look pretty scrumptious.

UDO

(mouth full)

Go get your own.

Udo walks away aimlessly.

He returns, takes a piece of meat, and eats it leisurely in front of the enemy chimp.

Udo listens carefully.

ELDER

Let's all sing three cheers for our hero and the new member of our community... BOBO!

CHIMP COMMUNITY

BOBO! BOBO! BOBO!

ENEMY CHIMP

Hey! You must not be Bobo!

UDO

(bitterly)

No way... who would want a name like Bobo, anyway?

ENEMY CHIMP

See these guys are unfair! You fought for them and now they don't give you credit. Tell you what...

He looks both ways cautiously.

ENEMY CHIMP

... untie me... and I'll make you my chief advisor!

Udo is distracted by something on the hill.

It is a woman (MEG) sitting in a patch of sunlight with luminous blonde hair.

Wearing a safari outfit, she is writing in a notebook and has a camera around her neck.

Udo's mouth is agape.

He makes faint moans of longing.

EXT. CHIMP COMMUNITY - DAY

Bobo, Aja and Elder are seated around a giant flat rock table laughing.

Surrounding chimps raise their hands and voices, still boisterously feasting.

ELDER

Yes, I think you'd be excellent at the job. We also have a position open in our banana technology department.

BOBO

Even better!

Udo comes running through the forest.

Bobo is chortling with his mouth overflowing with grapes.

Udo approaches Bobo.

Bobo, embracing Aja with one arm, leans her toward Udo.

BOBO

Udo! Her slight brow ridge! Those large ears! Those small nostrils and her elongated snout! PARADISE!

Udo whispers into Bobo's ear.

BOBO

bob0 (irritated) Now?

Udo whispers even more frantically.

BOBO

Wait just a second. My buddy's got a surprise he wants to show me.

Bobo reluctantly leaves the table and follows Udo into the forest.

UDO

THERE! THERE ON THE HILL!

BOBO

Yeah... so...

UDO

She's beautiful!

вово

This is why you brought me here... she's the reason you interrupted my good time?

Bobo displays his anger by picking up and throwing dirt.

Gazing at the blond lady on the hilltop.

вово

Aja doesn't even come close to that female.

UDO

Take that back!

BOBO

You've gotta be kidding.

EXT. NEAR CHIMP COMMUNITY - DAY

Bobo is alone with Aja.

BOBO

(excitedly)

I saw this beautiful blonde standing on the next hill!

AJA

(shocked)

A FEMALE HUMÁN!

Bobo flinches.

BOBO

But she's like a golden goddess.

Aja wildly hops up and down.

AJA

I don't want to hear about another woman!

вово

I'm being honest!

AJA

Hush! Painfully honest.

BOBO

YOU'RE JEALOUS! But she doesn't want a chimp!

AJA

Yeah. But does the chimp want her?

Aja crosses her arms.

Bobo raises and drops his arms in frustration.

Aja sulks.

They sit perfectly still for a second.

Bobo grins.

Aja grins.

Bobo squeezes Aja's cheeks.

Aja embraces Bobo and puts her head on his shoulder.

EXT. CHIMP COMMUNITY - DAY

Bobo swings from a tree branch and lands next to Aja.

He holds his toe.

BOBO

OUCH!

AJA

What's wrong?

вово

Stubbed my toe!

Poor baby.

Aja bends down and kisses his toe.

AJA

Feel better?

вово

Once more.

She delicately kisses his toe again.

AJA

How's that fell?

BOBO

Once more?

Aja hesitates... kisses his toe again.

AJA

Healed?

Bobo thoroughly enjoys the attention.

BOBO

Aw, once more.

AJA

Bobo... enough is enough!

Aja releases Bobo's toe and places a piece of fruit on his lips.

AJA

Passion fruit.

He devours it.

Pieces stick on his lip and throughout his shining fur.

Aja gently picks them out.

BOBO

WOW! Passion fruit works!

He strokes her toes.

BOBO

I was in a cage so long. The one thing I liked was the peanuts they fed us sometimes. Your toes look like them.

AJA

These peanuts wiggle.

She leans over.

Her thumb caresses his earlobe.

AJA

How long were you in a cage?

BOBO

I don't remember anything else.

AJA

What did you do in there?

BOBO

My clone and I banged on the bars, jumped up and down, got in each other's way. We wondered things.

AJA

What did you wonder?

BOBO

Who made us? Where did we come from? What happens next?

AJA

Bobo, I can help you with that last question.

Bobo smiles.

They are silent.

She guides his free hand to her cheeks, the ridge of her brow, to her snout.

Faint chimp cries and noises of the jungle resound in the distance.

EXT. AFRICAN JUNGLE, CHIMP COMMUNITY - DAY

The sun hangs high over the empty hill where the lady researcher usually sat.

Udo is frantic.

He rushes from tree to tree, eyeing the same spot. Bobo approaches.

BOBO

What's wrong?

UDO

She's left! What if she never comes back?

BOBO

Jeez, you really have it bad.

UDO

I had our grandchildren's names picked out! Udo the second, Udo the third...

He holds his chest.

UDO

Oh, my heart!

Udo staggers as if he's going to faint.

EXT. CHIMP COMMUNITY - OUTSKIRTS - DAY

Bobo sits, staring at the ground, next to Aja.

Aja is worried.

AJA

You haven't seemed yourself lately. Is it Udo?

BOBO

Things would be better if he wasn't always around.

Aja puts her hand on his shoulder.

AJA

Oh, baby!

вово

(sadly)

You're as beautiful as this whole jungle.

He brushes his nose against hers.

BOBO

When I think of the future, I keep imagining just the two of us. Holding hands. Climbing huge trees. Swinging on vines. I don't ever want to be without you.

AJA

I've got two big surprises for you.

Bobo's eyes widen.

BOBO

Surprises?

AJA

Yep. The first is dad appointed you to the Chimp Community Council... you make the rules. It's one of the best jobs.

Aja takes a deep breath.

AJA

The second surprise...

Aja is interrupted by a piece of mud that lands on Bobo's shoulder.

Udo is bent over a puddle of muddy water holding a long stick.

Udo grins.

EXT - CHIMP COMMUNITY - DAY

Bobo stands near a log crossing a stream, holding a pointed stick.

Udo comes by, attempting to cross it.

BOBC

You're not allowed to cross this bridge.

UDO

(irked)

Not allowed to what?

BOBO

You know the rules. This bridge is reserved for chimp leaders only... LIKE ME!

UDO

This is Udo you're talking to, not just any chimp.

BOBO

Orders are orders.

EXT. NEAR CHIMP COMMUNITY - DAY

Meg is on the hill, watching the community through binoculars.

Men with a truck approach her

There are loud words exchanged, most inaudible.

MEG

The law states that you just can't come here and...

Bobo and Udo are watching her.

вово

I don't know who she is and I don't care.

UDO

That's because you don't want to realize you're a lowly chimp and there are more important things out there than you.

Bobo picks up a stick.

BOBO

Who? You? You're nobody. In fact, you've done nothing but try to ruin things since we've gotten here!

Bobo swings the stick.

Udo squats down and picks up a rock.

IIDC

Mr. Big Shot is getting uppity
isn't he?

Udo stands and bounces the rock in his hand.

UDO

He's got a female, he's got a job. Well, guess what? You're still nothing but a lowly animal.

BOBO

SHUT UP!

UDO

Truth hurts, doesn't it?

Bobo lunges at Udo, grabbing his throat.

Udo grabs Bobo's throat.

They fight on the ground, grunting and screaming, rolling over and over in a blur.

Abruptly they stop in shock, fall flat, and lie still.

Two brightly colored darts stick out of their backs.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHIMP COMMUNITY, AFRICAN JUNGLE - DAY

Kudo, Aja and Grandfather are eating bananas.

Kudo is bending forward listening intently.

Aja, mortified, accidentally swallows banana peel and wrinkles her face.

AJA

(coughing)

Tranquilizer darts? Are they deadly?

Grandfather, who has been chewing, spits out a piece of banana in contempt.

GRANDFATHER

Fires, labs, humans? Sounds like a lot of hooey to me!

He gropes around with his hands.

Aja takes the piece he spit out and feeds it to him.

Grandfather's chewing face contorts.

Kudo, in quick little bites, eats his banana insatiably.

KUDO

Then what happened?

BOBO

What didn't happen?

CUT TO:

INT. CHIMPANZEE QUARTERS - THE NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN IN WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

At this point we actually witness a physical transformation in Udo.

Udo continuously tries to speak, walks erect, is taller, has less hair and begins to display human facial features.

Bobo and Udo are on a moat island of grassy dirt and shrubbery, a cave-like rock mound, a couple of small trees, and a towering concrete wall.

Bobo bounds up to Udo with a puzzled expression.

UDO

(musing)

First we were in a cage. Then we were in the jungle...

Bobo places his hands gently on some shrubbery.

BOBO

Now we're in a jungle...

Udo looks at the bars overhead.

UDO

...inside another cage.

Tourists walk overhead snapping photographs.

Sounds of animals in the distance mingle with those of screaming children and the murmur of the crowd.

