

THE INTERN

by

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SCENE 1

FX: LANDROVER REVVING AND DRIVING OVER
ROUGH GROUND

BARRETT Snyder?

SNYDER (D. THROUGH WALKIE TALKIE) Here Mr Barrett.

BARRETT I've found him.

SNYDER (D. GLEEFULLY LAUGHING) Right behind you.

FX: LANDROVER SQUEAKS TO A HALT. CAR
DOOR SLAMS. SMALL MONKEY CACKLES
CLOSE BY.

BARRETT Right you little sod. You won't be laughing when I've finished with you.

SNYDER (OUT OF BREATH, LAUGHING) Have you got the net Mr Barrett?

BARRETT And the pepper spray.

SNYDER (EXCITEDLY) Let's go catch a monkey then!

FX: SMALL MONKEY NOISES GETTING LOUDER
AND TURNING INTO SCREAMS. TWO MEN
RUNNING THROUGH WOODLAND. BRANCHES
BREAKING. LEAVES THRASHING.

BARRETT (SHOUTING IN DISTANCE) That way!

SNYDER He's coming your way! Spray him! Spray him!

FX: PEPPER SPRAY. EAR-SPLITTING MONKEY
SCREAM

BARRETT Got him! Throw the net over him while he's down, Snyder.

SNYDER (EXCITEDLY) Caught him Mr Barrett. Caught him!

FX: MONKEY CONTINUES SCREAMING.

FADE OUT.

SCENE 2

FX: SOUNDS OF A SMALL OFFICE.
PHOTOCOPIER WHIRRING.

DAWN (SHOUTS OFF) Toby? Can you get on to the locals about this two for one offer? We can make back the shortfall in the canteen.

FX: TELEPHONE RINGS

DAWN Hello? (BEAT) Yes. (BEAT. IMPATIENTLY) No, we need you on the giftshop this Saturday, Simone. (BEAT. ANGRILY) Well, don't bother coming in at all then. I'll find someone else who wants your job. Goodbye.

FX: PHONE SLAMS DOWN THEN A QUIET KNOCK
ON THE DOOR. BEAT. DOOR KNOCKS AGAIN.

DAWN Come in? (BEAT) Ah, hello, you must be Alan.

ALAN (NERVOUSLY) Sorry! Hello... are you (GRUNT)... are you Dawn Manacle?

DAWN Yes I am. Please... sit down.

ALAN I'm here for...

DAWN (OVER) You're here for the intern position, no?

ALAN Sorry... yes.

FX: PAPER SHUFFLING

DAWN Okay, let's see. (BEAT) Alan... Alan... Here we are. Alan Francis. It says here you did rather well at university?

ALAN Yes, I got a first from Bristol Univer...

DAWN (OVER) And what did you learn about looking after animals there Alan?

ALAN Erm... taxonomic rank, conservation, whole organism biology. My dissertation was in A Cost and Environmental Analysis of the Amphiprion Ocellaris...

DAWN (OVER) But do you have any experience of working with animals Alan?

ALAN Erm... s... sorry, not as such.

DAWN Oh. (BEAT) Okay. So what made you want to work at a zoo?

ALAN Well... I've just always wanted to work in a zoo... from when I was a child. My father was a zookeeper. I just love being close to animals. It's the only ambition I've ever really ha...

DAWN (OVER) Well it's a highly sought-after position as I'm sure you're aware.

ALAN Yes I know.

ANNA Yes, I know. ZooLooe?

PEARL That's the place. Can you take a film crew down there and...

ANNA Oh no! Pearl please.

PEARL What?!

ANNA I'm not going to win any Pulitzers for that am I? Can't you get Kate Humble or one of those other wholesome types to cover it? I'm going to be known as Annabel Keynes the buxom, outdoors presenter.

PEARL Anna, I know it's not what you would pick but really... it's going to be great experience for you.

ANNA (SIGHS) What's the story?

PEARL Well we just want you to go in and get a feel for the place. Go down there for a few days and get some interviews. Try and get some funny, human interest story. Looks like the zoo's ailing a little so keep it bright, light and trite.

ANNA So you want me to do a fluffy to fill in some air time?

PEARL You can't go straight into hard-edged news stories Anna. You've only been here six months. You've fled through the ranks in that time and don't think it's gone unnoticed but... please... I've got presenters who've been here years I've got to appease.

