

TIGER

Written by

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Based on a book by
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1 EXT. AFRICA. PLAINS - DAY

Herds of wildebeest, antelope, giraffe, slowly migrate on the plains of Africa. The grass is bare and dry, the pools are nearly dry, as they go to find new grass.

2 EXT. JUNGLE. SAME - DAY

3 INT. JUNGLE. SAME - DAY

Monkeys, birds, termites, rodents all go about their business.

4 EXT. JUNGLE. SAME - DAY

A large town is ahead. Between the jungle and the town there is a

5 EXT. CIRCUS. - DAY

A fun fare and a large tent in the middle for the circus.

Crowds, families with young children, a group of schoolchildren, are laughing and excited as they go on the rides and enjoy themselves.

On the closed entrance of the large tent. A sign reads

INSERT

"CIRCUS FULL - NEXT SHOW IN TWO HOURS"

6 INT. 'BIG TOP' - DAY

Families sit around the large arena eating pop corn and ice creams

A large cage, with a small caged corridor leading off to the back takes up the centre of the arena. In the cage there are chairs for the animals to sit on, hoops to jump through etc.

Around the empty cage jugglers and clowns entertain. The crowd happily laugh and clap at their antics.

The clowns and acrobats leave.

A man with a whip enters the cage through a door in its side. He parades up and down the cage making his whip 'crack'.

7 INT. SMALL CAGE. - DAY

A large female tiger is licking its infant cub. The Tiger is obviously tired but the cub wants feeding.

MOTHER (NIDIA)
That's enough now, I need to sleep

She rolls over, exhausted. The cub curls up next to her. The mother slowly falls asleep, as does the cub.

8 INT. SMALL CAGE. - DAY

A man bangs loudly on the cage bars to wake the mother up.

MAN
Get up!

He bangs the bars again

MAN (CONT'D)
(Screaming)
Get up!

He puts a sharp pole in the cage and drives it into her.

MAN (CONT'D)
Move

The Tiger wearily gets up and looks at her cub who is now scared and wants to be with her. The pole hits her again and, with one more look, she starts to leave her small cage and into the corridor. The cub tries to follow but is prodded back by the man. The cub squeals in pain and the mother turns back but is immediately hurt again. She looks desperate to be with her cub, but she has no choice.

She leaves and the cub whines. The man hits it with his pole and herds it into a corner. When the cub tries to leave to go after its mother he hits it again, until it stays there.

MAN (CONT'D)
Good. You're learning already. I'm
the boss and you do what I say

The cub takes a step forward but the man raises the pole again and the cub retreats and lowers itself in submission

MAN (CONT'D)
That's better. And don't you ever
forget.

9 INT. CIRCUS - CAGE - LATER

The eight Tigers file into the arena and go to their chairs. Nidia jumps on hers but stumbles off. A whip lashes at her back and she gets on.

He moves to another tiger, cracks his whip and the tiger gets off and jumps through a hoop...

The families in the audience laugh and cheer.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

10 INT. OFFICE - CIRCUS OWNER - DAY

The boss sits behind his desk, drinking whisky and smoking a cigar. On the desk is an elephants foot that he is using as an ash tray. A half full bottle of whisky sits on the desk.

Two men are standing, leaning against cupboards adjoining the opposite wall. They are also drinking whisky.

BOSS

How long before that cub is big enough to train?

MAN

Months

BOSS

I can't wait that long. How the hell did we buy a pregnant tiger?
(holds up his hands in frustration)

MAN

Its no good to us. Lets just do away with it.

BOSS

At the moment you could send it to the moon for all I care

11 INT. CIRCUS - TIGERS CAGE. - DAY

The man stands with a cattle prod and opens the cage. He waves the prod at Nidia and grabs Tiger by his ruff and drags him out, squealing.

Nidia roars her anger but the man threatens her. She backs off as there is nothing she can do.

The man locks the cage

12 EXT. BACK OF BIG TOP. SAME - DAY

MAN

Come on, just about feeding time

He takes Tiger to where old bones are on the floor from feeding time.

He takes out a knife, dangles Tiger by his ruff so that his necks is exposed. He puts the knife next to the throat,

MAN (CONT'D)

Well you didn't last long

BOSS (OS)

Stop!

BOSS (CONT'D)

Let it live

MAN

Why?

BOSS

(resigned)

Well, what it will cost us in food until it grows, is a lot less than a new one would cost, so....

(he shrugs)

13 INT. CIRCUS - TIGERS CAGE. SAME - DAY

The man opens the cage and throws Tiger in it. Nidia roars.

MAN

Screw you

He gives Nidia a quick bite of his stick. She squeals.

MAN (CONT'D)

Don't forget who's the boss.

(he looks at Tiger)

And when you grow you'd better learn quick

He leaves

14 INT. CAGE. SAME - DAY

Nidia pulls Tiger to her and cuddles him.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

15 EXT. PLAINS - DAY

The camera swoops over herds of wildebeest, antelope, giraffe, as they slowly return to the plains of Africa (from the opposite direction). The grass is green, there are pools of water.

Young animals gambol happily as their parents munch nearby.

16 INT. CIRCUS OFFICE. - DAY

BOSS

So its agreed. We need a more dangerous act for the tigers, to get the crowds all fired up. That's a good one, all fired up. So... more fire and.... what else?

JESS

I'm not sure but as long as it looks dangerous, and the trainers appear at risk. The more life threatening, the better. And it gives us something to advertise.

BOSS

And the animals? How quick to train them up?

JESS

Dead quick boss. They just do as they're told. One or two may get uppity but a good bit of pain soon shuts them all up. Or just don't give em any food. They soon learn. They'd jump into a blazing building if we told them to....

BOSS

Is that new one ready?

JESS

Just about. A bit more training, get him more used to fire, and off we go....

17 INT. SMALL CAGE. LATER

Nidia is sleeping in an adjoining cage. Close to her bars lies her cub, who is now a year old and as big as her.

A man bangs on the cubs cage

MAN

Come on!

He prods the cub (Devida/Tiger) and opens the small door to the bigger cage. Devida shakes with fear. He hugs the bars by Nidia.

DEVIDA

Help me mother, please help me

NIDIA

(Subdued)

I can't help you my son. Go with him Devida, do what they want, its better that way.

The man prods Devida again and he leaves the small cage. Nidia watches them go then puts her head back on the floor and closes her eyes

18

INT. LARGE CAGE IN ARENA - LATER - DAY

Devida is pacing backwards and forwards at the back of the cage and hugging the wall. In front of him there are four men. Two have blazing torches, one has an electric cattle prod and the other has a rifle.

JESS

Let's do it

The men with torches move in to Devida and back him into a corner. He raises up, lashes with his claws and growls. They move in closer. There is no escape. He is about to spring out when the man with the electric prod rushes in and electrocutes him.

Devida goes down and shakes as the current sweeps through him.

As he lies there they taunt him with the blazing torches.

He tries to defend himself but they electrocute him again. He lies still and when he rouses they put the fire straight in front of his face. He recoils but they electrocute him again. When he recovers and he is confronted with the fire, he doesn't move. He is beaten.

One of the men fetches a hoop and they set it alight, then put it at floor level in front of Devida. They lash his back side and he goes through the blazing hoop.

They make him do it again and again until he stops, exhausted.

MAN

(laughing)

They all love it in the end

19 INT. SMALL CAGE. LATER

Devida comes in slowly. His eyes are vacant, his mouth lathered, his body exhausted and matted with sweat. He drops down without looking at his mother.

His mother watches him and her heart is torn. A tear flows from her eye.

20 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A modest kitchen, and sitting around a table, having a drink, are a mother and father and their ten years old daughter.

DAUGHTER (SHEENA)

They were talking at school today
about the circus

The parents look at each other warily

SHEENA

I've never been to the circus

MOTHER

Maybe when you are older

SHEENA

It doesn't seem fair that my class
mates can go and I can't

MOTHER

I don't think you would like it

SHEENA

You tell me I should make my own
mind up about things. That's how I
will learn, that's how I will grow.

The father looks at his wife and smiles

FATHER

Get out of that

21 INT. BIG TOP - DAY

The Big Top is full. Aerial artists are overhead and clowns on unicycles are making the children laugh.

Sheena is sitting between her parents and eating an ice cream.

SHEENA

I like this

FATHER

Good

The Ringmaster comes out

Mother and father exchange glances. Mother grimaces as though something is about to happen to change that.

RINGMASTER

And now ladies and gentleman, boys
and girls, we present the wonderful
Tiger Troupe. They will amaze you
with their breathtaking skills
which they do just for your
enjoyment. So....

(He holds out his arm - a
drum roll)

The Tiger Troupe

The Tigers come down the tunnel to be met by a man with his whip who cracks it and they go and sit on their chairs. Devida is now part of the Troupe.

Devida looks into the audience and his eyes rest on Sheena. She is excited and laughing.

The Tigers start doing their routine. Jumping on high stools, though hoops.

RINGMASTER (CONT'D)

And now ladies and gentlemen, boys
and girls, just for you
(drum roll)

Hoops are lit and the Tigers, reluctantly, jump though them. Devida is more reluctant but a whip crack makes him do it.

SHEENA

(Concerned)

Why are they hitting him?

Father and mother look at each other and mother holds Sheena's hand.

MOTHER

They're not actually hitting him

SHEENA

But they don't like doing it

Her parents are now uncomfortable.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

Why are they making them do those things?

FATHER

(sadly)

Its a circus Sheena, its what they do

SHEENA
But they shouldn't

Sheena looks at Devida and she sees the hopelessness in his face.

22 INT. CAGE - SAME

Devida sees Sheena and the concern in her face for his welfare

23 EXT. ROAD IN BETWEEN HOUSES - DAY

The three of them are walking home. No one is talking. Suddenly Sheena stops.

SHEENA
We have to go back and help them

MOTHER
There's nothing we can do Sheena

SHEENA
There must be, there must be

FATHER
Unfortunately Sheena, that's the way it is, always has been..

SHEENA
But why?

FATHER
It's difficult to explain Sheena. A long time ago man started using animals to help them do jobs, like ploughing the fields. Then they used them as pets for company. Then they used them as....attractions, to make money.

SHEENA
But what if they don't want to do jobs, or be company, or make money for humans....?

MOTHER
It's not their decision Sheena, they don't have a choice.

24 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The family are sitting round the table.

SHEENA
 (pointing to parents)
 Why don't you do something?

FATHER
 What can we do Sheena?

SHEENA
 There must be something

FATHER
 Sheena, I know you want to help,
 and we would like to help, but
 there is nothing that can be done.
 Even if we helped the animals in
 this circus, there are thousands of
 circuses all over the world. And
 there are zoos, and aquariums, and
 dogs in kennels, birds in
 cages.....

SHEENA
 (Sheena starts crying)
 It's not fair

MOTHER
 No, its not

SHEENA
 We have to do something..

25 EXT. BIG TOP - NIGHT

Sheena hugs the shadows

26 INT. TIGERS CAGE. SAME - N

SHEENA
 (Whispers)
 Tiger

He doesn't move

SHEENA (CONT'D)
 Tiger

Tiger (Devida) wakes and looks at Sheena outside his cage. He
 moves back as he is scared of her.

SHEENA (CONT'D)
 Don't be scared, I am going to help
 you

FLASHBACK - BIG TOP

He remembers her face from the Big Top when she showed concern for him

Sheena moves to the door of his cage and opens it

SHEENA (CONT'D)
I am letting you go. Come on.

Devida doesn't move. Sheena stands back and beckons him to come out. He is still reluctant.

Hesitating, she walks slowly into his cage.

He bears his teeth and growls a low growl.

SHEENA (CONT'D)
It's ok, I wont hurt you

Devida opens his mouth wider, growls again and holds up a paw to keep her away.

SHEENA (CONT'D)
(opening her arms in an
embrace)
Look at me Tiger, do you think I
would hurt you?

He growls, but lower. He still looks very menacing.

SHEENA (CONT'D)
(softly)
I won't hurt you Tiger

He becomes less defensive and watches her intently.

She raises her arm to stroke him but he instantly bears his teeth and growls.

SHEENA (CONT'D)
(Soothing)
It's ok, it's ok.....

She puts her hand next to his nose and he sniffs her. Then she strokes his muzzle. Then she strokes his head. She moves to him and holds him and he nestles into her. They look at each other and Sheena cries.

SHEENA (CONT'D)
Poor Tiger. Come on, lets go

DEVIDA
Where are we going?

SHEENA
I am going to let you free

DEVIDA
I don't know what that means

SHEENA
I know you don't

She leads him from his cage

27 EXT. BIG TOP - NIGHT

Sheena leads Tiger through the shadows and they leave the confines of the circus

28 EXT. ENTRANCE TO JUNGLE - NIGHT

They stand looking at the jungle

SHEENA
You have to go in there and then
you are free

DEVIDA
I still don't know what you mean?
Why do I have to go in there and
what do I do in there?

SHEENA
In there, no one will make you do
tricks. In there you can do what
you want.

DEVIDA
But....

SHEENA
You have to go now. It will get
light soon, you have to go. I
forgot to ask you, do you have a
name?

DEVIDA
I am Devida

SHEENA
Devida, Devida.... I will call you
Tiger. My name is Sheena

DEVIDA
I will call you.... Little Girl

She turns and walks away, looking backwards and waving as she goes. He watches her until she turns a corner out of sight and then looks back at the jungle.

He looks back and whines for her return but she doesn't.

He slowly walks into the jungle

29 INT. JUNGLE - DAY

Devida walks slowly up a path. He is hungry, he is tired. He looks around him at the jungle, as it is new to him. He is startled by new sounds.

He lies down and starts to snooze

SOLDIER ANT
You ok? (OS)

DEVIDA
(opens eyes, peers at tiny
ant and a few others with
him)
I'm tired and I'm hungry

SOLDIER ANT
We can help you. Why don't you get
some sleep and while you're
sleeping, we'll go and get you some
food

DEVIDA
That's very kind of you

SOLDIER ANT
No trouble at all

Devida looks at the soldier ants in front of him and slowly his eyes close

FADE TO BLACK.

An ear splitting howl of pain

FADE IN:

30 EXT. JUNGLE. SAME. LATER - DAY

A circle fills the screen (Tigers eye) and in it a huge ant with vicious jaws

Tiger is completely covered with ants that are trying to eat him. He frantically swats them off him but it isn't working and so he runs madly into the bushes to try and dislodge them. They cling on. Hardly able to see, he falls over a ridge and tumbles down into a pool where he treads water.

The ants swim ashore

SOLDIER ANT
Next time you won't be so lucky

Tiger stays in the water until he thinks he is safe, swims to the bank and shakes himself.

TIGER
(his tummy rumbles)
I am so hungry

31 FLASHBACK

He is being fed by the men at the circus.

32 EXT. JUNGLE. - DAY

Tiger is now weaker. He needs food. He walks into a clearing where baboons are eating an antelope.

They watch him warily as he slowly approaches them

TIGER
I am sorry to bother you. Could you spare some food?

ALPHA BABOON
Why is a lion with stripes asking us for food?

TIGER
A what?

ALPHA BABOON
You are *asking* us for food? A lion with stripes is asking the baboons for food?

TIGER
I don't really know what you mean, but yes

The baboon looks at the others conspiratorially.

ALPHA BABOON
(ingratiating)
Of course you can have some food

Tiger moves up to them

ALPHA BABOON (CONT'D)
Come and sit with us, enjoy some meat

TIGER
Thank you, I am so hungry

Tiger sits with them in a semi circle and they give him some meat.

One of the baboons moves out of sight and just as Tiger is about to eat he is attacked from behind by the baboon who leaps on his back, sinking his teeth into his shoulder.

Tiger screams in pain

Tiger is knocked to the ground and they all pile on, biting and clawing.

Tiger fights ferociously and manages to get up and run away. The baboons give chase for a few yards but give up.

ALPHA BABOON

(to other baboons)

Is that the best you can do? It doesn't get any better. A fresh meat delivery and he gets away....

(he shakes his head in despair)

33 EXT. JUNGLE. SEVERAL DAYS LATER - DAY

Tiger is exhausted. He is lying down with his head supported on a rock. He looks up at the trees and sees the birds eating the berries.

34 FLASHBACK

He is being fed by the men at the circus. His mind plays tricks and he 'sees' them laughing and joking and being kind as they train him, and he is enjoying it.

Tiger looks behind him. Stands up and heads back to the circus.

35 INT. CIRCUS. EMPTY CAGE. - NIGHT

Tiger enters the cage and lies down. His mother is in the cage next to him.

NIDIA

Where have you been my son?

TIGER

In the jungle

NIDIA

(sorrow)

I miss the jungle. Why did you come back?

TIGER

It's better here and I can get some food

NIDIA
 (incredulous)
 It's better here...?

He screams in pain as a man with a sharp prod jabs him and he is forced into the corridor to the main cage.

36 INT. MAIN CAGE. LATER - DAY

JESS
 Escape eh? Cock up the act eh?

