

BABE 2

PIG IN THE CITY

July 1997

BABE in **Metropolis**

July 1997

OPENING TITLES

A book opens to reveal...knick-knacks on a wall, some of them animated...then on a mantelpiece...celebratory photographs, a winner's rosette and...

A magnificent TROPHY which reads...

NATIONAL SHEEPDOG TRIALS
GRAND CHAMPION
'PIG'
Owner
A. H. HOGGETT

THE ROAD TO HOGGETT FARM

...is lined by TOWNFOLK waving hats, colored handkerchiefs and balloons.

The air is full of fluffy white thistle seeds floating across the valley...the country version of a ticker-tape parade.

The FARMER and his PIG sit high on the back of a jalopy...BABE is sporting the Champion's Sash.

So many faces...cheering...a SMALL BOY runs alongside. His windcheater is open just far enough to reveal three snuggling PIGLETS.

PIGLETS

Babe! Babe! Babe!

Beyond the fence, a cantering HORSE...

HORSE

You've done us proud, Pig!

SHEEP swarm down from the hilltops...

SHEEP

Baaabe! Baaabe! Ba-a-a-be!

Babe basks in the adulation.

NARRATOR

The first hazard for the returning hero is his fame. The adulation can spin you quite giddy. Those who once dismissed you as a lousy pork chop, now clamour just to be in your presence...

A SPECTATOR draws Hoggett's attention to the sky...

A small sky-writing plane completes a HEART around the word...

PIG

AT THE GATES OF THE FARM...

THE FARMER is reunited with his roly-poly WIFE who, beside herself with pride, babbles an endless stream of endearments.

What a picture!...BABE, The HOGGETTS, The Farm ANIMALS, The Storybook COTTAGE.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!...The Paparazzi go berzerk.

NARRATOR

...The deeds of the farmer and his remarkable pig became renowned even in distant lands. Invitations came from all over; to open fairs, to demonstrate sheep-herding and indeed to meet a Queen...But Arthur Hoggett was a retiring man. For him the best pleasures were to be found in honest work.

IN THE SKY ABOVE THE VALLEY...

The "PIG" and THE HEART fade away.

THE FARMYARD

BABE approaches a COBBLESTONE WELL. A rope, slung over a pulley, is attached to a platform supporting a heavy WATER PUMP.

NARRATOR

So it was, a few days later, the Farmer needed to repair the water pump. And Babe, still intoxicated with his fame, somehow got it into his head that he could help. But fate turns on a moment and the pig was about to learn the meaning of those two cruel words of regret..."if only..."

Babe leans over the side of the well for a better look. Way down at the bottom, FARMER HOGGETT begins easing the rope to lower the water pump.

NARRATOR

If only...he hadn't been so careless.

A BLOCK OF STONE gives way under Babe's feet...and plummets down past Hoggett...splash!...into the water below.

Hoggett looks up to see...

The pig fall forward onto the water pump!

NARRATOR

If only the weight of a pig and a pump did not exceed the weight of a farmer...

Farmer Hoggett is jerked, rocket-like, up into the air...

NARRATOR

If only the Farmer did not connect with the platform on the way up...

Thwack! Yeeow!...his leg!

NARRATOR

Or jam his fingers at the top...

Yipes!!

NARRATOR

If only the pig and the pump had not fallen off at the bottom...

Thump!!!...As the platform hits bottom, Babe and the Pump are dislodged.

NARRATOR

...the Farmer's weight would not have suddenly exceeded that of the platform.

The platform goes up...

Hoggett comes down.

Half way...bang!!!...they collide...this time it's his elbows.

Hoggett plunges...down into the water.

NARRATOR

And if only the poor Farmer had the presence of mind to hold onto the rope!

Hoggett emerges from the water as Babe looks up to see...the platform descending...

THUDD!!!...right onto his master's head.

BABE

Boss!...Boss!!!!...

Babe's voice echoes up from the well...

BABE

BOSS!!!!

...and across the valley.

NEXT DAY

A very somber scene.

The HORSE, the COW, the GOAT, the CHICKENS and the other FARM ANIMALS peer through the windows of the cottage...

Into what looks more like a hospital than a LIVING ROOM.

Surrounded by a concerned MRS HOGGETT, the DOCTOR, and comforting friends...FARMER HOGGETT lies in bed. His left leg and right arm are suspended in counter-weighted slings. He's covered in casts and bandages.

The CAT snarls. The two sheepdogs, REX and FLY look to the door...

BABE, consumed by guilt and shame, nudges his way in...and despite Mrs Hoggett's hostile glare...

Proceeds meekly to his master's bed.

Slowly, painfully...Hoggett's bandaged left hand reaches out...and gives Babe a scratch on the head.

The Pig licks the Farmer's hand.

NARRATOR

As Farmer Hoggett raised his hand in this simple act of forgiveness, Babe ached with remorse. If ever there was a moment in his short life when the Pig wished his words understood by humans, this, most certainly, was it.

BABE

(in the smallest voice)

S...sorry...Boss.

A TABLEAU

The shadows of the Farm Animals at the window loom on the wall above the bed of the ailing Farmer.

IRIS DOWN...

To the corner of the frame where we find...

The THREE MICE, one of whom belts out a spine-tingling rendition of the Edith Piaff classic... "*Je ne regrette rien*".

FADE TO BLACK

MOUSE

(squeaks)

Oh, Wanda, that's...gorgeous.

THE BARN

The HORSE DRAY is stacked high with hay bales.

Impaled precariously on the end of a pitchfork, a HAY BALE weaves unsteadily towards us...

Underneath...an exhausted MRS HOGGETT tries to balance the cumbersome weight...in an out-of-control, pirouetting, teeter-tottering dance until...finally...

She dumps it successfully on top of the stack.

NARRATOR

Even before her Arthur's dreadful calamity, the industrious Mrs Hoggett was ceaselessly busy...bustling, baking, bottling and pickling. Now, having to nurse her husband and pay the bills, she found life considerably more challenging than she had ever anticipated.

THE FIELDS

MRS HOGGETT shears a sheep. What she lacks in skill, she makes up for in determination. All around...sheep with bad haircuts.

An OLD SHEEP approaches REX and FLY.

OLD SHEEP

How do I look, Fly?

FLY

Um...well...er...what do you think, Rex?

OLD SHEEP

That bad, huh?

REX -

Don't worry, the difference between a good haircut and a bad haircut is just a couple of weeks...h-h-haw.

He's not the farm's best quipster, but it's a valiant attempt.

Then...FLY notices something on the horizon. She growls.
Mrs Hoggett looks up to see...

THREE MEN with briefcases, standing silhouetted on the hill.

NARRATOR

But the Good Woman was fighting a losing battle and before long, three men showed up...three men in suits... men with pale faces and soulless eyes.

The men trudge towards Mrs Hoggett and greet her solemnly.

NARRATOR

Such men could only have come from one place...
the BANK.

HILLSIDE

MRS HOGGETT, in a panic, races down towards the cottage as fast as her little round legs will carry her.

MRS HOGGETT

...Oh-my-God-oh-my-Gosh-oh-Arthur-deary-me...

THE LIVING ROOM

MRS HOGGETT sifts furiously through a pile of correspondence.

She finds what she's looking for...

A LETTER, already opened, bearing the logo:

THE STATE OF EXCITEMENT

PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE GRANDADDY OF STATE FAIRS

More livestock, More thrill-rides, More prizes
plus the World's Largest Pumpkin

Mrs Hoggett speed-reads the letter...aloud. The occasional word jumps out from her hundred-mile-an-hour babble...

MRS HOGGETT

...'guest appearance'...'your pig'...'sheep-herding demonstration'...'plane tickets'...'connecting flights'...'and a generous appearance fee'!!

She turns to FARMER HOGGETT.

MRS HOGGETT

Jumping Jam-n-Jellies, Arthur! We might just be able to do it!

THE FARM YARD

MRS HOGGETT, in her best coat and hat, stands in the middle of the yard calling towards the barn

MRS HOGGETT

Pig, Pig, Pig...Piiiiig...!

The COW, the HORSE, the GOATS, an OLD SHEEP, the ROOSTER, and the sheepdogs, FLY and REX are assembled, watching.

Mrs Hoggett turns and calls out towards the fields...

MRS HOGGETT

...PIG!!

The Dogs look to each other, then enter the barn, followed by the other animals.

IN THE BARN

In a shadowy corner, FLY and REX address a large pile of straw.

FLY

Come, dear, you're being called.

The straw shuffles and out of it emerges...

FERDINAND, the duck.

FERDINAND

Who me?!

FLY ignores him.

FLY

Babe, you're to go with the boss's wife.

FERDINAND

He's not here.

REX

Babe!

From under the straw a small voice...

BABE

Babe's not here.

REX

You can't undo what's happened, son, but you can make up for it.

After a moment...the straw shuffles and...out comes BABE.

BABE

You'll have to excuse me, but just at the moment, I'm feeling a little...you know...forlorn and haunted.

FERDINAND

You can't leave. I need you. You're my lucky pig!

FLY

Babe, the Boss is about to lose the farm. We'll all be sent away.

HORSE

And there's no telling where we'll end up. Not every human is as kind as ours.

BABE

But what can I do?

FERDINAND

Nothing!

REX

You're a sheep-pig. A champion no less. Most likely they want you to herd sheep. Whatever it is...whatever is asked of you...I expect you to give of your best.

Babe takes a few tentative steps towards the door.

FERDINAND

Don't do anything you don't want to do. Pigs have rights, you know.

OUTSIDE...

MRS HOGGETT

...PIG!!

She turns to FARMER HOGGETT propped up in a wheelchair on the porch.

MRS HOGGETT

Arthur, call the wretched thing!

FARMER HOGGETT

Come Pig.

BACK INSIDE...

BABE

I...I...don't want to leave you, mom.

FLY

You won't be alone, dear. You'll be with the boss's wife.

Babe nods and moves on.

FERDINAND

Oh, sure! The boss's wife! Slice, slice. Chop, chop. You'll be in the company of a serial killer!

Rex GROWLS with such force that Ferdinand pedals backwards.

REX

Do not take counsel of your fears, Lad.

COW

And never listen to the delirious drivel of a demented duck.

Babe keeps moving.

While, in the background...

FERDINAND

I don't recall anybody asking you your opinion.

COW

I'm not going to end my days on a hook in a butcher shop.

HORSE

And I'm not going to the glue factory.

Babe makes it to the door...

FLY

Do you want to pee before you go?

BABE

No thank you.

He steps...

OUTSIDE

Into the arms of MRS HOGGETT.

MRS HOGGETT

Come now. Chop Chop!

She carries Babe to the truck.

Ferdinand scrambles after them, wings flapping hysterically...

He appeals to Fly.

FERDINAND

I need this pig!...He's my Good-luck pig!...Without him
I'm dead, deceased, lifeless, extinct...a demised duck, a
carked canard!

From the cabin window, Babe looks longingly at Fly.

BABE

Can you come with me, Fly?

FLY

I wish I could, dear, but it's you they want.

BABE

Please...

She leans close.

FLY

Stop it now. You're a brave boy, and Babe, more often
than not in this uncertain world, fortune favors the
brave.

Meanwhile...

ON THE PORCH

MRS HOGGETT hugs her HUSBAND and farewells TWO LADIES...bosom
friends who have been rostered to take care of him.

She babbles a last minute litany of instructions as she heads with her SUITCASE to the truck. Suddenly, she stops...turns and blows a kiss.

MRS HOGGETT

Catch it, Arthur.

He does...and then, coyly, puts it to his cheek.

As she moves off, he calls to her...just one word...her name.

FARMER HOGGETT

Esme...

She turns.

MRS HOGGETT

Don't worry, Pet, I'll guard him with my life.

ON THE BACK OF THE TRUCK

The THREE MICE, nibbling from a spilt grain bag, look up to see...
Mrs Hoggett's SUITCASE...falling towards them...
Blotting out the sky...
Eeekkk...THUD!

THE FARM

As MRS HOGGETT drives off, BABE appears at the passenger window looking back at...

FLY and REX and all the other ANIMALS.

FARMER HOGGETT and the LADIES wave from the porch.

FARM ROAD

As the truck winds its way up the hill, the SHEEP gather on the ridges.

SHEEP

Save the fa-a-arm!...Ba-abe! Sa-a-ve the FA-A-ARM!

Then, another voice...

FERDINAND waddles frantically after the truck, trying to take off...

FERDINAND

Doom! doom! No breath, no life. The light...at the end of the tunnel...recedes. Oxygen, oxygen!

But his voice is lost in the bleating of the sheep.

SHEEP

...Sa-a-ve the FA-A-ARM!

THE VALLEY

The THREE MEN from the Bank bang up a sign that reads...MORTGAGEE SALE.

As the TRUCK makes its way over the top of the hill...

NARRATOR

And so, followed by the catastrophist duck, the Pig and the Farmer's Wife ventured into the larger world. The appearance fee would keep the bank at bay 'til Farmer Hoggett was back on his feet. If luck was on their side, they might just make it...What follows, dear ones, is an account of their calamitous adventures...and how a kind and steady heart can mend a sorry world.

FADE TO BLACK



Chapter Heading

SCRAM! THIS IS NOT A FARM.**THE CARGO HOLD OF A JUMBO JET**

A monstrous sound...the aircraft shudders.

In the murky interior, amongst all the rattling baggage, we see a small CAGE. Inside, our Hero tries to be brave. He sings in a soft, quavering voice...

BABE

(to the tune of Jingle Bells)

La, la, la...

La, la, la...

The engines roar to a crescendo...and drown out the song of the little Pig.

IN THE CABIN

A FLIGHT ATTENDANT, wearing an inflatable yellow vest, has almost completed the ritual safety demonstration.

MRS HOGGETT, oblivious to the disapproving glances of the more seasoned PASSENGERS, sits wearing her SAFETY VEST. She pulls the tags and... Whoosh!...it INFLATES.

Beyond...unnoticed...a small figure taps frantically at the window... it's FERDINAND.

On lift off...he disappears.

THE TARMAC

FERDINAND hits the ground in an exhausted heap as the JUMBO surges into the sky.

He gives chase but...Yipes!...out of nowhere, ANOTHER PLANE almost runs him down.

QUICK FADE TO BLACK

WAY ABOVE THE OCEAN...

We see the distant JUMBO and its jet stream.

FERDINAND appears, flapping as hard as his little wings will carry him. The Jumbo becomes a tiny dot in the sky...it's hopeless.

Suddenly, from behind he hears...voices...

Ferdinand is overtaken by a FLOCK OF GEESE...bopping along in 'V' formation, singing "Chattanooga Choo Choo." These cats are really swinging.

GEESE

(sing)

Pardon me, Boys...

Is that the Cat-that-chewed-your-new-shoes?

FERDINAND

See that thing...(puff)...that fat...(puff, puff)...featherless flying thing??...(puff, gasp)

GOOSE

Uh-huh.

FERDINAND

(puff, puff, gasp)...Know where it's headed?

GEESE

Yeah! Yeah! Follow us!

You can afford....

To board the Cat-that-chewed-your-new shoes...

Ferdinand does his best to keep up as they all groove off into the wild blue yonder.

FADE TO BLACK

CARGO HANGAR

Giant conveyor belts spew cargo into the vast, dimly lit cavern.

Inside his cage, BABE watches a frenetic little BEAGLE in a jacket emblazoned "Drug Detection".

He races around, sniffing his way through the mountains of luggage.

BABE

Er, excuse me...

The dog is fixed on his work.

BABE

Excuse me but I was wondering...

BEAGLE

Look pal, I'm busy.

BABE

I-I seem to have lost my human. Sh...she's...

BEAGLE

Hey! I'm working' here. Earnin' a livin'. Capice?!
Comprenez?!

He looks up at Babe for the first time.

BEAGLE

Woah! Look at you! Ain't you a weird looking puppy!

BABE

I'm not a puppy. I'm a sheep-pig. And my human's gone and I'm hungry and I'm s'posed to save the farm...

BEAGLE

Yeah, yeah. That's truly tragic. But you see that long line of stuff over there...And all those piles yonder? Ya see? Ya see'em?

BABE

Um...yes..

BEAGLE

Well, I gotta sniff every doggone one of them. Sniff, sniff, sniff. I'm a Sniffer ya see. A fully qualified, triple certificated Sniffer.