ANNA Sorry Pearl. Yes, of course I'll do it.

PEARL Just go in there with an open mind. And don't cause any trouble, okay?

FX: FADE OUT

SCENE 4

FX: ANIMAL SOUNDS IN BACKGROUND.

CLANGING OF METAL GATES AND LOCKS.

BARRETT (FADES IN)...this closes like that. Bananas are kept there. (HITS BOXES AS HE TALKS.) Apples. Carrots. Pears. Don't mix up the fruit as it goes off quicker. Get a clean bowl from here. (CLANG) Fruit goes in here. (FOOTSTEPS. METALLIC BOWL SCRAPING ACROSS CONCRETE) Bowl goes in there. Got it?

ALAN (GRUNTS) Yes, I think so.

BARRETT Got it?

ALAN Sorry. Yes Mr Barrett.

BARRETT Good, cause you won't be feeding animals for at least six months. Where did you say you got your degree from?

ALAN Bristol.

BARRETT Did they teach you how to shovel muck at Bristol?

ALAN Erm... (GRUNTS)

BARRETT (CUPBOARD DOOR OPENS AND SLAMS SHUT) Know what this is?

ALAN A shovel?

BARRETT Know what that is?

ALAN Muck?

BARRETT Well done Uni-boy. Now get shovelling.

FX: MARCHING FOOTSTEPS FADING AWAY.
METAL DOOR SLAMS.

ALAN Mr. Barrett? Shall I sh... (GRUNTS)

SCENE 5

FX: SMALL OFFICE SOUNDS. PHOTOCOPIER
WHIRRING.

DAWN (SHOUTS ACROSS ROOM) Toby? Have we got the sales figures for June? Can you get them to me when you...

FX: TELEPHONE RINGS

DAWN Hello? (BEAT) Yes. (BEAT. IMPATIENTLY) Yes, well we didn't sell all the lion jigsaws, that's why. (BEAT) Well maybe you should supply a better product next time. (BEAT) Okay, bye.

FX: PHONE SLAMS DOWN THEN DOOR KNOCKS
ONCE AND OPENS.

DAWN Mr Barrett! How wonderful to see you.

BARRETT Hello pet. Just reporting in for the day.

DAWN Wonderful. Sit down. (BEAT) How's the new recruit settling in?

BARRETT I've got him on muck duty already.

DAWN (LAUGHS) Oh Mr Barrett, you are cruel.

BARRETT He's not going to want to go anywhere near a zoo by the time I've finished with him.

DAWN (LAUGHS) Listen, we've got a TV crew coming in a day or two so we've got to be on best behaviour, no? I've been trying to drum up some positive coverage for us since that stupid monkey escaped again and this could be our perfect chance.

BARRETT How about I break it's legs for you? He won't be escaping so quickly then.

DAWN (GIGGLES) Can we smarten the place up a little. Make it look busy, that type of thing?

BARRETT No problem Dawn. Shall I get the boy to polish the reptile glass?

DAWN Let's just try and keep the bloody things alive before they get here.

SCENE 6

FX: BROOM SWEEPING CONCRETE FLOOR

ALAN (GRUNTS AND MUTTERS TO HIMSELF)

FX: MONKEY CHATTERS

ALAN (GENTLY) You okay there little fella?

FX: MONKEY CHATTERS

ALAN What's your name then? What's it say here... Charlie.

FX: MONKEY CHATTERS

ALAN You trying to get out again, eh?

FX: MONKEY CHATTERS

ALAN I don't blame you. At least they don't make you sweep up in there all day Charlie.

FX: MONKEY CHATTERS

ALAN I know. Four years of university and this is what it's come to. Still, it's worth it just to get close to little fellas like you.

FX: MONKEY CHATTERS

ALAN You do look sad though.

FX: MONKEY CHATTERS

ALAN They taught us about behaviour like this at Uni: repetitive movements, pacing, gnawing at the bars. All the signs of a stressed animal.

FX: MONKEY CHATTERS

ALAN Oh, I can't stand seeing you locked up like that. You just want a bit of comfort don't you?

FX: MONKEY CHATTERS

ALAN Here you go little fella. How about a little scratch on the head? There, you like that don't you?

FX: MONKEY SCREAMS. FENCE CLATTERS

ALAN (SCREAMS) OW! That hurt! Ow... (GRUNTS).