Several men lash him and prod him until he is howling in pain and shaking with fear

37 INT. CIRCUS - TIGERS CAGE. - NIGHT

Tiger is lying on the floor. He is caked in blood. His mother watches and tears flow down her face.

38 INT. BIG TOP. - DAY

The Tigers are doing their act. They jump through hoops, sit on high stools.

Devida is now the star turn

RINGMASTER
 And now Devida will astound you
 all.

A tarpaulin is pulled off the floor, revealing a pool of water. Oil is poured on and it is then lit.

Whips cracking, Devida leaps onto a log, to another, higher log, over a high gap, and then over the blazing pool, onto another log, on which he stumbles and struggles to hang on
 (The crowd gasp)

but does, and then down to safety.
 (the crowd applaud)

He sits back on his stool and although he is panting his eyes are dull and lifeless. His head slumps down. After a few moments he raises it and looks in the audience for Sheena.

Going along the rows he passes where she is sitting with her parents. She waves and smiles. His face illuminates with joy. He pans back but it isn't her, it's another family and the pain shows on his face. He is crushed...

39 INT. DEVIDA'S CAGE. - DUSK

Devida is dreaming

DREAM

The jungle, and the sun, and the space. He smiles.

40 INT. DEVIDA'S CAGE. SAME

A man arrives, he is drunk. He unlocks the cage door and throws in some meat, then staggers off.

As Devida is eating he sees the lock on his cage has not been put back.

He looks around, goes to the door. Pauses, then he makes up his mind and escapes.

41 EXT. JUNGLE. SEVERAL DAYS LATER - DAY

Tiger walks along a trail until he comes to a fork in the road. He stands, debating which way to go?

SNAKE (OS)

Are you lost?

Tiger turns and sees the snake curled up on a rock

TIGER

I think so. I don't know which way to go

SNAKE

Take the right trail

TIGER

Why that one?

SNAKE

Take the left then

TIGER

Which one would be best?

SNAKE

Where do you want to go?

TIGER

I don't know

SNAKE

Then either is fine

TIGER

I suppose so. Thank you

He walks down one fork. After a few yards the snake shouts after him

SNAKE

What's wrong with your coat lion?
Have you had an accident?

TIGER

I'm not one of those, whatever it is. I'm a tiger.

SNAKE

I don't think you are, because from what I remember that's a river. And its pronounced Ni..ger. Think you've had a knock on the head lion

42

EXT. JUNGLE. SAME. LATER. - DAY

Tiger is walking slowly along. Watching him from above, and behind, an ape climbs slowly down from a tree, making sure he is not heard. He reaches the floor and picks up a heavy branch. Getting nearer to Tiger he raises it above his head. As he is about to bring it down on Tiger's head, Tiger senses him and turns round.

TIGER

What are you doing?

APE

This branch fell from up there and I caught it so that it didn't hit you on the head

TIGER

Thank you, that's very kind of you

APE

Are you alright, you seem very sad?

TIGER

I'm not alright. I'm in a strange world that I don't understand and, to be honest, I am very scared

APE

Come, come, I'm sure everything is fine. Perhaps it's just the way you are looking at it?

TIGER

Not really. No matter where I go, who I meet, they all seem to want to hurt me

Tiger turns away and sighs. The ape lifts the branch again, but Tiger turns back again and the ape put the branch behind him.

APE

Ah I see....I think what you are seeing as anger and hate are actually happiness and love. They are easily confused if you are in a different world

TIGER

Really? I got it wrong? Really? I have been confused? All this time? That's such a relief

APE

I'm sure that's the case.
(he strokes Tiger affectionately)
I'll tell you what, why don't you come with me, to where we gather, and I am sure you will be most welcome

TIGER

That's so kind of you, so kind.

APE

That way

Tiger goes in front of him and Ape raises the branch again but Tiger turns and the ape hides the branch behind him again

TIGER

Is it far?

APE

No

TIGER

After you, you lead the way

The ape drops the branch behind him and they walk together.

43

EXT. JUNGLE. LATER. - DAY

In the midst of some trees a group of apes are skinning a dead antelope ready to eat.

Tiger and ape walk into their throng

TIGER

What are they doing?

APE

The antelope was quite poorly due to the heat and so we are helping him by taking his coat off

TIGER

That's kind of you

APE

We're like that. Come, meet the others

To one side is a tent made of large leaves. They go inside.

44

INT. TENT. SAME

They sit. Other apes go to him, he is stroked by the other apes, they feel his flesh.

APE 2

Would you like a drink? It will help you relax.

TIGER

I am thirsty and it seems a long time since I was relaxed

He is given liquid in a rolled up leaf
(he puts it to his mouth)

TIGER (CONT'D)

Its got a funny smell

APE 2

Its just the relaxing properties

TIGER

Its got a funny taste. What did you say it was?

APE 3

(Annoyed, impatient)
Just drink it and....

He is shut up by a glare from Ape

TIGER

Ok

Tiger sneezes and drops the liquid.

APE

Grab him. Hold him down!

The apes jump on Tiger and try and force the liquid into his mouth.

TIGER

What are you doing? Get off me

They hold him tighter but Tiger becomes very angry and fights. He is bigger, stronger and his claws and teeth start lashing into them. He rips into their flesh and bites off a hand. The apes run out of the tent.

45 EXT. TENT. SAME

He stands, on alert, panting, looking to where they have gone, but they don't return. After a few moments he goes to the skinned antelope and touches it.

TIGER

Everyone lies to me. Everyone deceives me. Is there no one who I can trust?

46 EXT. JUNGLE. LATER. - DAY

Tiger is walking along the path and two female lions walk out of the jungle in front of him. They eye him up and down. They are much smaller than Tiger.

LIONESS 1

(huskily)
Well hello

TIGER

Hello

LIONESS 1

I like your coat.
(she purrs)

Three other lionesses come out and look at Tiger.

LIONESS 2

Well, what do we have here?

They walk to him and circle him, walking round, looking him up and down, smelling him, one nuzzles him

LIONESS 3

Mmmmmmm

LIONESS 4

Isn't he big.....

A loud roar (off screen) shatters the air and the lionesses freeze. Another, louder, roar and a male lion comes out of the jungle. Tiger is bigger than him.

MALE LION

Go away, you are not wanted here

LIONESS 3

(quietly to other female)

I wouldn't say that

The lion goes to her and swipes her with his paw. She prostrates herself, as do the other females.

MALE LION

Leave this place, this is my territory

TIGER

I'm sorry, I'm just trying to find...

MALE LION

(looking behind Tiger)

Watch out

Tiger turns and as he does the male attacks, knocks Tiger over and stands over him.

MALE LION (CONT'D)

(playing up to females,
being cocky)

Shall I kill you?

The male is obviously smaller than Tiger and he looks at Tiger's mouth and sees his massive fangs, then he looks at his paws and sees the massive claws

The lion knows he cannot win a fight.

MALE LION (CONT'D)

You are lucky. Today I am in a good mood and will let you pass

He puffs himself up to show off for the females

He gets off Tiger who stands up. Their size difference is apparent.

The lion backs away, trying to look superior

MALE LION (CONT'D)

And let that be a lesson to you

He walks into the jungle, the pride following. Several females look back. Two sashay and one winks. They disappear but a few moments later one comes back, walks to Tiger, moving her head backwards and forwards in a sign of submission

A loud roar from the jungle stops her.

FEMALE LION

Damn

She runs into the jungle.

47 JUNGLE. SAME. LATER. - END OF DAY

Tiger is walking and its nearly dusk. He comes to another fork in the trail.

TIGER

(looking to one, then the
other)

Oh no

He looks around and sees a sloth hanging from a tree

TIGER (CONT'D)

Excuse me,
(he looks down one fork)
Where does this go?

SLOTH

Mmmm? That's difficult really. On
the one hand it takes you where you
want to go...and on the other it
doesn't'

TIGER

And the other track?

SLOTH

Mmmm? That's difficult really. On
the one foot it takes you where you
want to go...and on the other it
doesn't

TIGER

(exasperated)
That doesn't make any sense

SLOTH

It does to me. The fact that you
don't understand it may just mean
your imagination is limited by your
experiences. In which case much of
what we could discuss would be
beyond you

TIGER

Pardon?

SLOTH

See

Tiger sits down and puts his head in his paws.

TIGER

I am lost, so very lost

SLOTH

No you're not, you know exactly
where you are

TIGER

Where am I?

SLOTH

Here

TIGER

Where is here?

SLOTH

Here is where you don't want to be

TIGER

Where do I want to be?

SLOTH

Somewhere else

TIGER

Where is that? Where do I want to
be?

SLOTH

Its not about *where* you are

TIGER

(imploring)

What does that mean?

SLOTH

Its about who you are

TIGER

But....

SLOTH

Go home

The sloth slowly turns and moves away

TIGER

(shouts after sloth)

Home? Where is home? At the circus?
In the jungle? With little girl?
Where.....is.....home....?

The sloth doesn't look back

Tiger turns and goes on his way

48

EXT. CLEARING IN JUNGLE. - DAY

Tiger walks into a clearing. In front of him, their backs to him, a crowd of animals are gathered. At the front, a large elephant is addressing them

ELEPHANT

So you see, we could be heading for a crisis. The jungle is only so big and there are too many animals fighting for resources. Now don't get me wrong, I am not talking about the animals that have always lived here, like us, I am talking about immigrants, interlopers, chancers, scavengers. Animals from other jungles that think they can just come here and own the place
 (He looks over their heads at Tiger)
 Animals like him!

The animals turn to look at Tiger

TIGER

Hello. What are you doing? Can I join you?

ELEPHANT

And there you have it. Complete indifference. A condescending manner that suggests he doesn't care and a laugh of derision in our faces. Comrades, brothers....there is something known as the chain of destruction. It has five stages and it guides us as to what should be done to these pariahs, these scum, these killers.

THE CROWD

What should we do?

ELEPHANT

One, identification. Who is causing the problem?

He stares at Tiger

ELEPHANT (CONT'D)

Stripes? On a lion.....in Africa?

They stare at Tiger

ELEPHANT (CONT'D)

Two. Ostracism. Get them gone from us. Separate them.

The crowd bunch together

ELEPHANT (CONT'D)

Three. Confiscation. Take their possessions if they have any, and their Rights.

The elephant is now becoming messianic. His trunk raises to the sky.

ELEPHANT (CONT'D)

Four. Concentration. Isolate them. Put them to work for us.

The crowd move a little away from Tiger

ELEPHANT (CONT'D)

Five. Annihilation. Let them die!

A group of older chimpanzees start discussing the intellectual value of the argument

CHIMP

I can see the metaphysical value of what he says

CHIMP2

But existentially, existentially I say, where does it put us....?

To one side several hyenas are listening

HYENA

Metaphysical? Existential? Stuff that. Kill him!

They throw themselves at Tiger and he runs for his life

49

EXT. JUNGLE. LATER. - DAY

Tiger is still breathing hard. He shakes his head. He walks to a pool ahead of him. He sits by the edge.

TIGER

If only there was someone I could trust. Someone who wouldn't lie to me, try to hurt me.

He drinks, then looks into the pool and sees his reflection. He drinks again. Slowly his reflection turns to that of his mother Nidia.

TIGER (CONT'D)

There is someone I can trust

He gets up and runs from the pool.

50 EXT. OUTSIDE BIG TOP - NIGHT

Tiger moves among the shadows; listening, looking, wary. He hears men. He loses himself in the blackness and they walk straight to him and stop.

MAN
(lights a cigarette)
I shall be glad to go to bed

He throws the lighted match away and it lands by Tiger. It lights up his face. He is straight by them but they are looking away from him.

They move away and Tiger comes out of the blackness

He moves on, going from shadow to shadow. Being seen and then invisible

51 INT. CIRCUS - TIGERS CAGE. - NIGHT

Tiger goes to where he used to sleep, which is empty, and then to his mothers cage. A large male is in it. He snarls at Devida

DEVIDA
Where is my mother?

MALE LION
Go away

Tiger moves away and finds other cages with tigers in.

He moves warily up to one where a tiger is sleeping

TIGER
(softly)
Where is Nidia?

The tiger mumbles but doesn't wake

TIGER (CONT'D)
Where is Nidia?

The tiger wakes and looks at Tiger

CAGED TIGER
What?

TIGER
Where is Nidia, my mother, Nidia?

The caged tiger thinks for a moment

CAGED TIGER

Ah Devida, I remember you. Do you remember Nidia was my sister? No? Ah well. Nidia is not here, she helped feed the other animals

TIGER

So where is she? When will she be back?

CAGED TIGER

She broke her leg, she helped feed the other animals

TIGER

You said that. But when will she be back?

CAGED TIGER

She won't be back

TIGER

Why?

The caged tiger just looks at him

TIGER (CONT'D)

You mean....she....she...

The caged tiger goes back to sleep

Tears flow down Tigers face. He slowly walks away.

52

EXT. EDGE OF JUNGLE. - DAY

Tiger is lying on a branch high in a tree. He can hardly be seen due to his stripes and the dapple of the sun through the branches. His head is resting on his paws and he is sad.

Birds sing, and the jungle issues its chorus of sounds.

CHILDRENS VOICES (OS)

(faintly in the distance)

He looks out of the jungle and see the faint outline of children playing.

53

FLASHBACK

He remembers the little girl as she puts her hand next to his nose and he sniffs her. Then she stokes his muzzle. Then she strokes his head. She moves to him and holds him and he nestles into her.

54 EXT. JUNGLE. SAME. - DAY

He breathes in deeply, slowly through his nostrils, a long memory of her. He sniffs the air again, and again, and again in different directions. Then he stops still.

55 INT. KITCHEN. - NIGHT

The family are sitting round the table eating their meal. The mother takes her empty plate to the sink. They hear a thump at the door adjoining the kitchen and leading to the garden

MOTHER

Its a bit late for one of your
little friends to be coming for you
Sheena

She opens the door and the huge Tiger is sitting there. The mother screams and tries to shut the door but Tiger holds it open with a paw. The mother runs into the room and grabs Sheena. Father grabs a knife.

SHEENA

Its Tiger, from the circus, its
Tiger

She runs to him. Tiger opens his huge mouth.

FATHER

No...

Tiger just licks her face affectionately and Sheena cuddles him

Her parents look on, horrified.

SHEENA

What are you doing here? I helped
you escape, why are you back?

FATHER

You helped him escape? So the tiger
that escaped from the circus didn't
actually escape, you let it go?

SHEENA

Yes

FATHER

Why would you do that? You could
have been killed.

SHEENA

(Hugging Tiger even
tighter)
Tiger wouldn't hurt me

She leads him to the table where he sits by her. She looks at her parents

SHEENA (CONT'D)
Sit down and we'll help Tiger

Father looks at mother. Father approaches the table with the knife.

SHEENA (CONT'D)
You don't need that daddy. Tiger won't hurt you.

Father, reluctantly, puts the knife away. They sit down.

MOTHER
Help Tiger Sheena? Tigers a tiger.

SHEENA
If Tiger's here he needs my help. Now, what is it Tiger? How can we help?

MOTHER
We.....?

TIGER
Little Girl I

MOTHER
He can talk to us?

SHEENA
If he wants to

MOTHER
How?

SHEENA
We are all the same mother

Mother looks at Father, then at Sheena, then Tiger

MOTHER
The same?

SHEENA
Deep down we are all the same. Just because we look different does not change the fact that we started from the same place

MOTHER
Sheena where....
(shrugs in exasperation)
Sorry Tiger I interrupted..
(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)
 (screws up face to father
 in a 'what the hell is
 going on'?)

TIGER
 They keep saying I am a lion with
 stripes. What is a lion?

FATHER
 A lion is a big cat that looks like
 you but doesn't have stripes.

TIGER
 Why doesn't it?

FATHER
 Because lions are from Africa and
 don't have stripes. And Tigers are
 from the Far East, like India, and
 do have stripes.

TIGER
 And I am in Africa?

FATHER
 Yes

TIGER
 Why aren't I in a circus in India
 if that's my home?

The family go quiet

TIGER (CONT'D)
 Why?

SHEENA
 Tiger, you don't understand. Tigers
 don't live in circuses, they live
 in jungles.

TIGER
 So why was I in a circus? Why was
 my mother and her sisters in a
 circus?

FATHER
 They were captured, taken from the
 wild

TIGER
 Why?

FATHER
 To be taught how to do tricks

TIGER
 Why?

MOTHER

Tiger this is very difficult

TIGER

(insistence)

Why were they taught to do tricks
in a circus?

MOTHER

Tiger its very complicated

TIGER

Just explain please

FATHER

Tiger, we are humans. You are a
tiger. In your proper home, you are
the kings of the jungle. All
animals bow before you. But a
jungle is just a part of what we
call earth. And humans rule earth.
All of it, including jungles and
including tigers.

TIGER

That doesn't explain why we are put
in circuses and made to do tricks

SHEENA

What they are trying to say is that
we can treat any other species on
earth in any way we want. We rule.
If we want to cage you, hit you,
make you do tricks, we can.