A middle aged tourist steps up to the cage, scratches his armpit.

He makes silly faces.

TOURIST

Hey, MARGE. Look at me! I'm a chimp like this ugly son-of-a-gun!

Marge, a middle aged woman, comes to standing beside him.

MARGE

Stop being an ass, WALTER. It's sad they keep them cooped up like that.

WALTER

Whaddya mean? They get better care than we do... OOH! OOH! OOH!

His facial gestures get worse as the mock chimp sounds he makes grow louder.

MARGE

You belong in there with them!

Bobo shrugs his shoulders.

BOBO

If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't be here!

UDO

This is a totally different kind of place! I wonder what's outside of here!

BOBO

We'll never get out of here. We're going to be here for the rest of our lives. I'll never see Aja again. The love of my life!

I/E. CHIMP QUARTERS - DAY

Bobo and Udo slump motionlessly, staring into space.

I/E. CHIMP QUARTERS - NIGHT

Bobo and Udo, exact same position, in the dark.

I/E. CHIMP QUARTERS - DAY

Bobo and Udo slump motionlessly, staring into space.

Noise of tourists screeching and laughing in the distance.

I/E. CHIMP QUARTERS - NIGHT

Bobo and Udo lie awake motionless.

Two night zookeepers drive up in a truck.

KEEPER #1 comes to chimps' cage with a jingling key ring.

KEEPER #2 starts to unload chimp cage furnishings: spools of ropes, an old tire, exotic plants, vines, an unusually shaped ladder.

Bobo and Udo listen.

Keeper #1 swivels toward Keeper #2.

KEEPER #2

Hmmmm... you want me to come in there with you?

KEEPER #1

I'm good.

Keeper #2 holds out a fifth of whisky.

KEEPER #2

Swig?

KEEPER #1

In a minute.

He puts his hands on his hips and looks grimly at the new chimps.

KEEPER #1

(muttering)

Always having to clean up stuff! Ingrates!

Keeper #2 staggers in behind him with a potted palm.

Bobo and Udo are huddled in a distant corner.

Bobo and Udo start swinging around, acting crazy, grabbing zookeepers' attention.

Bobo starts using hand signs.

The zookeepers are amused.

ZOOKEEPER #2

Which is which? You can't tell them apart.

ZOOKEEPER #1

You've been drinking too much. Anyway, all chimpanzees look alike.

Udo sneaks up behind ZOOKEEPER #1, grabs the fifth out of his pocket and smashes him on the head.

Zookeeper #1 drops flat.

Zookeeper #2 looks to see what's going on.

Bobo grabs the tire and throws it over him.

Udo ties him up with rope.

BOBO

Now what?

UDO

The wall... head for the outer wall. We'll scale it and get out of this place.

Zookeepers #1 is out cold.

His coworker is struggling wrapped in rope.

Bobo and Udo run toward the concrete fence, leaping over a large pit.

They both try to climb the cement wall to reach the overhanging bars.

Despite several attempts, the cement wall is slippery, provides no grip and is perfectly horizontal.

Each futile attempt to climb the wall ends them landing on the ground.

They peer at each other in a state of desperation.

UDO

I've got it! I'll go back, get rope and throw it over the bars... then we climb the rope and... WE'RE FREE!

вово

The zookeepers?

UDO

That's why we've got to hurry.

Udo rushes back for rope.

Zookeeper #1 is not moving.

Zookeeper #2 is squirming with the ropes.

Udo grabs more rope and takes off.

Zookeeper #2 starts to wake.

BOBO

I'll toss the rope.

UDO

Hurry.

The rope is thrown and firmly affixed to the bars.

The zookeepers are standing, and begin moving toward the wall.

Bobo shimmies to the top.

Udo struggles to climb, but falls.

The zookeepers quicken their pace.

Bobo slides back down.

вово

Take my hand!

Bobo pulls Udo cone to the top.

The zookeepers stand below helpless.

Bobo and Udo leap from the bars to a nearby tree.

EXT. DIMLY LIT SIDE STREET IN DOWNTOWN, WASHINGTON D.C. - NIGHT

Bobo and Udo creep from garbage can to stairwell to dumpster to trash pile.

The sight of a human sends them running for cover.

They come to a darkened area by a dumpster that reads: GOOD WILL.

Two humans, talking and shouting unintelligibly, approach from the distance.

They are: BUM #2, a scruffy, unshaven character who looks like Udo, and BUM #3, with buck teeth and baggy pants.

They lift the lid of the dumpster.

BUM #2

You sure love dumpsters, don't you FRED (BUM #1)?

A voice comes from inside.

FRED (O.S.)(BUM #1)

Expand your wardrobe elsewhere! I'm tryin' ta get some shut-eye.

The Bums #2 and #2 pull out and try on clothing.

Bum #2 leans in.

BUM #3

(slurring)

Tomorrow's Sunday. Gotta look my best... 'scuse me.

He leans in further.

BUM #3

(to Fred)

No, you're good. Stay right where you are.

Bobo and Udo maneuver closer to hear the conversation.

Bum #2 simply hiccups and leans, almost falls, into the dumpster.

BUM #3

This is one of the better dumpsters 'round here... yeah...dumpster city.

BUM #2

Damn straight! I was diving in one of 'em up there on 49th. What do I find...?

One hears the stirring of trash.

FRED (O.S.)(BUM #1)

You find your way to another dumpster and leave me in peace!

BUM #2

(ignoring Fred)

... I find a solid gold watch!

BUM #3

Get out of town!

Udo observes intently from the shadows as the bums slouch down against the dumpster.

Udo moves his lips.

UDO

(repeating)

GOLD?

вово

Maybe we should dress up, too.

UDO

Let's wait till they leave.

EXT. GOOD WILL DUMPSTER - NIGHT

Bums #2 and #3 are snoring, slumped against the dumpster.

The chimps move in closer.

Udo is the first to stick his head inside.

There's a human sleeping inside.

Udo stands up and bends toward Bobo.

UDO

Quiet!

Udo carefully picks out clothes.

He steps to the ground and shows them to Bobo.

UDO

How do we put them on?

Bum #2 and #3 wake up.

BUM #2

MONKEYS... at least, I think one is!

BUM #2

Lordie, lordie!

Udo drops his findings....

Udo stands tall with a further developed semi-human gape.

Udo's chimp appearance is different.

Bobo is unquestionably a chimp.

UDO

(mimicking)

GOV-ERN-MENT?

BUM #2

Poor sucker can't even speak English.

UDO

(very slowly)

DUMP-STER. GOV-ERNMENT.

BUM #2

Exactly! A dumpster government! Pissin' on the poor people!

BUM #3

(to Bobo)

Did you swallow a bottle of Rogaine or something? You're almost as hairy as I am!

Bobo grins.

BUM #2

(to Bum #3)

He has more teeth than you, though, Horace.

BUM #2

Have the little guy climb in there and pull out clothes for himself.

FRED (O.S.)(BUM #1)

Could you please give me a break?

Udo jumps in and pulls out pants and a long-sleeved shirt.

He also retrieves a safari hat and bites its brim.

Bum #2 puts the hat on Udo's head.

Udo climbs into a long pair of pants.

Bum #2 gathers an arm-load of colorful clothes.

BUM #2

The little guy don't talk much, does he?

Bum #3 rolls up Udo's pant legs.

BUM #3

You're a lady killer. You'll probably need a belt, though.

Fred (bum #1) emerges from the dumpster with a pile of even more colorful clothing topped with a NEW YORK YANKEE cap.

FRED (BUM #1)

Ain't we gonna dress up the little quy?

Everybody turns to Bobo.

Bobo gives a toothy grin.

EXT. HOMELESS COMMUNITY (RIVERFRONT, BY A BRIDGE) - DAY

Bobo, with a NY YANKEE cap and white gloves, wears rainbow suspenders clasping the gigantic waist of his green corduroys.

His T-shirt says "Trekkie."

Bums #2, #3 and Fred lead the chimps to their main hangout.

Cardboard boxes, wind-borne newspapers and empty trash bags litter the landscape.

Derelicts in torn overcoats warm their hands and boil soup around a flaming, spark-shooting trash can.

A cretin with a grizzled beard leans in and lights his stump of cigar.

A mangy dog is sniffing the ground for crumbs.

An OLD WOMAN wails to a tattered Neanderthal banging on a banjo.

BUM #3

This is it. Hobo Shangri-la.

OLD TOOTHLESS HAG eyes Udo.

OLD TOOTHLESS HAG

(from afar)

Where you been all my life, beautiful?

BUM #3

Someone's got an admirer.

Udo puts his hand on his chin and contemplates.

UDO

(speaks)

DUMP-STER! GOV-ER-NMENT! AD-

A toothless man grins while listening to a transistor radio.

He smacks his jaws moistly whenever he talks.

TOOTHLESS MAN

Says here a couple chimpanzees escaped from the zoo.

BUM #3

Chimpanzees? You've got to be kidding!

TOOTHLESS MAN

I'm always kidding. This here radio is serious. Says these chimps got themselves identical white spots on their noggins!

BUM #2

Sounds familiar.

Eyes are on the Bobo and Udo.