FX: MONKEY CHATTERS LIKE LAUGHTER

SCENE 7

FX: ZOO CANTEEN. PLATES CLATTERING.
PEOPLE TALKING. CHILDREN SCREAMING AS
THEY RUN BY.

BARRETT He was what? Talking to himself?

SNYDER (LAUGHS) No, to that stupid monkey!

BARRETT Bloody hell. Looks like we got us a right loony.

SNYDER (LAUGHS) That little monkey nearly scratched his eyes out!

BARRETT I'll scratch his eyes out if he comes after my job.

SNYDER They won't let him have your job Mr. Barrett. You practically run this place.

BARRETT I know what these pimply college kids are like, Snyder. They think they can colour in a few graphs at college and then come here and run the place. I've been here since I left the army and I've bloody well worked my way to the top. If he thinks he can just swan in here and take my job he's got another thing coming.

SNYDER (LAUGHS) Have you heard those noises he makes too?

BARRETT I know. He sounds like a bloody pig. He wants locking up he does.

SNYDER (LAUGHS) We should give him something stupid to do. Tell him to paint the lion house tartan or something. Tell him to clean out the dodo cage.

BARRETT Now that he's scared of that monkey, I've got the perfect job for him.

SCENE 8

FX: SMALL OFFICE SOUNDS. PHOTOCOPIER
WHIRRING.

DAWN (SHOUTS ACROSS ROOM) Toby? Can you update the website with the new meerkat display?

FX: TELEPHONE RINGS

DAWN Hello? (BEAT) Yes. (BEAT. IMPATIENTLY) No we need the arcade machine fixing straight away otherwise we're losing money on it. (BEAT) Thank you, goodbye.

FX: PHONE SLAMS DOWN. DOOR KNOCKS AND
OPENS.

ANNA (BRIGHTLY) Hi. Dawn?

DAWN Hello. Are you the TV crew?

ANNA Yes, my name's Annabel Keynes and these are my colleagues, Phil and Dave.

PHIL & DAVE (TOGETHER) Hi

DAWN I'm Dawn Manacle. (BEAT) Great. So, how would you like to do this?

ANNA Okay, well if we can have a look around the zoo, maybe get some shots of the animals, get a few interviews with the keepers, that kind of thing?

DAWN Be my guest. I'll get someone to show you around then, no?

ANNA Actually, it might be nice to start here in the office. I'd like to give an overall picture of the workings of a zoo. Maybe we could start with an interview with yourself Dawn?

DAWN Oh. Well I am a bit busy at the moment, I was thinking...

ANNA (OVER) That's okay it won't take long. Maybe if we sat over here where it's a bit quieter.

FX: SMALL OFFICE SOUNDS FADE OUT
SLIGHTLY

ANNA Dave, are you ready with the camera?

DAVE All ready

ANNA Phil, lights?

PHIL Okay Anna.

DAWN (CLEARS THROAT) Oh I didn't really expect to be interviewed...

ANNA (OVER) Nothing to worry about. (BEAT) And... rolling.
(BEAT) Dawn, what's your job here at ZooLooe?

DAWN I'm the Office Manager. It's my job to keep everything running, to keep the visitors happy and to make sure they have a great time here at ZooLooe.

ANNA And what changes have you seen since you've been here?

DAWN Visitors are up 20 per cent thanks to our wonderful meerkat enclosure which we installed last year. Which is no bad thing in these times, no?

ANNA And do you have any responsibility towards the animals?

DAWN Well, I liaise with the keepers, yes; mainly to make sure the enclosures are kept up to scratch for the best enjoyment of our vis...

ANNA (OVER) Visitors? And what do the visitors think about the fact that you've had the highest rate of animal escapes in the last year?

DAWN (BEAT. ANGRY) All zoos... (BEAT. CALM, CONTROLLED) Most zoos have the odd escapee from time to time Miss Keynes. It's part of the everyday life of a zoo. We dealt with the situation efficiently and the public were never placed at risk.

ANNA And do the local council who are investigating you hold the same view?

DAWN We have nothing to hide Miss Keynes. All zoos are obligated by the council to carry out an escape procedure four times a year and ours is due. I'm confident the council will find nothing wrong and hope that they continue to show their support for our zoo.

ANNA So you think that public money should be used to support a private enterprise?