TIGER

But why would you want to?

The family have no answer

TIGER (CONT'D)

Why would humans make animals
suffer for their own pleasure? Do
animals do it to other animals?

FATHER

No

TIGER

So, just humans are cruel?

FATHER

Yes

TIGER

But if they rule the world why do
they need to be cruel?

SHEENA
They don't.....

MOTHER
(to end conversation)
Sheena its getting late, its time
for your bed; what do we do with
Tiger?

SHEENA
He can sleep with me

MOTHER
I don't th....

SHEENA
Come on Tiger

She leads him out of the room.

56 INT. SHEENA'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Sheena is lying in bed, her eyes are drowsy. One arm is
dangling over the bed stroking Tiger who lies on the floor

SHEENA
Tiger, how did you find me?

TIGER
I sniffed the air

He lifts his head and sniffs the air

SHEENA
(sleepily)
Tiger....sniffed....the....air

She sniffs the air

SHEENA (CONT'D)
Ni Ni Tiger

Her eyes close and she sleeps. After a few moments Tiger gets
up, puts her arm in his mouth and puts it on the bed. He
looks at her then moves to the open door and positions
himself in it to protect her.

57 INT. KITCHEN. - DAY

The family, with Tiger, are just seating themselves at the
table. They each have a drink. Sheena looks at Tiger then
goes to the sink and gets a bowl of water which she puts on
the table in front of Tiger

MOTHER
Sorry Tiger

FATHER

Mother and I had a long talk last night after you went to bed and we have decided Tiger should go home

TIGER

Home?

FATHER

India. Perhaps West Bengal. Only there do you stand a chance of not just surviving, but being yourself.

TIGER

Being myself?

FATHER

Tiger, because of what they did to you in the circus, you are not alive, you just exist. You belong nowhere, you have no pleasure, you have no stimulation. To all intents and purposes you are dead inside. The only thing that means anything to you is.....Sheena

Tiger licks Sheena

FATHER (CONT'D)

So you have to go home, where you belong

TIGER

Is it far?

FATHER

Well....from what I can work out its about four thousand miles

TIGER

How long will it take me to walk there?

SHEENA

You can't walk there Tiger, its across the sea. How can he get there daddy?

FATHER

I have friends down at the Port and there are always ships going all over the world. I think someone would help us.

58 INT. KITCHEN. LATER - DAY

FATHER

I have made some calls but no one is willing take Tiger with them to India. Actually one would but they wanted him caged in the hold and I didn't think Tiger would like that.

MOTHER

So what now?

FATHER

Well, I know of one ship that is going to West Bengal, exactly where Tiger should be. If we could sneak him on board, and he hides, he could get there.

MOTHER

How long would it take?

FATHER

About eight or nine days

SHEENA

What do you think Tiger?

TIGER

I want to go home, wherever that is

59 EXT. DOCKS - NIGHT

Tiger and the family go through the shadows until they reach a ship. Making sure they are safe, they take Tiger up the gangplank and on to the deck.

60 EXT. DECK OF SHIP. - NIGHT

They stop at a lifeboat

FATHER

This is it Tiger. Get in there, keep quiet for a few days, and when the boat stops you will be close to home. When night falls leave the ship and your nose will tell you which way to go

He strokes Tiger

FATHER (CONT'D)

Good bye Tiger

MOTHER

Good bye Tiger

Sheena hugs and clings to Tiger

SHEENA
Good bye Tiger. I will miss you

Father lifts the canopy over the life raft and Tiger goes in

61 EXT. CARGO SHIP AT SEA -DAY

Vast expanse of ocean and the tiny ship

62 INT. LIFEBOAT. - DAY

Tiger is ill with sea sickness

63 EXT. CARGO SHIP AT SEA -DAY

Vast expanse of ocean and the tiny ship

64 INT. LIFEBOAT. - DAY

Tiger is asleep. He is woken by voices.

SHEENA (OS)
Let me go, let me go

65 EXT. CARGO SHIP DECK

Sheena is being held by two men. In front of them the Captain

CAPTAIN
What are you doing here?

SHEENA
I was looking round and I fell
asleep and so I stayed until you
got to a port

CAPTAIN
I'm supposed to believe that?

He grabs Sheena roughly

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
What are you doing here? Why are
you here? Who else is with you?

SHEENA
Its just me, I fell asleep, I
did...

CAPTAIN
 (Shakes her roughly)
 Liar!

The men look past him and start edging away

The Captain looks round and stares into the face of Tiger with his huge jaw open, showing his bared teeth. He roars.

SHEENA
 (huge grin)
 Tiger

She tears herself away from the captain.

The Captain tries to run

SHEENA (CONT'D)
 Stop him Tiger

Tiger jumps on the Captain and pins him down

SHEENA (CONT'D)
 There is no need to be scared.
 Tiger will not harm you if you
 don't harm us. Tiger just wants to
 get to West Bengal and then he will
 get off and go home.

CAPTAIN
 To hell with you, I'm not taking
 orders from a child. Get a gun!

Tiger looks at them and roars, showing his massive teeth. They don't move. Tiger looks back to the captain, puts both feet on the captain's arms, opens his mouth, and puts the captain's head in it.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
 No, no, no

Tiger very slowly closes his mouth

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
 (fainter)
 No, please, no

Tiger closes his mouth completely

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
 (hardly audible)
 Help me

He goes limp

MAN1
 Stop him!

Sheena looks at Tiger who is looking at her.

SHEENA
Is he alive Tiger?

TIGER
Deep, low, slow growl

MAN1
If the captain dies we can't get to
port. Only the captain can get us
to port

SHEENA
And what happens if Tiger lets him
go? What then? You attack us again?

MAN2
No. You just want to get the Tiger
home, we understand that now

SHEENA
Ok Tiger

Tiger opens his mouth. The captain takes deep breaths,
splutters, wipes his face with his arm.

MAN2 rushes to Sheena and grabs her.

MAN2
Now its our turn. Now you do what
we say

Instantly Tiger leaps to the man and a massive paw goes down
his shirt. The man stands there, paralysed, as five rivers of
blood open up on his chest. Tiger slashes at him again and
both his sleeves are torn with more gashes.

Tiger raises himself up and is about to slash him across the
face

SHEENA
Tiger

Tiger stops in the attack position

SHEENA (CONT'D)
Tiger

He looks at her and growls

SHEENA (CONT'D)
Come here Tiger

She turns to the captain

In the background Tiger moves to the other man and puts his
jaws next to his face

MAN1
 (pleading)
 Little girl

Sheena looks round

SHEENA
 (admonishing)
 Tiger

She looks back to the captain and as Tiger moves to her he lashes out with a back leg and Man1 is thrown backwards and hits a wall.

Sheena looks round and Tiger gives a low, he had it coming, sort of growl. He goes to her.

SHEENA (CONT'D)
 So captain, are you going to help us?

CAPTAIN
 We'll help you

SHEENA
 And no more tricks

CAPTAIN
 No more tricks. I have to go to the bridge.

SHEENA
 We'll go with you

The men go ahead and Tiger goes to Sheena and starts licking her affectionately. She hugs him.

TIGER
 Why did you stay?

SHEENA
 You needed me just a little longer

66 EXT. CARGO SHIP AT SEA -DAY

67 INT. WHEEL HOUSE OF SHIP - DAY

The captain is standing by the wheel and looking ahead. A phone rings and he picks it up.

CAPTAIN
 Hi Jim, how you doing?.....Good,
 Yes, everything fine here. Making
 good time.....we have had one
 minor accident.
 (MORE)

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

First mate fell down and grazed himself a bit but other than that everything's fine....

(smiling)

Oh and we've adopted a cat we found on board.....Ok, see you in four days.

The captain looks to his left and Sheena winks at him. He looks to his right and Tiger is pushing a beach ball around

68 EXT. CARGO SHIP AT SEA -DAY

Ahead of them a coast is coming into view

69 INT. BRIDGE - DAY

CAPTAIN

It will be about half an hour so start getting ready

SHEENA

Thank you captain

CAPTAIN

Little girl, I haven't done so before so I will now. I am sorry we treated you badly. It was automatic. A little girl, a tiger, they don't fit in and so we go to battle stations. We fight first and ask questions after. I'm sorry.

SHEENA

Thank you captain

70 EXT. CARGO SHIP DECK. - DAY

A life boat is being lowered

71 EXT. SHORE - DAY

Sheena, Tiger and the captain reach shore. Ahead of them is jungle.

Sheena and Tiger get out of the boat and go up the beach.

SHEENA

It's time Tiger. You are home now. In there are other Tigers, not stripey lions, but proper Tigers.

TIGER

I don't want to leave you

SHEENA

I know, but you have to have a life. And you have to find yourself, and where you belong in this world. Your world. But remember Tiger, although this is your world, all you have known is the circus, with their rules, their pain. You do not know your world. You are entering it like a new born baby and you have to learn as you go along. It may be difficult, at times it may be painful, and for a while it will be lonely, but it is where you belong.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

(hugs Tiger)

Go Tiger, find yourself

He licks her

TIGER

How can I ever thank you

SHEENA

(She laughs)

You don't have to thank me. I helped you because you are precious. You are very precious to me and you should be precious to the world. Not the world of circuses and cages, but a world that allows you to be you.

TIGER

I will miss you

SHEENA

I may not be with you, but you are never without me. I am always in here

(she touches his heart)

And in here

(she touches his head)

And, if you ever need me, just sniff the air

They both put their noses in the air and sniff it

He licks her again. She kisses him

SHEENA (CONT'D)

Bye Tiger. Good luck

She walks backwards to the boat. She gets in and waves. When they are a few yards offshore Tiger goes and sits by the waves. She waves again. He lowers his head in salute to her.

72 EXT. SHIP. SAME. LATER. - DAY

Sheena is standing on the ship and waving as it sails away.
He turns and looks at the jungle

73 EXT. JUNGLE. SAME. - DAY

The jungle goes slowly black. Images, shapes, demons, are just about seen in the blackness.

SHEENA (V.O.)

It may be difficult; at times it
may be painful, and for a while it
will be lonely but it is where you
belong.

The image goes

He sits for a moment, then starts walking

74 EXT. JUNGLE. LATER. - DAY

Tiger is walking up a path. Birds sing, other animal sounds.
He walks a few more paces, the sound in the jungle slowly,
imperceptibly, stop.

He walks some more

INSERT

A tiger's vicious face, with open mouth, enormous teeth,
jumps out of the screen

The huge, vicious tiger pins Tiger down with his paws

VICIOUS TIGER (AREKY)

(loud, angry)

How dare you enter my territory?
You know what happens to tigers
that enter my territory.

Tiger looks as Areky's his huge jaws open, his teeth bare,
his mouth drools, and he readies for the bite.

Tiger waits for death, but Areky does not finish it. He stops
still.

Areky moves his mouth away a little

AREKY

Do not move!

He starts to sniff Tiger.

TIGER

What...

Areky roars into his face. Tiger freezes

AREKY

I know that smell

He smells him again

AREKY (CONT'D)

Who is that smell? Its very faint,
but who is that smell? A female
smell.

TIGER

I don't know

AREKY

You must know

Tiger stops for a moment and thinks.

TIGER

It's my mother Nidia

Areky looks at Tiger

AREKY

(softly)

Nidia. Nidia.... You are the son of
Nidia?

TIGER

Yes

AREKY

Where is she?

TIGER

Nid....my mother is dead

AREKY

Why is she dead?

TIGER

The men at the circus killed her
and fed her to the other animals.

AREKY

Stay there

He gets off Tiger and sits a few feet away

AREKY (CONT'D)

Nidia killed by humans?

TIGER

Yes

He raises up and lets out a roar of anguish

AREKY

(loud, haunting)

Nidia

Tiger slowly gets off the ground and sits up

TIGER

You knew my mother

AREKY

I did. She was a lovely tigress.
Warm, comforting, a good mother to
her cubs

TIGER

I have other brothers and sisters?

AREKY

Yes

TIGER

Where are they? Can I meet them?

AREKY

I doubt it, they are spread far and
wide. But, before we go any
farther, tell me about you. If you
were in a circus, how are you here?

TIGER

It's a long story

AREKY

I have a long life ahead of me

TIGER

Ok. Well, as I mentioned I was born
in a circus in, I know now,
Africa..

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

75

EXT. JUNGLE. SAME. LATER. - NIGHT

The stars are shining brightly overhead. A large moon is
casting shadows.

Areky is sitting there, mouth open.

TIGER

Are you ok?

AREKY

Not really.

Tell me if I've got this right?

You grow up in a circus, a little girl rescues you, you escape, you go back, you escape again, you go back, the little girl gets you on board a ship from Africa to West Bengal, the little girl is captured, you beat her captors, who then bring you to a beach not far away, where she puts you ashore and you find your way here....?

TIGER

Yes

AREKY

No, surely not

TIGER

Yes

AREKY

No.....?

TIGER

Yes, why not

AREKY

Its fantastical

TIGER

Yes, but its true

AREKY

If that's the case, how were you going to survive?

TIGER

Survive?

AREKY

Yes

TIGER

What do you mean?

AREKY

Well, an example would be the fact that I was about to kill you. You were very lucky I smelt Nidia on you otherwise you would now be dead. And you've hardly just arrived

TIGER
That's a point

AREKY
And, if I've got this right, the
only thing you are good at is
jumping through hoops

TIGER
(sheepish)
Yes

AREKY
(disparagingly)
Through hoops...?

TIGER
Yes

AREKY
That's not exactly a survival
manual for the jungle is it?

TIGER
No

AREKY
How do you eat?

TIGER
I find things

AREKY
You find things?

TIGER
Yes, you know, dead things. Things
that have died and I find them.

AREKY
Oh dear. So hunting....? No
hunting?

TIGER
(shakes his head slowly)
Not really

AREKY
Stalking...? No stalking?

TIGER
(grimaces)
Well....

AREKY
So, no hunting, no stalking. Again,
if I could sum it up;
(MORE)

AREKY (CONT'D)

unless you trip over something that has been kind enough to have had a heart attack, you will starve to death?

TIGER

I wouldn't put it like that

AREKY

(deep sigh)

Do you know anything about the jungle? How to eat, how to survive?

TIGER

Err

Areky slumps down and groans in despair

TIGER (CONT'D)

You could teach me

AREKY

What?

TIGER

Teach me

AREKY

Me?

TIGER

You

AREKY

Teach you?

TIGER

Yes

AREKY

You do realise I am supposed to either scare the life out of you so you leave my territory, or kill you as a message to other tigers who dare consider coming here?

TIGER

Be that as it may, you should help me

AREKY

Why should I help you?

TIGER

You may be my dad

AREKY

I may or may not be your father,
but that is irrelevant

TIGER

Not to me, dad

AREKY

I am not your dad

TIGER

You may be

Areky slumps down and groans again

TIGER (CONT'D)

But if you know my mother you must
be my dad

AREKY

Look, let me explain. Tigers, male
tigers, me and...well, not you,
are solitary animals. We have our
own territory which we fiercely
defend. Females, also have their
own territory, but they share it
with their sisters and other
females. Now, a female's territory
may infringe on to the territory of
one, or several, males, which means
any of those males could be your
father.

TIGER

I see. But then what? She has a
cub, then what?

AREKY

Well the cub is brought up by the
mother and the other tigresses
until he is big enough to go out on
his own.

TIGER

But he doesn't have a territory?

AREKY

No, he doesn't. But if he is lucky
other males will let him move
through the outskirts of theirs as
long as he is seen as not dangerous
or trying to usurp him...

Tiger looks puzzled

AREKY (CONT'D)

Usurp. Take his territory by force.

TIGER

And when he is big enough, powerful enough, he takes someone's territory..?

AREKY

Yes. Everything has a cycle.

TIGER

Soer....if I stayed around here...?

AREKY

Oh please...

TIGER

Anyhow, it won't take too long to teach me the rest

AREKY

The rest?

TIGER

Yes, you've taught me about tigers territories so....

Areky groans again

TIGER (CONT'D)

Is that a yes?

AREKY

Ok. But this is how it has to be. I will teach you everything you should have learned from your mother. Hunting and jungle craft. After that you have to go out on your own

TIGER

Ok dad

AREKY

I am not your...

Areky groans again

AREKY (CONT'D)

Devida, tell me something, something I don't understand....if it was so bad at the circus, once you had escaped, why did you go back? You were free, why did you go back?

TIGER

It's difficult to explain and I
have struggled to understand it
myself

(pause)

Freedom was terrifying. All the
animals I met hated me and wanted
to hurt me and I didn't know why? I
was alone, I was scared, I didn't
know what to do, who to trust and
after a while it started to seem
that the circus was a nice place.
And I was so hungry. I forgot the
pain at the circus and suddenly it
seemed a better place than the one
I had escaped to. So I went back.
Better the devil you know.

AREKY

Lets get some sleep

TIGER

Good

Tiger lies down comfortably and in a few moments falls to
sleep.

Areky rolls his eyes, moves to Tiger, puts his face by his
and lets out a mighty roar.