BABE

Oh.

BEAGLE

It's all in the hooter, the schnoz, the olfactory instrument...You could be a sniffer with a schnoz like that.

BABE

That's very kind of you...but...

BEAGLE

Hey! You got something against sniffing?!...Listen, Fido, it ain't so easy...It takes a lot of educatin'. Knowin' the smells...knowin' precisely what to sniff...

BABE

I didn't mean to offend...

BEAGLE

Don't interrupt me now! I'm just getting to the good part!...(conspiratorially)...When ya sniff the right smell, y' know what happens? Do ya? Do ya?

Babe shakes his head.

BEAGLE

You jump up and down and go berzerk! That's what happens. Whammo! It's payday! Barkin' Beef-Bones! You should see the humans come runnin'.

BABE

They do?...why?

BEAGLE

Beats me...but it's sure important. I get lots of positive reinforcement...loads of stuff to eat...watch this...WOOF! WOOF! WOOF! I love this part! WOOF! WOOF! WOOF! WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!

Two CUSTOMS OFFICIALS look up to see the Beagle barking histrionically at the little pig.

BAGGAGE CLAIM

A PASSENGER takes the last piece of luggage and leaves the hall empty...
...except for MRS HOGGETT staring impatiently at the mouth of the carousel...

In the foreground, two CUSTOMS OFFICERS watch the homely country woman.

OFFICER 1

She could be my mother.

OFFICER 2

Yeah, creepy isn't it?

Over their ear-phones we hear: *We're going in.*

TWO OTHER OFFICERS approach Mrs Hoggett.

OFFICER 3

Esme Cordelia Hoggett?

Mrs Hoggett launches into a torrent of words...

MRS HOGGETT

O thank heavens! Where's the pig? We've got fifteen minutes to make flight FF 115 and I've still got to get across to the other terminal. But what's the point without my Arthur's pig?

OFFICER 4

Ma'am, we have the pig.

MRS HOGGETT

Well, what are we waiting for? Come on! Chop, chop. Shake a leg...

The Officers grab her bag, take her by the arm and lead her off.

MRS HOGGETT

...if we miss FF 115 we won't make the 4.15 shuttle and if we don't make the 4:15 shuttle, we won't make it in time for the fair...

Mrs Hoggett is almost dragging them along in her wake.

MRS HOGGETT

...It's the Granddaddy of all state fairs, so they say, and today is the very last day. It'll all be over and we won't get the appearance money...

They charge through the door of the...

INTERROGATION ROOM

MRS HOGGETT

...And if we don't get the appearance money, the bank won't take "sorry I missed my flight" for an answer. Then that's kaput for the farm....absolute kaput...

The room is full of CUSTOM OFFICERS, with stern faces. There, in the middle...on a stainless steel table sits...BABE.

MRS HOGGETT

(her patter winds down)

Poor Arthur...would...be...utterly...

Her eyes dart to an X-RAY of a pig, clipped to a LIGHT BOX on the wall.

MRS HOGGETT

...devastated.

CUSTOMS OFFICER

Esme Cordelia Hoggett, we have reason to believe that you may be carrying illegal substances on your person. As an Officer of the Drug Enforcement Agency I am authorised by law to undertake certain procedures...

The Female Officer thrusts her HAND up into a surgical glove...SNAP!

FEMALE OFFICER

Please step into the cubicle and remove your clothes.

MRS HOGGETT
(barely audible)

...Pardon?

AIRPORT

It's late at night. MRS HOGGETT, with her suitcase and BABE on a leash, wanders through the barn-like building.

NARRATOR

Of course it was proved beyond any doubt that Esme Cordelia Hoggett was of virtuous character, but sadly they had missed their all important connection. And to make matters worse they were obliged to wait some days for the next flight home. They couldn't go forward and they couldn't go back. They were stranded.

MRS HOGGETT stands by a neon-lit directory of HOTELS. She is on the phone.

MRS HOGGETT

You don't take pets?...

Time cut:

MRS HOGGETT

...It's only a little pig...

Time cut:

MRS HOGGETT

...We'll it's more of a dog really...

Time cut:

MRS HOGGETT

...But he's practically human.

AIRPORT LOUNGE...

Now deserted except for a Night Cleaner.
MRS HOGGETT is curled up on a bench, fast asleep.
BABE looks up as SECURITY GUARD approaches...

SECURITY GUARD

Move on, Lady. No animals in the airport.

MRS HOGGETT

(through her yawns)

...but you don't understand we've nowhere to...

SECURITY GUARD

Scram! This is not a farm.

MORNING

The Airport is buzzing. Beyond the blur of COMMUTERS...

MRS HOGGETT sits innocently nursing a BUNDLE, that looks for all the world like a large baby.

A tap on her shoulder.

It's a SECURITY GUARD.

She looks up...smiling...revealing one very weird 'baby'...our BABE.

TRAFFIC...

Shuttlebuses, limousines, baggage, blaring horns, exhaust fumes.

The SECURITY GUARD casts them out into the full peak hour ASSAULT.

As MRS HOGGETT and her Pig wander off into the chaos, the NIGHT CLEANER catches up to them.

He hands her a slip of paper.

It reads...

The FLEALANDS HOTEL
349 RANDOM CANAL

NIGHT CLEANER

I didn't give you this.

Mrs Hoggett looks up and smiles...

NARRATOR

Esme Hoggett studied the face of the stranger and wondered what possibly could have provoked his unexpected act of kindness.

For the first time, we see the Night Cleaner's face...pink and round with small, twinkly eyes. He looks uncannily like a pig.
After a moment...he slips back into the crowd.

THE METROPOLIS

This is a storybook version of the city...and it's swarming with HUMANS.

Thousands of city folk criss-crossing a GRAND PLAZA...all somehow in step to a common pulse.

Amongst them, we find the rustic MRS HOGGETT clutching her battered suitcase and leading her PIG on the leash.

NARRATOR

If you lived all your life in the modern metropolis you may no longer be impressed by the Zuzz and the Buzz and the Boom Bang Clang. But imagine if you came from 'Hoggett Hollow', a little green valley somewhere just to the left of the twentieth century...

Two Macho Cops pass by on their prancing POLICE HORSES.
Through the forest of legs, BABE glimpses a GUIDE DOG leading a Blind Man.
Then an ENTOURAGE of pampered DOGS...a dozen of them, various breeds, dragging their professional Walker along on their leads.
Fragments of their GOSSIP...

*...You absolutely must not tell another living soul...
...Well, Basil told Dolores told Ronnie told me...
...Oh really? How dreadful, how fabulous!*

NARRATOR

So many shapes and sizes, breeds and creeds...

A PROMENADE - LATER

A storybook blend of Venice Beach, Bondi, Copacabana...or any of the great beach street scenes.

BABE and MRS HOGGETT have never seen anything like it...

Motorcycle Cops, Bikers, Street Vendors...

Muscle-Men and their look-alike ROTTWEILLERS...

Chatting up bikini Blondes and their look-alike AFGHANS.

And Humans half-naked on wheels...speeding by on bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades...

NARRATOR

...All these creatures whizzing by, seized with purpose. If you stopped even for a greeting you might miss out on something.

A PUG trailing a tandem bike passes a BOXER DOG towing a man on roller blades. They exchange greetings...

*Hi ya Harry...Hi ya Jack...
See ya Harry...See ya Jack...*

BACKSTREETS

Now the buildings are smaller and more eccentric.
The streets have become CANALS with BRIDGES.

And there we find the Chaplinesque image of MRS HOGGETT and BABE walking away from us...

If we look hard enough we will notice the THREE MICE perched on top of Mrs Hoggett's battered suitcase...

THREE MICE

...I spy...with my little eye...something beginning with...'B'.

Boat?

Nup.

Building?

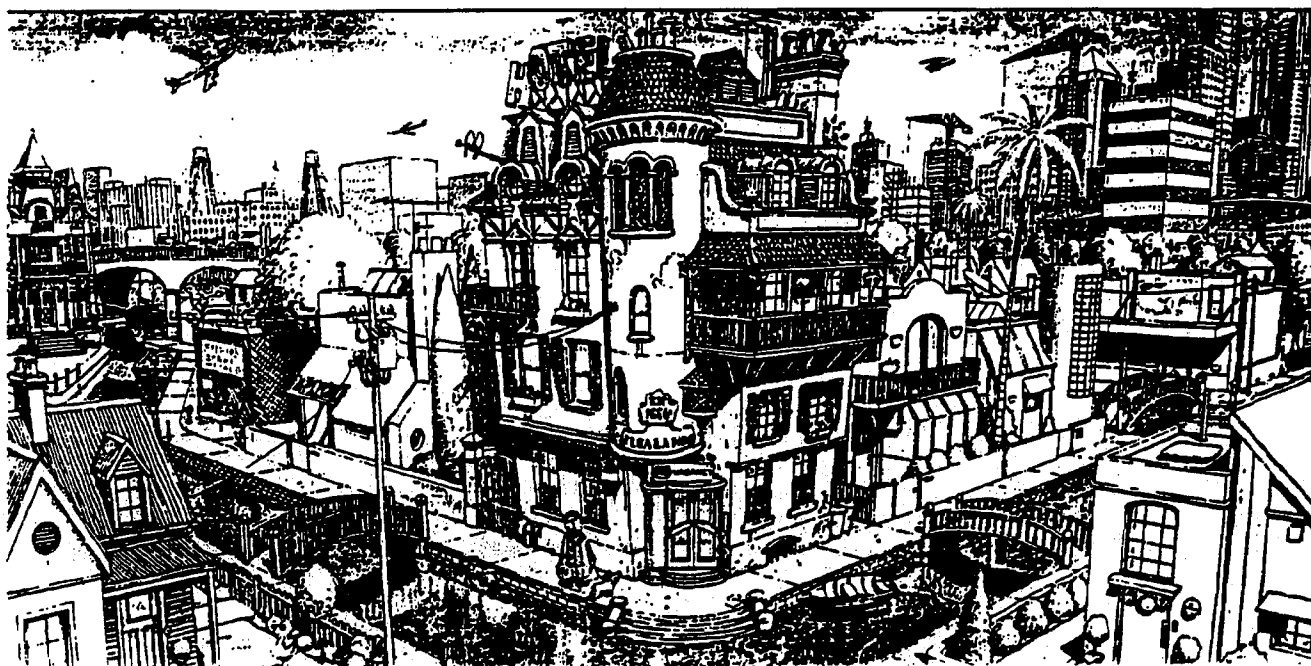
Nup.

Do I get a clue?

THE FLEALANDS HOTEL

A higgledy-piggledy four storey edifice with random architectural embellishments.

This is their destination.



Chapter Heading

**WHAT KIND OF ESTABLISHMENT
DO YOU THINK THIS IS?**

MRS HOGGETT's hand knocks on the door.

A FACE appears behind a pane of glass in the door.

MRS HOGGETT

I need a room. For myself and...er...the...er...pig.

The door flings open. THE LANDLADY steps out.

THE LANDLADY

(shouts)

Are you crazy? Animals? In here? What makes you think we take animals?

MRS HOGGETT

Ooh...but...

THE LANDLADY

What kind of establishment do you think this is?...Well it isn't!

She proclaims loudly, as if for the benefit of the whole neighborhood...

THE LANDLADY

Am I aware of the city codes and regulations? Yes. Do I support the new ordinances? Most definitely. Am I one to break the law? Absolutely not! I am very lawful.

She slams the door shut.

Mrs Hoggett knocks on the door again. The face reappears behind the pane of glass.

THE LANDLADY

Are you hearing impaired? Go! Away!

The Face disappears.

Mrs Hoggett stands on the corner and looks around, unsure which direction to take.

MRS HOGGETT
Oh...well...er...but...Mmm...Gosh...I never...um...
Goodness...yes...dearie me...

As she passes the side of the house...

THE LANDLADY
Pssst!

Mrs Hoggett turns and sees The Landlady motioning from a narrow laneway.

MRS HOGGETT
M-m-me?

The Landlady yanks Mrs Hoggett and the pig...into the shadows of...

THE LANEWAY

THE LANDLADY
(hushed)
How long do you want to stay?

MRS HOGGETT
Er...two days..

THE LANDLADY
Will an attic room do?

THE LANDLADY leads them towards the back door...

MRS HOGGETT
B-but I thought you said...

THE LANDLADY
(interrupts)
Oh that was just for the neighbors. Heartless meanies.
Where do they expect these poor creatures to go?...Is he
house trained?

MRS HOGGETT
Oh, yes. Just like you and me.

INSIDE FLEALANDS

As THE LANDLADY leads MRS HOGGETT and BABE upstairs...

THE LANDLADY

Do we provide meals? No. But is there a convenience store? Yes, two blocks south. And what is the golden rule? Never answer the front door. Why? It might be an Inspector. Mind that step.

On a landing...BABE's eyes dart to a door, slightly open...through the crack...something dark, a presence...watching...

ON THE NEXT LANDING

More faces...

Peeking through the doorway...two dogs...a nervy English Bulldog, NIGEL, and a lugubrious Neopolitan Mastiff, ALAN. They wear matching dog blankets...with a very tasteful floral pattern.

A third dog, little FLEALICK, shoots out between them. His crippled back legs are mounted on WHEELS, sporting a whip aerial with a checkered FLAG.

He sniffs Babe all over.

FLEALICK D'WHEELS

(sniff)...Canine, canine...er...no (sniff, snuffle) Don't tell me. I'll get it!

NIGEL THE BULLDOG

(hushed tones)

Flealick! Come back! We don't know where it's been. Do we Alan?

ALAN THE MASTIFF

No Nigel.

FLEALICK D'WHEELS

(sniff, sniff) I need a clue. (sniff)...It's my nose, (snuffle) sinusitis...(really snuffling hard)...Feline. Oh no, you're a cat!

BABE

Do I look like a cat?

FLEALICK D'WHEELS

Not sure. It's my eyes. Cataracts. (sniff, sniff, snuffle) If you're a cat, you've got no business on this floor! Get that? No felines on this floor!

Flealick tries to follow Babe up the stairs but his wheels get stuck. He struggles... wheezing.

NIGEL THE BULLDOG

Good heavens. His heart condition. He'll kill himself, won't he Alan?

ALAN THE MASTIFF

Yes Nigel.

ON THE TOP FLOOR

BABE is led past a door, beyond which he hears the sound of humming...several VOICES practicing arpeggios.

THE LANDLADY

...Where's the payphone? In the foyer. Local calls only. Where does the little piggy stay at all times? In the room. Where does the dear little fella do his necessities? In the Kitty-litter. Who empties it? You do.

She unlocks the door to the ATTIC ROOM.

THE LANDLADY

Any questions?

MRS HOGGETT

Oh...Yes...my husband. Where do I make a long distance call?

THE ATTIC ROOM - LATER

MRS HOGGETT places a photograph of Farmer Hoggett on a bedside table.

She grabs her purse and...

MRS HOGGETT

Stay. Pig...Stay.

She leaves...closing the door behind her.

BABE jumps up onto a chair and looks out the window.

A huge JET flies shudderingly low over head, and out across the city...

Skyscrapers, factory stacks, and the world's great landmarks...Big Ben, the Eiffel tower, the Sydney Opera House, the Golden Gate bridge, the Statue of Liberty...
A STORYBOOK CITY THAT IS ALL CITIES.

NARRATOR

Babe looked out across this vast habitat, abundant with humans and other creatures and wondered when he would see his first sheep. Then the thought occurred to him: Maybe it wasn't sheep-herding. Maybe something else was required of him. Whatever the case, in this place with its dark corners and endless possibilities, the Pig felt sure he would find a way to redeem himself.

THEN...

Behind Babe...the door opens very quietly.
A tiny Monkey, TUG, scampers into the room...and looks around.
Babe is fascinated by this strange, impish creature.

BABE

Umm...Can...Can I help you?

The monkey grabs the photograph of Farmer Hoggett and drops it into Mrs Hoggett's SUITCASE.

TUG THE LITTLE MONKEY

Esaelp tnod pots em goind ym boj!

BABE

Beg your pardon?

Tug shuts the suitcase and shoves it off the bed.

BABE

What are you doing?

The THREE MICE scamper out through a hole in the SUITCASE as the little Monkey drags it...out the door.