TOOTHLESS MAN

It's how you distinguish them from similar chimps.

He listens intently to the tiny radio, repeating what he hears.

TOOTHLESS MAN

They came from a science lab way down in

(a new word for him)
TAN-ZA-NIA. They're talking rewards, in the range of ten thousand smackers.

Toothless man turns to the Bobo and Udo.

TOOTHLESS MAN

I think we've got ourselves two escapees.

OLD WOMAN

And retirement capital!

An expression of fear flashes on Bobo and Udo's face.

Fred puts his hands on the chimps' backs.

FRED (BUM #1)

You two on the lamb?

Bobo and Udo nod.

FRED (BUM #1)

Well, we've all got troubles. I've got a plan.

BUM #2

You've always got a plan, Fred. The trouble is, none of them work.

OLD WOMAN

I say we turn them chimps in and collect our winnings!

FRED (BUM #1)

Muffle it! How dare you turn gold-digger when lives are at stake?

Fred walks away a little ways and grabs a bottle of shoe polish.

He stands and raises the bottle.

FRED (BUM #1)

Strange as they appear, these are fellow fugitives from civilized society... the society that rejected us!

Bum #3 stands shoulder to shoulder with Fred, his chin raised.

BUM #3

We must help them.

FRED (BUM #1)

We start by covering the white spots.

BUM #2

Disguise them! Great idea, Fred. The authorities will be dumbfounded!

Fred anoints each chimp on the forehead with the proper dose of shoe polish.

OLD WOMAN

Yeah. The police will think they're a couple of your common, looking chimps! Hey, could you spare that brown stuff for my hair?

BUM #3

You know, I'm part ape, too. I descended from my great great great great great...

FRED (BUM #1)

(over Bum #3)

The homeless community has to stay together or our way of life will end!

BUM #3

(simultaneous, in the background)

...great, great, great, great, great, great...

The NEANDERTHAL begins a patriotic strain on his banjo.

The HAGGISH WOMAN joins in.

The rest of the bums join together in mumbled song, drowning out Bum #3.

Fred, the chimps and Bum #3 are standing.

BUM #3

... great, great grandfather!

Bum #3 catches his breath.

FRED (BUM #1)

Yeah, this...

BUM #3

(interrupting)

And his grandfather! I never met him, though. I wasn't born yet.

Fred eats from a giant drum stick, talking with his mouth full.

Bobo and Udo watch him eat.

FRED (BUM #1)

Yeah, this is the bum's life.

(takes a bite)

But it wasn't always this good. I used to be CEO of an independent brokerage firm on Wall Street.

Fred paces, assuming the confident postures of a power broker.

FRED (BUM #1)

Hell, there was a waiting list the size of a telephone book to get in. But I wasn't happy. I used to stare out my high rise window...

He points to a high rise in the evening fog.

The chimps watch it sadly.

FRED (BUM #1)

... looking upon this riverfront and wishing I could fulfill my childhood wish... to be a broken down alcoholic who dug for spare change in pay phones.

Udo grunts in approval.

FRED (BUM #1)

People always ask me how I did it. They say, 'Fred. I aspire to be a bum someday, but I'm afraid I don't have the talent. Maybe I'm not the right type!'

Bobo flinches in desperate sympathy.

Fred sweeps the notion away with an imperious arm.

FRED (BUM #1)

TYPE? I say. There's no type requirement to being a bum!

Fred takes a bite, then passionately raises the drum stick, mouth full.

FRED (BUM #1)

It's these misconceptions that cause our homeless populations to shrink!

A puny, hairless MAN is listening with wide eyes and a quivering little chin.

Fred walks over to him, shifting closer, face to face.

FRED (BUM #1)

Let me set the record straight. ANYBODY CAN BECOME A BUM!

The puny man jumps, hiccups, then sips from a brown bag.

FRED (BUM #1)

Famous people are bums. See that lady over there?

He indicates a figure sleeping on a bench in brown rags.

FRED (BUM #1)

That's none other than Racy Stacey from those used car commercials!

Bobo and Udo shriek, jumping every which way and banging things.

A HAGGARD VOICE (O.S.)

Shut up! We're trying to sleep!

EXT. HOMELESS COMMUNITY - MORNING

The chimps lie side by side, fast asleep and snoring.

Bums #2 and #3 rush over and shake them.

BUM #2

Come on. We're going to hide you in the pile of garbage.

UDO

Huh?

BUM #3

The cops are making a sweep. They got Fred. Don't worry. He'll be out by this afternoon. It's you we've got to worry about. MOVE!

A police SUV is parked in the distance with its lights flashing.

Several uniformed figures are shaking the sleeping homeless awake.

Homeless residents are being led away in handcuffs.

Bums #2 and #3 usher Bobo and Udo to a pile of garbage.

Bum #3 piles the garbage on top of Bobo and Udo.

BUM #2

You've got to pay for your freedom. Don't move until I tell you.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFRICAN JUNGLE, CHIMP COMMUNITY - PRESENT

Kudo, Aja and Grandfather are agape with suspense.

KUDO

What happened? Did the cops get you?

GRANDFATHER

Don't tell me. You were captured, tortured, and forced to name names.

BOBO

No, the police left after a few minutes. It was no big deal... really. And Fred was back with us that afternoon.

Aja breathes a sigh of relief.

AJA

I like this Fred. He's got spunk.

BOBO

Ok, now. Don't interrupt me. It's almost dinner time and I've got to finish.

The chimps lay back into storytelling mode.

BOBO

(clearing his throat)
After that, though, the bums got serious with us.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOMELESS COMMUNITY - DAY

Bobo and Udo stare vacantly as the bums talk to them.

BUM #2

Ok, you two. This morning's incident warned us we can't take things for granted. Consider this place a boot camp.

UDO

BOO-B CAMP.

BUM #3

Yeah. Here's where you learn to survive in the asphalt jungle.

FRED (BUM #1)

Enter Professor Fred with a Ph.D. in B.S. The first thing you've got to learn is how to milk the unsuspecting public...

Udo puts his ear next to Fred.

UDO

(repeats)

UNPERSPECTING BUBLICK.

FRED (BUM #1)

... out of their every last dollar.

Bobo grabs a stick and holds it like a rifle.

BUM #2

You gotta have money to live.

UDO

MON-NEY to live.

FRED (BUM #1)

Yep. Moola. Dough. The almighty buck. Lots of ways to get it.

Few ways to have fun while you're getting it.

UDO

Getting it?

FRED (BUM #1)

Work is a lousy way to make a living. Why do you think we're here?

Fred waves his arm gathering everybody.

FRED (BUM #1)

I'll tell you the fun way to make money. You stand in a parking garage and wait for people to drive by.

Bobo leaps up, flings away the stick, pounds his chest and shrieks enthusiastically.

FRED (BUM #1)

See. That's the attitude. Now, when the car gets close, jump right into its path. It's genius. Huddle close - let me tell you how it works.

The five of them close in on Fred's whispering.

INT. INDOOR PARKING GARAGE - DAY

There are few cars parked in the concrete parking structure.

The occasional vehicle passes Udo and Bobo.

A rugged GUY stops his truck and rolls down the window.

GUY

YOU TWO! Standing here all day trying to scam hard-working people?

Udo and Bobo are silent.

Guy pulls out his cell phone and starts dialing.

GUY

Hello, officer? Got a couple of wackos loitering in the parking garage.

He looks them up and down.

**GUY** 

Hey. One of them looks like a chimpanzee! Wasn't there something on the news...?

A siren starts in the distance.

The chimps run feverishly out of the garage.

EXT. MONTAGE - BOBO AND UDO ARE FUGITIVES - DAY

Sirens blare loudly the whole while.

Bobo and Udo dodge pedestrians and traffic.

VOICE (O.S.)

Wow, it's the runaway chimps! Let's get them!

They encounter a cat in an alley who hisses and arches its back.

They run through a parking lot near a field that stretches into the distance.

EXT. PARK NEAR WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

Bobo and Udo climb trees, thinking they're still in the jungle.

BOBO

Is this what the zookeepers were talking about when they said we came from 'Africa'? Is this Africa?

UDO

A woman was eating food when she tipped her head to the sky and said GOD BLESS AMERICA. This must be America!

Two tourists come by, a HUSBAND and his WIFE.

The wife is fat with red hair and a leopard skin coat.

The husband is pot bellied with a camera, cigar and bald head.

He is wearing black rimmed glasses and holding a map.

Bobo and Udo peer down from the tree.

WIFE

I've always been scared to come to Washington, no less! Remember those terrible news stories of people being attacked here!

HUSBAND

At night, Gertie! Not during the daytime!

Bobo and Udo stand on tree limbs.

BOBO

They said this is America. Maybe that means we're not in Africa.

UDO

Uha, don't be stupid. America is probably the capital of Africa.

Bobo and Udo throw pine cones down at the tourists.

The lady looks up, sees them, screams and runs.

Her husband doddering behind her, trying to figure out on his map which way to run.

The married couple pass a cop on horseback and shout, pointing behind them.

WIFE (GERTIE)

Wild apes are roaming the parks!

The cop gallops along to inspect the trouble.