Tiger is instantly awake and terrified

AREKY

First lesson. Sleep where its safe
and, (disparagingly) usually in the
day. Now follow me. I will show you
where to sleep and I will go
hunting for food

TIGER

Shall I come hunting with you?

Areky looks at him disdainfully

AREKY

Only if we want to starve

He walks away.

76 EXT. JUNGLE AND PLAINS. LATER. DAY

Herds of animals. Two tigers are seen away from the herds

77 EXT. LONG GRASS. - DAY

Areky is showing Tiger how to stalk.

AREKY

Always remember with stalking. Keep very low. Only high enough so that you can see your prey. Very quiet, so they can't hear you. Downwind so they can't smell you.

Tiger gets very low, his eyes just above the grass. Very quiet

AREKYEE

You are learning quickly Devida

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

78

EXT. PLAINS. DAY

The sun is large overhead. Tiger and Areky are lying in a secluded, shaded hollow and dozing. The odd fly settles on them and they twitch.

TIGER

Areky

AREKY

(sleepily)

Yes?

TIGER

Can I ask you something?

AREKY

Of course

TIGER

Its something that's bothering me

AREKY

(more attentive)

Go on

TIGER

You know when we hunt now; on our own or together?

AREKY

Yes

TIGER

We kill the animals and then we eat them..... Sometimes, if I do not have a clean kill the animal struggles and is in pain before it dies.

Areky waits patiently

TIGER (CONT'D)

Areky, how am I different from the men at the circus who hurt me?

AREKY

(fatherly, wise)

I am proud of you Devida. I am proud that you can question your actions, your motives and, indeed, their effect on those that we kill. You see Devida we have to live, and to live we have to eat. That is common sense. Because we are big we have the ability to hunt large animals which we need to do because anything less and we would starve. And this is the way of animals. All animals, all birds, all insects, have to eat something else to survive. We are all, one way or another both predator and prey. And we all accept that. That is the way in our world. Both predator and prey. We have to live, that's how we survive. And sometimes, when we are attacked, before we escape or die, there can be pain. It is unavoidable.

Areky stretches and stands up and takes in the sun and air.

AREKY (CONT'D)

(contented)

Aaahhhh

A loud shot rings out. Areky falls to the floor

TIGER

Areky!

79

EXT. PLAINS. DAY

Several men are in the long grass, a distance away. Two of them have guns. It is a hunting party.

MAN WITH GUN

Got him! Wow I got him
(they high five, cheer and shout)
Come on

They climb into a waiting jeep

80 EXT. PLAINS. SAME. - DAY

Tiger is pushing Areky

TIGER
Areky, Areky we have to go.

He tries to push him up. Looks behind him as the truck is heard.

Blood is seeping over Areky. Tiger is desolate, his face a picture of unbelievable misery

TIGER (CONT'D)
Areky

The truck is nearly upon him, getting louder and louder.

MAN WITH GUN (OS)
I got me a tiger, I got me a tiger

Tiger nuzzles Areky, tears stream from his eyes

TIGER
Goodbye. Thank you for
everything.....dad

Tiger bounds away

MAN WITH GUN (OS)
There's another

Shots follow Tiger as he runs away but they miss

81 EXT. PLAINS. LATER. - DAY

Tiger is high in a tree watching the men as they carry Areky on a pole between two bearers.

Tears flow

Tiger watches as the men, drinking and still celebrating their kill, put Areky in the jeep and drive away

He watches for a few moments and bows his head.

82 INT. JUNGLE. - DAY

Tiger walks to a rock, smells it, nuzzles it, and roars to show it is now his territory

Tiger walks to a stream, to a tree by it, and repeats the process

He sets off to do it again

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

83 EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Tiger is sitting on a rock and sees, in the large clearing below, several tigresses walking

He goes to them

84 EXT. CLEARING IN JUNGLE. SAME. - DAY

TIGER

You are in my territory

MISHA

Yes, we know. We used to visit Areky but we heard he had died.

TIGER

Yes, he was shot

MISHA

And you are?

TIGER

Devida....his son

MISHA

Do you have any sons Devida?

TIGER

No

MISHA

Really? No sons? How fortuitous.
Come with me

Misha leads Tiger to a Tigress

MISHA (CONT'D)

This is Maniah

MANIAH

(looking Tiger up and
down)

He's nice

She becomes coy. Moves to him, nuzzles him.

MISHA

Well...I think my role in this is
over

She walks away to the other females who look and giggle.

Maniah walks a little ahead of Tiger and waits. Tiger just watches. Maniah winks.

Tiger winks back, using two eyes

Maniah walks a little farther but Tiger still doesn't follow

MISHA (OS) (CONT'D)
You have to go with her

Tiger looks round

TIGER
Why?

MISHA
It helps. Now go
(she nudges him forwards)

Maniah walks ahead and Tiger follows

85 EXT. CLEARING IN JUNGLE. LATER - DAY

Maniah walk put of the jungle, crinkles up her face to show her pleasure.

We wait for Tiger. Nothing. Then Tiger walks out quite jauntily

TIGER
Well.....

86 EXT. CLIFF TOP. - DAY

Tiger is looking at the plains below.

LOUD, AGGRESSIVE, DEEP GROWL (OS)

Tiger looks round and is confronted by another tiger (TOMSU)

TIGER
You are in my territory

TOMSU
It's not yours, you didn't fight for it

TIGER
It's mine, I claimed it, move on

TOMSU
No

Tomsu gets closer to Tiger, circling him, ready to fight. Below them, down the cliff, are the plains.

TOMSU attacks and a great battle ensues. Advantage goes to and fro. At the end Tiger is knocked down and Tomsu leaps on him, but Tiger pushes him onward and he sails over the cliff. He rolls and falls down the cliff face, bouncing off rocks until he lies, gashed and bleeding below.

Tiger goes to the cliff edge and looks down at TOMSU

AREKY (OS)

We are all, one way or another,
both predator and prey. And we all
accept that. That is the way in our
world. Both predator and prey. We
have to live, its how we survive

87

EXT. BOTTOM OF CLIFF - DAY

TOMSU is unconscious. He is matted from where he has been wounded. He is gashed and dirty.

He slowly stirs. He opens his eyes and sees Tiger sitting in front of him.

TOMSU

Go on finish it

TIGER

I could have done that nearly two
days ago

TOMSU

Two days?

TIGER

Yes

TOMSU

I have been lying here for two
days?

TIGER

Yes

TOMSU

And have you been sitting there for
two days?

TIGER

Yes

TOMSU

Why?

TIGER
To protect you until you are strong
enough to leave

TOMSU
I don't understand

TIGER
You don't have to. You just have to
leave.

Tomsu sits up, shakes himself and then stands

TIGER (CONT'D)
(superior)
You are strong enough now, now you
leave

Tomsu, beaten, walks away.

88 EXT. JUNGLE AND PLAINS. - DAY

The plains are dry and brown and the animals are migrating

89 EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Positioned high in a tree Tiger watches

90 EXT. CLEARING. SAME - DAY

The group of tigresses, with cubs, walking down below him. He smiles, roars gently, excited to see them and climbs down the tree. As he walks towards them he hears

Small popping sounds (OS)

Three of the tigresses start to move around haphazardly as though drunk.

MISHA
What's wrong

91 EXT. CLEARING IN JUNGLE. SAME. - DAY

Several trucks with cages on the back are approaching.

92 EXT. CLEARING IN JUNGLE. SAME. - DAY

The tigresses are now falling to the ground, drugged

MISHA
Everyone, run!

The remaining tigers escape

Tiger watches as six men arrive and check the tigresses.

MAN

They are out cold.

He inspects them

MAN (CONT'D)

Nice. They will earn a good few dollars in a circus or a zoo

FLASHBACK

Men lashing Tiger in circus

The men start dragging the tigresses to the cages

Tiger throws himself at the men. He roars as loud as he can, he throws them to one side with his paws. A man gets a gun and aims at Tiger

Misha jumps on him. He smiles at her

The man loses his gun and runs away. The other men follow him.

TIGER

Misha, you and the others chase them. Keep them moving, herd them far away. We need time..

She runs off

Tiger walks over to one of the females, grabs the ruff of her neck in his jaws and pulls her away into the jungle.

93 EXT. JUNGLE. SAME. - DAY

Tiger puts the female down, panting heavily, and then turns back to start again

94 EXT. JUNGLE. SAME. LATER. - NIGHT

Tiger and the females are sitting round. A cub is sitting by Maniah.

Tiger looks at her and smiles. She looks at the cub and smiles back

MISHA

My sisters were lucky today

TIGER

Yes

MISHA

They would have been taken away by
the humans

TIGER

Yes

MISHA

It is not right Devida. My sisters
should not be the playthings of
humans.

TIGER

No, they shouldn't. But humans rule

MISHA

But that's not right. We rule the
jungle but we don't keep other
animals in cages....to look at.

TIGER

Misha, there is nothing we can do.

95

FLASHBACK. CIRCUS - CAGE

The men with torches move in to Devida and back him into a corner. He raises up, lashes with his claws and growls. They move in closer. There is no escape so he is about to spring out when the man with the electric prod rushes in and electrocutes him.

Devida goes down and shakes as the current sweeps through him.

As he lies there they taunt him with the blazing torches.

He tries to defend himself but they electrocute him again. He lies still and when he rouses they put the fire straight in front of his face. He recoils but the electrocute him again. The next time when he rouses and he is confronted with the fire, he doesn't move. He is beaten.

One of the men fetches a hoop and they set it alight, then put it at floor level in front of Devida. They lash his back side and he goes through the blazing hoop.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

96

EXT. JUNGLE. SAME. - NIGHT

TIGER

They have all the power, there is
nothing we can do

Tiger looks down, subdued, his spirit taken away.

They all go quiet.

He gets up and slowly walks away

97

EXT. JUNGLE. LATER. - NIGHT

Tiger is walking along a path with high rocks either side. Seven baboons are up ahead and they see him coming. They raise the alarm and start making aggressive sounds and gestures. Tiger keeps walking. They gesture defiantly and Tiger snarls. As he gets closer they run up the rock face and disappear.

He goes a little farther, rounds a bend and finds his way obstructed by a large rock, part of a small rock slide which has fallen from above. It is too big to jump over and so he turns round and walks back.

After a few paces he stops and looks back. After a moments pause, he starts to walk back to the rock. As he approaches it he roars. When he gets to it he roars. Then he roars louder.

He stands deep in thought, then he walks away

98

EXT. JUNGLE. SAME. LATER. - NIGHT

Tiger walks into the clearing where the females are. He wakes Misha

TIGER

Misha

MISHA

Yes?

TIGER

I was wrong

MISHA

About what?

TIGER

Humans. They don't have all the power, there *is* something we can do.

MISHA

Devida, there is nothing we can do. They are too powerful.

TIGER
 Yes, that's what they think and we
 believe

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

99 EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Tiger goes to the edge of the jungle, enters a clearing,
 stands and roars. He roars again.

Another tiger roars, faintly, from the jungle on the other
 side

Tiger roars again. Another faint roar. Tiger sits and waits.

100 EXT. CLEARING. SAME. LATER - DAY

The other tiger comes out of the jungle and they walk slowly,
 warily, towards each other. They stop a safe distance from
 each other, kneel down and do a low bow.

TIGER (MATUS)
 What do you want Devida? What is so
 important that we have to meet?

TIGER (CONT'D)
 I want your help Marus

MATUS
 You won't get it

TIGER
 Listen to what I have to say first
 Marus

MATUS
 (unenthusiastic)
 Go on...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

101 EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING. SAME. LATER - DAY

Devida and Marus are still talking

TIGER
 Will you do it?

MARUS

(pausing)

When you explained initially I thought you were mad. I have seen what the humans do in my territory, and I have heard of their circuses and zoos. They take what they want, they reign supreme. But fight them; no. Better to run, to hide. But now Devida, you suggest this. The opposite of everything we think, we feel, we know to be right. It could be very dangerous.

TIGER

Yes it could

MARUS

Some could get hurt or killed

TIGER

I am afraid that's more than likely

MARUS

And that's only if you succeed

TIGER

Yes

MARUS

(long thoughtful pause)

But yes, I will help you

TIGER

Thank you Marus, thank you

MARUS

What do you want me to do?

TIGER

I want you to ask every Tiger to come here for a meeting. Each tiger must forget enmities and be given safe passage through each others territories.

MARUS

That's a lot to ask

TIGER

I know. But if we can't trust each other, there is no point in going any farther

MARUS

If this works you will be remembered forever

TIGER

If it doesn't you can put that on
my grave

Marus bows his head slightly in respect

MARUS

Good bye Devida, until the meeting

He walks away

102

EXT. JUNGLE. LATER. - DAY

Tiger is sitting opposite Misha. She is staring at him.

TIGER

What?

MISHA

I was just thinking.

TIGER

And what were you thinking?

MISHA

That you are different

TIGER

In what way?

MISHA

You are a tiger, but you don't
think like a tiger.

Tiger waits

MISHA (CONT'D)

Tigers think about now. About
today, maybe tomorrow, but mainly
today. I have to eat *today*. I have
to drink *today*. There is no need to
think about more than that. What
happens today will dictate
tomorrow. But you...you don't think
like that. You look into the
future. You say if we do this, and
this, then this will happen, and
then we will do this and then...and
then. Tigers don't think like that.

TIGER

I don't know what tigers think
like. I am me.

MISHA

Why do you think like you do
Devida?

TIGER

(Big sigh, thoughtful)
When I was in the circus I hated
it. It felt so wrong, but it only
felt that way as I had no idea
there was anything different. That
was my life, that was what I knew.
But inside

(he touches his heart)
Inside I hurt so bad. So to help
reduce the hurt I became good at
working out what I should do to
make the men happy, keep in their
good books, get hit less, minimise
the pain.....survive. So I was
always thinking ahead, always tried
to have a plan or strategy to get
me through....

Misha moves to him, looks at him affectionately and nuzzles
him

MISHA

I am so glad you got through

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

103

EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING. - DAY

Tiger sits, on the branch of an old, toppled, dead tree, in
the middle of the clearing. He sits and waits.

A tiger moves into the clearing from the jungle. One by one,
a distance apart, twenty tigers enter the clearing and form a
semi circle. They look warily at each other.

DEVIDA

(walking from branch to
branch to address them)
Thank you for coming.
(he looks to Marus)
Is everyone here?

MARUS

All except Zazu

TIGER

(disappointed)
That's a shame. He is the elder
statesman in the jungle.
(MORE)

TIGER (CONT'D)

(thinks for a moment,
shrugs - then talks to
tigers)

I know you have travelled far, so..

Misha and her sisters bring fresh meat in their mouths and put it, deferentially, before the tigers. They leave backwards, heads down.

The tigresses return with upturned leaves full of water. They leave backwards, heads down.

DEVIDA

Please, eat and drink

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

104 EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING. LATER - DAY

Tiger is walking along the logs talking to the assembled tigers.

TIGER

So you see, if everyone is involved, we have a chance

TIGER 1

We came all this way to listen to this? Marus, I thought you had more brains than listen to this nonsense

TIGER 2

Humans are all powerful, they cannot be beaten

TIGER 3

And what do we care? We are not in a circus, or a cage. We are free, in a jungle, and that's fine by me

TIGER

But can't you see that only the free can help those that are caged? That only the free can help those forced to do tricks? That only the free can set others free?

TIGER 1

I really don't care

TIGER 2

And another thing. Who made you the leader? What makes you think you are so clever you can change the world?

(MORE)

TIGER 2 (CONT'D)

Who do you think you are dragging
us here and spouting this rubbish?

TIGER 3

I've had enough. I'm going, anyone
else leaving with me?

He walks a few paces away and waits. Four more tigers walk
after him.

TIGER 3 (CONT'D)

And if anyone asks me what happened
today I will tell them that you
were ill, to save my own
embarrassment.

TIGER

(deflated)

But..

TIGER 1

Enough of your rubbish

They leave the clearing and Tiger sits quietly

TIGER

I don't know what to say. I thought
every animal would want their
brothers and sisters free
(he looks down dejectedly)

ZAZU (O.C.)

(loud, authoritative
voice)

And so they should

Tiger looks to where the tigers have left the clearing and
they are walking back, bringing up the rear is Zazu

Zazu is a big, wise Tiger. He has presence.

Tiger 1 looks back but Zazu roars

SEVERAL TIGERS

(whispering)

Its Zazu, its Zazu

The Tigers start to go back to where they sat. One or two are
reluctant and slow doing it and Zazu roars at them. They take
their places.

Zazu walks up and down the line of tigers, eyeing them up and
down. One opens his mouth but Zazu glares at him and he shuts
up. He walks to the middle where Tiger is standing. Tiger
starts to give his place away and defer

ZAZU

No Devida, stay.

(he addresses the tigers)

I have listened to everything
Devida has said. *Some* of you have.
Devida has a brain, *some* of you
have..
Devida has been forced to do tricks
in a circus, *none* of you have.
Devida has a plan, none of you has.
If it succeeds, it will change the
world for animals.