BABE

Wait a minute!

BABE runs after him.

ON THE LANDING...

TUG is up on the balustrade.

BABE appears at the door in time to see...

The little Monkey toss the suitcase down to the next landing...and leap after it.

BABE

Hey! That belongs to the Boss's Wife!

Babe gives chase...the long way 'round.

DOG'S LANDING

TUG drags the CASE towards the next flight of stairs.

As BABE rushes by, FLEALICK wheels out of his room, snuffling and squinting.

FLEALICK D'WHEELS

Whoa. Whoa. If you're not a cat, stay 'n' chat.

NIGEL and ALAN watch from the safety of their door...

BABE

Sorry...don't mean to be rude...

Tug launches the case down the stairs and jumps aboard...SURFING it to the next landing.

TUG

Oohaay!!

As Babe tears down after Tug, FLEALICK calls after...

FLEALICK D'WHEELS

Don't get out much nowadays. On account of Nige and Al and their nerves and me on account of my hips...
Don't be a stranger now!

ON THE NEXT FLOOR

TUG drags the case through a door and slams it...
In BABE'S face.

BABE

Hey! Open up...Open up. I'm not leaving until you...
Open! This! Door!

The door opens to reveal an extraordinary creature...

A very PREGNANT FEMALE CHIMPANZEE in a pretty dress.
This is ZOOTIE.

ZOOTIE

You got a problem Sweetie?

Babe can't believe his eyes.

BABE-

You...um...I...er...

Beyond Zootie, a MALE CHIMPANZEE, watches television on the sofa. His clothes and attitude tell us this is one extremely hip dude...BOB.

BOB

Who is it, honey?

ZOOTIE

...It's...er...kind of a baldy, pinky, whitey thingy.

She finishes by blowing a BUBBLE with her gum.

BOB

Show him in.

BABE enters.

BABE

I want the bag back.

BOB

Hey, Pinkness.

(indicating Tug)

Look at the little guy. You wanna break his heart?

Tug starts to CRY.

TUG THE LITTLE MONKEY

Ili eb etutitsd no eht...steerts...(sob, sob)

BABE

But...but...it doesn't belong to him.

BOB

All I know is what I see. Tug comes in with the bag. Just doing his job collecting stuff...And you barge in here accusicating and making demandments. I didn't see you with the bag. Who's to say it belongs to you?

BABE

I'm not leaving without that bag.

A smaller Chimp...in bow-tie and check-pants and listening to a Walkman... steps between Babe and the bag. This is...EASY.

EASY

(shy)

I don't think my Big Brother...Bob Boppaluba the Big Banana...has finished 'splaining...how things work around here.

BABE turns to face them all.

BABE

I have to warn you I may be small but I can be ferocious if provoked.

Miraculously, the three CHIMPANZEES back off...

Not because of Babe...but because of the PRESENCE behind him...

VOICE

(authoritarian)

And What Have We Here?

BABE turns around to see...

the polished shoes with spats...

the carefully pressed trousers...

the butler's coat...and finally up to...

the weary face of A LARGE ORANGUTAN. This is THELONIUS.

Bob glowers at his hierarchical superior.

BOB

(deferential)

We're in a negotiation with this naked pink individual.

ZOOTIE

(earnestly)

Yeah, he's of foreign extraction, your Honor.

EASY

(shy)

Possibly even an alien.

Zootie blows another bubble.

THELONIUS

You drooling imbeciles. This is an omnivorous mammal of the Order Ungulata. An inconsequential species with no other purpose than to be eaten by humans. This lowly, handless, deeply unattractive, mud-lover...is a pig.

ZOOTIE

Oh, so that's kinda what they sorta look like.

BABE

For your information I'm a sheep-pig...And I've been sent to save the farm. And come to think of it I should be saving the farm right now!! And...and...

(turns on Thelonius)

...and if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all!

THELONIUS

Silence! You scrofulous piece of pork.

BOB

So...will this little pink lunchness...you know...fuffill his destiny, nourishmentally speaking?

THELONIUS

We shall see.

BABE

I feel very uncomfortable with this conversation. I want my bag back! And I want it now! Get out of my way!

Incredibly, Thelonius and the Chimps back off.
Not because of Babe...

But because of the PRESENCE behind him...

FUGLY FLOOM - An old time vaudevillian cheerfully ravaged by the debaucheries of gluttony and booze - has just staggered in through the door.

He stands there...eating the remains of a greasy drumstick...just staring at the Pig.

Then...a commotion outside.

THE LANDLADY

(off screen)

Uncle Fugly! Uncle Fugly!

Fugly Floom bends down...picks up BABE...mumbles something incomprehensible...

And drops him into a TRUNK!

THE LANDING

THE LANDLADY, comforting a troubled MRS HOGGETT, descends the stairs.

FUGLY appears on the landing, hastily closing his door behind him.

THE LANDLADY

There's been a theft upstairs. Can you imagine?...

He turns his best bedroom eyes on Mrs Hoggett.

THE LANDLADY

Esme Hoggett, Fugly Floom. Uncle Fugly, Esme Hoggett.

MRS HOGGETT

Perhaps we should call the police.

THE LANDLADY

No. No! Have you forgotten? No police, no authorities. Heaven forbid. It would be the end of this place. Surely you understand?

MRS HOGGETT

Oh dear...

Mrs Hoggett appeals to Fugly, who gives her a lascivious squeeze.

MRS HOGGETT

...I just phoned my Arthur to tell him at least his pig was safe...And now on top of everything, I've gone and lost the blessed little thing...

BACK INSIDE THE ROOM

BABE pops his head out of the TRUNK.

BABE

That...that's my human...

THELONIUS

Ssh!

BABE

But she...

THELONIUS slams the lid of the trunk shut.

BACK ON THE LANDING

MRS HOGGETT

...The clothes...I don't care about the clothes...But...the pig? The Pig! I can't go home without the pig!

FUGLY wipes the drool from his mouth and launches into a slurring, gesticulating garble...

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MRS. HOGGETT

Pig...Pig...Pig...Pig...Pig!

INARRATOR

If only...searching for a Pig in the city couldn't be so easily misconstrued...

The COPS cruise off after her.

Completely unaware, Mrs. Hoggett turns into a NARROW ALLEY.

NARRATOR

If only the Farmer's wife had been more wary of dark alleys.

A couple of GANG DUDES are watching a VERY FAT GUY breakdance on ROLLERBLADES with all the grace of a ballerina.

MRS HOGGETT

PigPigPigPigPig...

VERY FAT GUY

Heywhat?

MRS HOGGETT

I'm looking for my husband's Pig.

VERY FAT GUY

Yeah...right...What ya got in that bag?

Mrs. Hoggett freezes...then...in a bizarre attempt to divert him, she MIMICS his DANCE STEP.

VERY FAT GUY

Huh?!

She turns to run...

But he grabs her HANDBAG.

She won't let go...and neither will he.

She runs anyway...dragging him along on his blades.

The other GANG DUDES chase after them.

As Mrs. Hoggett rounds the end of the alley, she swings the VERY FAT GUY directly into the path of...the MOTORCYCLE COPS!!

This triggers a CHAIN REACTION!

Cyclists...Rollerbladers...Skateboarders...COLLIDE!!!

Trying to avoid the Chaos, a SKATEBOARDER swerves into LADDERS, holding TWO MEN, glueing up a GIANT POSTER for Breath Freshener...a POUTING COUPLE about to kiss.

The MEN fall...dragging half the poster with them...The Pouting WOMAN is now kissing the back-end of a SUMO WRESTLER.

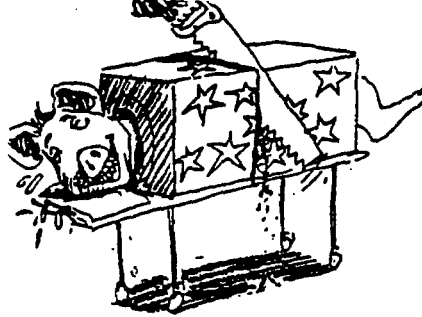
And a BUCKET of GLUE plops directly onto the head of...
The hapless MRS HOGGETT!

Then, one final insult...a gorgeous bikini-clad MUGGER-on rollerblades whizzes by and...SNATCHES HER HANDBAG!

A Tableau...

SIRENS, FLASHING LIGHTS and a strutting POLICE SARGENT, determined to get to the bottom of it all.

FADE TO BLACK



Chapter Heading

FORTUNE FAVORS THE BRAVE...RIGHT?!

ON A MAKESHIFT STAGE

We find FUGLY FLOOM in a clown suit...

He pops the cork of a giant papier mache CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE...
Bubbles, huge SOAP BUBBLES, float down over the luminous faces of
CHILDREN...some with strange markings on their bald heads.

TUG sits amongst them prodding bubbles with his tiny monkey finger.

THELONIUS, the orangutan in the butler suit, holds a TITLE CARD:

A CHAMPAGNE DINNER

A painted backdrop...

THE FABULOUS FLOOMS

and their
AMAZING APES

From behind it, FUGLY wheels out a PIG in a MAGICIAN'S BOX.

The little chimp, EASY, in a chef's hat, is SAWING IT IN HALF!
The hind-quarters...kicking furiously...are obviously MECHANICAL.
The front end is...

BABE...his head protruding from the box. He is a little bewildered.

At a candlelit table, a 'romantic couple', BOB and ZOOTIE watch as...

Fugly splits the "PIG" in two.

NEXT TITLE CARD:

LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE

An unseen audience responds. Thelonus FLIPS the card...

SPECIALITY OF THE HOUSE

Now...FUGLY places a SILVER-DOMED PLATTER on the table. He lifts the lid...

BABE'S HEAD sticks out through a hole in the bottom of the platter.
He has a fake apple in his mouth.

As Fugly walks away, Bob grabs him by the braces...TRICK BRACES that stretch a ridiculously long way before he is snapped back...slapstick style...to the table. Bob points to the fidgety Pig.

TITLE CARD:

TOO RARE

FUGLY replaces the silver dome over BABE.

The CARD flips:

LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE

As EASY, the 'Chef', wheels the platter away, FUGLY produces a single CIGARETTE...inserts it into his ear...then pulls out TWO CIGARETTES...one from each nostril.

He hands one to ZOOTIE and one to BOB.

Now EASY pesters Fugly for a cigarette.

Fugly produces one from his pocket. By 'magic', it lights up.

As Fugly offers it to Easy...Bob steals a lighter from Fugly's back pocket.

A WOMAN in a white uniform steps forward...

THE HEAD NURSE

(steely)

Mr Floom, I don't wish to interrupt this delightful experience but this is a hospital. Smoking is a definite no-no. You do understand.

Fugly looks out into the AUDIENCE...patients in wheelchairs, some with I.V. drips, geriatrics and the bald headed children...this is indeed a CANCER WARD.

The CHIMPS light up.

THE HEAD NURSE

Stop them! We have gravely ill people here!!

He stares at her...The Chimps continue smoking.

THE HEAD NURSE

Mr Floom! If you expect to be paid...!!!!

FUGLY

Aaaaaaaarrrrrrrrrrrhhhhhhhhhhh.

Grudgingly, Fugly whips the cigarettes away from BOB and ZOOTIE. ENRAGED, they advance on him.

EASY clammers to the top of the PAINTED BACKDROP... sucking up the nicotine as fast as he can.

The AUDIENCE watches uneasily as...

BOB and ZOOTIE hoot and bare their teeth at FUGLY who staggers back... knocking over the PAINTED BACKDROP!

EASY leaps up to a SPRINKLER PIPE on the ceiling.

THELONIUS helps Fugly to his feet.

Outraged by the Chimps' behaviour, he snarls at them with suprising ferocity! ZOOTIE takes BOB'S hand...they back away.

Above them...SMOKE from Easy's cigarette drifts up into a SMOKE DETECTOR...triggering the SPRINKLER SYSTEM.

Alarms ring!

WATER EVERYWHERE!

In the chaos, tiny TUG pockets odds and ends from a medical trolley...safety pins, tweezers, a bandaid.

PEOPLE and PRIMATES scatter in all directions.

Finally...

BABE pops up through the hole in the table top...and calls to Theloniuss.

BABE

Hey, hey...Can I get out now?! Hello? Sir?When do I get my reward? I wouldn't mind getting my reward now...

FADE TO BLACK

BABE'S VOICE

...Yoo-hoo?...Excuse me?...Hellooo?...

FUGLY'S KITCHEN - THAT EVENING

FUGLY sits at the table surrounded by a pile of empty cans and wrappers, the greasy remains of hamburgers, fries, aerosol whipped cream, artery-clogging cakes and chocolates...

THELONIUS stands by his side with a neatly-arranged tray of PILLS and MEDICINES which Fugly washes down with cheap whisky. As he indulges in this Orgy of Gluttony, he is CHAIN SMOKING.

And the Chimps watch every puff.

On the sidelines, completely ignored, sits BABE.

Finally, Fugly stubs out his cigarette into a saucer of slops and, with a giant burp, lifts himself slowly out of his chair.

The Chimps strain forward, hoping he will forget his PACK of smokes. But...Thelonius grabs them...and gently steers Fugly out of the room.

BOB, ZOOTIE and EASY rush to the table...retrieve the cigarette butts from the slops and try to light them...but they're too soggy.

BABE

Any...food? Any leftovers?

EASY glances down over the edge of the table.

BABE

Pigs actually prefer a leftover.

Easy pushes a jar off the table...it rolls across a chair...and down to the hungry pig.

BOB

Hey. What you do that for?

EASY

I dunno...his belly's rumbling.

BOB

We look after our own first.

ZOOTIE

Listen to your big brother. He's y'know...ya big brother.

Babe, trying to reach the last little scraping of peanut butter stuck on the bottom...nudges it along the floor into...

THE LIVING ROOM

Where...it finally comes to rest against the sofa.

BABE jams his snout inside the jar...his tongue still just short of the peanut butter.

Now he's stuck. He looks up to see...

THELONIUS remove FUGLY's shoes, lift his feet onto a footstool, and lovingly cover him with a blanket. Fugly doesn't look too well.

BOB, ZOOTIE and EASY peer around the door.

They observe Thelonius take the PACK of CIGARETTES and place them securely in FUGLY'S HAND.

Babe has his own problems.
 He can't shake the JAR off his snout.
 His muffled cries of frustration distract the Orangutan who...
 Pulls the jar off.

BABE

...Nothing's happening like it's supposed to. I did everything that was of asked me. I got in the box. I put my head through the hole. I was charming. So where's my reward? You said I'd be given a reward. Everyone's counting on me. 'Specially my Human. She'll be back very soon so I better get my reward! Where's my...

To shut him up, Thelonius rams the jar back onto Babe's snout!

Babe's muffled protests...then...

BOB

Psssst.

Bob beckons Babe to the...

KITCHEN

BOB

(hushed)

I know where your reward is...

BABE

(muffled by the jar)

Oo ddoo?

BOB

Oodliedoodles of it. And I know exactly how to get it...

BOB points to an ACCESS HOLE in the CEILING.

EASY can't suppress a giggle. ZOOTIE gives him an admonishing nudge.

BABE

'N it'll 'elp saaaae dde faaarr?

BOB

What? Save the what?

BABE

Saae dde faaarr!...dde faaarr!

ZOOTIE

That thingy...you know...

BABE -

Dde faaar!

EASY

The FUN! He wants to save the 'Fun'!...I like that!

BABE

Ddda faaaaarrrrr!

BOB

Yeah, yeah, we know...and it's gonna happen. Truly-ruly
...But if you wanna save the 'Fun', you do exactly as I
say. Okay?

Babe nods.

BOB

Now, I'm gonna take this off...

Bob removes the jar.

BABE

Actually, it was save the f...

BOB

Uhuh! Not a word.

BACK IN THE LIVING ROOM

THELONIUS settles back into a sofa next to the bloated, bleary-eyed FUGLY and flicks the remote control...

As they watch T.V., Thelonus tucks a napkin into his collar and nibbles some POTATO CHIPS...ever so genteel.

Then, Fugly sags against him...his head lolling on the contented Orangutan's shoulder.

BACK IN THE KITCHEN

BOB shoves a stool against a PILE OF JUNK in the corner...old newspapers, boxes, an ancient T.V. and so on...towering way up towards the ACCESS HOLE in the ceiling.