DAWN Zoos are educational Miss Keynes. 60 per cent of our visitors are school parties. Kids come here who've barely seen a bird let alone a tiger. Now I really do have to get on Miss Keynes. I'll call someone to show you around, no?

SCENE 9

FX: BROOM SWEEPING CONCRETE FLOOR

ALAN Hello Mr Barrett. Ben. I've finished sweeping the emus and the lemurs. Is it okay if I go home now?

BARRETT No. We've got one more job for you.

SNYDER Yes. (LAUGHS) As you've been doing so well we thought we'd give you a bit more responsibility.

ALAN Oh... erm... great. W...what's... what shall I...? (GRUNTS)

BARRETT Feed Charlie.

ALAN Oh... I just... slide it through the gap do I?

SNYDER (LAUGHS)

BARRETT No. You have to go in there.

ALAN Oh... Sorry. Do I? (GRUNTS)

SNYDER Best be gentle though. He may be small but he's got a hell of a temper.

ALAN (NERVOUSLY) Oh... erm... okay...

BARRETT You do want to work in a zoo don't you?

ALAN Yes Mr Barrett.

BARRETT You'd better get in there then. Here's the bowl.

ALAN Erm... sorry. Okay. (BEAT) Charlie? Charlie?

BARRETT Haven't got what it takes Alan? Oh dear. That's not going to look good on your CV is it? (FADES OUT)

SNYDER (LAUGHS)

FX: FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY

SCENE 10

FX: SMALL OFFICE SOUNDS. PHOTOCOPIER WHIRRING.

DAWN (SHOUTS ACROSS ROOM) Toby? Can you ask whoever's on admissions to push the guidebooks more? We're not getting them printed for them to use as placemats.

FX: TELEPHONE RINGS

DAWN Hello? (BEAT) Yes. (BEAT, IMPATIENTLY) No, we need the whale-sound CDs this week not next. (BEAT) I'll make them myself if I have to. (BEAT) Okay, goodbye.

FX: PHONE SLAMS DOWN THEN DOOR KNOCKS ONCE AND OPENS.

BARRETT Everything going alright Dawn?

DAWN Hello my handsome headkeeper. You look pleased with yourself.

BARRETT Yes... yes I suppose I am.

DAWN I wish I could say the same. I've got that TV crew breathing down my neck with Anna-so-sweet-I-could-puke flitting around like Columbo. She's just gone down to interview

ANNA (SHARPLY) Cornered?

ALAN Well... (GRUNTS) you know... when they think they're being cornered.

ANNA (SUSPICIOUSLY) Right.

ALAN You know... Capuchins in the wild have different alarm calls to warn their group of different predators. But they can also use them as false alarms. They make the call... the other monkey runs for it... they jump down and steal the other monkey's dropped food. In human terms they're quite simply... liars. But it's lying to avoid conflict. Lying to survive.

ANNA That's fascinating. You're obviously passionate about your animals?

ALAN Yes. I just graduated in Zoology.

ANNA But what actually made you want to work with animals in the first place?

ALAN Well, my Dad was a zoo keeper. He loved his animals and I suppose it rubbed off on me. He used to take me round the zoo when I was really young. I'd watch him feeding the tigers, scrubbing the elephants and... (GRUNTS)

ANNA Do go on.

ALAN Well... I always remember one time when my Dad let me in the gorilla enclosure.

ANNA (SURPRISED) Really?

ALAN Yes. The mother gorilla was quite friendly and she picked me up... (SLOWLY) I must have been quite young... and she cradled me like I was her baby. (BEAT) I just remember how nice it felt being so wrapped up in her arms. All warm and furry.

ANNA What happened then?

ALAN Well... (GRUNTS) this red balloon must have floated over the fence from some child and popped – bang! – right in the gorilla’s face. She got scared and let go of me and then I remember... (GRUNTS) being pulled away.

ANNA Your Dad pulled you away?

ALAN Well... yes I think so. You know how childhood memories become a bit of a blur. The strange thing is my Dad never let me near the gorilla house again. I think he just got busy with his work. So I suppose wanting to work at a zoo is just my way of getting close to them... like I’ve always wanted to.

ANNA Well I think you’ll go far in here Alan. I really do.

ALAN (GRUNTS) Thank you.

SCENE 12

FX: CLANKING OF METAL KEYS IN METAL CAGE DOORS. TWO PAIRS OF FOOTSTEPS. MONKEY CHATTERING.