Zazu leaves the middle and stands in front of the middle of
the line of tigers. They all shuffle to one side to make
room. He sits

ZAZU (CONT'D)

You were saying Devida....

Tiger is taken aback by the events. Zazu is top of the
hierarchy and Tiger feels he should give way

TIGER

I....err
(he looks at Zazu)
Perhaps you...?

Zazu nods slightly, encouragingly

TIGER (CONT'D)

(gains confidence)
I have told you what I want to
achieve, I will now tell you how we
can achieve it.....

The errant tigers surreptitiously look at each other,
conspiratorially. They look down.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

It is dusk, the stars are twinkling

TIGER (CONT'D)

That's about it

He looks around for responses. Nothing

MARUS

Well done Devida, well done

ANOTHER TIGER

What now?

TIGER

You all go back to your territories and spread the word. Give all the animals safe passage and tell them what I have told you. You also need to tell tigers in other territories that were too far away to come here today.

(pause, hesitant)

Zazu, would you mind taking control of that part and organising it please?

The tigers look aghast

ZAZU

Of course

They look amazed. They look at Tiger with new respect.

TIGER

Then that's about it. Any questions?

ZAZU

(softly, knowingly, as though sharing a secret)
You understand we are animals?

TIGER

Yes

ZAZU

We are going to need some help

TIGER

(nods to Zazu)
I know
(to all)
Anything else?

Nothing

TIGER (CONT'D)

Then thank you all. From me, and one day, with luck, from all the animals in the world

The tigers get up and walk into the jungle. Leaving Tiger and Marus.

TIGER (CONT'D)

Phew, I'm glad that's over

Marus looks over Tiger's shoulder and backs away slightly. Tiger looks round. Zazu is standing there.

Tiger waits in trepidation.

ZAZU

Marus, would you give us a moment
please

Marus moves away

ZAZU (CONT'D)

Devida, I want to tell you what you
are thinking.....

TIGER

You do...?

ZAZU

You are thinking that you cannot do
this. That although you stood up
there looking confident, giving us
the way to win, a part of you knows
you cannot beat the humans. That
although your plan is a good one,
you, more than most, know what
happens to animals that stand up to
man. That perhaps it may be better
if someone else led, me perhaps?
You are thinking that you lack the
strength to carry this through?
Am I correct?

TIGER

(softly)

Yes

ZAZU

Then let me tell you, you are
wrong. If you can survive what you
went through in the circus then you
have more strength than you
understand. You....you should be,
have to be, our leader.

Zazu bows slowly, respectfully and then leaves

Marus watches Zazu depart and then stares at Tiger with a new
appreciation

MARUS

I am going back now Devida

TIGER

Thank you Marus. Without you this
could not have started

MARUS

Without you Devida, it cannot end

He bows and walks away

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

105 EXT. TOP OF CLIFF - DAY

Tiger walks towards the cliff face. He stops at the edge and looks down. Below him the plains with animals in herds etc. They stretch far into the distance.

Tiger looks over the plains to a point where the plains meet the sky. He takes a deep breath.

He points his head to the sky and sniffs. A long inhale of air

He waits

He does it again

He waits

He does it again

He tilts his head

Then sits down and waits....

106 EXT. TOWN. - DAY

107 EXT. PARK - DAY

Inside the park, a small play area with swings for small children, a small pool with children splashing around and a large grass area for sitting, playing, throwing a ball

108 EXT. PARK GRASS - DAY

A dozen girls are sitting around talking and eating snacks from school satchels.

GIRL 1

It's the end of term dance in two weeks

GIRL 2

I'm not going

GIRL 1

Just because Pete is taking someone else, you're all mardy

GIRL 2

I am not mardy

GIRL 1

You are

GIRL 3

Why is it so important we go with a boy? Who cares? There are other things in life other than boys you know

GIRL 1

I don't think so

GIRL 3

You agree Sheena, don't you

SHEENA

(now older)

Well I.....

(pause)

I...

(her face screws up as though trying to understand something)

I.....excuse me

She moves away from them. She looks around her, then goes back a little.

She sniffs the air. Then again. A longer inhale.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

(softly)

Tiger

GIRL 3

Sheena, come and eat

Sheena goes back and picks up her satchel

GIRL 3 (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

SHEENA

Tiger needs me

GIRL 3

What?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

109

INT. KITCHEN. - NIGHT

The family are sitting around the table

FATHER

How do you know Tiger needs you?

SHEENA

I can smell him

FATHER

Sheena, you can't. Tiger is thousands of miles away, it's not possible to smell him

SHEENA

I can smell him

MOTHER

Sheena, assuming you can smell Tiger, so what?

SHEENA

I have to go and help him

MOTHER

How do you know he needs your help? Why would a Tiger need your help?

SHEENA

If I can smell him he wants my help. I don't know what he wants but he may have been captured again, he may be being beaten while we are sitting here talking. I have to go to Tiger

FATHER

Sheena that's not possible

SHEENA

Why?

FATHER

Because you are at school and your mother and I go to work. How can we go rushing off to who knows where, for who know what?

SHEENA

I have to go

FATHER

I'm sorry Sheena

SHEENA

(imploring her mother)
Mom...

MOTHER

It can't be done Sheena

SHEENA
You come with me

MOTHER
To where Sheena? Where would we go
to?

SHEENA
To West Bengal

FATHER
I'll tell you what. Lets sleep on
it, go to school tomorrow and then
it will give me and your mom time
to work out what to do. How's that?

SHEENA
Thank you dad

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

110 INT. KITCHEN. BREAKFAST. DAY

MOTHER
Have you got your lunch Sheena?

SHEENA
Yes

MOTHER
Ok, see you later

She kisses Sheena and Sheena goes through door

SHEENA
Goodbye mom

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

111 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Mother is on phone

112 INT. OFFICE - DAY

Father picks up phone

113 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

MOTHER

John, when Sheena left this morning she said 'goodbye'. She never says goodbye. I've rung school and they say she hasn't been today

FADE OUT:

FADE IN.

114 EXT. CARGO SHIP AT SEA -DAY

115 EXT. CARGO SHIP DECK. - DAY

116 INT. LIFEBOAT. - DAY

Sheena is eating a bar of chocolate. Her satchel is empty. She lifts the canopy a little and sees the coast. She sees the bay where she left tiger.

117 EXT. DECK. SAME

She leaves the lifeboat, goes to the side, takes a big sniff, and jumps overboard.

118 EXT. SEA. LATER. - DAY

It is a long swim and she starts to struggle. Close to the shore, but too far for her strength, she starts to drown and slowly goes under the water.

119 EXT. BEACH AND JUNGLE. - DAY

Tiger bounds out of the jungle and jumps into the sea.

120 EXT. BELOW WAVES. SAME. - DAY

Sheena is sinking deeper. Tiger swims to her, grips her clothes in his teeth and pulls her up to the surface

121 EXT. SEA. SAME. - DAY

On the surface she is on his back. She is not breathing. Tiger roars. She does not breathe. He roars again.

She slowly slips off his back into the water and sinks under the water. Silence

Just the waves are seen

A loud crash as Sheena is propelled twenty feet in the air by Tiger's strong neck. She lands on her back with a loud crack which makes her lungs work and she chokes out water and then starts coughing and spluttering.

Tiger goes under her and puts her on his back. He starts swimming to shore

122 EXT. BEACH. LATER - DAY

Tiger is sitting in the sphinx position looking over the ocean towards the setting sun. Sheena sits within his paws, leaning her head against his neck. She strokes him.

SHEENA

I'm just about dry now Tiger.

Tiger stands up, she gets on his back, he looks round at her, she strokes him, and he walks into the jungle.

123 EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Tiger, with Sheena on his back walks to where the tigresses are sitting

TIGER

This is Little Girl

Sheena slides off his back and the tigresses gather round and look at her and smell her.

MISHA

I am Misha.

TIGER

Little Girl, do your family know where you are?

SHEENA

No

TIGER

(thoughtful)

Then we must tell them, they will be worried

SHEENA

I could write but how would it get to them?

TIGER

I will make sure it does

Maniah moves close

TIGER (CONT'D)
 This is Maniah with my cub
 (he swats him playfully
 with a paw)

124 EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING. LATER - DAY

Tiger is talking to an eagle

EAGLE
 I will ask the albatross to cross
 the mighty ocean and deliver the
 message

TIGER
 Thank you, I am grateful

The eagle flies away into the distance.

Tiger sits and thinks.

Behind him, three tigers move stealthily towards him. Their
 faces are filled with hate. One stands on a twig which
 breaks.

Tiger looks round.

TIGER (CONT'D)
 What are you doing here?

TIGER 1
 Change of plan

TIGER
 What do you mean?

TIGER 2
 We don't like what you are doing

TIGER
 Why?

TIGER 2
 It changes things. We don't like
 change, we prefer things as they
 are

TIGER
 You prefer our sisters and
 brothers, other animals, to be
 caged and beaten?

TIGER 2
 Of course.

TIGER
 Why?

TIGER 1
Because then we are invisible.

TIGER
What do you mean?

TIGER 1
What do we care about others as long as we are left alone. We are doing fine thank you. But there is something you, the oh so intelligent Devida has overlooked.....it won't last. Whatever you succeed in doing won't last. You will free a few animals, and who cares, shut a few zoos, and life will go on. But, in time, it will start again. And when it does, when it does, it will be hell for animals.

TIGER
It may not

TIGER 1
It will

TIGER
Its too late. Everything is in place

TIGER (CONT'D)
No, its not too late. For it to start it needs you.

The tigers leap at Tiger and a huge, vicious fight ensues. It rages back and forth but in the end Tiger is exhausted and he is pinned to the floor.

A tiger stands over him, mouth open, about to kill him

TIGER 2
Die Devida, and let your hopes and dreams die with you.

ANTELOPE (OS)
Stop!

The tiger stops and looks up. They are surrounded by animals. All species of animals.

ANTELOPE (CONT'D)
We would rather you didn't do that

TIGER 1
And how are you going to stop me?

The animals open slightly and a huge rhinoceros bounds out and throws the lion off Tiger. The lion lands, injured, but he and the other lions stand together

TIGER 2
You won't stop us

ANTELOPE
You don't understand

TIGER 2
Understand what?

ANTELOPE
You have already lost

The animals move in, circling the tigers, leaving Tiger on the outside.

He stands back, watching.

A quick fight and the animals move away and the tigers are dead.

TIGER
Already there are deaths

ANTELOPE
Don't be sad Devida, this was not your fault. In a revolution there are always dissenters. Ones that consider themselves; more than they consider others.

TIGER
(looking at dead tigers)
Yes

ANTELOPE
You have to go now Devida

TIGER
Why?

ANTELOPE
Go now Devida.

He hesitates but turns and walks away

The non-meat eaters among the animals walk away. The meat eaters, hyenas, jackals, vultures, walk slowly to the dead tigers.

125 INT. KITCHEN. - DAY

Father is at the table looking despondent. The back door to the garden is open

MOTHER (O.S. OUTSIDE)
 (screaming)
 Get away, get away

Father runs out of the house

126 EXT. GARDEN. SAME - DAY

Mother has been pegging washing. On the fence by her is a huge eagle. It is holding something.

Father holds mother to protect her but the eagle does not attack

MOTHER
 What does it want?

FATHER
 I don't know

The eagle offers the message

FATHER (CONT'D)
 What is it doing?

MOTHER
 I think it wants us to have something

Father goes warily to the eagle and holds out his hand. The eagle drops the message in it

FATHER
 (reads)
 Its from Sheena, she's safe

The eagle bows and flies away

127 EXT. CLIFF TOP. - DAWN

Tiger is sitting, looking over the plains and jungle. He watches the sun rise.

Beside him is Sheena

He looks down at the floor. He stays like that for a few moments

SHEENA
 (strokes him)
 The world is waiting for you Tiger

He lifts his head and looks at her.

TIGER
 (uncertain)
 Are you sure we should do this?

SHEENA
 Yes

He raises himself up and roars. He roars again and again,
 then stops and waits.

An eagle overhead starts screeching. Elephants trumpet,
 baboons scream, until the jungle is alive with every animal
 sound.

TIGER
 The message has gone out

128 EXT. JUNGLE AND PLAINS. - DAY

Across the jungle the animals are passing on the message.

In the air birds are passing on the message and giving it to
 the sea birds.

The sea birds pass it on to the dolphins

The sea birds get to the next land mass and pass it on

INSERT

Satellite view of Africa. It pulls out slowly until the whole
 world is shown

129 EXT. CLIFF TOP. - DAWN

Sheena is lying against Tiger, asleep

TIGER
 (softly)
 Little girl

Sheena wakes

Tiger nods to the sun

TIGER (CONT'D)
 It has begun, there is no going
 back.

INSERT

A montage of shots

Bullocks pulling a plough, stop and sit down. They are hit with a stick but don't move

Dogs on leads, stop and sit down. Their owners shout at them, drag them, but they don't move

Animals in zoos, walk back into their burrows/dens/stables. The people watching boo and complain. Ask for money back.

Horses being raced, pull up. The jockeys whip them but they do not run

Orcas and dolphins at sea world stop doing tricks

A blind man crosses a busy main road with his blind dog, causing chaos

Lions in a zoo stop doing tricks. The lion tamer cracks his whip several times but they don't budge. He lashes them and they roar in pain but don't move

Fish in an aquarium go into the rocks

Cattle about to be put in a cattle truck to go to slaughter refuse to go in

130

INT. TELEVISION NEWS ROOM. - DAY

BROADCASTER

We break into this programme with a news flash. We are getting reports from all over the world that animals are refusing to do what they are supposed to do. Literally going on strike. I am joined by animal expert Dr Brock Gibbons....

GIBBONS

(self important - on computer link from office at home)

Good evening

BROADCASTER

Dr Gibbons, what do you think is happening?

GIBBONS

It seems to me that there is some kind of illness striking the animals. That's the only thing that can explain it

BROADCASTER

But isn't it a bit coincidental that all the animals are refusing to cooperate at the same time

GIBBONS

Firstly, they are not refusing to cooperate; that's merely a human interpretation. What you are suggesting would lead to some kind of intelligence, some kind of mass communication and that's not possible.

BROADCASTER

But...

GIBBONS

No, really. They may appear intelligent at times but it is just repetition. When a dog fetches a ball they only do it for the reward, they don't really know what they are doing

BROADCASTER

My dog fetches the morning paper

GIBBONS

(laughs)

Yes, but he doesn't read it.

BROADCASTER

But what if, in some way, they were communicating? What if, in some way, they have formed an alliance?

GIBBONS

An alliance for what? Animals don't make cross species alliances. We, human beings, are the only species to have evolved to help each other. No, its as I have said, some kind of disease that more than likely is hitting their motor neurone system and taking away their ability to move.

BROADCASTER

So no communication, no alliance?

GIBBONS

(laughing)

The day my dog forms an alliance with the cat next door I will eat my boots.

BROADCASTER

So its not possible

GIBBONS

No. We are the only intelligent, cooperative species on this planet.

BROADCASTER

If I could...

(message in ear)

Mr Gibbons thank you but we will have to leave this now, we have more breaking news

(she listens - sombre voice)

I am sorry to inform you that initial reports suggest that hundreds and hundreds of people have lost their lives when a bomb exploded on a plane as it was landing at JFK Airport. It seems the blazing plane crashed into the main building. Eye witnesses at the horrific scene....

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

131 EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

132 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The President is at his desk. His wife sits to one side. Men and women stand before him

MAN

Mister President, we have to do something, it's crazy. They haven't moved in nearly two weeks

PRESIDENT

What the hell do you expect me to do?

AIDE

Sorry sir

PRESIDENT

Steve, what about the lab tests?

STEVE

Nothing Mister President. Whatever it is, it isn't an illness

PRESIDENT

(looks at tiny dog sitting in corner)

Here wolf

The dog ignores him

The President holds up his arms in frustration

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

That dog has ignored me for days.
I'm President of the most powerful
nation in the world. I can give a
command to start a nuclear war but
I can't get a dog off its backside.

The phone rings

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

(picks up phone)

Rick any news yet?Rick,
Congress gives the CIA billions of
dollars and you can't tell me
anything? Well get something. And
quick!

(puts down phone)

BILLY BOB

(heavy Texan drawl)

Mister President we're suffering
badly. People could starve.
Communities could perish. My
company has less than one's day's
stock of meat for beefburgers

PRESIDENT

(exasperated)

What? For Christ's sake Billy Bob,
not now.

BILLY BOB

But Mister President the mighty U S
of A will grind to a halt without
our beefburgers.

PRESIDENT

Billy Bob, that's your problem

BILLY BOB

But Mister President, when my
company backed your campaign we
assumed..