ZOOTIE

I'd go up, only I'm pregnant.

EASY

I'd go up, only I'm afraid of heights.

BOB

I'd go, only I'm collapsaphobic.

They all look at...

BABE.

To him, the ACCESS HOLE looks awfully high.

BABE

Well...um...Fortune favors the brave. Right?...Have you heard that?

BOB

Indeed, my little Braveness. Absoposolutely.

With a helpful nudge from Bob, Babe takes the first faltering step up.

THE PRECARIOUS ASCENT begins...

BACK IN THE LIVING ROOM

The PHONE rings.

Thelonius picks it up and listens...

IRATE MALE VOICE

(quietly) I promised them a clean show. A healthy show...
(screams) Ya MORON!! Monkeys smoking!? In a hospital?! Ya can't even smoke in a restaurant these days ya Matzoball!...

He holds it to Fugly's ear...

BACK IN THE KITCHEN

BABE is half way up the TOWER...in an attempt to negotiate the next level, his trotter slips...and the tower sways...

ZOOTIE insouciantly blows a BUBBLE with her gum.

The tirade continues next door...

IRATE MALE VOICE

...I always stuck by ya. When your own parents tossed you out of the act, I stuck by ya...when no other clown would touch you with a ten foot pogo stick, I stuck by ya!...

BACK IN THE LIVING ROOM

INCREASINGLY IRATE MALE VOICE

...Henceforth hereafter I am no longer responsible for what I laughingly call your career. Floom. You're never gonna putrify a stage again. You PICKLED, PROLAPSED, PITIFUL POT OF PUS!!!

With that...FUGLY drops the RECEIVER...into the FISH BOWL behind him!

FEISTY LITTLE FISH
Hey! I'm swimmin' here! I'M SWIMMIN' HERE!

THELONIUS recovers the phone, shakes it off and returns it to the cradle. Then he bends down to address the FISH.

THELONIUS
(whispers)

My apologies.

BACK IN THE KITCHEN

BABE is one alarmingly unsteady chair from the SUMMIT.

The TOWER TEETER-TOTTERS SICKENINGLY. Babe scrambles frantically for a footing...he clings on...RIGID.

BABE
(tiny voice)

I might come down now.

BOB
No, no! You're doing fine.

BABE
To be perfectly honest I'm...s...s...stuck.

EASY
Don't look down! Just don't look down!

BABE looks down.

The TEETER-TOTTER lurches violently...
Babe holds his breath...TOTAL VERTIGO!!!

BOB
You're almost there.

BABE
C-closer to the...t-top than the...b-bottom...huh?

So...ever so slowly...he inches his way to the very TOP where he sits...FROZEN.

When the swaying finally stops...Babe dares to s-s-speak...

BABE
N-now what?

BOB
Well...

BOB winks at EASY who ducks out the door...

BOB

This happens...

He gives the TEETER-TOTTER a SHOVE.
The TOWER leans one way...then the other...

Babe's eyes widen.
TIMBER!!...the whole thing begins to topple...
The squealing Pig rides the fall towards...
An OPEN WINDOW!

IN THE LIVING ROOM...

We hear....
THE CRASH!!!
THELONIUS leaps to his feet...and storms into the kitchen...

EASY emerges from behind the sofa...and yanks the PACK OF CIGARETTES
from FUGLY'S hand.
Fugly barely stirs.

BACK IN THE KITCHEN

THELONIUS surveys the ruins. WHAT A MESS!

BOB

Well...It was like this...The naked pink individual
comes in here intent on doing this stupid trick.

ZOOTIE

Yeah, stupid trick. I told him, I said 'I'm telling you'...

BOB

Don't ask us to interprolate what's going on in that
strange little head. But it strikes me as very destructive
behaviour.

EASY

Perhaps it's a cry for help.

EASY, innocent as you please, leans against the door.

OUTSIDE THE KITCHEN WINDOW...

BABE is on the shingled AWNING over-hanging the canal...
Watched by TUG, the little monkey, he scrambles desperately to hold his footing.

BACK IN THE KITCHEN

THELONIUS

And where is the delinquent swine?

ZOOTIE

Y'know, he's around...he's um...

From outside...a pathetic cry...then a SPLASH!

ZOOTIE

...Swimming.

BOB

(shrugs)

Go figure.

IN THE CANAL

BABE surfaces, spluttering and dog-paddles back towards the Hotel...

TUG, the little monkey, obligingly opens the FRONT DOOR.

BACK IN THE KITCHEN

THELONIUS pinches the bridge of his nose, takes a deep breath and manages to stay calm...

THELONIUS

I will not allow whatever mad mischief you have concocted here tonight to ruin another lovely evening. I am going back inside to attend to Himself. You are going to tidy up. This is a civilized household. Tranquility will prevail.

The moment he leaves the room...EASY reveals the PACK OF CIGARETTES.

BOB

(hushed)

Who's like us?!

The Chimps 'High Five'.

ALL THREE

Damn few!!

IN THE LIVING ROOM...

THELONIUS settles back next to FUGLY. A deep breath. He closes his eyes.

Then...

His eyes snap open. He pulls back Fugly's blanket...
The PACK OF CIGARETTES is missing!!!

Thelonius storms into...

THE KITCHEN...

Where he finds...

The CHIMPS with unlit CIGARETTES in their mouths.

Zootie is about to light hers.

THELONIUS advances and puts out his hand...

ZOOTIE

Please...Just one. One harmless little puff. Just one, one,
one, one little oney...

Thelonius confiscates her Cigarette...then puts out his hand for Easy's.

EASY

(handing it over)

It's not fair. Himself gives us the Suck'n'Puff...It gets so
we really really like it, then he takes it away.

BOB

He's an inhumaniac.

Thelonius turns to BOB.

THELONIUS

Himself doesn't want you to suffer. He just wants you to
learn restraint...discipline...he wants you to elevate
yourselves!

He puts out his hand...

Abruptly...BOB EATS his cigarette and WHIPS the PACK behind his back.

Thelonius reaches around and drags the Chimp's arm to the front...

BOB refuses to surrender.

BABE barrels in, wet, shaking, huffing and puffing, and angry but no-one pays
him the slightest attention...

BABE

Hey! Hey! Anyone noticed I'm dripping wet over here?!
...Anyone wondering why?

EASY

(whispers)

I'd keep my trap shut if I were you...

A Grunt. Babe is drawn back to the arm wrestle.

BABE

Am I missing something here?

Eyes never wavering, the Orangutan intensifies the pressure to the Chimp's wrist.
Finally...

BOB blinks and averts his eyes.

It's over.

The PACK drops to the floor.

Thelonius picks it up and puts it in his pocket.

BABE

So...back to my reward.

ZOOTIE

(to Thelonius)

Why do you always side with the Human? You're one
of us.

EASY

Yeah Thelonius. You ashamed of what you are?

THELONIUS

...While we were still hunched over walking around on
our knuckles, they were creating all this. They are the
Supreme Species. They make the world work.

BOB

Well right now the supreme Himself couldn't scratch
his own butt.

EASY

Why is he always drooling and wetting his pants?

THELONIUS

I'm sure he has his own good reasons.

BABE

Does he have a good reason for not giving me my
reward?!

BOB

Does he have a good reason when he does this?...
(huge burp)...Uuuuurrrrrp!

ZOOTIE

Or this...(snoring sound)...Gggnnnrrrrzzz!

THELONIUS

That's enough!

EASY

Or this?...

EASY blows a big raspberry...THHHHHDDDDPPPPPTTTT!

THELONIUS

ENOUGH!

And now it's out of control...the THREE CHIMPS blowing 'farts'...trying to outdo each other.

Bob throws off his JACKET.

THELONIUS

PUT YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON.

More outrageous RASPBERRIES as Bob throws off his SHIRT...which lands on top of BABE.

THELONIUS

YOU MINDLESS KNUCKLE WALKERS! You don't deserve his...benevolence! He put the very clothes on our backs. He taught us to walk upright. He freed our hands for higher works!!!

BABE

BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE ME MY REWARD!!!

That does it! Thelonus turns on Babe.

Everyone freezes.

OUTSIDE...

A PROJECTILE hurtles out of a first floor window...
It's a PIG.

SPLASH!!!!... BABE is back in the CANAL.

INSIDE

Thelonius turns back to the Chimps.

THELONIUS

Who's next?

EASY

Not me, Your Honor.

He begins cleaning up...picking up broken plates.
ZOOTIE joins him...

ZOOTIE

Me neither, your Mostly Excellent One.

Finally...BOB starts to put his clothes back on.

Satisfied, Thelonius leaves the room...

BOB

(under his breath)

Crankitankerous old...

Bob blows a fart which starts Easy chuckling.

THE ATRIUM

Exhausted, BABE drags himself up the stairs and into...

THE KITCHEN

...where the CHIMPS are tidying up.

BABE

(flatly)

Just tell me...There is no reward is there?

ZOOTIE looks up from her mopping...

BABE

Was there ever such a thing?

ZOOTIE

Oh little pink thingy. This is the city. As Bob always says...What do you say Bob?

BOB

It's all illusory. It's ill and it's for losers.

ZOOTIE

No, that wasn't it. You know...that stuff about no yesterday and no tomorrow.

BOB

All you got is this actual nowness. The past is gone and as for the future...

Bob blows a short 'fart' which has Easy in hysterics.

ZOOTIE

Yeah, no guarantees my little Pork pie. It's a dog eat dog world and there's not enough dog to go around. So you look after number whatsy. Get my drift?

Babe considers this for some time. Then...

BABE

I'm not a Pork pie.

With that...he turns and walks slowly...out the door.

ZOOTIE

Whatever you say, Cutey pie.

BABE'S VOICE

(beaten)

I'm not a Cutey pie either. I'm not any kind of pie...I'm a pig on a mission.

RANDOM CANAL - LATER

Another huge JET flies low over the FLEALANDS HOTEL.

At the ATTIC WINDOW, we see a small figure...BABE staring out into the night.

FROM INSIDE

Babe's point of view of the STORY-BOOK CITY...even more compelling now that's it's dark.

In the apartment towers, humans are silhouetted in the glow of their TV sets. A man on a roof plays a haunting alto sax, while seagulls soar and wheel in convection currents high above floodlit skyscrapers.

NARRATOR

It's tough if you're a Pig alone in the city. With each small step you seem to slide a long way back. It leaves you empty. And who do you turn to? Where was the boss's wife? He thought it might help if he could recall Fly and Rex and their steadfast words. And he tried really hard. But he could barely even remember the face of his beloved boss. The farm was fading...it had become just a comforting dream...an echo...

Silhouetted on the window sill...the THREE MICE.
Sing along with the Saxophone...classic Elvis...

MICE

(sing)

Are you lonesome tonight?
Do you miss me tonight?
Are you sorry we drifted apart?...

Kaboom! The night explodes with colour...wondrous bursts of FIREWORKS.

THROUGH A BARRED WINDOW...

...we see the SAME FIREWORKS. This is CITY JAIL.
A voice echoes up through its bowels...

MRS HOGGETT'S VOICE

...When I said pig, I didn't mean 'pig', I meant pig. And those hard-working policemen got it all wrong. I didn't mean it, I promise. I didn't mean for any of those terrible things to happen...And they're blaming it all on me! I was just looking for the pig who is God knows where, doing God knows what in God knows who's hands...

ANOTHER VOICE

SHUUUT-UUUP!!!

IN A DARK CROWDED CELL

MRS. HOGGETT...the Perpetrator...encrusted in GLUE.

MRS HOGGETT

But I was only...

A HUGE HAND clamps itself over her mouth...
A huge FEMALE hand with chipped nail polish...and L-O-V-E tattooed across the knuckles!

THE FLEALANDS HOTEL

The EARLY MORNING SUN streams into the...

ATTIC ROOM

BABE is woken by a COMMOTION downstairs. He goes out onto the landing and looks down to see...

Two AMBULANCE MEN negotiate a stretcher down the stairs.
On it lies a stricken FUGLY FLOOM, an I.V. drip in his arm, an oxygen mask on his face and a heart monitor beeping very irregularly.

The LANDLADY, still in her nightgown, holds her Uncle Fugly's hand. She is very distressed.

As they go out the door, The LANDLADY pauses to grab her overcoat...
THELONIUS steps out of the shadows.
They exchange a look.
She rushes out the door.

The other ANIMALS emerge from their hiding places.

Then Thelonus does something quite against his character.

He leaps up...swinging from balcony to balcony...
Once more a powerful creature of the forest.
He continues upwards, straight towards BABE...who backs away.
The Orangutan swings right past him...
Up to the window at the top of the tower.

Thelonus stares out the window... his shoulders drooped in despair.
The ambulance siren recedes.

EASY approaches.
Babe observes their exchange.

EASY
Are we okay, Thelonus?

THELONIUS
(hoarse whisper)
I couldn't wake him. I tried but he wouldn't wake up.

EASY
He'll be back. Himself always comes back.

The old Orangutan averts his face.

EASY
...Thelonius?

ZOOTIE
(gently)
Easy...let him be.

BABE retreats to his room and crawls under the bed.

FADE TO BLACK

A FANFARE

We are watching a MOUSE-SIZE MOVIE SCREEN...tiny speeded up Universal Logo and all.

The THREE MICE cheer the title...

FAREWELL NOBLE DUCK

Push into the screen...

ABOVE THE CLOUDS

A PELICAN approaches...in his considerable beak he carries a passenger...

FERDINAND THE DUCK.

Ahead...the coastline and the great Metropolis...with jumbo jets in holding patterns.

FERDINAND
Whoa...yeah...here will be fine.

Ferdinand scrambles out of the Pelican's beak

FERDINAND
Thanks for the ride, old Buddy, old Pal.

PELICAN
No, thank you. I just hope you get that operation for your wing. Not being able to fly long distances on top of the amount of family tragedies you've suffered...my gosh! If ever you find your long lost mother and she recovers from the amnesia, tell her from me she has the most wonderful, plucky son.

FERDINAND
Yeah, yeah. Don't sweat it. See ya.

Ferdinand zooms off...through the clouds...down towards the city.

PELICAN
Farewell noble duck.

DOWN BELOW

FERDINAND lands.
He looks around...it's a grassy KNOLL carpeted with small flowers.

THWANG!...a cardboard CUT-OUT of a MAN springs up behind him.
It has a TARGET painted on the front.
Ferdinand barely has time to comprehend this when...
Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!
A BARRAGE OF HOT LEAD BLOWS THE TARGET TO PIECES!

Firing all manner of hand guns, REDNECKS, MOMS, DADS, KIDS and GRANNIES hell-bent on terminating a duck.

When the smoke clears the target is shredded.
A couple of white feathers drift forlornly to the ground...
Where we find a NEWLY-DUG HOLE... with dirt spurting out willy-nilly.

On the OTHER SIDE of the FENCE...
FERDINAND erupts out of the earth...Arghhhh!!!
He runs, eyes bulging, screaming past the camera.
Revealing the sign...

SHOOTING RANGE
Fun for all the family

THE METROPOLIS - DUSK

High up amongst the skyscrapers, we pan to a STONE ANGEL atop a Gothic Church.

Hidden there...cradled in its arms...we find one highly anxious DUCK.

FERDINAND
(feebly)
Pig...p-piiig...

Chapter Heading

A MURDEROUS HEART**BACK AT THE FLEALANDS HOTEL - NIGHT****NARRATOR**

By nightfall, all Babe's concerns, all the troubled voices
in his head were drowned out by one, insistent moan...

Camera eases towards BABE'S rumbling stomach...

Rrrggghh...rrrrgggghhhh...oooooff...rrrgghh

NARRATOR

The fact is, Babe's belly was making such a fuss...he
began to believe it was talking to him.

The rumbles cohere into words...

BELLY

...Foood...foood...oooh God..food.

Then...BABE hears another voice. A CHIMP'S voice.

BOB

...Food. Anybody got any food?

ATTIC LANDING

BABE looks down through the balustrade.

BOB is calling from the bottom floor...

BOB

Hey Dogs! You got any edibles? Any nibbly-dibbles?

FLEALICK appears on the Dog's Landing.

FLEALICK D'WHEELS

We got a carpet with some nice spaghetti stains.

