

CHIMPFUSION

FADE IN:

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 Aja's FATHER.

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 foggy
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 and at his Grandfather. Aja throws up her hands in frustration.

BOBO
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? 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, and more bananas!

Grandfather raises his eyebrows.

GRANDFATHER

The boy's gone bananas!

Kudo approaches a bunch of bananas. Tumbles and squashes them, decorating the family with mashed banana spray.

GRANDFATHER

The boy's gone ape!

Kudo stands and huffs.

KUDO

Swinging from tree to 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 armpit and his head.

Grandfather plops over backwards in shock.

KUDO

EEEE! EEEE! EEEE! EEEE! EEEE!

Aja tests her father's vital signs.

Grandfather dusts himself off.

GRANDFATHER

Why, you little rascal!

Grandfather puffs his chest and stretches his feeble arms.

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!

Bobo embraces Kudo.

GRANDFATHER
Young Kudo insults us, our family,
and you cuddle him like a hero?

BOBO
(to Kudo)
I can't tell you how much you
remind me of a close, very 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?

She scratches her head.

BOBO
Udo! He was there 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 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 wide-brim 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 to me, 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.

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

The family is appalled.

GRANDFATHER
Well, I'M old enough!

AJA
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, if you 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, yet as far as far can get!

GRANDFATHER
Dispense with the riddles, boy!

BOBO
Let me tell it this way...

CUT TO:

YEARS EARLIER

I/E. RESEARCH BUILDING - DAY

A wooden building is bordered by lush trees and thick brush. Engraved in the building is the sign: TANZANIA ANIMAL RESEARCH LABORATORY.

Inside, a sign on a door reads: CLONING.

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

White jacketed figures operate on the original Bobo.

In a nearby bed is a clone of Bobo (called UDO). Udo (a clone) has an identical white spot on his forehead as Bobo.

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

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 anti-
government 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
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. Injects the arm of the clone, Udo.

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

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

Bobo stands back warily.

BOBO
Thanks for the compliment, clone!

UDO
Okay. Okay. What about our 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
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 and into the jungle, passing rebels in camouflage.

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.

UDO

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?

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.

UDO

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

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For the complete script please contact Jennifer Brooks at
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