PRESIDENT

(angry)

Be careful what you assume Billy
Bob

He looks at the dog again

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Wolf, here boy

The dog doesn't move

He looks at his wife

PRESIDENTS WIFE

(sugary)

Come on little wolfie, come to
mommy. Who's a good boy then, who's
a good boy? Come to mommy. Mommy
loves you

The dog doesn't move

PRESIDENT

(to the dog)

I'm the President. II give up
(sigh of resignation)

The phone rings

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Rick.....what? Rick, I'm putting
you on speaker phone. Go ahead Rick

RICK

(speaker phone)

Mister President, our Consulate in
Mumbai, India

PRESIDENT

(testy)

I know where Mumbai is

RICK

Sorry Mister President. Our
Consulate has relayed a
communication they have received in
relation to the strategic
withdrawal of services by non
humans

(President shakes his
head)

It says you will be contacted
shortly sir

PRESIDENT

Who by?

RICK

It doesn't say sir, just that you
will be contacted shortly.

PRESIDENT

How was it communicated Ric?

RICK

Letter Mister President

PRESIDENT

Did your people at the Consulate
follow the person that delivered
the letter?

RICK

Er no sir

PRESIDENT

Why the hell not?

(there is a long pause)

Rick, I asked you why not?

RICK

Mister President.....Sir
it....it...was delivered by a
 monkey

PRESIDENT

Rick have you been drinking? Is
 this some kind of joke?

(to aides)

Is this All Fools Day?

RICK

No sir

PRESIDENT

And I assume no one signed the
 letter?

RICK

Yes sir. Sheena did sir.

PRESIDENT

What?

RICK

It was signed by Sheena sir

PRESIDENT

(giving up)

I despair. Anything else Rick?

RICK

Not at the moment Mister President

PRESIDENT

I would say ring me when you have
 something but I could be waiting
 here forever

He hangs up

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

So they are going to contact me.
 Sheena says so. And we know its
 correct because a monkey delivered
 the letter. We don't who, where or
 when they're going to contact me
 but that's ok.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

I'm only the President, so I've not
got a lot to do....

(thinks)

Give me a few minutes please

They file out

133 INT. OFFICE. NEXT DOOR. SAME. - DAY

Billy Bob is on mobile, talking quietly.

BILLY BOB

The President says its our problem
so sort it out

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

134 EXT. FARM. VAST CATTLE PENS. DAY

Hundreds of cows sitting in pens. Lots of cattle trucks
waiting.

Man puts down phone

MAN

Ok

Two dozen men with guns walk towards the cattle

Man with phone walks away as shots ring out and animals
squeal

135 EXT. FARM. SAME. LATER - DAY

Dead cattle are stacked up on the cattle trucks. Others are
being dragged up and chucked on the pile.

MAN

(to man standing by him)

Hear that?

Other man

(listening)

No, what?

MAN

That, my man, is the sound of
Americans eating beefburgers; and
dollars as they gently land in
Billy Bobs lap

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

136 EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING. - DAY

Tiger is sitting on the logs, Little Girl by his side, and the tigers are sitting as before. Zazu is in the middle

TIGER 1

It was going to happen Tiger

TIGER

I know

TIGER 1

You said yourself it wouldn't be easy

TIGER

I know

(he looks down sadly)

Animals all over the world are being beaten, some slaughtered, just because they refused to work. Why?

ZAZU

Because they can. And this is what it is all about. Just because they can, they cage us, beat us, slaughter us. Some of our species have left this earth forever because.....they can.

TIGER

(big breath)

We are nearly there. Are all the arrangements made?

TIGERS

Yes, yes

TIGER

(looks at Little Girl)

Then it's time

137 EXT. DOCKS. - NIGHT

Tigers, and other animals, slip silently through the shadows towards the boats.

138 EXT. DOCKS. LATER. - DAY

Boats are leaving port

139 EXT. SEA. BOAT. - DAY

140 INT. SHIPPING CONTAINER. - DAY

Tiger, Sheena, another tiger and several animals are groaning with sea sickness

MONKEY

I am never listening to you again

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

141 INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

PRESIDENT

(angry)

It's been nearly three weeks.

Nothing.

(looks at the dog)

The only time that mutt has moved is to, well you know..

MAN

There is not one thing moving that involves animals. No zoos, no circuses, aquariums, farms.....nothing

PRESIDENT

Billy Bob's selling his beefburgers. Shame, the world would have been a slimmer place...

MAN2

Mister President

PRESIDENT

What?

The man points to the dog who is going to the window. He stands on a chair and looks out

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

What's out there?

MAN3

Nothing sir

The President walks to the window

142 EXT. OUTSIDE WHITE HOUSE. SAME. - DAY

Everything is normal

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

143 EXT. DOCKS. - NIGHT

Monkeys are opening containers.

144 INT. OVAL OFFICE. - DAY

PRESIDENT

(at desk)

Right, so we're agreed. We take
this to the House Finance Committee
and then..

The dog runs to the window barks and barks as though greeting
someone

A man goes to the window

MAN

There's nothing there sir

A lady enters

LADY

You should see the television
Mister President

She turns on the tv

INSERT

TV. NEWS CHANNEL

Picture of

145 EXT. WIDE STREET. SKYSCRAPERS EITHER SIDE - DAY

Open to full screen

Thousands of animals are walking down each side of the
street. Dogs, cats, birds and any other city animals join
them.

At the front are a phalanx of tigers. In the middle of them
strides Tiger with Little Girl on his back

146 INT. OVAL OFFICE. SAME - DAY

The Presidents phone rings, but he is watching tv. He ignores it. An aide picks it up

AIDE

Mister President, the Governor is on the phone. He has deployed police marksmen and anti terrorist teams. He intends to neutralise the situation now sir, before it gets out of control

147 EXT. ROOFTOPS. - DAY

Marksmen are moving on roofs

148 INT. OVAL OFFICE. SAME

AIDE

(urgently)

Mister President. Did you hear me sir?

149 EXT. ROOFTOPS. - DAY

A marksman is lying down, getting comfortable. His rifle is resting on a stand on the floor. He has a head set.

INSERT

The cross hairs of the gun train on Little Girl. He focuses on her head. Then he slowly move to Tigers head

MARKSMAN (OS)

I have a clear view.

150 INT. OVAL OFFICE. SAME

AIDE

(concerned)

Mister President.

151 EXT. ROOFTOPS. SAME

INSERT

Slowly squeezing the trigger

MARKSMAN

Clear view

152 INT. OVAL OFFICE

The aide is waiting

AIDE
(panicking)
Sir? What do you want them to do
sir?

153 EXT. ROOFTOP. SAME

The marksman is slowly squeezing the trigger.

Insert

The cross hairs of the gun are on Tigers head

MARKSMAN
Good to go

INSERT

He squeezes a little tighter

MARKSMAN (OS) (CONT'D)
Go

He pulls the trigger.

Simultaneously, a loud bang and the screen goes black. A five second blackness.

INSERT

A monkeys face (small monkey like vervet) fills the screen with a comical grin.

The marksman looks up. The monkey has his hand under the rifle barrel and has lifted it. He wags his finger in admonishment and then grabs the rifle and runs off with it

IN MARKSMANS EAR
(Urgently)
Stand down, stand down

Still in shooting position

MARKSMAN
Err...Standing down

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

154 INT. LOUNGE. - DAY

The tv is on. Father is dozing and mother is reading a paper.

TV

We have a news flash

Mother looks open mouthed at tv. She tugs at father who wakes up and she points at the tv

MOTHER

Sheena and Tiger are in Washington.
America!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

155 EXT. ROAD TO WHITE HOUSE GATES. SAME

The procession stops outside the gates. Armed guards watch them

Tiger roars at the White House

156 INT. OVAL OFFICE. SAME

The President is looking out of the window at the animals.

INSERT

Little Girl on Tigers back

PRESIDENT

A child on a tiger

The dog is now barking to be let out, goes to president, back to door

The President watches the dog

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Ok, lets go

AIDE

Sir you can't...it's a tiger

PRESIDENT

(sarcastically)

If he hasn't eaten the little girl
he can't be that hungry

The President walks out of the office

157 EXT. WHITE HOUSE GROUNDS. ENTRANCE . SAME

The President goes to the gate and stands in front of Tiger

SHEENA

Mister President. Thank you for meeting us

PRESIDENT

I take it you are Sheena?

SHEENA

Yes Mister President and this is Tiger. I am Tigers friend

PRESIDENT

And how can I help you Sheena? I assume you don't want circuses and zoos anymore?

SHEENA

Your assumption is wrong Mister President

AIDE

I don't think you should be talking to the Presid...

Tiger snarls at him

PRESIDENT

Tiger beat me to it. Shut up. One second please Sheena...

The President thinks for a moment and then whispers in an aides ear. The aide scuttles off.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Sheena, before we continue. You and Tiger and the other animals have obviously travelled a long way. Come into the grounds and let me give you food

SHEENA

Thank you Mister President.

158 EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWNS. SAME

The animals are eating and mixing with the staff.

The President and Tiger and Little Girl are talking to one side

PRESIDENT

So what do you want Sheena?

SHEENA

Its not what I want Mister
President, its what the animals
want

PRESIDENT

And what do they want?

TIGER

Choice Mister President

PRESIDENT

(jaw drops)
You can talk to me?

TIGER

Yes Mister President, did you think
I was a dumb animal?

PRESIDENT

Touche
(he stops for a moment,
thinks)
Choice? What do you mean by choice?
How can they have a choice? My dog
doesn't have a choice, it would be
chaos. He has to obey, that's the
way it is.

TIGER

Why should he obey you?

PRESIDENT

Because I own him

TIGER

You own him?

PRESIDENT

(on shifting sands)
Yes

TIGER

You own him?

PRESIDENT

I think I see where this is going.
But he has a good life

TIGER

A good life as long as he obeys you
and your rules

PRESIDENT

I suppose so

TIGER

But no choice?

PRESIDENT
I suppose not

TIGER
Mister President

PRESIDENT
Please, call me Andrew

TIGER
Andrew, let me make this very plain
to you. I was born in a circus, in
Africa. I was taught to do tricks
through pain and fear. I had no
life other than eating, sleeping
and doing tricks. Tell me
....Andrew, would you have liked
that life?

PRESIDENT
No

TIGER
So....Andrew, tell me what choice I
had?

The President says nothing

TIGER (CONT'D)
Have you ever been to a circus
Andrew?

PRESIDENT
(quietly)
Yes

TIGER
Did you enjoy it?

President doesn't answer

TIGER (CONT'D)
Did you ask yourself whether the
animals were enjoying providing
your entertainment? Whether they
even had a choice?

President looks away.

TIGER (CONT'D)
Do you know of any humans in a
circus that are beaten and
electrocuted to make them perform?

The President says nothing. Looks uncomfortable.

TIGER (CONT'D)

Do you know of any humans that are kept in cages all their lives just to be looked at?

The President says nothing

TIGER (CONT'D)

Do you know of any humans that pull a plough from dawn till dusk and then start again the next day?

PRESIDENT

But I asked you earlier if you wanted all the animals to be freed from the circuses and zoos and you said my assumption was wrong

TIGER

Little Girl said your assumption was wrong and it was and is. You are missing the point.

Tiger looks at the Aide who interrupted. The Aide holds up his hands

AIDE

Not a word

TIGER

You are so blinded by your humanness that you see nothing from our point of view. There is nothing wrong with circuses or zoos or aquariums. What is wrong is that the animals in them had no choice in the matter.

PRESIDENT

But..

TIGER

Look at it another way....Mister President. Let's take zoos. There may be many animals that would love to live in a zoo. They may be a bit old, maybe not too good in the company of their own kind, maybe non too bright or not blessed with what it takes to survive in what you call 'the wild' but we call home. In a zoo they can wander round, get fed, show off to the visitors, sleep..... They would love to live in a zoo.

PRESIDENT

I can see that

TIGER

And a circus. Some animals are natural show offs. Why they'd pay the circus to let them perform. But that's because they'd want to. They'd just arrive for the performance, do their thing, astound the audience with their tricks and back to the jungle to their families

PRESIDENT

So animals will do most things we want of them today, all they want is choice. To do or not to do

TIGER

As humans have

BILLY BOB (OS)

But what about beefburgers?

Billy Bob is being held back by Secret Service men.

PRESIDENT

Sorry. He's not very subtle but unfortunately he has a point. His cattle will have a choice and.....we eat animals

TIGER

So do I

PRESIDENT

(taken aback)
I'd forgotten that

TIGER

Just give them a life before you eat them. And stop queueing them up, watching their sisters and brothers be slaughtered while they wait their turn.

PRESIDENT

Tiger, Sheena. I can't promise you anything, but I will promise you one thing, I will try...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

160 INT. CONGRESS. - DAY

The president is addressing Congress. He is animated, exhorting. When he is finished they applaud.

A man goes to a dais and reads a Bill

The vast majority of Congressman put up their hands.

The President raises his hand in triumph

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

161 EXT. THE UNITED NATIONS BUILDING. - DAY

162 INT. HALL OF THE UN. - DAY

The President is in front of the assembly. His arms are held out, imploring.

A wait, and then a hand raises, then another, then another until they all go up

PRESIDENT
(bows to them - no sound)
Thank you, thank you

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

163 EXT. SEA WORLD. - DAY

164 EXT. LARGE TANK HOUSING AN ORCA. - DAY

The tank is next to the sea. A man in a suit and a woman trainer are standing on the side of the pool 'talking' to an Orca.

MAN
This is ludicrous. Our best money earner and we have to allow it to go?

TRAINER
If it wants

MAN
Well I don't want....unbelievable

TRAINER

(to orca)

Toto, if you want to go out there

(she points to sea)

You can. What would you like to do?

The orca just looks at her. Then swims off

MAN

See, what nonsense. As though a
damn fish understands

The orca arrives back

TRAINER

Toto, do you want to go back to
sea?

The orca nods his head enthusiastically, squeals excitedly
then does back flips.

MAN

That's hardly proof

TRAINER

Toto, the Director doesn't believe
you

The orca dives and appears next to the man and his tail lifts
a huge amount of water and it covers the man and sends him
backwards

TRAINER (CONT'D)

Now, do you believe

165 INT. BELOW WATER IN AQUARIUM. - DAY

The orca is watching as a large metal barred gate is lifted
up to allow it to go to freedom.

He goes to it and stops. He turns round.

166 EXT. SIDE OF TANK. SAME - DAY

The trainer is standing on the side looking at the water but
can see nothing. The orca surfaces next to her.

The orca squeals at her.

TRAINER

I don't understand

The orca squeals again

The trainer takes off her top clothes and jumps in the tank.
She clings on to the orca's fin.

He dives to where the raised bars to the ocean are. He does a back flip to remove her and then goes to her, nuzzles her face, she strokes him and the orca turns and swims away

167 EXT. ZOO. - DAY

Lions and tigers, antelopes etc are walking to trucks.

168 EXT. LIONS ENCLOSURE. ZOO. - DAY

Two elderly lions watch their friends go. They roar a 'goodbye' and then wander slowly over to some food, sit down and contentedly eat.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

169 EXT. JUNGLE. - DUSK

Tiger is talking to the eagle that took the message.

TIGER

Thank you

He flies away. Tiger walks away.

170 INSERT 'AFRICA'

171 EXT. JUNGLE. - DAY

Several apes are sitting around.

An eagle lands by them

EAGLE

You know Devida?

APE

Of course. The world knows Devida.

EAGLE

He needs your help

APE

(looks at group, they all nod)

How can we help?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

172 EXT. CIRCUS. - NIGHT

INSERT SIGN

CIRCUS CLOSED

The apes, hardly seen, move from shadow to shadow.

173 INT. CIRCUS OFFICE. SAME. - NIGHT

The circus owner and two men are drinking.

OWNER

Well that's the end of that

MEN

(laugh)

For now

OWNER

Ok, all the acts have gone and we'll rehire them when we set up shop in a place where a little money changing hands will keep us safe and out of sight. All the small animals have been set loose or used as food. We'll need the tigers. We've paid the rent on this site for another two months so all we have to do is sit tight, sedate the tigers to shut them up, and then move out when the hullabaloo has calmed down.

The door opens and eight huge apes walk in. It is unhurried. One man goes for a gun but the ape rips it from his hands. The apes grab the men.

174 INT. CIRCUS. TIGERS CAGES. LATER. - NIGHT

Two apes start unlocking the cages.

APE

Come with us

TIGER

Why?

APE

We have a present from Devida

175 INT. CIRCUS. BIG TOP. TIGER CAGE. LATER - NIGHT

The tigers follow the ape. They look enquiringly at each other.

APE
Sit down, please

They sit down and look forward

Ahead of them is their act. The hoops, the high stools. The three men huddle against the cage. Three apes have whips.

APE (CONT'D)
Enjoy

An ape picks up a hoop, stands in front of the men and holds it, waiting. The men do not move.

APE (CONT'D)
You'll like this

The apes wield their whips viciously. The whips cut into the men. They scream in pain.

The ape flourishes the hoop, inviting them, like a 'lion tamer'.

One man tries to run away but he is headed off and lashed. He cowers against the cage.

A flourish of the hoop again. The ape is smiling. Its fun. Its a game. The men are 'encouraged' to join in.