NIGEL THE BULLDOG

But we can't keep licking the carpet. Can we Alan?

ALAN THE MASTIFF

No Nigel.

BOB

Hey Cats! Cats! What about you?

Four CATS appear from the door near Babe. They SING like a barbershop quartet...

CATS

No. No. No. No. We have no food.

ZOOTIE looks to Bob.

BOB

Well then I'm gonna get proactivated. I know where there's food-a-plentiful.

ZOOTIE

We're going outside? Without a human? Could be sorta dangerous, you know in a lethally kinda way.

BOB

We'll stick to the shadows Honey. It's coolness.

He leads ZOOTIE towards the door.

Easy, who has been throwing junk on the fire, follows them.

From high up on the attic landing, BABE watches them go. Just beyond, THELONIUS sits slumped...framed in the tower window. He has been there all day.

OUTSIDE - LATE NIGHT

On the still water of the canal, we see the reflections of... The THREE CHIMPS as they make their way stealthily down the street. BOB pulls up suddenly, very still...

Someone's coming.

The Chimps draw back into the shadows. Clomp, clomp, clomp, clomp...the sound echoes through the empty streets.

It's BABE...revealed in the street light.

BOB

Hey...get out of the light.

BABE

Where's the f-f-food? I-I'll do anything.

BOB-

Keep your voice down.

BABE

Really. Absolutely anything. I have to eat.

EASY

What can you do? You don't even have any hands.

BABE

What can I do? I can...I can...do...lots.

The Chimps move on. Dismissing him.

BABE

Er...Sheep. Sheep. I can herd sheep.

ZOOTIE

Go home sweetie. You're making a spectacle of yourself.

Suddenly Bob has an idea.

BOB

Wait a momentum. Ya know what, Honey?...I'm thinking I might have some of those sheep for him to herd.

ZOOTIE

You do?

BOB

Uh-huh...I'll show ya.

MOMENTS LATER

They are approaching a CONVENIENCE STORE...all neon lights and signs. One of them shows...a vivacious female SMOKER advertizing...

ALIVE

CIGARETTES

And directly underneath in bold letters...

SMOKING KILLS

They make their way around the back. The place is festooned with RAZOR-WIRE. Lots of security bars and warning signs.

BOB enlarges a small hole in the fence.

BOB

They're in there.

BABE

What kind? Border Leicester or Scottish Blackface?

BOB

Pit Bull and Doberman Pinscher. Very exotic breeds.

Babe is about to step through the shadowy hole.

BABE

Where do you want me to herd them?

BOB

That's up to you. Just keep them occupied 'til we get the necessities.

BABE

Okey-dokey.

Babe enters...

THE YARD

He peers into the DARKNESS.

BABE

Hello....Hello?...Anybody home?

A long, low, chilling, SNARL.

BABE

Um....Anybody else?

Then, out of the shadows comes a huge, muscular DOBERMAN...a creature of overwhelming menace.

DOBERMAN

(through clenched teeth)

You must have a very thin grasp on reality. Unless of course you're suicidal.

BABE

I'm looking for some sheep.

Then...an EVEN MORE DISTURBING GROWL from the shadows.

DOBERMAN

I warned ya...

RAARGH!...A force of undiluted malevolence and savagery comes charging straight at Babe...It's the PIT BULL.

YIPES!...the Pig turns and runs just as the JAWS are about to close on his rump.

YANK!...The Pit Bull's chain snaps taut. STAKED to the ground.

Babe escapes through the hole in the fence...

THE CHIMPS

...have seized the moment to climb onto the roof. They disappear into a ventilator shaft.

BABE

...is angry. Impulsively he pokes his head back through the hole in the fence. He can't help himself...

BABE

What's wrong with you?! I was just trying to have a civil conversation...

The PIT BULL is fighting his restraints with such ferocity...the STAKE anchoring his chain starts to PULL OUT OF THE GROUND!

BABE

...Hasn't anyone ever taught you any manners?

THAT DOES IT!

The PIT BULL lunges...the stake gives way!

BABE runs for his life.

The PIT BULL charges after him dragging the much larger DOBERMAN behind him...(Both the dogs' chains are attached to the one stake!)

SMASH!...through the hole in the fence...

And the taut chain peels the fence away...paling by paling.

OVER THE FIRST BRIDGE

BABE comes running as fast as his little trotters can carry him. Gaining with each step, the SLAVERING DOGS loom close.

Babe scrambles, sliding around the...

NEXT CORNER

The PIT BULL swings wide...around a LAMP POST.
The DOBERMAN cuts tight to the corner.
They're about to bring BABE down when...

Ouuuuff!!...they're pulled short by their chain looped AROUND THE LAMP POST.

As Babe runs on, the Pit Bull forges forward with such brute force that...the Doberman is hauled back...'moonwalking' towards the lamp post.

Then, the Doberman pulls himself free of his collar.

The Pit Bull, dragging everything...the chain, stake and empty collar...charges after Babe who is racing for his life towards the safe haven of...

THE FLEALANDS HOTEL

Now...up on his hind legs, BABE scratches at the front door, squealing...

BABE

It's me...It's me...please...somebody...

The Pit Bull is seconds away...

INSIDE

BABE'S VOICE

Let me in!

The little monkey, TUG, listens.
THELONIUS, still slumped by the window, lifts his head.

OUTSIDE

BABE

Leeett meeee iinnnn!

Too late. The PIT BULL lunges. BABE scoots!
TUG opens the door to see...

The CRAZED canine chase Babe around the corner.

Quickly, Tug shuts the door as...

DIRECTLY ACROSS THE CANAL

The SUSPICIOUS NEIGHBOR (seen only ever in silhouette) checks out the street...it's EMPTY.

A male voice calls from inside...

HUSBAND'S VOICE

Darling...don't get yourself into a state.

SUSPICIOUS NEIGHBOR

It's not my imagination...something is going on in that house!

HUSBAND'S VOICE

Hortence...You're missing the aria.

She shuts the door.

THE LANE BEHIND THE HOTEL

The PIT BULL pursues BABE around the corner.

Ahead...The DOBERMAN, who has taken a short cut, stands in his path.

AMBUSH!

Babe veers wildly down...

JUNKYARD ALLEY

At the end of which...from the CARDBOARD CITY under the freeway...emerge some sinister looking creatures...

These are the HOMELESS, the dispossessed...DOGS and CATS discarded by humans.

BABE makes another sharp turn into...

THE JUNKYARD

Yesterday's stuff...the detritus of 20th century consumerism...old TVs, PCs, Recyclables and the like...row after row...alleys piled high with junk.

BABE bolts down one of the alleys.
Followed by the PIT BULL.

Setting up another ambush, the DOBERMAN swerves into the NEXT alley.

Babe rounds the corner turning RIGHT...

The Doberman comes charging out of the next alley turning LEFT...straight into...

THE PIT BULL!!

WHERE'S THE GODDAMN PIG?!

The two dogs stare at each other incredulously...lots of panting...PANT! PANT! PANT! PANT! PANT! PANT!

PIT BULL

Sshh! Sshh!

DOBERMAN

What?

PIT BULL

Stop !

DOBERMAN

Stop what?!

PIT BULL

Stop breathing!!

The Doberman holds his breath. The Pit Bull also.

PANT! PANT! PANT! Someone is still panting...
Inches above them...perched on a box...we find BABE!

AND IT'S ON AGAIN!

Clambering frantically up a PILE OF JUNK...
BABE dislodges some plastic pipes.
They cascade down on the PURSUING DOGS.

AT THE TOP OF THE PILE

The DOGS come at him.

BABE teeters precariously...and topples...
ACROSS THE ALLEY onto...

A MOUNTAIN OF ALUMINUM CANS.

WHOOOPS!...

BABE slides....out of control...HEADLONG DOWN INTO A PLASTIC PIPE.
It's a tight fit, but he slides down towards the bottom.
The PIT BULL doesn't hesitate...he dives in after him!

PLUTHUNK!!...He's stuck...legs thrashing...
Sending the PIPES tumbling like felled trees.

AROUND A BEND

The racket draws more HOMELESS CREATURES from the shadows.
They're treated to an astonishing sight...

A hybrid stretch PIG-DOG.

Up front, the HEAD and FORE LEGS of our BABE...then the long plastic
body...and finally the HIND QUARTERS of the PIT BULL bringing up the rear.

All this hotly pursued by a DOBERMAN.

The excitement is too much for one of the street dogs suffering from Tourettes'
Syndrome. He begins chasing his own tail...

TOURETTES DOG

Pig-dog! Pig-dog!. Hot-diggety-blubber-slit-cat-custard!.

At that moment...

The PIT BULL'S flailing chain SNAGS on a tall STACK OF TYRES.
He is yanked back..UNPLUGGED from the Pipe.

Babe staggers on, still jammed in the pipe.
The DOBERMAN CLAMPS onto the END. He shakes it so furiously that...
BABE manages to pull free.

BUT...

The STACK OF TYRES comes crashing down...
Setting off a chain reaction.
TOWERS of junk collapse forward like DOMINOES!.

BABE skedaddles just ahead of the TIDAL WAVE.
It's GAINING on him!!!

Up ahead, two terrified FERAL CATS escape through a small hole under the
fence...BABE throws himself after the cats.

CRASH!...TONS OF JUNK come thundering down...
Right up against THE FENCE.

BABE squeezes out the other side...INTO THE CLEAR.
BUT...the PIT BULL and the DOBERMAN hurtle up the newly formed
mountain of junk...soar over the fence...and land...

HOT ON THE PIG'S TAIL.

Babe shoots into the nearest opening...a gate propped open by an old manual
LAWNMOWER.
He finds himself in...

THE CLASSIC SUBURBAN YARD

The PIT BULL's chain hooks onto the LAWNMOWER, dragging it along as he
chases BABE past a swing set...through a kiddie pool...and into a TEEPEE which
collapses on top of them.

This full catastrophe disappears into...A WALL OF BUSHES profuse with
FLOWERS...they shake violently.

The LIGHTS from the house come on.

A MAN in pyjamas rushes out onto the back porch to witness the CRAZED
DOGS tearing apart a large DOLL. It's crying 'Mama! Mama!'

The Man turns on a HOSE...FULL BLAST...and trains it on the frenzied
animals...

The PIT BULL turns on the human.
But the MAN escapes into the house...
Leaving the HOSE thrashing around like a mad serpent.

Now he turns on the only target left...
He attacks the DOBERMAN.

DOBERMAN

Hey! Oww! It's ME...!

The Pit Bull has lost the plot. He growls venomously...

PIT BULL

Massacre...slaughter...

DOBERMAN

I'm your pal. Your only pal, doggone it....

PIT BULL

(possessed)

...carnage...WAR!

The Doberman turns....and escapes into the night.

The PIT BULL looks straight into CAMERA and hisses...just one word...

PIT BULL

Annihilation.

THE PARK NEXT DOOR

A strange ghost-like creature zig-zags across the grass...It's BABE shrouded in the TEEPEE.

Blindly, he heads towards a GAZEBO atop of which...perched like gargoyles...are THE THREE CHIMPS.

Fresh from their raid, they seem to have little in the way of food...just a big jar of JELLY BEANS.

But they are smoking cigarettes!

EASY climbs down, grabs the end of the teepee and...uncovers Babe.

Just as...the PIT BULL comes THUNDERING towards them...STILL DRAGGING THE MOWER.

EASY leaps up to the safety of the gazebo. He shrugs at BOB...

EASY

Why get involved...right?

As the Pit Bull closes in...Babe tries to scramble after Easy but it's useless...there's nowhere to go, nothing to do but...

RUN!!!

THE CANAL STREETS

The HOMELESS CREATURES gather on the embankments...drawn by the "entertainment".

The HAPLESS PIG is just a DOG'S BREATH from becoming dead meat.

The PIT BULL is bearing down...

CLOSER and CLOSER.

As if choreographed to the Opera, now blasting FORTISSIMO from the SUSPICIOUS NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE...

They approach the BRIDGES in front of the HOTEL.

A figure appears on the balcony to watch...it's THELONIUS.

On the first BRIDGE, The PIT BULL catches up...

YIPES!...his TEETH tear into Babe's RUMP.

The LAWNMOWER knocks over a newspaper stand and SNAGS the bridge, wiping out a couple of railing posts.

A MOMENTARY REPRIEVE!

As they circuit the bridges...

Time stretches.

BABE in SLOW MOTION...

One agonizing step after another...one searing breath to the next.

NARRATOR

Something broke through the terror...flickerings...
fragments of his short life...the random events that
delivered him to this...his moment of annihilation.

The little PIG can't go on.

NARRATOR

As Terror gave way to exhaustion and exhaustion to
resignation, Babe turned to his attacker...his eyes filled
with one simple question...Why?

The PIT BULL finally brings him down.

Another JUMBO JET flies over...mercifully drowning out the Pig's SQUEALS.

FROM THE SHADOWS...

FACES of the HOMELESS...

FEMALE DOG

Shouldn't somebody do something?

MALE DOG

It's not our business...

Nearby, the CHIMPS look on...cigarettes glowing...

HOTEL WINDOW...

NIGEL and ALAN, the house-bound dogs, peek through the curtains.

NIGEL THE BULLDOG

This is what happens, Alan...on the outside.

ALAN THE MASTIFF

It's the times, Nigel.

FLEALICK can't reach the window sill. All we see is his FLAG...

FLEALICK'S VOICE

What's hap-hap-happening?!

ON THE BALCONY OUTSIDE.. -

THELONIUS, expressionless, looks down at...

The savagery on the BRIDGE...the PIT BULL tossing about the PIG as effortlessly as he did the doll.

ON THE BRIDGE

As fortune has it...the PIT BULL has grabbed BABE - not by the neck - but by the LEATHER COLLAR...

Which BREAKS!

Sending BABE tumbling...

Through the BROKEN RAILINGS...

Down into the CANAL!

Without a moment's hesitation...

The PIT BULL launches himself out OVER THE WATER.

BUT...

The MOWER hooks around the fallen NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINE and...

The PIT BULL is PULLED SHORT...

His HIND LEGS hopelessly entangled in the chain, he is suspended upside down...His HEAD just inches from the surface of the water.

And so...

BABE SWIMS AWAY!

The PIT BULL is left swinging with nothing to savage but his own reflection.

Then...his problem gets worse...his writhing causes the CHAIN to SLIP.

Now his nose skims the water!!

He struggles harder...

The MOWER dislodges from the VENDING MACHINE.

The DOG drops.

The MOWER catches on the bridge post...it's STUCK!

The PIT BULL finds himself in a predicament...

DANGLING...his legs in the air...HIS HEAD FULLY UNDERWATER!

ON THE EMBANKMENT...

BABE, shaking himself dry, looks back to see...

The silent struggle of his ATTACKER.

FROM THEIR VANTAGE POINTS...

All the other CREATURES watch mesmerized...waiting for the conclusion of this night's drama...

The PIT BULL is DROWNING!!!

FROM UNDER THE WATER...

We witness his futile thrashing...his agony...and bewilderment.

THE BALCONY...

THELONIUS...behind him at the window, NIGEL and ALAN...and nearby, TUG, the little monkey.

All of them...Still and silent.

As are the creatures on...

THE PAVEMENT BELOW

Frozen in a classic tableau...The CHIMPS, the DISPOSSESSED...and finally...BABE.

We hear the spasmodic splashing...weakening...dying...

FROM UNDER THE WATER

A final shudder...a twitch...and the PIT BULL is...

Still.

HIGH ABOVE THE CANALS...

The whole picture...utterly still.

Silence...except for the sweet sounds of the OPERA.

BACK ON THE PAVEMENT

The HOMELESS turn away...back into the night.

BABE is left...trying to make sense of it all.

BACK ON THE BALCONY

NIGEL and ALAN draw back from their window.
THELONIUS also turns away...

Then...

SPLASH!

The Old Orangutan turns back to see...

BABE

SWIMMING!...

Towards a SMALL BOAT...tethered in the canal.

The HOMELESS ANIMALS re-emerge...'What's going down?'

FROM UNDER THE WATER

The little Pig, dog-paddling like crazy, nudges the STERN of the boat out towards...

The PIT BULL.

AS...

THELONIUS watches in disbelief.

The CHIMPS likewise.