He parks his horse under the chimps' tree.

Bobo and Udo hit him on the head with a pinecone.

Bewildered, he dismounts and holds his radio to his mouth.

The chimps leap and land, in tandem, front and back, onto the horse and take off at a gallop.

Cop radios in to headquarters.

COP

There are two chimps on my horse heading through the park toward Broadway.

DISPATCHER

Don't lose them! Could be the escaped chimps from the zoo.

The cop rolls his eyes.

COP (V.O.)

Good luck!

Bobo and Udo ride the galloping horse through the city.

They're in an open area far from civilization.

The horse slows down to a pool of water and starts drinking.

He continues drinking for a long period of time.

The bored chimps take off for a nearby railroad trestle.

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS (OVER A BRIDGE) - DAY

Bobo and Udo stagger along a railroad trestle bridging a gorge.

Dark rain clouds loom overhead.

Rumbling thunder is heard.

Udo's stomach growls.

The growling resoundingly echoes.

There is grass and scattered leaves near the tracks.

Both feverishly eat them.

They choke, spit it out, and glance at each other in misery.

Bobo's whimpering voice echoes.

A pouring rain falls, accompanied by thunder, wind, and lightening.

They completely cover their heads with the hats.

Hearing a loud whistle, Bobo leaps into Udo's arms.

A freight train rushes over the bridge.

Bobo grips the side of the wet structure.

Udo, dangling over a gorge, clings to Bobo's ankle.

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

On solid ground, the tracks cross a two lane highway at a diagonal.

Bobo and Udo wearily follow the highway.

Against the cloudless sky, over a small white building, a sign reads: SPECIAL.

Above the writing is a sculpture of a colorful banana split.

The chimps head for it.

I/E. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY

Bobo and Udo peer through a large glass window.

The ice cream establishment is empty of customers.

The lone clerk, prone to nervousness, has horn-rimmed glasses, a white paper hat and apron.

Among photos of sundaes behind him, a sign reads: WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE.

Bobo and Udo enter and seat themselves on the counter stools.

CLERK

The name's Chauncy,... but my friends call me Chance. What can I do you for?

Next to the sign is a picture of the banana split special.

Udo points to it, then to himself and Bobo.

CHANCE

Couldn't have said it better myself. Two specials coming right up, sirs.

He is soon setting down two elegant sundaes in glass goblets with two long spoons.

CHANCE

Yep, people travel miles for these babies.

Chance places the check between Bobo and Udo.

There are strange humming sounds in the distance.

The chimps eat, using their hands and faces.

CHANCE

Let me know if you want more napkins.

INT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY

The humming multiples into intertwining roars.

Several sundae goblets litter the counter.

Chance sets down fresh banana splits and a check on top of a few others.

CHANCE

Your bill is now \$45.89 I'd better get a good tip for this. People think that just because I'm serving ice cream I'm on some kind of holiday!

When Chance walks away, they reach behind the counter and eat the bananas in a vat.

They take cherries and start having a food fight, flinging the cherries and catching it in each others' mouths.

Chance returns and whines about his job.

On the wall behind him are pictures of EMPLOYE OF THE MONTH.

Chance glances at the pictures.

CHANCE

These people made it, why can't I make it? I'm more intelligent than they are, anyway!

The noise is nearly deafening.

Bobo and Udo's unused spoons vibrate on the counter.

The clerk fearfully cranes his neck to see out the window.

CHANCE

It had better not be who I think it is...

A gang of ferocious appearing bikers - beards, black leather, spikes, chains, and helmets - pull up to the window in a row.

CHANCE

I thought they were on death row.

Below the counter, Chance's fingers push 9-1-1 on his cell phone.

The bikers enter, each more wildly-dressed than the last.

BIKER #1

Scoop boy, you still got the children's prices?

Chance points to the WE RESERVE THE RIGHT... sign.

CHANCE

Read the sign, fellas...

BIKER #2

... I know, Scoop... we try to behave. But how can we resist your fine cuisine?

Clerk points to his name tag.

CHANCE

The name's Chauncy!

Through this interchange, the mildly interested Bobo and Udo twist their heads forward and behind them.

Biker #1 points to Udo and Bobo.

BIKER #1

Hey Scoopy Baby... these your relatives?

CHANCE

Right! That's my grandmother and my granddaughter. Get out of here before I call the fuzz.

Bobo is grinning at the SMALLEST OF THE BIKERS who wears a furry vest.

He bends over the counter and grabs a another handful of cherries.

Bobo bends back his spoon loaded with a whipped-cream-covered cherry.

SMALL BIKER

What are you smiling at, Fruit Cake? Nice hats... baseball and safari... you both belong in the jungle... hah, hah.

Bobo flings the cherry into Small Biker's eye.

BIKER #2

Yo, Scoop, your 'granddaughter' hit Goliath in the eye. Ain't very ladylike!

Biker #3 pulls a sawed-off shotgun.

BIKER #3

Yeah. That entitles us to free ice cream!

Several police cars park behind the motorcycles and the officers rush in.

FIRST OFFICER

You have the right to remain silent...

The place clashes with bikers and officers in a loud din.

Bobo and Udo take their sundaes, weave through the mob and saunter out the front door.

Chance hides beneath the cash register.

Things shatter and clatter above him.

CHANCE

(stammering)

Don't forget to... LEAVE... A... TIP!

EXT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY

Bobo and Udo make their way through the police cars.

The parlor window shatters behind them.

Bobo digs a banana out of his ice cream.

A biker is thrown out the window into the row of colorful motorcycles, which topple like dominos.

Bobo carefully gapes at the banana and licks off the whipped cream.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The landscape is flat and barren.

Both chimps stagger even more wearily.

They observe an office building.

Numerous people are entering and leaving.

Udo ogles the attractive human females.

UDO

My, Chimp Heaven!

BOBO

But they don't have the elongated snout, flattened nostrils, long arms. They don't even have hair on their faces. How can you think they're the least bit attractive?

UDO

How can you think they're not!

CUT TO:

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Bobo and Udo watch an expensively dressed LADY (ELEANOR) enter her luxury car.

Udo races to the rear of her car.

As the car is backing up, Udo pounds the trunk and falls to the ground.

The car abruptly stops.

The lady exits, sees Udo lying there and puts her hands to her mouth.

LADY

Oh no! Oh no! No...

She walks over to him and crouches down.

LADY

...I've paralyzed you! I've ruined your life! I'm a terrible person!...

Udo grunts and moves his arm.

LADY

...how can I live with myself? How could you ever forgive me?

She leans over him, her necklace dangling.

Udo plays with the beads of her necklace.

LADY

... you must have hit your head. I've got to take you to the hospital. Can you move any parts of your body?

Udo bites the beads.

Babbles with his mouth full.

He starts to play with Eleanor's hair.

**ELEANOR** 

No. Don't speak.

She pats his arm and his head.

He puts her hair into his mouth.

ELEANOR

This is terrible. This is terrible. This is terrible.

UDO

(humored)

T-h-i-s i-s t-e-r-r-i-b-l-e.

ELEANOR

I've never done anything like this in my life.

(beat)

I got up this morning and I said to God, 'please... yes... PLEASE God... let me make a difference in the world!'

She stands up and shouts at the sky.

ELEANOR

HELLOOO! I didn't mean THAT kind
of difference!

Excited by her shouting, Udo gets up and bounces on his long arms.

ELEANOR

I've crippled you! Can you walk?

UDO

(repeats)

C-a-n y-o-u w-a-l-k?

ELEANOR

I'm not sure. My knees are shaking so.

She watches him.

ELEANOR

What a fright! I wish I had remembered to renew my liability insurance policy.

Bobo hops over.

ELEANOR

Oh! Your son! How precious! He has your brown eyes!

She addresses Bobo.

ELEANOR

Lord, I realize you must hate me for what I did to your father. And I must tell you...

Bobo grins and makes enthusiastic noises.

ELEANOR

(over his noises)

... that I can respect your resentment. I had a father once. I loved him with... all my heart!

She starts to cry.

ELEANOR

... but he's with mother now. And I know that... together they're... happy!

She sobs uncontrollably.

ELEANOR

I'm going to take you poor dears home. Nobody invites people to their homes anymore. Nobody trusts anybody. We might as well live in cages!

Udo is walking only slightly apelike.

ELEANOR

You're limping! The guilt! The guilt! I'm going to have to live with this for the rest of my life!

She returns to the open driver's side door and pauses, distracted.

ELEANOR

Would you mind driving? I think I'm going to faint. This has been a difficult afternoon.

INT. ELEANOR'S LUXURY CAR - PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Udo sits, grinning slyly, in the driver's seat

Eleanor, next to him, is primping in her compact mirror.

ELEANOR

She's a funny car. My girlfriend and I named her Annabelle.

Udo wrangles the knobs and levers of the car, activating windshield wipers, high-beams and blinkers.

Bobo is in the back seat, seat belt tangled around his legs, trying to throw the ashtrays out the window.

ELEANOR

Oh. Push the little button before you turn the key. I don't know why they put them there. You can't even see them.

Udo is grinning with the sheer crazy pleasure of his new toy.