The men walk to the hoop, lashed again, and crawl through it. They are made to return.

The hoop is raised. They are lashed until they jump through it.

It is raised farther. Lashed again until they jump through it.

The hoops are put down and they are herded to the high stools.

OWNER
You must be joking

He is lashed until he is screaming in agony. Blood is all over his shirt on his back.

They try and climb but struggle. More lashing.

MAN
(pleading)
We can't climb poles

APE
You can learn

They are lashed mercilessly

TIGER
 (to ape)
 Won't they take their revenge?
 Won't they hit us later?

APE
 (smiling)
 No

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

176 INT. OVAL OFFICE

The President is working at his desk. He is tired. He looks over at Wolf, the dog, in the corner

PRESIDENT
 Come on Wolf, I need a few minutes
 break

He gets up, walks to door and takes a lead off a small table

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
 Wolf. Wolf, how do you fancy a
 walk?

The dog barks, gets up, wags his tail and walks to the President. The President goes to put the lead on the dog.

INSERT

Dogs face

The president stops, and puts it back on the table

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
 It's not a dogs life anymore eh
 Wolf?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

177 EXT. JUNGLE. LATER - NIGHT

Tiger, Sheena and the tigresses are sitting together under the bright magical stars

TIGER
 Home tomorrow Little Girl

SHEENA
 I shall miss you, all of you

MISHA
We will miss you

There is a noise nearby. Tiger is alert. Out of the jungle comes Zazu

TIGER
Zazu

ZAZU
Please excuse my intrusion Devida,
Misha, sisters.

TIGER
You could never intrude Zazu, you
are always welcome. Please join us

Zazu sits by them

TIGER (CONT'D)
Is there something we can give you
Zazu? Food, water?

ZAZU
No thank you. I am here to thank
Sheena

SHEENA
Me?

ZAZU
Of course.

SHEENA
Why?

ZAZU
You set us free

SHEENA
I didn't, Tiger did

ZAZU
That's true, but you set Tiger
free. Without you Tiger would still
be in a circus, as would many
others.

SHEENA
But

ZAZU
Please. Accept my, our thanks

SHEENA
Thank you

ZAZU
Perhaps Devida, I could eat a
little now?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

178 EXT. JUNGLE. - NIGHT

Tiger and the others are sitting around talking and eating.
The moon is full and the stars magical. They are happy.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

179 EXT. JUNGLE. SUNRISE - DAY

They are sitting around

TIGER
You leave us today Little Girl

ZAZU
Tiger, if you would allow me,
perhaps Sheena would come with me
for a moment

SHEENA
With you?

ZAZU
Yes

She looks at Tiger who nods

SHEENA
Ok

He leads her away

180 EXT. CLIFF TOP. LATER

Zazu leads Sheena out of the jungle.

Before them the cliff top and sky

ZAZU
Come Sheena

He leads her towards the edge and stops

ZAZU (CONT'D)
Walk to the edge Sheena

Warily she does

As she approaches the edge the plains come into view

Tens of thousands of animals are below

As they see her all the animals bow low in total silence

Sheena looks in amazement.

She turns round and sees Zazu, Tiger and the others behind her

ZAZU (CONT'D)

This, Sheena, is now Little Girl day. On this day every year the animals will have a truce and remember what a little girl did for them

(he beckons her turn round)

The animals are still prostrate

SHEENA

(from the back)

Thank you

Tiger joins her. They look at each other, put their faces close, and take in a long 'sniff' (almost sensual) of each other

Tiger kneels down and Little Girl gets on his back

They face the animals. (From the back)

Tiger rears up

A tremendous 'cheer' erupts from the animals below

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

181 EXT. CIRCUS. - DAY

INSERT CIRCUS CLOSED

182 INT. CIRCUS - TIGERS CAGES. - DAY

The three men are lying in a cage. There is little room and they are weak.

The owner grabs the bars. He holds them and tries to shake them but he is too weak and they are too strong. He curls up on the floor

OWNER
 (hardly audible)
 Help..... Help

183 EXT. CIRCUS. SAME

INSERT CIRCUS CLOSED

A few people walk past but pay no interest

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

184 INT. HOME. OFFICE. - DAY

Brock Gibbons (the animal expert) is at his desk, typing on his laptop. His coffee mug is by him. He picks it up, has a sip but there is little in it and it is cold

GIBBONS
 Yuk, cold coffee

He takes the coffee cup to the kitchen

185 INT. KITCHEN. SAME. - DAY

He walks in, walks past a large 'island', moves to sink, picks up kettle and fills it. Switches it on. Looks in cupboard above him for tea. Picks up jar, stands very still then looks slowly down and to his right, to the hidden side of the island

INSERT

A female cat and a large male Alsatian dog are sitting, looking at him. Between them, on a plate, are his boots. In front of the boots are salt and pepper dispensers.

FADE TO BLACK.

Soft music

WRITTEN ON BLACK SCREEN

And so it was; humans and animals
 working together for a united world
 in which all species worked
 together in harmony for a better
 planet.....

Fade in:

186 A shot of a farmer and his large field horse, with a vast prairie back drop, blue sky. The farmer is patting the horses mane and the horse raises his head several times to denote friendship and team work.

FADE TO BLACK.

187 WRITTEN ON BLACK SCREEN

SIX MONTHS LATER

188 EXT. PLAINS. DAY

189 EXT. CLEARING IN JUNGLE. SAME.

In the clearing sit Tiger with Misha, other Tigresses and cubs. Tiger's head lifts quickly and he smells the air. Misha follows suit

MISHA

Zazu. He is here.

She looks at the tigresses and they all sit, waiting. Misha looks at Tiger, searches his face....

Zazu enters the clearing and the Tigresses bow.

TIGER

Zazu

(he bows slightly)

We are honoured by your presence.

MISHA

Can I get you food, water, Zazu?

ZAZU

No thank you Misha. If it is acceptable to Devida I would like to talk to him first and then perhaps some refreshments..?

190 EXT. CLIFF TOP. OVERLOOKING PLAINS. LATER

The two tigers are sitting, overlooking the plains, where beasts graze.

ZAZU

It's so calm. Everything balanced, everything in order.

DEVIDA

Yes

ZAZU

Our relationship with humans has
been changed, perhaps forever

Tiger just looks ahead

ZAZU (CONT'D)

Our relationship with humans has
been changed, perhaps forever.

Tiger says nothing

ZAZU (CONT'D)

Are you sure you want to continue?

DEVIDA

We have no option

ZAZU

Maybe there is another option, or a
few, or many....?

DEVIDA

No, just one option or no options.

Zazu looks down and then he looks out over the plains.
Animals are moving slowly, eating, drinking, running....

ZAZU

Are you completely sure? Is there
nothing that will change your mind?
Any other scenario that you have
not factored into the equation?

DEVIDA

No, it's as I said all those months
ago; nothing has changed

ZAZU

Why didn't we do it then?

DEVIDA

It needed a new way; a new way of
thinking towards humans. We needed
our brothers and sisters out of
captivity and free. We needed
humans to look at us differently.

ZAZU

Which they do

DEVIDA

Some

ZAZU

So rather than some form of half-
way house you want a.....genesis

DEVIDA

Yes

ZAZU

So we continue as your original plan?

DEVIDA

Yes

Zazu goes back to looking at the plain

DEVIDA (CONT'D)

Would you prefer not to be part of it Zazu?

ZAZU

It is not possible to not be a part of it. No, I am just making sure you are certain.....

DEVIDA

I am. Could you send out the word please

ZAZU

I will. How long?

DEVIDA

Everything starts at mid-day time here, in twenty-eight days. Some of our brothers and sisters need time to get ready although they have waited long enough

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

191 INT. OVAL OFFICE. DAY

The President is winding up a meeting with staff.

PRESIDENT

Well fellas, good job. That will do for today..

MAN

Excuse me Mister President, but the last time we were here your dog did that and a load of Tigers appeared

The Alsation, 'Wolf' is standing up on his back legs looking out of the window

PRESIDENT

Wolf.

(the dog ignores him)

Ah well, he's more than likely seen
a squirrel or racoon or something.
Maybe a fifty-foot raptor is about
to join us

The staff grin at his joke and then file out.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Wolf.

(Quietly)

Wolf

(Louder)

The President is getting exasperated but his phone goes. He
answers it

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Ok

Puts down phone, has one last look at Wolf, shrugs and walks
out of the office.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

192

INT. LOUNGE. NIGHT

Sheena and her friends are sitting relaxed in chairs. On
their laps and around them are books as they swat for exams.
They are giggling.

GIRL 1

I'm glad we started talking about
boys at the end and not the
beginning otherwise there would
have been no swatting at all.

The girls giggle

GIRL 2

But are you going to see him?

GIRL 1

I may...

They giggle again.

SHEENA

I've got to go now. I'll see you
all tomorrow at the exam and after
(she looks tellingly at
Girl 1)
(MORE)

SHEENA (CONT'D)

We may learn whether Susie may go
out with Andy or.....she already
has....?

More giggling

193 EXT. STREET. NIGHT. LATER

Sheena is walking home. She skips happily, a smile on her face. She looks up to the night sky which is covered in stars. The sky stays for a few moments then everything goes quickly black from the top of the screen down.

There is a small 'gasp' from Sheena

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

ON SCREEN

Mid-day. Twenty eight days later

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

194 INT. OVAL OFFICE. DAY

The President has his feet on the desk, a phone at his ear, and Wolf is at the window.

PRESIDENT

Thank you Senator, I appreciate
your help to get this through the
House. We won't forget what your
input will help us achieve.

(He hangs up)

We won't forget you because you're
a pain the ass....

Wolf leaves the window and pads over to the President.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

(Swings chair round and
puts feet down)

Hello pal, how are you doing?

He puts his face near Wolfs and rubs behind his ear

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Nobody does that for me pal. What I
would do for an ear scratch.

(he giggles)

(MORE)

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Not even the most highly paid
hookers will give you an ear
scratch.

Wolf opens his mouth, leans forward and with his strong, sharp teeth rips the Presidents throat open. Blood gushes everywhere and the President, who can neither breathe nor get blood to his brain, dies within moments.

Wolf looks at his former master, bows slightly and then pads softly into the next office where a secretary sits at her desk.

SECRETARY

Hello Wolfie, what's that on your
mouth? Come here boy let me wipe it
for you.....'

There are several shots of animals moving to a 'waiting' state.

195 EXT. PARK. DAY

People are sitting in the grounds and around the lake. The birds are singing, dogs are barking, geese are making a noise.

A clock in the distance chimes twelve times. At that point every animal and bird stays silent, and then they stare at the humans. The people start to realise there is menace and look around...

196 EXT. IN THE OCEAN. DAY

Whales are singing to each other. Then silence. A whale's eye looks at another whales eye. They nod at each other. There is obviously intelligence and understanding. Above them a boat is seen. They swim upwards.

197 INT. PET SHOP. DAY

All the animals are making a noise. Silence...

198 INT. LABORATORY. DAY

Men and women in white coats, microscopes sit orderly on long tables. A man is peering into a microscope.

He sees bacteria multiplying slowly and then they abruptly start multiplying exponentially.

He moves back astounded...

MAN

They.....

199 EXT. JUNGLE. DAY

200 EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING. SAME. LATER.

Several leaf and reed thatched huts are in a clearing. Sheena, Dorothy and Gerry are sitting on logs. Opposite them Misha and several tigresses are sitting.

SHEENA

Are you sure Misha? Are you sure Tiger is coming today?

MISHA

He is Little Girl. He said he would, so he will.

DOROTHY

We've been here three weeks Misha and you haven't told us why we were kidnapped

MISHA

Devida will explain everything

GERRY

You keep saying that but it tells us nothing

MISHA

I know. Just be patient a little longer. You know Devida would never bring you here without a reason

Misha sniffs the air

MISHA (CONT'D)

He is here

Devida walks into the clearing and the tigresses bow slightly

MISHA (CONT'D)

Devida, can we get you food, water?

DEVIDA

No thank you Misha
(his voice is matter of fact, lacking warmth. He looks at the family)
(MORE)

DEVIDA (CONT'D)

I am sorry you have been held here.
I am sorry for the inconvenience I
have caused

SHEENA

Tiger, what is going on? Why are we
here? You sound wrong. Tiger I
don't understand what's happening?

GERRY

Why are we here Tiger? Why did you
abduct us and bring us all this
way?

Tiger's head slumps. He is exhausted and doesn't want this
conversation.

DEVIDA

So that you could have a choice

GERRY

What choice?

DEVIDA

Whether you want to live or die

SHEENA

Tiger, what are you talking about?
Why would we want to die?

DEVIDA

I'm sorry Little Girl but everyone
else is dead

GERRY

Tiger, I may have this wrong, very
wrong, but are we here because the
animals have killed all the human
beings?

DEVIDA

Yes

GERRY

All of them?

DEVIDA

Yes, you three are the only human
beings on this planet

Gerry stopped and shook his head

GERRY

But that's not possible. That would
mean about seven and a half billion
people are dead. Have
been....slaughtered.

DEVIDA

Yes

DOROTHY

How could you kill all those people
Tiger? How is it possible?

SHEENA

Why would you do that Tiger? We
treated you so well. You were part
of our family. Even The President
gave all the animals equal
treatment on the planet. Why Tiger,
why...?

(and then another thought
hits her)

You have killed my friends?

(she bursts into tears,
her voice rises)

You have killed my friends? What
had they done wrong? They were my
friends

GERRY

Tiger, this is too much for us to
take in, so tell me what you are
going to do with us?

DEVIDA

I am giving you a choice. You can
live out the rest of your life in
peace, anywhere on this earth that
you wish. The animals there will
make sure you are safe and looked
after

GERRY

Or....?

SHEENA

(crying)

Why did you kill my grandma.....? I
don't know what she did that you
would kill her? Why would you kill
anyone? We have always been nice to
you. We helped you escape to the
jungle, to a new life. Why would
you hurt us? Why would you.....?

Tiger says nothing

DOROTHY

Tiger, this may be a daft question
but are you sure everyone is dead?
Or is that just an exaggeration?
Maybe there are people somewhere?
That you've left alive, like us? Is
there? Someone, somewhere.....?

DEVIDA
 (quietly)
 I have to leave you now. I will
 come back tomorrow.

He looks at Little Girl crying and a tear forms in his eye.

Flashback

Little Girl is looking at him in the audience as he does his
 tricks. Her face shows care and compassion.

201 EXT. CLIFF TOP. NEXT DAY

Tiger is asleep. Misha goes to him but stays behind him

MISHA
 Devida
 (she waits)
 Devida

He opens his eyes, raises his head and looks at the vast
 expanse below him, with animals everywhere.

DEVIDA
 (without turning)
 Yes Misha?

MISHA
 Can I help?

DEVIDA
 Misha, please, join me

She sits to one side, facing him

MISHA
 Can I help Devida?

DEVIDA
 (Looks at Misha)
 Every human on the planet is dead.
 Every man, woman and child, except
 for Little Girl, Dorothy and Gerry
 have been wiped out. They cannot
 rise again as there is nothing to
 take their place. The apes, the
 nearest to them, do not have the
 facility. Nothing will replace man
 for hundreds of thousands of years,
 if ever

MISHA
 Wasn't that your plan?

DEVIDA

Yes. And I executed it perfectly.
 Man thought they were good at
 battles and war and extermination,
 but we made them look like tiny
 children playing with toy guns

MISHA

But...?

DEVIDA

There is no 'but'. For a lasting
 solution it had to be done and it
 was. So there are no buts?

MISHA

So, no regrets?

DEVIDA

No

MISHA

Do you want me to ask you the
 obvious question?

DEVIDA

No

MISHA

Forgive me Devida, I know I am
 overstepping my boundary..

DEVIDA

(Curtly)
 Then don't
 (he looks away)

She lowers her head and humbles herself before him

MISHA

I..

DEVIDA

Be quiet!

She lowers her head even more

DEVIDA (CONT'D)

Raise your head but say nothing

She obeys. She looks at him. Past his head the sun goes
 behind a large cloud.

Her face is shown. Concern is on it.

Back to Tiger and the sun is coming out from behind the
 cloud.

DEVIDA (CONT'D)

Misha, forgive me for raising my voice

MISHA

Forgive me for being disobedient

DEVIDA

I am struggling Misha

MISHA

I know

DEVIDA

Everything I have done was needed. The elimination of the humans was needed. Giving the world back to those that deserve to live in it was needed. Giving the planet back to those that will look after it was needed....

MISHA

And yet?

DEVIDA

And yet there is Little Girl and her mother and father, who will haunt me

MISHA

You spared them

DEVIDA

Yes, but for what? A lifetime of loneliness? A lifetime of feeling abandoned on what was once a planet teeming with humans and now just them? What have I inflicted on them?

MISHA

You gave them a choice. They may choose to die

DEVIDA

They won't do that

MISHA

Why?

DEVIDA

Because of Little girl. Gerry and Dorothy could conceivably have decided not to live in this world any more but they can't kill their only child. No, they will stay now until they die

MISHA

Have you thought what will happen
if they have any more children?