UNDER THE BRIDGE

BABE shoves the BOAT against the dangling body of the PIT BULL.

The dog convulses, his survival impulse reignited.
He begins to grope...searching for a footing on the stern.

AGAIN UNDER WATER

We see that he is succeeding.

FROM THE BOAT

The PIT BULL hauls himself up.
Choking, coughing, sucking in air.
Alive!...But still entangled by the chain.

FROM THE BALCONY

The BYSTANDERS hear a plea from BABE.

BABE

Please! Someone! Give us a hand!

FROM THE WATER

BABE looks up to see...

TUG climb over the bridge railing...and down the chain.
The little monkey looks at BABE and shrugs...

TUG

Dnah taht ro dnah siht?

With a giggle he begins to unclip the Pit Bull's chain from his COLLAR.

BABE makes for the shore as...

The Pit Bull unravels from the chain and flops onto the boat...free.

BABE drags himself...huffing and puffing...up the steps and onto the pavement...

IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL

The HOMELESS gather around the exhausted Pig.

A Pink Poodle...a bedraggled and faded Southern Belle...steps forward.

PINK POODLE

(listlessly)

Kind Sir, kind sir. Can you help me? I have been cruelly
cast out and have nowhere to go.

BABE

B-but how?...what can I...?

PINK POODLE

Please, please. I know you're different from the others. Those that have had their way with me make their empty promises, but they're all lies...lies. I'm cold and afraid and terribly, terribly tired.

BABE

Um...where is your human?

PINK POODLE

They belong to someone else now. Someone younger and prettier...Maybe it was my fault...Maybe if I'd tried harder...

THELONIUS...

watches from above...as the desperate creatures crowd in on BABE. Their pleas tumble over each other...

SCRATCHING DOG

(constantly scratching)

I, I, I, never even h-had a hu-hu...human.

STARVING KITTEN

(the tiniest voice)

I'm hungry.

TOUGH PUP

My human tied me in a bag and threw me in the water.

HIS IDENTICAL TWIN

Me too!

STARVING KITTEN

My tummy hurts.

OLD DOG

Try not to think about it.

The Tourettes DOG starts chasing his tail.

TOURETTES DOG

Yeah, yeah keep yourself busy busy. Blubber-slit-cat-custard. Beg-your-sorry-pardon.

PINK POODLE

Kind sir...You were sent here for a reason. Take pity on us. We are The Excluded and have nowhere to go.

BABE

Well...it is nice and warm inside.

BOB steps forward, cigarette in mouth.

BOB

Not a good idea.

BABE

But they...

BOB

No! No! Negatory! No-ness!

He happens to be carrying the large jar of JELLY BEANS...

OLD DOG

Could that be...food?!

Bob clutches the JAR to his chest...

SCRATCHING DOG

Oh Yum. Oh Yum. Ohyumyumyum.

PINK POODLE

Have mercy...I'm faint with hunger...

The Chimp backs away. The Homeless press in...CLAMOURING.

VARIOUS

Food, food...Can't remember when I last ate...Any little tidbit...Just a lick. A sniff! Food! Food! Food!

From the balcony above...

THELONIUS

Quiet!...Quiet!

The Animals look up.

THELONIUS

(looking along the street)

You'll bring all manner of trouble.

BABE

Perhaps if we all went inside and we all line up, I'm sure there'll be enough to go around.

BOB

Hey...you're talking as if you're the word around here.

A LOW GRUFF VOICE

I'd say he is.

BOB

Who says!?

A low, chilling growl...the animals part...to reveal...

PIT BULL

I'd like to offer up a solution that I feel confident you'll all respond to...

BOB

...Oh?

PIT BULL

Whatever the pig says...goes.

Silence.

PIT BULL

Anyone hostile to the notion?

The HOMELESS animals are effusive in their support.

VARIOUS

No...no...quite to the contrary...No...Whatever he says.
You got it...Absolutely...

PIT BULL

Anybody else?

BOB

Fine by moi.

PIT BULL

Anybody else-else?

They all look up to...THELONIUS.

THELONIUS

It's still just a pig.

He turns and goes inside.

THE FLEALANDS HOTEL

Like creatures into the Ark, the HOMELESS file inside...STREET CATS, MANGEY DOGS and the PINK POODLE survey their new surroundings.

PINK POODLE

Oh my...this recalls the glory days when I was dizzy with privilege. I had my hair styled and my nails manicured each and every day...

Her voice trails up through the atrium...
The resident ANIMALS peer down from their various landings.

NIGEL THE BULLDOG

Riff-raff...with no manners...they'll soil willynilly won't
they Alan?

ALAN THE MASTIFF

Willynilly Nigel.

NIGEL

'Specially those cats!...eeerrgghh!

CHOIR CAT

Will someone slap the dog?

FLEALICK

Hey, watch it...Pussy!

CHOIR CAT

Shove it...Buttsniffer!

OUTSIDE THE HOTEL

BABE watches the last few CREATURES go through the front door...

PIT BULL'S VOICE

Hey...Swine...

Babe turns to the PIT BULL..

PIT BULL

...I want you to have this.

He indicates his SPIKED LEATHER COLLAR which the Little Monkey has
removed.

BABE

(very wary)

Um...that's not necessary.

PIT BULL

Yes it is.

BABE

You're very kind but...

PIT BULL

Oh, I'm anything but kind...in fact I have a professional
obligation to be malicious.

BABE

Then you should change jobs.

PIT BULL

I can't.

BABE

Yes you can.

PIT BULL

It's in the blood line, you see. We were once warriors.
Now there's just the urge...

BABE

That's no excuse.

PIT BULL

A murderous shadow lies hard across my soul.

Babe ponders on this.

BABE

So...should I have let you drown?

PIT BULL

Most would have...Pig, if you were to wear my collar...it
would honour me.

BABE

...I see.

INSIDE THE HOTEL

The fire light gives the ATRIUM a cozy glow...

All the ANIMALS...the homeless and the housebound...have formed an orderly
line winding down the stairs and across the foyer.

At the head of the line...

The little monkey, TUG, reaches down into the jar and grabs a few JELLY
BEANS.

One by one, each animal partakes from his outstretched hand.

This ritual is overseen by an unlikely pair...

A PIG wearing a SPIKED LEATHER COLLAR...and his ever-watchful PIT BULL.

Murmured voices repeat the following INCANTATION...

Pit Bull.....*Thank the Pig.*
 Animal.....*Thank you Pig.*
 Babe.....*You're welcome..*

Next in line...The CHIMPS.
 First ZOOTIE gets her Jelly Beans.

PIT BULL
 Thank the Pig.

ZOOTIE
 Thank you Little Thingy.

BABE
 (embarrassed)
 You're welcome...Zootie.

Now it's BOB's turn.

PIT BULL
 Thank the Pig.

Bob takes the Jelly Beans...but says nothing.

PIT BULL
 Come Again?

BABE
 (whispers to the Pit Bull)
 It's okay. Really.

PIT BULL
 (to Bob)
 Hey YOU!

BOB
 (begrudgingly)
 Thanks.

BABE
 (sincerely)
 Don't mention it. You're awfully welcome.

PIT BULL
 And some for you.

Jelly Beans for EASY. He nods shyly to Babe.

EASY
 Thank you...y-y'Honor.

ALONE IN FUGLY'S APARTMENT...

THELONIUS listens to the proceedings as...
He takes the last flake from a container of fish food
And feeds it to the FEISTY FISH.

BACK IN THE FOYER...

STARVING KITTEN

I'm still hungry.

TINY DOG

Coupla Jelly beans don't even hit the bottom.

ZOOTIE

My tummy feels all...thingy.

BOB

I know Honey, we did all the work. We should get the
biggest share.

ZOOTIE moans.

BOB

What about another Suck'n'Puff?

ZOOTIE

No Baby...

She puts his hand on her swollen belly. Bob puts his ear to it...listening...

EASY

What?...What's wrong?

Bob looks up. A smile.

BOB

Nothing.

NARRATOR

And so, Dear Ones, this topsy-turvy night was to end
with a beginning...

Chapter Heading

SANCTUARY'S END

A TABLEAU

The ASSEMBLY of animals.

A firelight makes a fan of their shadows and...at their centre...lies ZOOTIE.

NARRATOR

This event that weaves a thread from past to future
soothed the tired hearts of those assembled...and for a
while, at least...they put aside their uncertainties.

Now we see what's cradled in Zootie's arms...

The cutest, sweetest, tiniest PAIR of CHIMPS you ever did see!

One of them sneezes...teensy baby sneezes.

EASY

I'm an uncle.

BOB

(in wonder)

Twice.

Easy raises his hand.

EASY

Who's like us?!

High Fives.

BOB & EASY

Damn Few!

Zootie, gazing adoringly at her TWINS...

ZOOTIE

Yeah...Damn few.

The Animals draw closer, with their congratulations...

VARIOUS

Well done! Congratulations Mom! Well bite my tail!
They're so cute! They've got their father's ears!

THELONIUS stands at the door of Fugly's apartment. He looks on dispassionately.

PIT BULL

On behalf of us all...I'm sure the er...Chief would like to...um...extend a special welcome. So...LISTEN UP.

All eyes turn to Babe.

BABE

Well...um...well...I...er...I...

Then, to the tune of Jingle Bells...

BABE

(sings)

La, la, la.

La, la, la...

The Pit Bull lends his voice in support.
So do the Kitten and the Tiny Dog...

HIGH ON A NEARBY CHURCH

In the arms of the stone angel...

FERDINAND THE DUCK pricks up his ears...Babe's familiar '*La, La, La..*' wafts across the rooftops.

BACK AT THE HOTEL

Now, the CHOIR CATS join in...A rousing OPERATIC version!

LA, LAAAAAA ...

The joy catches like a grass fire...

To THELONIUS's dismay, even the FEISTY FISH joins in.

THELONIUS

Sshhh!

THE ANIMALS...RAISE...THE...ROOF.

LA, LA, LA...LA, LA. HEY!

FROM THE SWANKY HOUSE OPPOSITE...

The *La, la, la* sounds like a cacophany of WOOFING, MEOWING and HOWLING.

A curtain is drawn back...

SUSPICIOUS NEIGHBOR

My God, Roger! The place is teeming! Overrun with filthy animals!

INSIDE

BABE throws back his head...singing his lungs out...

And there...up above...tapping his beak on the TOWER WINDOW is the wonderfully familiar face of...FERDINAND THE DUCK!

Astonished, BABE starts up the stairs. The PIT BULL follows.

Hold on the THREE MICE singing their tiny lungs out.

ON THE DOG'S LANDING...

BABE

Oh Ferdinand.

FERDINAND

Give us a peck. C'mon Pig...kisskisskisskiss!...

(looking around)

Who are these losers?

(indicating the Pit Bull)

Who's this?

PIT BULL

I'm his Conflict Resolution Consultant.

FERDINAND

(back to Babe)

What's goin' on here? You look...different.

BABE

Yeah well...this place can really take it outta ya.

FERDINAND

Tell me about it...But hey. I'm with my pig, my lucky, lucky pig...Li'l ol' Ferdy. Snug and safe at last!

THE FRONT DOOR

SMASH!!! A Fist shatters a glass panel...

A GLOVED HAND reaches in and unlocks the door.

HUMANS enter...Several of them.

The ANIMALS freeze.

These Kafkaesque figures are...THE AUTHORITIES.

A WOMAN in a lab coat turns to a Motorcycle COP...

WOMAN IN LAB COAT

Check upstairs.

A RAIDER begins to stroke a CAT. It allows itself to be picked up.

Another RAIDER offers food pellets...

PINK POODLE

Ooooooooo, well bite my tail.

Up on her hind legs, she prances across to him and...rolls on her back.

SECOND FLOOR BALCONY

PIT BULL

(under his breath)

Doll. Don't go there.

GROUND FLOOR

But...pink tail wagging...the POODLE is led out the door.

TOP FLOOR

The CYCLE COP calls down to the others...

CYCLE COP

No-one home!

FRONT DOOR

A RAIDER sticks up a NOTICE of Impoundment.

SECOND FLOOR BALCONY

FERDINAND

Feet! Feet! Time to retreat!

FERDINAND runs directly into the CYCLE COP who grabs him by the neck.

COP -
(laughing)

Hey...Supper!

BABE

Raarrgh!

He turns to see an angry Pig...doing it's best Pit Bull impersonation.

COP

Yo...breakfast!

His joke is short lived because...

The ENRAGED PIT BULL comes charging past Babe.

As the Cop reaches for his gun...

The Pit Bull lunges for his throat...knocking him down.

Ferdinand gets away.

As the Cop is being SAVAGED, another Raider, the heavily padded BIG GUY, leaps over Babe and...starts beating the PIT BULL.

THE ANIMALS...

...watch the SHADOW PLAY on the wall above.

The TRUNCHEON beating down again and again!

Among them...THELONIUS.

OUTSIDE

FROM HIGH ABOVE THE HOTEL...

CATS and DOGS pour out every window and chimney pot...
scattering over the rooftops and through the streets.

AT THE BASEMENT WINDOW...

A Little Dog escapes through the bars.

A Medium Dog squeezes out behind him.

A Large Dog gets stuck.

And a RAIDER hauls him back inside.

BACK IN THE FOYER

The COP comes down the stairs rubbing his neck.

The BIG GUY is dragging away the PIT BULL...now restrained by a grotesque MUZZLE with a lock on it.

SECOND FLOOR

BABE looks on helplessly...

Beyond him there is a very strange item of furniture...
A trembling LAMPSHADE with a FEATHERED base on DUCK LEGS.
Yes...it's FERDINAND!

GROUND FLOOR

RAIDERS throw an ARMCHAIR aside to reveal...

ZOOTIE, cowering in the corner, clutching her BABIES.

They are about to throw a NET over her when...
BOB leaps down in front of her.
He TEARS THE NET AWAY...yanking the assailants off their feet.

A RAIDER goes for his tranquilizer gun.

Bob throws his arms protectively around Zootie and the Twins.

He's SHOT!...a DART in the back!
He reels around...bewildered...trying to pull it out.
ZAP!...a DART in the chest...
Bob wrenches it out.
ZAP!...another DART thuds into his body.

ZOOTIE looks up...desperately...to THELONIUS. He just stands there.

The TRANQUILIZERS are working on BOB.
He's going...
Going...
Down!
They throw a NET over his limp body and drag him away.

BABE comes down the stairs, trying to see what's happening.

ZOOTIE

Please...Thelonius! Do something!

Thelonius watches for a moment...then turns away.

As he retreats into Fugly's apartment, he locks eyes with BABE.

THELONIUS
(poisonously)

You...(did this)!

NOW...

A Raider corners ZOOTIE with an ELECTRIC CATTLE PROD!
 But no-one's going to touch her babies!
 She swipes the Cattle Prod out of his hand.
 He reaches for his DART GUN but it's gone. He looks up to see...
 TUG running off with it.

A lucky break for ZOOTIE because...
 Behind her, the DUMB WAITER door flies open...and EASY leaps out!

EASY

Zootie! Quick!

He helps them into the Dumb Waiter and pushes it out of sight up into the shaft.

The RAIDERS advance on EASY.

One of them reaches down from the landing above with a 'COME-ALONG'.
 Easy grabs the noose and yanks it hard.
 As the Raider struggles to hold his footing...
 A PACK of CIGARETTES falls from his pocket...bounces on EASY's head...and
 lands at the little Chimp's feet.

The good ol' SUCK'N'PUFF!

Easy reaches for the PACK...but it's kicked away by the WOMAN in the Lab Coat.
 She picks it up and offers it to the Chimp...luring him.
 As he reaches out...
 She tosses the CIGARETTES into...a CAGE.

HE RUSHES STRAIGHT IN AFTER THEM!
 The cage door drops...he's TRAPPED!

Before he knows what's happened, EASY is carted away.

BACK AT THE DUMB WAITER...

A RAIDER pulls hard on the rope, trying to bring ZOOTIE back down.

RAIDER

It's stuck.

Others run up to...

THE FIRST FLOOR

And open the DUMB WAITER door...the shaft is empty!
 ZOOTIE must be on the...

RAIDERS

Next floor!

The Raiders run past BABE...their footsteps like thunder.
The little Pig cowers back into FUGLY'S KITCHEN.