I/E. ELEANOR'S LUXURY CAR - PARKING GARAGE - DAY

The muffled radio blasting, the car starts with a ghastly roar, revving out of control.

The windshield wipers are going top speed.

The car jerks back and bangs into a handicapped parking sign.

It bangs forward, deforming an expensive sports car.

The passengers are swaying side to side as Udo works the wheel.

Udo plows down a row of curb-side trash barrels.

ELEANOR

I don't know what people are thinking, sticking things in the middle of the road.

The number of honking horns grows.

Bobo apes Udo while being a backseat driver.

Bobo puts his hands over Udo's eyes, his fingers go into Udo's nostrils and his toes go into Udo's ears.

He leaps on the front seat and tries to drive while in Udo's lap.

Bobo falls into the pedal well, depressing the pedal all the way while Udo is unable to brake.

He then climbs out the rear window and leans his head down over the windshield.

Bobo scrambles to the back seat.

No one in the vehicle is aware a police car is behind them.

ELEANOR

It's SUCH a relief to have a man at the steering wheel again.

Temporarily they are on the sidewalk.

Pedestrians flee.

ELEANOR

NOT that I believe in women's inequality and being poor drivers.

That's the silliest of myths. I'm 100% women's lib.

Car horns are steady.

ELEANOR

I attend the luncheons, I go up to the podium, I lecture. In fact, it's common knowledge that women are superior to men in every way!

A car swerves by and a man shouts angrily out his window.

ELEANOR

He probably wants my phone number. They all have one-track minds.

More muffled shouts, more horns honk and sirens blare.

ELEANOR

I consider myself ABOVE driving, really. Who wants to keep watching silly yellow lines in the middle of the road?

Loud muffled shouting can be heard.

ELEANOR

Stop signs...yield signs...green lights...

A pedestrian plastered against the windshield is going through his list of insults.

ELEANOR

... red lights. As if I didn't have more important things to think about!

The car screeches.

Bobo flies over the seat into Udo's lap.

A PEDESTRIAN leaps off to the side.

PEDESTRIAN

(muffled)

You'll hear from my lawyer!

**ELEANOR** 

If he wanted a ride, why didn't he put his thumb out?

Car continues haltingly.

Udo throws Bobo back to the rear.

ELEANOR

Anyway, this morning Bonnie calls me up hysterically crying...

A car passes with a dog's face hanging out the rear window.

Bobo puts his face up to the onlooking window.

ELEANOR

...she's in the middle of divorcing her third husband, CLANCY,... who meddlesome Eleanor here had to go play cupid and introduce to her in the first place. Oh, and the custody battle!

The dog growls.

Bobo shrieks, covers Eleanor's eyes, buries his head in her hair.

ELEANOR

Oh, oh... you poor child!

Eleanor tries to peel his hands from her face.

ELEANOR

Listen, I've always been softhearted for single dads, especially ones with 'special needs' children. Do you have him on medication?

Udo grunts.

ELEANOR

My, it must have been an awful custody battle. Or wasn't it a divorce? Did your wife... did she...?

The police car's lights are flashing.

Udo grunts.

ELEANOR

I'm so terribly sorry!

She spins the wheel to avoid hitting another car when Udo is in the wrong lane.

ELEANOR

They say it's the good ones who die young!

EXT. ELEANOR'S LUXURY CAR - HIGHWAY - DAY

Traffic whizzes by.

Steam is creeping from the hood.

The car is stopped on the shoulder with its blinkers going.

The hood pops open.

Steam billows out.

Eleanor and the chimps exit the car and come to the front.

A siren grows louder and louder.

The police car pulls-up.

Udo looks blankly at the engine.

ELEANOR

What do you think is wrong?

Bobo leaps up under the hood.

ELEANOR

Careful, sweetie!

Bobo probes with his finger.

There is a sizzling sound.

He shrieks and sucks on his finger.

He pulls at random wires, getting into a rage, screaming and yanking them out.

**ELEANOR** 

(shouting)

Are you sure he knows what he's doing?

The blaring police car siren stops abruptly.

The window comes down.

OFFICER

I thought it was you, Eleanor. Driving erratic! What seems to be the problem?

ELEANOR

Hi, Harry. Annabelle is in one of her moods again. She's all over the place.

Officer grabs his car radio.

OFFICER

Sorry. Let me see if I can radio in for help.

He pushes the button.

OFFICER BURNS

Hello, this is officer HARRY BURNS. We have a disabled vehicle on I-75.

EXT. ELEANOR'S MANSION - DAY

An old tow truck, with Annabelle on her back wheels, pulls up to the curb.

Eleanor and the chimps get out.

She reaches into her purse, pulls out a bill and hands it to the DRIVER.

ELEANOR

You're terribly sweet. Here's a fifty.

The driver takes the tip, gleefully examines the bill and stuffs it in his pocket.

The tow truck and Annabelle continue down the street.

INT. LARGE MANSION - FOYER - DAY

A chandelier hangs high above the front door as Eleanor enters with Udo and Bobo.

ELEANOR

Probably looks small, but this was all Carlyle left me in the divorce settlement. He insisted on the poodle, so I'm alone.

Bobo hops up the stairs and slides down the bannister.

ELEANOR

So, Carlyle is a politician. Always will be. He knew the judge.

Bobo switches the lights on and off.

ELEANOR

He was even friends with my attorney. Naturally, I lost little Fido.

UDO

(plaintively)

Fido.

ELEANOR

An animal lover, too! Bless your heart. There are so few of us left.

She wrings her hands as a tear drops from her eye.

ELEANOR

How I miss the patter of those little toenails on the linoleum!

Bobo continues working the lights.

UDO

Aha, DUMPSTER!

ELEANOR

Yes. Carlyle dumped me all right. Now he's in Bora Bora with his secretary.

She inhales, stretching her arms and smiling.

ELEANOR

There's something to be said for companionship when you're lonely.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFRICAN JUNGLE, CHIMP COMMUNITY - PRESENT - DAY

Bobo is telling the story to Kodo, who suddenly jumps up.

KUDO

Hold on for a minute, Pop! I'll be right back.

Kudo quickly returns with a banana.

KUDO

Sorry, Pop. My stomach is growling. So you say she was beautiful, Pop?

BOBO

Uh, for a human, maybe. Couldn't compare to your mother,...but she was passable.

CUT TO:

INT. MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bobo and Udo step out of the bedroom rubbing their eyes.

Eleanor is wearing a red jacket and fluffing the extended blue feather on her oversized hat.

ELEANOR

Aha, you boys can stay here.
 (tipping her hat)
I'm going to a political fund
raising dinner. Got it from my
husband... politics, politics,
politics.

An empty expression crosses Udo's face.

Bobo grabs for the gigantic feather on Eleanor's hat.

Eleanor pulls away.

ELEANOR

Silly billy.

A disappointed Bobo flashes his teeth.

Eleanor removes the feather.

She hands it to Bobo.

ELEANOR

Okay, it's yours to play with while I'm gone... TAH, TAH!

Eleanor exits breezily.

Bobo eagerly demolishes the feather.

Udo, smiling strangely, murmurs.

UDC

Politics... politics... politics!

INT. MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

UDO

We've got it made here! She likes us and we're safe.

BOBO

She likes YOU! This is not my kind of life.

UDO

You have the run of the place.

BOBO

What good is that if I don't like the place? The jungle is my home.

UDO

Home is where you make it.

BOBO

And Aja is my life, my home.

UDO

Blah, blah, blah. You're not even listening.

BOBO

That's just it... I am.

UDO

So what do you want me to do?

вово

Help me get back to Aja.

UDO

Ok, ok. But there's no guarantee, and it might take time.

вово

Thank you. It's what I want.

INT. MANSION - DAY

Eleanor goes up to her former nursery where Bobo is playing.

She has toys and snacks for him.

ELEANOR

I have a surprise for you! Why so silent? Take off the cap. I can't even see your handsome face!

She gently removes the New York Yankee baseball cap.

Bobo flashes a delightful grin, followed by a not-unhappy shriek

Eleanor screams, then recovers herself.

ELEANOR

A CHIMPANZEE! So you're the one who ate the bananas in the kitchen and the plastic fruit in the dining room! You fooled me with those clothes and a baseball hat... a chimpanzee!

(regains composure)

Funny, I don't understand you... but... I know everything you say.

Eleanor, rubbing her hands, waits for Udo with secret determination.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHIMP COMMUNITY - STORY TELLING CIRCLE - DAY

Bobo, Aja, Kudo, and Grandfather stand-up and stretch.

GRANDFATHER

I'm amazed she didn't find you out sooner. She is a real kook!

A perturbed Aja confronts her father.

AJA

How can you even think that?

GRANDFATHER

(assertive)

Do you blame me? She sounds bizarre!

Kudo sits close to Bobo.

KUDO

C'mon dad, tell us more.

They gather together once again.

CUT TO:

INT. MANSION - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Udo returns home during a stormy night.

Eleanor is patiently waiting.

Bobo, wearing his hat, is by her side.

ELEANOR

I've discovered something. Bobo is not your son!

Patting Bobo's head.

ELEANOR

He's a chimpanzee!