BARRETT (CLOSE) Watch this Snyder... (SHOUTS) Alan. Here.

ALAN M... Mr. Barrett. Ben. I was just cleaning out Charlie, he was...

BARRETT (OVER) Sorry about letting you in the cage the other day.

ALAN Oh...

BARRETT Just a little trick we play on the newbies here.

SNYDER Yeah, (LAUGHS) no hard feelings, eh?

ALAN Erm... no... I (GRUNTS)

BARRETT Listen, we've got another job for you.

ALAN Oh... okay.

BARRETT The council are making us do an escape procedure four times a year. A member of staff has to take the place of an escaped animal so we can practice our procedure. Thing is Alan, we've already taken our turns this year so it looks like it's down to you.

ALAN Okay. What do I have to do?

BARRETT You just have to get in a cage and try and escape. It's as simple as that. We do all the work and you get to play monkey. It's the best bit of the job, honestly.

ALAN Great. Shall we do it later this week then?

BARRETT No. You'll do it now Alan.

SNYDER (LAUGHS)

ALAN Oh, sorry Mr Barrett, I'm going to visit my Mum tonight, she's...

BARRETT (OVER) Alan, I don't think you understand. If I say jump you say how high. Get in that cage now.

ALAN Mr Barrett, please, I only want to...

SNYDER (LAUGHING) Let's get him Mr Barrett.

FX: SCUFFLING. MONKEY SCREAMING.

ALAN No... Please... No...

BARRETT Come on you little monkey. Get in your cage.

ALAN Get off me... Please!

SNYDER (LAUGHING) Shut him in there Mr Barrett!

FX: METAL GATE SLAMMING SHUT.

ALAN Let me out! Please Mr Barrett. (SHOUTS) Please!

BARRETT You know what we do to noisy monkeys Alan? (BEAT) Hose him down Snyder.

SNYDER (LAUGHS)

FX: WATER HOSE BLASTING CONCRETE.
MONKEY SCREAMS.

ALAN (HOWLS) Stop it! Stop it!

BARRETT That's enough. See you in the morning Alan. And if you make any more noise I'll let that rabid monkey in with you.

SNYDER (LAUGHTER FADES OUT)

ALAN Please, no! Don't leave me here! I've got to get home!
Pleeeeeease! Mr Barrett? Mr Barrett?

FX: MONKEY LAUGHTER FADES OUT

ANNA (ANGRILY) Because he seems to know and care a lot more about the animals than anyone else here.

DAWN Well, no doubt he's working somewhere else today. You'll just have to find someone else to grill Miss Keynes.

DAVE Anna? Have you seen that cage door over there?

ANNA Charlie's cage is open!

DAWN What?

ANNA The capuchin monkey. It's gone!

DAWN You're... oh... it's... it's just been moved that's all. I'm sure...

ANNA (OVER) Then why has the lock been forced?

DAWN There's a perfectly reasonable excu... explanation for this Miss Keynes.

ANNA Phil? Dave? Ready?

DAWN Wait! Let me just call the head keeper.

FX: WALKIE TALKIE CRACKLES

DAWN (BEAT) Mr Barrett? (BEAT) Mr Barrett?

BARRETT (D. THROUGH WALKIE TALKIE) Morning gorgeous. Can't get enough of me then?

DAWN (OVER) Mr Barrett! I've got the film crew with me and the monkey cage is open! Where is he?

BARRETT (D) Charlie? (BEAT) Oh he didn't?

SNYDER (D. GLEEFULLY) Right behind you.

FX: LANDROVER SQUEAKS TO A HALT. CAR DOOR SLAMS.

BARRETT Right then college boy, trying to get me fired? Come here and I'll clip your wings.

SNYDER (ARRIVES OUT OF BREATH, LAUGHING) Have you got the net Mr Barrett?

BARRETT And the pepper spray. (BEAT) And the tranquiliser gun.

SNYDER Jesus! What's that in the tree over there?

BARRETT That's him.

SNYDER The newbie? (LAUGHS) What are all those scratches on him? And that mud?

BARRETT He's had two barbed wire fences and a moat to get through. I imagine he's a little worse for wear.

SNYDER He looks like he's been dragged through a hedge backwards.

BARRETT He's gonna look a lot worse when I've finished with him. (BEAT. SHOUTS) Alan?