UP ON THE SECOND FLOOR

The RAIDERS rush to the DUMB WAITER.

ZOOTIE's hairy FINGERS are all that can be seen protruding from the shaft.

Now they know why it's stuck!

She has jammed her hand between the Dumb Waiter and the ledge so that the Raiders below cannot pull her back down to the ground floor.

One of them tries to prize her fingers free.
But she won't...let...go!

CYCLE COP

Let me at it.

Grabbing his GUN by the barrel, he's about to give Zootie's hand an almighty THWACK...

WOMAN IN LAB COAT

(stopping him)

Uh-uh! Not for cracking knuckles.

Just behind them...

The TREMBLING 'LAMP' can't take the pressure any more and bolts with that distinctive waddle into...

THE LANDLADY'S APARTMENT

FERDINAND the 'LAMP' shoots under the bed!

BACK TO...

ZOOTIE's predicament...

Her HAND remains resolutely jammed in the DUMB WAITER.

WOMAN IN LAB COAT

(shouting)

On the count of three! One!...Two!...

ON THE GROUND FLOOR

THE RAIDER

...Three!

The Raider lets the rope go!...RELEASING the DUMB WAITER...so that...

BACK UPSTAIRS...

ZOOTIE and her Twins spring up into the view.

Immediately, the door behind them slides open and...
The BIG GUY shoves them forward...into a NET!

ON THE FIRST FLOOR

RAIDERS storm past FUGLY'S LIVING ROOM.
One of them stops.

RAIDER

Get a loada this!

They peer through the door...

THELONIUS stands waiting in the middle of the room.
In his arms, he holds...Fugly's Blanket...a small bag...and...
The FISH BOWL containing the FEISTY FISH.

From his hiding place in the kitchen, BABE watches as...
The RAIDERS advance on the Orangutan.

RAIDER

Careful. They're incredibly strong.

But Thelonus offers no resistance. He simply stands there.

Two RAIDERS sneak up and...thuggishly...NET HIM FROM BEHIND!
The Fish Bowl SMASHES to the floor!

As they drag the Old Fellow away, he looks back at...
The FEISTY FISH...left flapping on the floor!

BABE hurries over to the FISH.
He is joined by...the THREE MICE.

FISH
(gasping)

Mercy...Mercy...

Babe stands there...staring at the dying fish...when...
 A NOOSE drops around his neck!
 The BIG GUY...loaded up with a couple of cats...drags Babe away with a 'COME-ALONG'.

The FISH is left...flapping...gasping...

THE STAIRCASE -VARIOUS LEVELS

A procession of the Captured.

First...the Raiders dragging ZOOTIE,
 Then those man-handling THELONIUS,
 Followed by the BIG GUY with BABE.

MEANWHILE, IN THE LANDLADY'S APARTMENT

From the darkness under the BED...

FERDINAND

A-a-ah-chooo!
 (suddenly nasal)
 ...Are there any cat's in here?

FLEALICK'S VOICE

Cats? Cats?! No way!...No cat would dare come in here!

FERDINAND

But I'm allergic to ca-cA-CA-AAH-CHOO!
 (very nasal)
 I'm telling ya, there are cats in here.

FLEALICK'S VOICE

Right!

Passing the door...
 The CYCLE COP hears the muffled barks and yeowls of a CAT'n'DOG FIGHT.

He lifts the bed, revealing...
 A Duck, a Dog-on-Wheels and a DOZEN CATS.
 They SCATTER.

FERDINAND shoots through the Cop's legs.
 But FLEALICK doesn't make it.

As he is carried off...
 NIGEL and ALAN emerge from a WARDROBE in a panic.

NIGEL THE BULLDOG

Flealick! Flealick!

ALAN THE MASTIFF

Flealick, Nigel!

OUT ON THE SECOND FLOOR LANDING

FERDINAND charges around the corner and straight into another RAIDER.
He pulls a hard left...LAUNCHES himself through the railings...and plummets...
Towards...

THE GROUND FLOOR

FLUMP!...He lands on the head of BIG GUY who is dragging BABE.
The Big Guy falls...
Against a bookcase which crashes onto a table, knocking over a vase and a
potplant.

In the process, BABE breaks free!
Dragging his 'Come-Along', he races back upstairs towards...

FUGLY'S APARTMENT

Where...
To the dismay of the MICE...
SLURP!...BABE sucks THE FISH up into his mouth!

Then, he races into the kitchen...and stops at the OPEN WINDOW.

Taking careful aim...
Blows out his cheeks and...
THWOO!...spits the FEISTY FISH out the window into...

THE CANAL BELOW

Where the little Fellow swims away to...FREEDOM!

BACK IN THE KITCHEN

TUG appears and gives BABE the 'thumbs-up'.

The BIG GUY thunders into the room!

BABE has no choice.
He clambers up to the window....

And DIVES...for the Canal.

The BIG GUY lunges after him...grabbing the handle of the 'Come-Along' which leaves Babe dangling over the sidewalk.

Just then...the Little Monkey 'gooses' the Big Guy...
Who tumbles...out the window...and INTO THE CANAL!

IN THE ALLEY BEHIND THE HOTEL

The CYCLE COP carries FLEALICK to a VAN...
Where the other RAIDERS have been loading ANIMALS into cages.

The Cop hands Flealick to someone inside the van...
And just as the ever-faithful NIGEL and ALAN leap in after their little pal...
Flealick is TOSSED OUT!

MAN IN VAN

This one's useless. Look at him.

The Doors slam SHUT!
NIGEL and ALAN are locked inside.
Flealick goes crazy, snapping at the ankles of the WOMAN in the Lab Coat.
She kicks him away.

Meanwhile...
The BIG GUY arrives...dripping wet.

From the shadows, BABE and TUG watch as...
The RAIDERS climb into their VEHICLES.

The Woman's DRESS catches in the door because Flealick has the hem clamped firmly in his teeth.

The CONVOY moves off...and FLEALICK isn't letting go!

BABE comes out of the shadows...

BABE

Flealick. Let go!...LET GO!!...FLEALICK!...

FROM THE ROOF OF THE HOTEL

FERDINAND watches BABE and TUG chase after the convoy.

FERDINAND

Pig. Pig. Whaddaya doing to me?!

Reluctantly...he follows.

THE CONVOY - JUST BEFORE DAWN

The MOTOR CYCLE COP leads the OFFICIAL CAR and the ANIMAL VAN through the empty streets.

The RAIDERS are unaware that...

A little Dog-on-Wheels, clinging to a dress, is rocketing along between the MASSIVE WHEELS of the VAN.

The VAN veers left to overtake the Official Car...

WHOA!...Flealick swerves right...and the dress begins to rip!

The VAN veers again...and so does Flealick...ripping the dress even more!

Sending him CLOSER and CLOSER to the monstrous BACK WHEELS until...

His little wheels bounce off the Van's...burning rubber.

He...is...going...to...be...squashed!

But...

As the VAN roars around a corner...

The piece of dress TEARS OFF IN HIS MOUTH!

Flealick HURTLES across the road and...

TUMBLE-CRASH-BANG!...into the gutter of...

AN EMPTY BACKSTREET

Moments later, BABE, dragging his 'Come-along', rounds the corner and runs towards...

The tiny figure of FLEALICK, lying flat on his back in the gutter.

Joined by FERDINAND and TUG, the Pig stares down at the little Dog...

The only movement...one wonky wheel...spinning slowly.

Babe nudges the frail body.

BABE

Flealick?...Flealick!...

He licks the little fella's snout. One red eye opens.

BABE

Can you hear me?

Flealick's dazed reply is muffled by the piece of TORN DRESS in his mouth.

BABE

Huh?

TUG removes the piece of dress.

FLEALICK

(barely audible)

Don't worry. I got their scent. Flip me over.

BABE

Are you okay?

FLEALICK

Yeah. Yeah. Hurry. Hurry.

They yank him upright.

Flealick clears his head with a good shake.

FLEALICK

(convincing himself)

Feelin' good. Feelin' peppy.

Despite his blocked nose, he tries to sniff the air...

FLEALICK

They went this-a-way.

He's facing back towards the HOTEL!

BABE

(sniffing the air)

Actually Flealick...I think it's...that way.

FERDINAND

Wait a minute. Whaddya doing?!

BABE

It's all in the hooter, Ferdy, the shnoz.

FERDINAND

The what?!

BABE

The olfactory instrument.

FERDINAND

(rising hysteria)

Pig, Pig you're unraveling here. Pull yourself together and listen to reason. A. They're long gone. B. They were not nice people. C is for Kamikaze. And D is for Delusional which is what you are in the head!

BABE

Ferdy.

FERDINAND

Face it. You're just a little pig in the big city! What can you possibly do?! What can ANYONE do?! WHY EVEN TRY?!!!

Silence...as Babe considers this.

Then...off camera...

The SQUEAK of Flealick's WONKY WHEEL.

Babe turns to see...

A battered, crippled, half blind dog with no sense of smell, heading off heroically into the night.

As the Pig weighs up his options, he turns to the little Monkey.

BABE

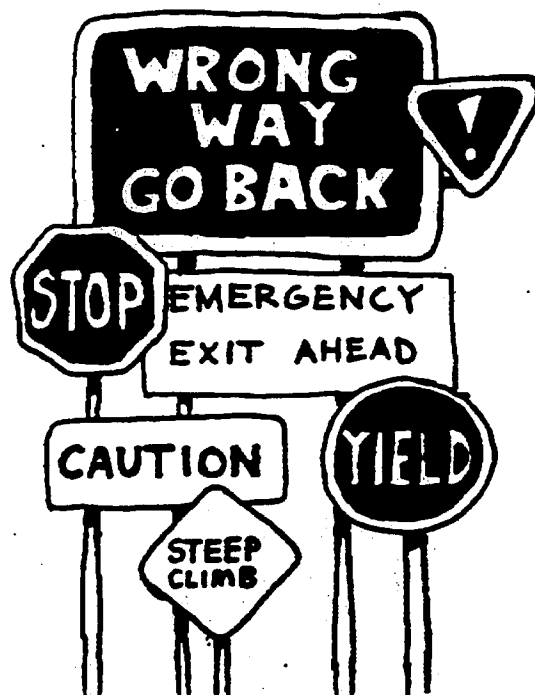
Would you help me off with this, please?

Tug lifts the 'Come-Along' off his head and...

Babe trots after Flealick.

FERDINAND

Ferdinand the Duck. Witness to insanity.



Chapter Heading

WHERE DO WE BELONG?**OVER THE GRAND BRIDGE TO THE CITY...**

A little Monkey rides on the back of a Pig, leading a Dog-on-Wheels, followed by a nervous, waddling Duck.

Empty streets. A golden dawn.

IN AN ALLEY

The sun backlights the steam pouring from subterranean vents.
BABE turns a corner...sniffing the air...

BABE

Let's try...um...let's see...um...this way I think...

He leads the tiny Band of Animals past great piles of garbage.

NARRATOR

Sometimes we discover our talents only through necessity...Babe, who had never used his nose for anything but the piggish pursuit of food, soon found he could make his way through the trickiest of smellscapes.

Tilt up to the following cluster of signs...

BAKEHOUSE FISH MARKET **BREWERY**

MEN'S RESTROOM *FRESH COFFEE*

ANOTHER ALLEY - LATER

Humans pass...a truck goes by...then...

BABE cautiously pokes his nose around the corner...

NARRATOR

As the day wore on, he became quite the virtuoso.

He sniffs the air...

BABE

Yes...This way!

NARRATOR

Eventually, he felt so in tune with his Hooter that he half believed it was talking to him.

A FACE actually appears on BABE's...

LITTLE PINK SNOUT

It speaks!

LITTLE-FACE-ON-SNOUT

I do believe we're here.

And sure enough...around the next corner...

LITTLE-FACE-ON-SNOUT

DADAAA!!!

There it is...The RAIDER's VAN, parked outside a BUILDING on a...

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL COMPLEX

SOMEWHERE INSIDE...

A Photographer takes MUG SHOTS of...

THELONIUS...unclothed and held against a measuring board.

FLASH!...Left profile.

FLASH!...Right profile.

FLASH!...Now it's the NEW-BORN CHIMPS.

ZOOTIE and the other ANIMALS, also unclothed, watch from their cages.

Someone else is watching too...

TUG, the little monkey is sneaking a look through the window.

OUTSIDE THE BUILDING

He clambers down a pipe and peeks into...

THE WINDOW BELOW

He can't believe his eyes!...

RABBITS...ROWS OF THEM...SMOKING!

Their heads protrude from metal boxes.

Hooked up to face masks, they are forced to inhale cigarette smoke.

This is a Research Lab.

TUG takes off...

Sliding down the drain pipe until he lands in...

THE COURTYARD

Where BABE, FLEALICK and FERDINAND are concealed in some bushes.

The LITTLE MONKEY gesticulates and gibbers hysterically.

TUG

Eryehtginodgnizzzoohlbirret!!

Sgnihztot!!!!tdoogtoplaaeryeht!!!!...

FLEALICK

Let's go get 'em!

But Flealick doesn't get very far because...

Babe shoves his trotter between the spokes of his WHEEL.

Just as well...

Humans...hospital staff...pass directly in front of them.

BABE

If we get caught, we won't be able to help anybody.

IN A CITY COURTROOM

A JUDGE is listening to the pleas of a defendant...

MRS HOGGETT

(delivered at an astonishing speed)

...I've given myself a good hard talking to. I said 'Esme...You've let Arthur down. You've let yourself down. And you've let the Pig down. What are you, Esme Hoggett, if you can't look after a helpless creature that has been placed in your care and trusts you!?...Sir, I put to you a simple question. What is the worth of a Pig? As a general rule I used to dismiss Pigs. But a Pig became my husband's best friend. And I have to confess that made me a little jealous...But not anymore. So go ahead. Lock me in jail! Bind me in chains!...The minute I am free I shall march straight back into those streets and continue my search!...

As the jabber continues, NARRATION takes over...

NARRATOR

The Judge had never heard anyone speak so many words in so short a time. Evidently, this was a woman of clear conscience and good intent. Besides, he grew up on a farm and had a fondness for Pigs...but that's another story.

For the first time, we see the JUDGE's face...pink and round with small twinkly eyes. He looks uncannily like a PIG.

JUDGE

Case dismissed!!!

OUTSIDE THE COURT HOUSE - DUSK

MRS HOGGETT...her clothes dried solid with glue...moves like a walking ironing board down the steps and past...

The Scales of Justice.

BACK AT THE HOSPITAL COMPLEX

It's dark and the courtyard is deserted.

INSIDE

Staff leave the Research building.

When the coast is clear, FLEALICK emerges from under the stairwell. He looks up...towards...

THE TOP FLOOR

Where two TECHNICIANS emerge from a room, carrying an empty cage.

One of them kicks the DOOR shut...revealing...

BABE, FERDINAND and TUG crouching unseen behind it.

When the Technicians are gone, TUG leaps on to Babe's back and turns the handle of the door...

THE DARKENED ROOM

BABE

Hello? hello?

A familiar voice...THELONIUS lifts his head...
 The captured ANIMALS press themselves against the bars of their cages to see...
 Their RESCUER silhouetted in the light streaming through the open door.

Hushed voices...

BOB'S VOICE

It's the Pinkness!

PIT BULL'S VOICE

Chief!

PINK POODLE'S VOICE

I knew he'd come.

TOURETTES DOG

Hot-diggety-doggy-doo!

BABE

Shh-shh! We have to be quiet.

FROM THE STAIRWELL

FLEALICK watches the TECHNICIANS load the cage into the truck.

One of them is coming back!!!

TECHNICIAN

I'll just lock up.

THE DARKENED ROOM

TUG and the CHIMPS free the DOGS and CATS from their cages.

Still in his padlocked Muzzle...

THE PIT BULL

Chief, I'm proud of ya.

Voicing their gratitude, the Animals gather around BABE.

FERDINAND

Okay. Okay. You all know the term 'Survival of the Fastest'? Well I got an idea. We split into two groups. The fast ones come with me. The slow ones stay behind and sacrifice themselves.

BABE

Ferdinand!

FERDINAND

Well that way we don't all die. I think that's only reasonable don't you?

BABE

May I suggest we stay calm, maintain a tight formation and proceed in an orderly fashion.

FERDINAND

And may he suggest we do it real fast.