She yanks off the hat.

**ELEANOR** 

The kind those people are searching for on TV!

She moves dramatically around the room.

ELEANOR

And I found out another thing. You've been hiding something else from me. But you can't fool Eleanor! I've been around the block.

(chest out)

I know people, I know men, Udo! And I had a suspicion. I did a little research myself, and I am pretty sure I know your true identity.

Face to face with Udo.

ELEANOR

You're an illegal immigrant from Rumania!

INT. MANSION - NIGHT

The three are on the couch together.

Eleanor and Udo are seated side by side.

ELEANOR

But your secret is safe with me.... yes... and once you're taking English language classes, we'll have the most wonderful conversations!

(head tipped)

My friend SUNRISE KIRBY-ROSS, a 'hippie-type activist', is a teacher of English to foreigners...

Eleanor thinks further.

ELEANOR

... my other friend studies chimps. And I'm sure she'd be very interested in you!

She strokes Bobo, who is playing on her lap.

ELEANOR

I've always wanted a chimpanzee... ever since I saw Tarzan movies and those old Ronald Reagan movies, BEDTIME FOR BONZO, and its inspiring sequel, BONZO GOES TO COLLEGE!

She eyes Bobo pertinently.

ELEANOR

But father wouldn't let me. They said chimps were filthy and dangerous! Well, father's with mother now!

Starts crying.

Eleanor embraces Udo, while Bobo gently hugs Eleanor.

INT. ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOM - DAY

Udo takes a seat in the classroom.

Ms. Kirby-Ross, the teacher, wears granny glasses, crystal earrings, a beaded necklace, a handmade dress and sandals.

She lifts her arm to write on the chalkboard, showing armpit hair.

In flowery cursive she writes, MS. KIRBY-ROSS.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS

That's me!

The students wear name tags on clothes native to their countries.

Ms. Kirby-Ross goes around the classroom, speaking loudly with maximum lip movement.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS

WELCOME CLASS! I know you all have your name tags on, but pronunciation is sometimes difficult. Could we start with you, sir?

She points to a listless, heavy set MAN IN THE FRONT (VALAD) row in workman's clothes; vest, no tie, collar buttoned.

He does not respond.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS

Your name, sir?

He grunts, deep and guttural.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS

On your NAME TAG?

She points to it.

VLAD

(heavy accent)

Vlad Petrovitch

MS. KIRBY-ROSS

Ok. It's very nice to meet you, Vlad Petrovitch. Now I want you to repeat after me. 'My name is Vlad Petrovitch.'

WHOLE CLASS

(slowly)

MY NAME IS VLAD PETROVITCH.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS

No, no. His name is Vlad Petrovitch!

WHOLE CLASS

NO, NO. HIS NAME IS VLAD PETROVITCH.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS

Ok. Now I want everybody to say 'my name is' and then say your name. Left to right, from the front of the class to the back.

The class is clueless.

The WOMAN (ROSA) who speaks next has giant gold hoop earrings, a short skirt and a crucifix necklace.

ROSA

My name is ROSA MARIA DA SILVA GONZOLEZ GARCIA LORCA.

A BLACK WOMAN (OLIVE BUTAKARAM) wears a brightly beaded necklace and a rainbow colored Kofu.

OLIVE

My name is Olive Butakaram. I am from Ghana.

Olive smiles proudly at this extra information.

Ms Kirby-Ross zeroes in on Udo.

UDO

(pompous)

My name is XXXHHPPTTGGIIRRRKKLLXXX

The sounds Udo makes are like spitting, gargling and rolling his R's, all at once.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS

Is that really how you pronounce your name, Udo?

Udo nods.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS

And where are you from, Udo?

There is a picture of Washington, D.C. above the chalkboard.

Udo glances in its general direction.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS
That's Washington, D.C. You're sure you're from there?

Udo nods again.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS And you don't speak English?

Ms. Kirby-Ross shakes her head and sighs.

Udo mimics her and slowly shakes his head.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS
The sad reality is that decline of reading skills lie right here on our doorstep!

The student responses are slow and cumbersome.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS
You could be a peace activist!
We've got something in common. I'm
an activist myself! I have things
to say to those people in the oval
office.

Udo acts as if he understands.

Udo makes his way toward the door.

MS. KIRBY-ROSS
Udo, not yet! I love passion when it comes to politics, but education is as important. Class, repeat after me. Don't leave, Udo. We want you to learn with us.

WHOLE CLASS
DON'T LEAVE, UDO. WE WANT YOU TO
LEARN WITH US!

INT. ELEANOR'S MANSION - DAY

With the TV on, Bobo lies in a very messy bed eating from a variety of tattered boxes and containers.

A banana peel dangles over the headboard.

Fruit peels litter his chest.

He is watching the news.

MONTAGE - NEWSPAPER HEADLINES FLASH ON TV:

Animated headlines move dramatically on the TV screen:

APES ESCAPE: WHERE ARE THEY?

CHIMPS'OHOY!

ILLEGAL CHIMPIGRANTS!

CHIMPS GONE WILD!

HAIRY HOUDINIS!

APE CAPERS MAKE PAPERS!

TV REPORTER (V.O.) ...and the search for the two escaped chimps has left the city perplexed.

EXT. HOMELESS COMMUNITY - DAY

The reporter speaks into his microphone, BUMS #1 and #2 on either side of him.

TV REPORTER

BOB REED here, on location talking with people who say they've seen the chimps in question. Gentlemen?

Bum #1 grabs the microphone.

BUM #1

(boastfully)

THANK YOU, BOB. Yeah! We was picking out clothes one time - there was these cowboy pants I liked - and those monkeys walked up to us and we started talking baseball and politics and stuff.

Reporter, wearing a strange expression, struggles grabbing the microphone back.

TV REPORTER

The chimps SPOKE to you, you say?

Bum #2 grabs the microphone from the other side.

BUM #2

Of course they did. Scientists have already proven apes are smarter than people. Or is it the other way around?

BUM #1 grabs the microphone back.

BUM #1

That's DOLPHINS, you idiot. Maybe they're smarter than YOU... but no fish is gonna beat ME at a game of trivial pursuit, I can tell you that.

Bum #2 holds out his hand.

BUM #2

Yo, Bob, do you think we can have that reward money now?

INT. ELEANOR'S MANSION - DAY

Bobo, watching TV, is starring attentively.

He shows his teeth, slaps his knee and makes anxious noises.

TV REPORTER (V.O.)

People are doing the most outrageous things to collect the \$20,000 reward.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - DAY

The TV reporter is holding a microphone in front of the police officer's face.

POLICE OFFICER

Yeah, Bob, we had a couple of perpetrators fraudulently trying to collect the reward.

The officer switches on a video.

The image is a grainy black and white.

A matronly woman is talking to a chubby kid in a chimp costume.

KID

Mom, when this is over, can I have a pop tart?

MOTHER

Yes, yes. Shut up and make funny noises.

The TV camera focuses on the reporter.

TV REPORTER (V.O.)
The woman has been sentenced to
three years in prison for fraud and
endangering the welfare of a minor.
Her son has been taken to the zoo.

Officer holds up sketches.

POLICE OFFICER

We have composite sketches of the chimps for you folks at home. If you see them, call the number at the bottom of the screen.
BEWARE... they could bite!

Disturbing pencil likenesses of Bobo and Udo, wearing bland expressions, appear.

An 800 number flashing at the bottom of the screen.

A digital arrow points out the white spots.

I/E. ELEANOR'S MANSION AND NEIGHBOR'S HOME- DAY

Bobo is home alone.

Bobo feels his forehead for the white spot.

A little shoe polish comes off.

He tastes it.

Bobo moves to the main living area.

A decorative fireplace covers the entire wall.

He climbs up the chimney.

Bobo's head peers out of a chimney, turning around like a periscope.

He scales the roof, jumps on a tree and lands in a neighbor's yard.

A back window is open and Bobo enters.

While inspecting the front room, he hears voices approaching.

He hides behind the couch.

A MALE and FEMALE enter.

MALE

At last we're alone.

Bobo is behind making distorted faces.

MALE

Fluffy...

FEMALE

Yes, Bunny Rabbit.

Male breaths deeply.

MATE

I have a little surprisey wisey for you.

He's fiddling with a bit of jewelry and gives her a ring.

Bobo is confused and falling asleep.

FEMALE

But Dollface, you deliberately ignored my choice. It was the gallic crosshatch with the tea rose carvings!

Male trying to be patient.

MALE

That's because all your friends were laughing behind your back because it looked tacky wacky.

The female draws back, offended.

Bobo's ears perk up.

As they speak, their voices get more whispery and intimate.

The female is noticeably unhappy after examining the ring.

MALE

But Petunia Blossom. I have the premarriage agreement right here in my pocket. Let's take a little looksee... Ok. It says here on clause 149.B...

After some time, the couple depart.

Bobo eagerly slips out behind them.

He leaves through the window wearing a pink shower cap.

EXT. ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

The reporter is with Chance, the ice cream clerk, who is still in his white uniform.

Behind them stands a big angry man in the same uniform.

CHANCE

(to reporter)

All I wanted was to become employee of the month...