ALAN No...n...n...n... no... n...n...no. Get away from me.

SNYDER Bloody hell! (LAUGHING) He's gone mad!

BARRETT Looks like he's stuck up there. (SHOUTS) Alan? Come here.

ALAN No...n...n...n... no... n...n...no.

BARRETT Alan I don't give a toss about you, you muttering moron. Just tell me where that monkey is?

ALAN I d...d...don't kn...kn...kn...know.

BARRETT I know you let him out Alan.

ALAN No... n... n... no I didn't.

BARRETT Alan. You were in the cage right next to him.

ALAN (LOUDER) N... n... no I didn't.

BARRETT Alan.

ALAN (LOUDER STILL) No... n... n... NO!

BARRETT Right Alan. I've been trying to warn you since you got here. You can't just swan in here trying to steal our jobs. You really think you're it don't you? Don't you?! Just because you know why monkeys sniff their own behinds and why rhinos crap everywhere you think you can be a keeper. Me and Snyder here, we've been working our arses off while you've been polishing yours in school. Well I've been trying to warn you but you just wouldn't listen. And now I'm going to teach you a lesson they won't have taught you at university.

ALAN No... get away... no... get away from me!

BARRETT Come here!

SNYDER Get him Mr Barrett. (LAUGHING) Spray him. Spray him!

ALAN Get away. No! Get away! No!

FX: SPRAY. BLOODCURDLING SCREAM. CRASH
OF BODY FALLING OUT THE TREE.

BARRETT Quick Snyder. Give me the tranquiliser gun.

SNYDER (SCARED) Get away from me you lunatic!

ALAN (STILL SCREAMING LIKE A MONKEY)

SNYDER You nut-job! You killed him! You killed him!

ALAN (STILL SCREAMING LIKE A MONKEY)

SNYDER Get away from me. I'm getting the police. You've lost it!
You're going to rot for this! (FADES OUT)

ALAN (STILL SCREAMING LIKE A MONKEY)

ANNA (FADES IN) Alan? Alan?! Alan come back!

SCENE 16

ANNA Phil? Have we got a connection? Dave? All set?

PHIL Live in five... four... three... (BEAT)

ANNA The end of a sunny day in Cornwall but the site of a gruesome scene as Barry Barrett, headkeeper at ZooLooe in Cornwall, lies dead under a police tent just metres behind me. In the woods beyond, his suspected killer and recent intern at ZooLooe, Alan Francis, hides. Armed police units stand by and an uneasy silence has descended on the Cornish countryside. What happened? No-one can be sure yet but it looks like Mr Barrett could have been the victim of his own cruel practical joke. A worker here for more than thirty years, Mr Barrett was part of the old school of zoo keepers whose brutal, military experience bled over into his treatment of animals and indeed his treatment of fellow workers. ZooLooe management have so far denied any breach of conduct with regards Alan Francis's treatment by

SCENE 17

ANNA Alan? Alan?

ALAN (MAKING FRIGHTENED LITTLE MONKEY NOISES)

ANNA Alan it's me, Anna.

ALAN (MONKEY NOISES) An... An... Anna?

ANNA Are you okay?

ALAN N... n... no. No Anna! I'm sorry! I killed him! I didn't mean to. I didn't mean to! I'm sorry!

ANNA Alan, I know. He was bullying you. It was an accident.

ALAN I didn't mean to! I'm sorry!

ANNA I know Alan.

ALAN I'm in trouble aren't I?

ANNA Well... yes, I suppose you are Alan, but we'll sort it out. You just need to come down.

ALAN N... n... no! No! They'll hurt me! No! I'm sorry!

ANNA You don't need to be so sorry Alan.

ALAN Why? I killed him.

ANNA Not that. When you were young. You don't need to be so sorry all the time.

ALAN Sorry? What do you mean?

ANNA Alan. (BEAT) That story you told me about your Dad letting you in the gorilla enclosure.

ALAN Yes?

ANNA Well (BEAT) I've done a bit of research. Your family name appeared in a newspaper story see. And it was your Dad. Alan. You've remembered it wrong. Your Dad didn't let you in the gorilla enclosure. You fell in there.

ALAN I... I don't understand.

ANNA You fell in the gorilla enclosure. You must have been crying because the gorilla picked you up and was cradling you. But then the keeper, your Dad, thought she was going to hurt you so...

ALAN So... what?

ANNA He shot her.