DEVIDA

They will have to know that is not
possible. If they have any more
children they will be killed at
birth

MISHA

So just Little Girl and mother and
father until death

DEVIDA

Yes

MISHA

Little Girl is much younger than
her parents Devida

DEVIDA

I know, I don't envy her

MISHA

Devida, I am a mother and I feel
for them as a family. But a part of
me thinks that if they get over
this, embrace it, enjoy the world
for what it is and what it offers
now, their life will be richer than
it ever would have been

DEVIDA

I am not so sure. Would we think
that if we were the only two tigers
on earth?

MISHA

Put that way, I don't know

202

EXT. VILLAGE. A FEW DAYS LATER. DAY

The family are sitting together. Gerry is looking down. No
one is speaking.

DOROTHY

This can't go on. We have spent
three days crying, despairing,
pleading to who knows what for
something to save us from this but
nothing will. There's just us.

GERRY

(despairing, almost
hysterical)
But everything's gone.
(MORE)

GERRY (CONT'D)

There is nothing, nothing. How will we live? How will we eat? How will we wash? How will we survive? How will we do anything? What's the point?

DOROTHY

Eat? Wash?

SHEENA

Dad, I am not really allowed to say this, but you are talking nonsense

GERRY

I don't think you understand Sheena, what a mess we are in

SHEENA

Dad, mom, I don't think you understand what a mess we are not in

Gerry looks at Dorothy with a 'let her talk and appear to listen' face

SHEENA (CONT'D)

I saw that

GERRY

Sorry

SHEENA

(sighing, as though an adult to children)

Dad, you have always said wouldn't it be wonderful to have a Rolls Royce

(Gerry slowly shakes his head, convinced she is losing her faculties)

Well now you can have one. There are thousands and thousands of Rolls Royce's out there and I bet they all have a full tank of petrol. And there are millions of other cars with tanks full of petrol.

(confusion floods Gerry's face)

Dad, we own everything in this world. We own everything..

GERRY

But...

DOROTHY

But...

(they look at each other)

She's right. Everything...
everything in the world is at our
disposal

SHEENA

Dad, you used to show me pictures
of that golf course, on the beach,
you said it was famous, and the
enormous houses that looked over it
and the ocean

GERRY

(thinks for a moment)

Pebble Beach in California

SHEENA

Yes, well we could live there

GERRY

How?

SHEENA

We own Pebble Beach, dad, and all
the houses around it. We could live
in the White House if we wanted, or
Buckingham Palace, or the Forbidden
City. We can live anywhere in the
world we want to

GERRY

It's a bit of a long way Sheena

SHEENA

The animals got us here

DOROTHY

That was a bit hairy. I'm not sure
I want to fly Eagle Airways again

GERRY

(struggling with reality)

How we have changed in such a short
time. Everyone in the world is dead
but us. Everyone we loved, we knew,
we worked with, lived by, are all
dead and we are happily discussing
where to live in the world we now
seem to own

DOROTHY

(Softly, and glances at
Sheena)

It's better that way

GERRY

(struggling)

But what if it's not true? What if Tiger and the animals are lying and need us here for a reason?

DOROTHY

What kind of reason would make us that important?

GERRY

I don't know. There must be something

DOROTHY

It's just us Gerry. Me, you and Sheena

Gerry starts crying. Dorothy hugs him.

SHEENA

It will be alright dad. We start all over again and, who knows, there may be someone else out there. Maybe. Maybe they hid or something, or they were in a forest or....who knows? Maybe someone you can play golf with?

GERRY

(starts to laugh hysterically)

Golf. Yes, to play golf with...

Sheena, concerned, looks at her mother who shakes her head. She softly strokes Gerry's cheeks.

203

EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING. LATER

The sun is low in the sky. Tiger is sitting with the tigresses. Tiger is instantly alert and then relaxes. Gerry enters the clearing

MISHA

Good evening Gerry.

GERRY

Good evening Misha,
(he nods)
ladies. Please excuse me for intruding

MISHA

You are not intruding Gerry, we are happy to see you.

GERRY

Tiger, could I speak to you? In private?

DEVIDA

Of course Gerry. Where would you like to go?

GERRY

How about to your cliff?

DEVIDA

Of course

204 EXT. CLIFF TOP. LATER

Tiger and Gerry sit opposite each other and the grazing animals are below them.

GERRY

I need some explanations Tiger. I need to understand. I am struggling desperately and I need to be strong for my family

DEVIDA

What do you want to know Gerry?

GERRY

I'm sorry Tiger but I have to start at the start

(Tiger nods)

Tiger, Sheena rescued you. She risked her life for you'. His face was a map of confusion as the mass of conflicting information ran across it. 'She entered your cage when you could have killed her. She led you to the jungle and safety. And when that didn't work out and you escaped you sought her out to help you again

DEVIDA

(quietly)

Yes

GERRY

And then our family helped you to escape to India. In fact Sheena stole on board to make sure you got there

DEVIDA

Yes

GERRY

And then when you decided to make a pact with humans you asked Sheena to help you. Again...

DEVIDA

Yes

GERRY

(his voice breaking, becoming emotional again)
Tiger, we helped you. We did everything we could for you'. Tears started running down his cheeks. 'Why did you treat us so badly? Why did you use us and betray us? But more than that, why did you use and betray a little girl who had rescued you from a life of hell?

Tiger looks at him but says nothing

GERRY (CONT'D)

Tiger please
(he starts crying)
Please help me

DEVIDA

Gerry, nothing I say will mitigate what I did to you and your family. Nothing. I have no excuses, no script, no words to make it acceptable. All I can tell you is why

Gerry wipes his eyes on his sleeve and watches him intently

DEVIDA (CONT'D)

Humans had everything. Their evolution gave them an advantage the like of which has never been seen. In this jungle I am a feared predator but really I'm not. I am only feared by those I prey on. The birds, snakes, insects, mice' he paused 'in fact almost everything in this jungle isn't scared of me because I do not prey on them. I prey on beasts and deer and other large animals whose flesh I can eat to survive. So although I am seen as an invincible predator, ants, tiny ants, given the chance, would rip me apart. Tiny ants...

Gerry wipes his eyes again

GERRY

Sorry Tiger

DEVIDA

What I am saying is that in our world, the non-human world, we are all powerful in our own tiny little world. And it is tiny. I rule a part of this jungle, but it's a tiny part. I stay here and other tigers keep away. When I am old a younger version of Devida will arrive, I will dramatically posture and snarl, but we both know my time is up and so he will take over and I will wander away to live out my days wherever and however I can. That is the order of things. Everything, to use one of your terms, is micro; we don't do macro. But humans' continued Tiger 'are different. They have evolved differently. They are macro. With their dextrous hands and enormous brains they have gone far beyond their limitations. Far, far beyond. I am at the top of my species. I am the best there is. But humans can destroy me in seconds. I have to kill my prey face to face. Humans can shoot me from a mile away and I won't even know I am dead. So humans rule, but after thousands and thousands of years of evolution where has it got them? Are they more civilised? No. Have they evolved a system of planetary cooperation? No. Do they respect everything else that lives on the planet? No. Do they look after the planet? No. Does their presence add value to this planet? No. Are they good for this planet? No. In fact it is so bad, they are so bad, that they are constantly at war, constantly starving, constantly murdering. They even murder and rape their own little children. No animal does that. And you are the top of the food chain? How? Why? Gerry, Little Girl rescued me from a circus. A circus.....where humans cage creatures like me and whip them and beat them to perform for the pleasure of humans. For your pleasure Gerry. For your pleasure.....

GERRY

But I....

DEVIDA

Didn't go to the circus Gerry...?

Gerry lowers his face

DEVIDA (CONT'D)

This planet Gerry, has no need for humans, is better off without humans. When I first thought about having a pact with humans, that was actually my thought. We could work out a system whereby humans and animals would co-exist. All I needed to do was convince humans of the logic behind it. And for a while I went along that path. But then I realised there was no logic to what I was suggesting. Who would benefit from this pact, this coming together as equals? The animals, certainly. The humans, no. In the short term it would have worked, as the do-gooders and the vegetarians would be in the ascendant and the vote savvy politicians would back it, but in the longer term? No. There is not any portion of human history that suggests collaboration, for any period of time, has worked. Humans, at some point would have reverted to type and their need to subjugate. So I changed the plan. I started off with Plan A, a collaboration, to give us time to go to Plan B, an annihilation

GERRY

You make it sound so matter of fact, so logical. The extermination of a species

(he clicked his fingers)

just like that

(he thinks for a few moments)

You are very intelligent and eloquent for a Tiger

DEVIDA

Ah yes, the contradiction and confusion of metaphors. There is no point in giving me the power of speech if I have nothing to say.

(MORE)

DEVIDA (CONT'D)

There is no point in me saying anything if I do not have the intelligence and eloquence to say it. There is no point me proposing that humans should be wiped from the face of this planet if I cannot put together an intelligent and convincing argument for it....

GERRY

Er...I suppose so

They sit in silence for a few moments. The sun has nearly set.

GERRY (CONT'D)

So just me, Dorothy and Sheena?

DEVIDA

Yes

GERRY

That's it? No rabbit in the hat?

DEVIDA

No rabbits, no hats.....

205 EXT. JUNGLE CLEARING. DAY

Tiger, Misha, Zazu, the tigresses and the family are gathered.

ZAZU

I am glad that you have managed to come to terms with, what was, a life-changing episode for you

DOROTHY

So are we although when we go out there, back to our world, we may struggle a little

GERRY

(sad)

Perhaps more than a little for a while

SHEENA

(earnestly)

Are you sure that there are no more humans? One or two that may have been missed?

GERRY

Who play golf?

TIGER

No one Little Girl; just you and
Gerry and Dorothy

GERRY

You were very efficient. Three
weeks to clear a planet of a
species

TIGER

We learned it from you. You did it
to hundreds of thousands of
species, over hundreds of years, we
just had to concentrate on one

MISHA

Forgive me Devida. May I...?

TIGER

Of course Misha, but tonight there
is no need for permission

MISHA

Thank you Devida. Dorothy, have you
decided where you will go in this
world that, according to Little
Girl, you now own?

DOROTHY

I think so. Initially, we need to
be where we know, where, at the
moment, we belong. So we'll go back
to South Africa. First to our home
and collect things that have a
meaning to us, things that will
remind us of what was before. Then
we are going to find a Rolls Royce
(she grins at Sheena)
or, more than likely a truck, and
go to Cape Town and find a nice
home overlooking the coast. It's
lovely there. We'll start
there.....

206 EXT. OVERHEAD VIEW OF DESERTED HIGHWAY IN OPEN LAND. DAY

An open top Rolls Royce, with odds and ends on the back seat, is leading a truck.

207 EXT. SAME

Dorothy and Sheena are in the Rolls. They are singing (for example) an old Cliff Richard song 'We're all going on a summer holiday'.

Dorothy looks in the mirror to the truck behind and waves at Gerry who grins and waves back.

208 EXT. SAME

They pass a 'Welcome to Cape Town' sign and Cape Town is shown in the distance.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

209 EXT. MANSION. DAY

Dorothy and Gerry are sitting on sun loungers near a pool. A hundred yards away Sheena is playing in the sea.

DOROTHY

It's been six months since we found this house and made it into our home. It's never going to happen is it?

GERRY

What?

DOROTHY

See the world. While we still can?

GERRY

I'll do whatever you want Dorothy, you know that. What do you want to do?

DOROTHY

(Deep sigh. Long think)
I don't see the point, or have the need, any more. If we've holidayed before we would take photos and then show them friends, chat about them;

(MORE)

DOROTHY (CONT'D)

or keep them for when Sheena was old enough to understand them and learn from them. But now...? The world has changed. Cape Town is being overgrown daily and soon it will hardly be recognisable. Do we even want to recognise it? It belongs to another world that has gone and will never come back. That applies to all the cities everywhere. Let them go. Let the plants and the animals have their world back.

GERRY

So you are happy to just stay here?

DOROTHY

Actually, I am. For some reason I am at peace. Considering all that has happened, I am at peace. As Mister McCartney once said 'Let it be...'

GERRY

I'm happy with that. Sheena?

DOROTHY

She'll be fine

They look over to Sheena

210

EXT. BEACH. SAME

Sheena has her back to us and is up to her waist in the water. To one side, in the distance, a large shark fin is seen. It comes menacingly towards her. It accelerates as it closes in. It surfaces and its huge mouth opens, showing its teeth. It jumps out of the water and over her head, at the same time as Sheena launches a ball into the air. It catches the ball, dives and swims back

SHEENA

(applauds and is excited)
Well done Nibble.

The shark nuzzles her chest. She strokes it. It opens its mouth and she retrieves the ball. She throws it and the shark goes after it...

211

EXT. POOL. SAME

DOROTHY

She terrifies me. One day, one day...

GERRY

That day will never come. The animals revere her for what she did for Tiger and, for them. They would do anything for her.

DOROTHY

You know that bird I cooked the other day?

GERRY

Not really, but yes

DOROTHY

A baboon gave it to me. Came to the window, gave it to me, bowed slightly and left. He was huge, enormous teeth, and he gave me a bird to eat. They are so.....kind
(she cries a little)

GERRY

We have this amazing protective cloak around us. Tiger has decreed we should never be harmed but, more than that, we are Little Girl's parents. It doesn't get any better.

DOROTHY

It isn't really that. They appreciate their freedom. And sheena helped give it to them.

They look out again at Sheena in the sea. Other sharks have joined her and she is throwing the ball for them to fetch.

FADE TO BLACK.

212 CAPTION

10 YEARS LATER

FADE IN:

213 EXT. CAPE TOWN. DAY

The city is now overgrown.

214 EXT. GARDEN. SAME

The family are now ten years older. Sheena and Dorothy are tending the garden which is neat and tidy amongst the nature that has sprouted all around them. Gerry is reading a paper.

GERRY

It says the stock market has taken a dive. Lawn mower manufacturers and lawn feed suppliers have been hit quite badly.

DOROTHY

I wonder why?

GERRY

Who knows these things?

Sheena stops abruptly and stays still. She sniffs the air.

SHEENA

(quietly)
Tiger has died

DOROTHY

What?

SHEENA

Tiger is dead

DOROTHY

Are you sure?

SHEENA

Yes

Her father comes over and hugs her

SHEENA (CONT'D)

Can we go to him?

GERRY

It would take too long. Tigers don't have....fridges.

SHEENA

I hope they give him a funeral

215 EXT. JUNGLE AND PLAINS. DAWN

The sun is rising and Tiger is being carried on a makeshift carriage made of bamboo and leaves, supported by four gorillas. The route is lined with animals. They carry Tiger to the cliff top where hundreds of thousands of animals wait below. They hoist his body aloft and all the animals bow in silence for a thirty seconds time and then they trumpet and shout their goodbyes.

216 EXT. HOUSE. CAPER TOWN. DAY

The family are sitting round the table in the kitchen, sombrely drinking tea. Outside a large eagle lands.

In its beak it has a package. They go outside and he offers it to them.

EAGLE
For you, from Misha

Sheena takes the package and unwraps it. It is Tigers ears.

EAGLE (CONT'D)
So that you can talk to Tiger. And he will listen, as you listened to him.

SHEENA
Thank you

The eagle bows and flies away

217 EXT. GARDEN. LATER

They are standing next to a large ornate urn that they have positioned in the middle of the garden with views everywhere.

GERRY
Rest in peace Tiger. You will be sorely missed.

Dorothy holds Sheena as she cries

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

218 EXT. GARDEN. DAY

Caption

TWENTY YEARS LATER

A rock 'headstone' is next to Tigers urn. 'Gerry - husband and father' is written on it

219 EXT. GARDEN. DAY

Caption

TEN YEARS LATER

A rock 'headstone' is next to Tigers urn. 'Mom' is written on it

220 EXT. SEA SHORE. SAME

Sheena is on the sea shore looking out to sea. She is a 60 years old woman now. A crab gives her some seaweed as a present.

SHEENA

Thank you

A shark comes to the edge of the water and squeals to her

SHEENA (CONT'D)

Not today. Maybe tomorrow

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

221 EXT. GARDEN. DAY

It is several years later. Sheena is now looking quite old. Her hair is white and her skin wrinkled. She is kneeling in the garden, tending to a flower bed. She clutches at her chest then slowly falls to the ground. She breathes for a few moments and then stops. She is dead. A squirrel immediately goes to her, looks intently and then summons help. Monkeys arrive. One of them shouts to an eagle overhead who veers off course. A gorilla arrives who lifts Sheena up.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

222 EXT. GARDEN. DAY

Close up of a headstone and on it there is a simple 'matchstick' drawing of a little girl. Drawing away, the other graves, and then all the animals come into view. They bring simple gifts to her grave. In the distance whales are lined up in the ocean, with smaller fish, sharks, dolphins etc in rows towards the shore. Overhead the sky is full of birds and they part and weave in and out until they show the shape of a Tiger's head.

The End