(points to big, mean
looking guy)

...instead, I got fired. I knew those chimpanzees were no good as soon as they walked in. Not even a tip!

EXT. CITY INTERSECTION - DAY

Animal Rights' activists (lots of hippie types) block traffic.

Horns honk and there is a lot of shouting and fist-shaking.

Some hold up picket signs with crudely drawn images of chimpanzees.

TV REPORTER

Groups, like animal rights activists, have taken this opportunity to advertise their cause.

Others resemble Neanderthals themselves, heavy brows, woolly dark hair and beards.

TV reporter approaches a bearded man wearing a bandana.

TV REPORTER

So you think, sir, chimps should be allowed to roam the city freely?

BEARDED MAN

Animals have rights, too. Say you were a chimp out there havin' a few kicks, man, minding your own business and those pigs in blue kept trying to put you back in a cage? How would you feel, man? Huh?

TV REPORTER (V.O.) Clearly there have been economic repercussions as well.

EXT. THE NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN - DAY

TV reporter stands with ZOOKEEPERS #1 and #2.

TV REPORTER

What was your job before they fired you?

ZOOKEEPER #1

I used to clean up after the animals, do a little repair work. I ain't no Einstein. But when I'm outsmarted by chimps, it hurts! It really hurts!

ZOOKEEPER #2

I was fired, too, Bob! Those chimps are a menace to society!

TV reporter shakes his head in sympathy.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHIMP COMMUNITY - STORY TELLING CIRCLE - DAY Kudo and his grandfather hang on each word.

Aja is silently listening.

KUDO

So what happened? What happened next?

**GRANDFATHER** 

Yea boy, what happened next?

AJA

Don't rush him.

Bobo glances at Aja acknowledging her patience.

**BOBO** 

So, Udo went on to tell me of this dinner...

CUT TO:

INT. POLITICAL FUND RAISING DINNER - BANQUET HALL - NIGHT

Eleanor and Udo stand by a lobby sign reading: POLITICAL FUND RAISING BANQUET.

At the entrance door, a YOUNG LADY is distributing name tags.

She greets Eleanor and Udo.

The young lady attaches the tag on his suit jacket saying: MY NAME IS UDO.

YOUNG LADY

There...now you're official!

Eleanor exudes a giddy pride.

When Eleanor and Udo enter the dinning room, Eleanor starts gabbing with a group of women at the door.

Udo wanders in by himself.

He sits at the head table.

The long table is in front of the room for the speakers who will attest to the fine character of this political candidate.

He simply grabs a seat and sits.

Eleanor can't find Udo.

The FIRST SPEAKER begins his testimonial.

Eleanor rushes to one of the tables.

Next to her sits a REVEREND.

She spots Udo sitting and chewing celery sticks at the front table.

Eleanor remains helplessly in the audience.

The speakers endorse Bennie Rump running for congress.

The front table speakers testify in turn, one person after another, submitting grand testimonials of why Rump is an asset to the community.

At the end of the table is Udo, and after the NEXT SPEAKER sits down, he taps Udo on the shoulder.

NEXT SPEAKER

You're turn!

Udo steps up to the podium.

He scans the large audience.

Udo waves his arms.

Acts with bombastic certainty.

Udo repeats what he learned.

UDO

Save the environment!

His English teacher applauds wholeheartedly.

UDO

(speaking slowly)

Elect my Rump.

Udo repeats what he learned in class.

UDO

SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT!!

(beat)

COULD YOU PLEASE SHOW ME THE WAY TO

THE MENS' ROOM?

(beat)

RUMP, RUMP, RUMP...

(clapping)

People start cheering.

UDO

The world is not a dumpster!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2 stands up

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2 SAVE OUR WORLD!

Cheers.

UDO

The simple life!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #3 stands and applauds. (audience claps)

Udo pounds his heart.

UDO

Remember where we came from!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #4
The way our forefathers ran things!
THE CONSTITUTION!

Cheering crowds encircle Udo.

Eleanor addresses the reverend.

ELEANOR

He'd be a wonderful councilman.

REVEREND

Or a wonderful preacher!

INT. BANQUET ROOM - NIGHT

Eleanor introduces Udo to the reverend at her table.

REVEREND

Udo, huh? Kinda looks a little apish. Wonder if he's interested in the ministry?

She chuckles and makes light of it.

Udo gives the reverend a knowing glance.

INT. MANSION - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Bobo is alone in the house.

He's in the cabinets containing cereals and foodstuff.

Refrigerator door, cabinets and drawers are open.

Food is over the floor.

Bobo is tasting everything and is making a mess.

## MONTHS LATER

INT. MANSION FOYER - DAY

A fully human enters the large foyer.

Udo is dressed in a stylish blue suit and dressy hat.

Bobo is by his side.

Udo hands Eleanor a wooden framed sheet of paper.

ELEANOR

Udo. I'm so proud of you. A graduation diploma in English!

She gives him a big kiss.

UDO

Took me six months! Did you read it? Says WITH SPECIAL HONORS.

ELEANOR

I see. I see.

Bobo snatches the diploma out of Eleanor's hand.

He scampers to the living room, chewing and spitting out pieces of the diploma.

Udo is outraged.

He chases Bobo around the couch and into the dining room.

**ELEANOR** 

Udo, don't hurt my baby... he's only playing!

UDO

Not with my diploma, he ain't!

He corners Bobo in the bedroom and locks the door.

UDO

HAND IT OVER!

Bobo throws over the chewed remains of the diploma.

BOBO

An English speaking chimp, hah.

UDO

You don't get it! I use to be a chimp... I'm human now!

BOBO

Human?... you appear human... but you're still a chimp.

Bobo shrieks and slap Udo in the face.

BOBO

For ignoring me... my dreams... I'd rather be in a cage.

Udo punches Bobo.

Bobo feels his chin.

UDO

And that's for trying to ruin my new life.

They grab, swing, shriek, knock over furniture and rip each other's clothes.

Banana peels and smashed fruit decorate the walls.

Knocking on the door.

ELEANOR (O.S.)

BOYS! BOYS! LET ME IN!

Bobo and Udo stop in a state of fatigue.

Bobo stares at Udo.

BOBO

You gotta get me home... back to Africa and Aja. Promise me!

UDO

It's the only solution...
Yea...yea... I'll try... Eleanor knows people.

INT. RETIREMENT/POLITICAL DINNER - NIGHT

The restaurant is crowded with a background of chatter and loud, upbeat music.

The speakers are seated together for dinner.

One man (HOST) approaches the microphone.

Udo and Eleanor are at a dinner table nearby.

HOST

We are here to honor the devoted political leadership of one, Councilman SLIM VIGOR. (clapping)

Slim stands and raises his arms.

HOST

For the last twelve years, he has served as our outstanding representative and we're here tonight to say, THANK YOU!

(applause)

The guests rise simultaneously and passionately applaud. People quiet down.

HOST

To replace Councilman Slim Vigor is a monumental task. To find someone with his admirable qualities is almost impossible. But I feel comfortable with his replacement.

Guest muse in wonderment.

HOST

After speaking with our political leaders, Slim, our constituents, Eleanor and, above all, Udo, a replacement Councilman has been chosen. WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF POLITICS...UDO!

A roar of joy bounces off the walls.

Eleanor gives Udo a big kiss.

Udo waves and grins.

HOST

Today Councilman... tomorrow Senator... and maybe, maybe... someday...

the top political office. (screams of delight)

Udo gets up, raises his arms, and clasps his hands in victory.

INT. RETIREMENT/POLITICAL DINNER - NIGHT

Eleanor and Udo are enjoying the eventful dinner together.

Every-so-often people would come to the table to extend congratulations.

**ELEANOR** 

I'm so proud of you... so proud!

Udo reflects for a few moments.

UDO

Yep. I'll admit it... I'm finally who and where I want to be.

ELEANOR

Then why the concern on your face?

Udo leans back in his chair.

UDO

Bobo.

ELEANOR

Bobo? The joy of my life?

UDO

Well, the joy of your life is unhappy...

ELEANOR

... but I love him... I'll do anything for him.

UDO

He wants to go home.

**ELEANOR** 

HE IS HOME...

UDO

... back to Africa!

Eleanor places her hands to her mouth.

ELEANOR

Oh my. Oh my. But how do you know? Bobo's a chimp.

UDO

You gotta trust me on this one. Bobo and I have been together a long time.

ELEANOR

Dear me. Dear me.

UDO

Can you help make the poor chimp happy again?

Eleanor springs forward.

ELEANOR

MEG. MEG SITE! She's a zoologist who studies chimpanzees in Africa. Bet she could get Bobo home.

UDO

Where do we find her?

ELEANOR

When she's in the states, Meg works at the Capital Research Museum. We can go there tomorrow.

Udo lets out a sigh of relief.

INT. CAPITAL RESEARCH MUSEUM - MEG'S OFFICE - DAY

The inside of the museum is filled with animal photos, charts, sculptures, paintings, and animal paraphernalia.

The outside sign on Meg's door reads: MEG SITE, CHIMPANZEE RESEARCHER.

Meg is in her office bent over a chart.