ALAN What? No! It was a red balloon that popped in her face.

ANNA No, Alan. That's what your mind has put there to block the truth.

ALAN He shot her?

ANNA It was a 400 pound gorilla Alan and you were a three year old boy.

ALAN (STARTS CRYING) No! No, I don't believe it! Why didn't he tell me? All this time.

ANNA He was trying to protect you Alan. It must have been pretty traumatic for you.

ALAN But why did he have to kill her?

ANNA Alan, you should read the newspaper reports. Your Dad was a hero. Wild animals and humans just don't mix. They shouldn't be so close to us. It's not natural. He was doing his job as a zoo keeper. And you were a three year old boy who fell into the enclosure. It was an accident, Alan, it was an accident.

SCENE 18

FX: SMALL OFFICE SOUNDS. PHOTOCOPIER
WHIRRING.

DAWN (SHOUTS ACROSS ROOM) Toby? We've got another school coming on Tuesday. Will you liaise with the canteen people about extra seats?

FX: TELEPHONE RINGS

DAWN Hello? (BEAT) Yes. (BEAT) (impatiently) No he doesn't work here. (BEAT) No I won't give you an interview. (BEAT) Okay, bye.

FX: PHONE SLAMS DOWN THEN DOOR KNOCKS
AND OPENS.

DAWN Mr Snyder! How wonderful to see you.

SNYDER Hello Dawn. Just reporting in for the day.

DAWN Great, sit down next to me won't you? How are things in the monkey house?

SNYDER (LAUGHS. SADLY) A lot quieter down there without Mr Barrett, Dawn

DAWN Well you're certainly stepping up to the mark Mr Snyder. Mr Barrett was pretty irreplaceable as far as I'm concerned but with close personal assistance from me you'll be up to speed in no time. Yes, I can see us getting on together very well Mr Snyder.

FX: PHONE RINGS.

DAWN Hello? (BEAT) No you can't interview him. He doesn't work here any more. (BEAT) No, I don't know how to get hold of him. (BEAT) ZooLoe has already released a statement and that is what we are sticking to. Thank you.

FX: PHONE SLAMS DOWN AND RINGS AGAIN IMMEDIATELY.

DAWN Hello? (BEAT) No, you can't bring a film crew here. (BEAT) No I'm not available for interview.

FX: PHONE SLAMS DOWN AND RINGS AGAIN IMMEDIATELY.

DAWN Hello? (BEAT) No, he doesn't work here any more and you can't interview him and I don't know how you can get hold of him thank you.

FX: PHONE SLAMS DOWN AND RINGS AGAIN IMMEDIATELY. THIS TIME IT RINGS AND RINGS UNTIL FADES OUT.

SCENE 19

FX: JAIL SOUNDS. ECHOEY LOCKS IN DOORS
AND BOOTED FEET WALKING CLOSER. CHAIR
SCRAPES.

ANNA Hello Alan.

ALAN (PLEASED) Anna! I didn't expect to see you here.

ANNA How are they treating you?

ALAN Oh, it's okay. The food's a bit dull but my cellmates are alright. Nothing too scary.

ANNA Alan...

ALAN (OVER) Anna. Thanks for standing up for me.

ANNA That's okay. It was worth it just to see that Snyder squirming. He wasn't laughing so much in front of the judge was he?

ALAN I know. I think pleading guilty to manslaughter was the right thing to do as well. It could have been much worse.

ANNA You'll be out of here in no time Alan. It'll be alright.

ALAN Yeah, I'll be okay. (BEAT) What have you been up to?

ANNA Well... not a lot since I got fired.

ALAN Oh no Anna, what happened? I heard you made it to national TV?

ANNA I did. But I was told it was too biased. I'm not allowed my own opinion apparently. Still at least I got to have a good old dig at that disgusting zoo.

ALAN

How are things at ZooLoee? Have you heard?

ANNA

They're under so much scrutiny they're having to watch every step. This whole thing could easily be the death of them. Here's hoping anyway. But apart from that it looks very much like business as usual.

SCENE 20

FX: ZOO SOUNDS. CHILDREN RUNNING PAST AND SCREAMING. MONKEY CHATTERING. MONKEY SCRATCHING AT METAL BARS OF HIS CAGE. HOLDS ON THIS SOUND FOR A LONG TIME. EVENTUALLY FADES OUT.

END