Eleanor and Udo knock and are enthusiastically invited in.

MEG.

ELEANOR!... a beautiful vision.

ELEANOR

And you're as exquisite as ever yourself.

Udo is leaning patiently on the bookcase.

He recognizes Meg, the woman on the hill.

ELEANOR

Forgive me, this is my friend... and future Councilman... Udo.

Udo grins and shifts his eyes abruptly.

MEG

What brings you here?

Eleanor chuckles.

ELEANOR

Aha... a pet chimp named, Bobo. He's a wonderful little guy who misses Africa. We thought you may be able to help get him home.

MEG

Back home! How do you know he wants to go?

ELEANOR

They've been friends for years. It's almost as if Udo and Bobo communicate.

MEG

I fully believe that's the case... my research bears it out. Now it's a matter of trying to determine the extent of communication.

Meg drops her pen.

MEG

It so happens I'm flying to Africa tomorrow for six months of research. I'm taking two other domesticated chimps.

Udo is elated.

MEG

See, I'm on a funded study whereby I take domesticated chimps and release them into the wild to see how they interact with the fellow chimps. Bobo fits the bill. Bring Bobo to the airport at nine.

INT. MANSION - BOBO'S ROOM - DAY

Bobo is motionlessly peering out the window.

Udo flies through the door.

Bobo is startled.

UDO

Cheer-up buddy. I've got great news for you.

BOBO

No more bananas... PLEASE!

Udo puts his hand on Bobo's shoulder.

UDO

No bananas. You're going home!

вово

Home?

UDO

HOME. AFRICA. AJA.

вово

I don't get it.

UDO

GET IT! You're leaving on a plane tomorrow... with the beautiful woman we saw in the jungle.

Bobo jumps in glee.

вово

But how...?

UDO

Doesn't matter...you're going.
It's your last night in the states!

Udo grabs his safari hat off the bookcase.

Hands the safari hat to Bobo.

UDO

My gift to you. You'll need it in the jungle.

Bobo plops on the safari hat.

He removes his NEW YORK YANKEE baseball cap.

BOBO

Take this. You're an American resident... play the part.

Udo puts it on his head.

UDO

Not bad. Not bad at all.

(beat)

Tonight we celebrate... you, me and Eleanor are going to the FUTURE-O-RAMA AMUSEMENT PARK.

BOBO

Cool.

Bobo pounds his chest.

EXT. FUTURE-O-RAMA AMUSEMENT PARK - GAME BOOTH - NIGHT

The grounds are populated with both young and old.

Games and rides are busy with customers.

Vendors are selling food and products.

Off to the side is an animal wax museum.

Bobo, Udo and Eleanor are walking down the main strip.

UDO

How about this booth. I think Bobo would enjoy it. A prize is given to anyone who knocks down three pins using large balls.

Eleanor purchases a ticket and three balls for Bobo.

Bobo observes others throwing the balls.

He tosses the ball at everything but the pins.

The MANAGER crouches behind the counter.

MANAGER

PLEASE! I HAVE A WIFE AND CHILDREN!

Bobo throws his last ball at the manager, closely missing his head.

UDO

Bobo. You're suppose to hit the pins.

The manager lashes out.

Feels his head.

MANAGER

No more tries. I don't want to end up in the hospital.

Eleanor grabs Bobo's hand.

ELEANOR

We were leaving anyway.

The manager strokes his head and then examines his hand.

EXT. FUTURE-O-RAMA AMUSEMENT PARK - COTTON CANDY VENDER - NIGHT

Bobo, Udo and Eleanor come upon a a cotton candy vender surrounded by a crowd.

Bobo breaks loose from Eleanor's hand and takes-off toward the stand.

A heavy-set KID is devouring his cotton candy.

Along comes Bobo who snatches the cotton candy away.

The kid watches Bobo flee with his treat, holds up his empty hands and cries.

His heavy-set MOTHER scolds him.

MOTHER

EASE-UP! You had three already.

KID

(weeping)

But mom...

MOTHER

But nothing... you're beginning to look like your father.

Bobo makes his getaway unnoticed.

He sees Eleanor and Udo by the Ferris Wheel.

His face is covered with cotton candy.

EXT. FUTURE-O-RAMA AMUSEMENT PARK - FERRIS WHEEL - NIGHT

A short pouring rain shower breaks out over the amusement grounds.

The three get wet, but find refuge by a Ferris Wheel.

Bobo feels something dripping into his eyes.

When he wipes his eyes, he notices the brown shoe polish dribbling from his head.

Although Bobo cannot see it, part of his head white spot is noticeable.

An engraved sign next to them says: THE FERRIS WHEEL WAS INTRODUCED TO THE WORLD IN CHICAGO (1893).

Bobo points to the Ferris Wheel.

Udo brings Bobo to the ticket counter.

Eleanor goes to the side.

The TICKET COLLECTOR has his head down counting change.

He barely raises his head when he collects the admission fee from Udo.

When he returns Udo's change, he notices Bobo's white spot.

He takes another look.

TICKET COLLECTOR

(elated)

I FOUND ONE OF THE MISSING CHIMPS!

The crowd zeros-in on Bobo.

The ticket collector is on the phone.

Udo grabs Bobo's hand.

UDO

Time to say bye-bye!

Eleanor passively gapes.

Security people and visitors block the road.

Police cars surround the area.

YOUNG TEEN turns to his friend.

YOUNG TEEN

With the reward, we can each buy a sports car. LET'S GET HIM!

Bobo and Udo seem trapped.

BOBO

I've got an idea! If we can climb over the Ferris Wheel, we'll be on the opposite side of the amusement park... FREE!

UDO

But I'm human! I'm not a chimp.

BOBO

Once a chimp, always a chimp!

They begin scaling the Ferris Wheel.

Udo's climbing skills remain intact.

The police, zoo personnel, pedestrians, and animal rights advocates, are screaming simultaneously.

Bobo and Udo keep climbing.

**UDO** 

I hope they don't recognize me.

вово

Never! We're too far away.

UDO

Suppose so. I can barely see those colorful-painted bikes heading toward the amusement park. Uh oh...

вово

What?

UDO

Jeez, the first bike hit the guard rail. Ouch!... the rest of the bikes smashed into the first one. Pink all over the place!

BOBO

Yea, they're shaking themselves off, waving fingers at each other.

Udo places his foot on a wet piece of steel and slips.

Bobo takes Udo's arm and pulls him up.

UDO

(breathless)

Thanks. I told you I wasn't a chimp anymore.

BOBO

Go on... you're just an out-of-shape chimp.

They swing and leap to the vacant side of the Ferris Wheel.

The police and the crowd try to climb the Ferris Wheel in order to capture the two.

People fall on top of each other.

Bobo and Udo bound away to freedom.

INT. - AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

Passengers and luggage crowd the waiting area.

Eleanor and Udo sit next to Bobo and Meq.

They somberly await the flight.

Eleanor abruptly leans over and hugs Bobo, who looks stunned.

ELEANOR

First my husband. Now you. A bad wife and a bad mother. What's wrong with me?

MEG

Here, here. You're being too hard on yourself.

ELEANOR

Thank the Lord for Udo.

Udo leads Bobo away from Eleanor and Meq.

He makes eye to eye contact.

UDO

Aha, I want... you know... I want to thank you for being part of my life.

BOBO

Things change. We've got to go our separate ways. Things change.

He hangs his head.

UDO

We'll always be family, right?

Bobo slumps sadly in his chair.

The speakers are turned on.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

FLIGHT 301 DESTINED FOR TANZANIA IS NOW BOARDING.

Bobo falls to the floor, limp.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFRICAN JUNGLE - CHIMP COMMUNITY - DAY

Bobo is drinking water from a stream.

Out of a tree falls a chimp, directly on Bobo.

Meg, using binoculars, observes from a distance.

The chimp wears a yellow ribbon.

They gaze at each other.

Bobo squints and pounds his chest.

His cries of joy echo throughout the jungle.

Aja hugs him for dear life.

Meg puts down her binoculars.

She smiles, satisfied.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFRICAN JUNGLE - CHIMP COMMUNITY, FAMILY MEETING - PRESENT - DAY

Aja kisses Bobo.

AJA

Thought I'd never see Bobo again. My world crumbled.

Kudo fidgets.

KUDO

So...what was the second surprise.

Bobo glances at Aja.

BOBO

Something very valuable... YOU!

KUDO

ME?

BOBO

What a surprise!

KUDO

And Udo?

A tear rolls down Bobo's cheek.

BOBO

Udo... he's family. Last I heard, he is a beloved politician.

GRANDFATHER

(beaming)

Like me!

KUDO

So, what about the hat, dad?

вово

Oh yea, the safari hat. Well, it represents my life... a part of me and Udo! I guess it's time to let go.

Bobo takes his hat off and flings it.

Amazed, the family watches it sail freely into the sky.

It lands near a group of chimps, who, puzzled by it, kick it along.

One picks it up and tries to bite it.

Another grabs it, and yet another grabs it from him.

The hat is lost in a growing group of chimps.

They scratch their underarms, wrinkle their eyebrows, push out their lower lips and screech.

FADE OUT.

THE END