EASY

Where's Thelonius?

They turn to see...

THELONIUS, in the corner, putting his clothes back on.

BOB

Whaddaya doing?

He stops...his shirt half on, half off.

THELONIUS

I...I'm not dressed.

BABE

Mr Thelonius...Time to go.

THELONIUS

But...I'm not...dressed.

ZOOTIE

Thelonius. You're an Oranguthingy.

Thelonius stands frozen with indecision...

THELONIUS

But...I...I...

BOB

This is insaniary!

IN THE STAIRWELL

FLEALICK is 'having kittens' because...

The TECHNICIAN is almost at the top of the stairs!

THE DARKENED ROOM

NIGEL

Quiet! Quiet!

ALAN

Shoosh!!

FOOTSTEPS! Coming this way!

The ANIMALS scatter...

But for THELONIUS...who stands, exposed and vulnerable, in the light.

EASY takes his hand and pulls him back into the shadows.

The TECHNICIAN IS AT THE DOOR! He glances in...

Everything seems in order.

He closes the door...and LOCKS IT!

The lights go out...the footsteps recede...

And the ANIMALS re-emerge.

In the corner, THELONIUS buttons his coat...He has finished dressing.

WIPE TO:

THE FLEALANDS HOTEL

A HAND reaches through the broken pane of glass and opens the front DOOR.

It's MRS HOGGETT.

She looks around at the devastation.

Moving up the stairs...she STOPS...and stares intently at the floor.

There...next to a broken vase and fallen potplant...she sees...

Small footprints in the mud.

As she bends down to examine them...

Her glue-starched dress RIPS right up the back.

But Mrs Hoggett is undeterred...

Because the prints are unmistakably those of a Pig!

MRS HOGGETT

Pig?...Pig. Pig-pig-pig!!!!

The PRINTS lead her into...

FUGLY'S LIVING ROOM.

Where she finds...

The LANDLADY sitting slumped by the window.

MRS HOGGETT

Is the Pig here?

LANDLADY

Gone.

MRS HOGGETT

But he was here?

LANDLADY

They've all gone. Every last one of them.

MRS HOGGETT

What happened dear?

LANDLADY

This used to be such a lovely neighbourhood. People caring...keeping an eye out for each other. They really did. What's the world coming to? I'm away one night...just one night...with my Uncle Fugly...on his death bed!

She's sobbing.

MRS HOGGETT

Oh come here my Dear.

A comforting embrace.

LANDLADY

(letting it all out)

It's my fault. I thought I could make a true place. A kind place...Where they could be...okay. But how can you do that here? It was stupid for me to even try. And now...Fugly's gone...but...but...I wasn't so stupid was I? Because we have to belong somewhere, don't we?

MRS HOGGETT

Dear...Who did this ?

LANDLADY

What did the animals ever do to her?

MRS. HOGGETT

Who...who?

LANDLADY

Her! That!...
 (points to the house across the canal)
 ...HER!!

Mrs. Hoggett leaps to her feet...and her dress falls apart.

MRS HOGGETT

Right! Clothes!...Got anything that will fit me?

OUTSIDE - NIGHT

Mrs HOGGETT comes charging out of the Hotel...

Wearing Fugly Floom's CLOWN SUIT.

Dragging the LANDLADY in her wake, she storms across the bridge towards...

THE SUSPICIOUS NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE

The NEIGHBOR opens the door to...

MRS HOGGETT

WE WANT OUR ANIMALS!!!

WIPE:

BACK TO THE RESEARCH BUILDING

The Animals are gone...and it's obvious where...

A Teeter-Totter TOWER of cages...boxes...stools...chairs...reaches up to...

An open ACCESS HOLE in the ceiling.

OUTSIDE

An extraordinary sight.

Several storeys up...

The PIG leads a line of ANIMALS across an AIR-CONDITIONING PIPE which connects the Research Lab to another Hospital Building.

LITTLE DOG

So where we going?

PINK POODLE

Does it matter? In this whole wide world is there anywhere that's truly really safe?

ZOOTIE

Yeah, for my babies?

BABE

Well, there is a place I know where everyone is inclined to be fair and good to each other...but it's ever so far away, and I'm not even sure it's there anymore.

EASY

(to Zootie)

I think he's talking about the 'Fun'.

WAY...WAY DOWN BELOW

FLEALICK scuttles into the shadows...

A WOMAN in a billowing ball gown runs by...unaware of the antics above. Further on, we see a MAN in tails, carrying a DOUBLE BASS...

ALONG THE PIPE

ALAN the Mastiff completes the precarious journey.

He is the last to cross except for...

NIGEL the Bulldog...frozen with fear...at the other end.

Across the void...

NIGEL

Alan! Alan!

BABE

Nigel. Get your b-b-big bottom over here.

NIGEL

I'm making a fool of myself, aren't I Alan? I'm absolutely rigid with anxiety, aren't I? I can't do it, can I Alan?

For the very first time in his life, Alan disagrees with Nigel...

ALAN

Yes you can, Nigel.

PIT BULL

(through his muzzle)

Nige...You're a Big brave Wolf, bred for battle against the Brute, the Beast, the Bear and the Bull!

NIGEL

I'm not a wolf. I'm just a big fat scaredy cat!

CAT

That's it. Think cat. Pretend you're a cat.

BABE

Yes Nigel. You're a cat!

NIGEL

I'm a cat. I'm a very graceful,
(one step)...graceful,
(another step)...svelte,
(two steps)...sure-footed pussycat.
(he freezes)...What if I fall?!!

For a moment, no-one has an answer then...

FERDINAND

Pretend you're a birdy.

BABE shoots Ferdinand a look.

TOURETTES DOG

You're a cat! Slit-crazy-custard Dog-Cat!

Nigel inches along the rest of the pipe...

NIGEL

I'm a cat. I'm a cat. I'm a cat. I'm a cat...

FLEALICK watches from the alleyway below.

The Bull Dog finally makes it across.

PIT BULL

(muzzled)

Yeah. Now wasn't that great for your self esteem?

NIGEL

It was, wasn't it Alan?

ALAN

Darn Tootin' Nigel!

PINK POODLE

(making eyes at the Pit Bull)

Would you like to work on my self esteem?

MEANWHILE...

MRS HOGGETT and the LANDLADY are on their way.

They are riding a prop from Fugly's show...

A TANDEM BICYCLE...with Trick Wheels.

Peddalling maniacally through heavy traffic, the women bounce up and down like demented pistons.

A CHILDREN'S WARD

All the children are asleep...except for one small BALD BOY.

And he is treated to an enchanting sight...

A PARADE of Chimpanzees, Dogs and Cats...led through the moonlit ward...by a Duck and a Pig.

The last animal, an ORANGUTAN, turns and stares at the little Boy.

The Boy smiles.

OUTSIDE

An AMBULANCE screams into the grounds of the HOSPITAL COMPLEX.

Hanging on to the back, hitching a ride we find...

MRS. HOGGETT and the LANDLADY on their tandem bike.

They pass a number of imposing buildings...

One of them abuzz with activity...fairy lights, limousines, glittering gowns...

MRS HOGGETT lets go of the ambulance. The bike veers off...following a sign to the Research Lab.

As they pass underneath the AIR-CONDITIONING PIPE...

FLEALICK rushes out from the alleyway.

He chases after them...BARKING.

BACK IN THE CHILDREN'S WARD

A NIGHT NURSE turns a corner, surprised to find the little BOY banging on an ELEVATOR DOOR.

NURSE

Gosh little Man. What are you doing here?!

BOY -
 (pointing to the elevator)
 Duck.

As she carries him off, the Boy starts to cry...
 He wants to go back to the ELEVATOR!

DOWN ONE FLOOR

A DOCTOR is chatting to a COUPLE in Evening Dress.
 Behind them, the DOORS of an ELEVATOR glide open.
 Inside...The ESCAPEE ANIMALS stand revealed!
 They stare ahead...barely daring to breathe.

The DOCTOR turns...just as an ORDERLY pushes a stretcher past the
 ELEVATOR.

It obscures the ANIMALS just long enough for the doors to glide shut.

OUTSIDE

FLEALICK leads MRS HOGGETT and the LANDLADY...
 Around a corner...into the ALLEYWAY. It's a dead-end.

Flealick...stops...looks up to the top of the building...and gives a little bark.

A laconic KITCHEN HAND sits having a smoke.

KITCHEN HAND
 Evening.

MRS HOGGETT
 We're looking for some...er...animals.

KITCHEN HAND
 What kind?

MRS HOGGETT
 Fig. Cats. Dogs. Monkeys...that sort of thing.

He stares at them...

KITCHEN HAND
 Uh-huh.

INSIDE THE ELEVATOR

The ANIMALS reach the ground floor.
 They wait for the Doors to slide open but instead...
 The DOORS BEHIND THEM open, revealing...
 A busy KITCHEN...

A CHEF cries out in astonishment and...
 Drops an armful of POTS AND PANS!!!

IN THE ALLEY

The TWO WOMEN respond to the PANDEMONIUM coming from inside...
 Pans clattering...men shouting...dogs barking and...a PIG SQUEALING!

IN THE KITCHEN

The Door opens.
 FLEALICK shoots through the KITCHEN HAND's legs and...
 MRS HOGGETT and the LANDLADY almost knock him off over as they burst inside!

And up ahead...
 There they are. The ANIMALS!!!!...
 Being chased by Chefs and Waiters...with FLEALICK on their tail.

Nothing's going to stop these Women now.
 They charge across the kitchen.

But their ANIMALS are heading through another DOOR.

MRS HOGGETT puts on a spurt.
 She's catching up to them!
 Unfortunately, a CHEF grabs her TRICK BRACES from behind...

MRS HOGGETT

Pig! Pig!

BABE turns to see...an apparition in a CLOWN SUIT!!!

Her braces stretch...and stretch...until they can STREEEEETCH no further.
 She's ALMOST got him!

Then...

Like a loaded sling-shot...she SHOOTS BACKWARDS through the door and
 lands back in the kitchen.

THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT!

INSIDE

BABE...stares at the door.

BABE

It's Her!...

Behind him, THELONIUS is also taken aback.
Who was that in the CLOWN SUIT?

THELONIUS

Himself...

EASY looks at him.

THELONIUS

I thought I saw...Himself.

BABE

Ferdy...The Boss's Wife...She's here!

But FERDINAND's attention is elsewhere...

FERDINAND

Err...Piiiig...can I borrow you for a moment?

BABE turns to find that they are standing smack bang in the middle of...

A CHARITY BANQUET

This is a High Society affair...

Bejewelled Matriarchs and their Menfolk, in black tie and tails.

To one side, Proud CHEFS stand next to a display of their mastery...
A mountain of Fabulous Food!

Beyond them, a NERVOUS WAITER has constructed...

A GIANT PYRAMID of CHAMPAGNE GLASSES.

He stands on a tall ladder with a Magnum of Champagne...barely daring to breathe.

ALL EYES are on the ANIMALS.

It's The Day the Earth Stood Still.

ON THE STAGE

A GRAND MATRIARCH has been presenting a super-sized CHEQUE to some V.I.P.

She's hoping the Animals are just part of the entertainment.

GRAND MATRIARCH

(feebly)

Oh...what a suprise...I adore surprises...

Tentative hand-clapping...and nervous titters.

ON THE DANCE FLOOR

The CHEFS, WAITERS and a couple of helpful GUESTS advance slowly on the Animals...'shooing' them back towards the kitchen.

FERDINAND is the first to bolt!

Then the Others.

They scatter in all directions...

Causing commotions throughout the ballroom!

Elegant GUESTS jump back in alarm as Animals take cover UNDER TABLES.

With FERDINAND right behind him, BABE runs towards a gaggle of ladies and is lost amongst their voluminous ballgowns.

BOB clears a path through the panicking Humans...

Allowing ZOOTIE...clutching her Twins...to clamber up a column towards...

THE MEZZANINE

Where suddenly...

MRS HOGGETT and the LANDLADY burst through a fire door!

They stand back to back...

Blasting away with FIRE EXTINGUISHERS...

Keeping irate KITCHEN STAFF at bay!

ON THE STAGE

GRAND MATRIARCH

Please...try to stay calm...

TUG jumps up onto her lectern.

GRAND MATRIARCH

ARRRRRGGGH! Security! Call SECURITY!

The Little Monkey starts jabbering into the microphone.

BACK ON THE MEZZANINE

MRS HOGGETT holds off the pursuing KITCHEN STAFF while the LANDLADY races down the stairs towards the dance floor.

Mrs Hoggett makes it to the edge of the BALCONY...

MRS HOGGETT
Come Pig!...COME PIG!

BABE

...emerges from between the gowns of two startled Socialites...followed by FERDINAND.

FROM UNDER A TABLE

...THELONIUS stares up at the Figure in the Clown Suit.

THELONIUS
But it looks like Himself.

EASY
Thelonius, it isn't.

BUT...ON THE BALCONY

MRS HOGGETT is in trouble.
Her PURSUERS, now joined by WAITERS and Macho GUESTS, come at her from all directions...She's surrounded.

Only one way out!

She climbs up onto the balustrade...
Grabs one of the many GOLDEN SASHES slung from the ceiling...
And LEAPS...
Just beyond the grasp of an advancing WAITER.
All he gets is a corner of a TRICK HANDKERCHIEF...
Which streams out of her back pocket like a multi-colored tail as...

SHE SWINGS ACROSS THE ROOM...to the BALCONY on the other side!

ON THE DANCE FLOOR

BABE watches...mesmerized.

BABE

Ferdy...things are looking up!

FERDINAND

Don't cross your bridges before they hatch.

And Ferdy's right, because...

Immediately, Babe is scooped up by a HOT-HEADED CHEF!

Just then, the LANDLADY arrives!

LANDLADY

That your pig? I don't think so!!

She tries to wrestle BABE from the CHEF...while FERDINAND pecks at his feet.
But WAITERS grab the Landlady from behind!

The Crowd voices its approval.

ON THE BALCONY

MRS HOGGETT has reached behind her and is tying the GOLDEN SASH to her
TRICK BRACES.

MRS HOGGETT

I AM ESME CORDELIA HOGGETT!
AND I'VE COME FOR MY ARTHUR'S PIG!!!

Now that she has everyone's attention...

She LAUNCHES OFF...

Bungee Jumping straight for the CHEF and BABE!

Unfortunately...

She hits the ground short of her target and bounces...out of control...back up to
the balcony. She is empty-handed, but for the Chef's Hat.

BABE

...groans his disappointment and struggles to free himself.

MEANWHILE...THE LANDLADY

...is being dragged off by the WAITERS.

They are stopped by the GROWLS and SNARLS of three ferocious Dogs...

NIGEL, ALAN and FLEALICK!

The WAITERS back away.

BABE

...has almost broken free when a Guest comes to the aid of the Hot-headed CHEF.

OTHER ANIMALS

...emerge from the CROWD to join the little group forming around the LANDLADY...

Among them, the muzzled PIT BULL and the PINK POODLE.

Next...

EASY

...darts out from under the table where he has been hiding with THELONIUS.
He's heading for the LANDLADY too...

EASY

Come on Thelonius...

But Thelonius hesitates.

EASY turns back for him...

AND IS CAUGHT!

THELONIUS melts back into the crowd...as...

MRS HOGGETT

LAUNCHES off the balcony again!

To the gasps of the CROWD...

SHE SOARS AROUND THE BALLROOM...IN A GREAT ARC...

BOUNCING...like a weightless astronaut...from table to table, freaking the guests.
Then...

She lands flat-footed on a food TROLLEY and...

'SURFS' it across the room towards...

The HOT-HEADED CHEF escaping with her PIG!

The TROLLEY rams him in the back...and hurtles him straight towards a CROWDED table.

In the ensuing collision, BABE is thrown free...

He tumbles across the table top and...

Comes to a soft landing...in a mountain of Creamy Cakes.

MRS HOGGETT IS UNSTOPPABLE.

Continuing her arc...
 She swoops down and...
 'DIVEBOMBS' the Guy who has grabbed EASY!

THELONIUS

...sits undetected next to a HAUGHTY WOMAN.
 He contains his excitement as...EASY escapes across the DANCE FLOOR.

TO CAP IT ALL OFF

Mrs Hoggett swings...hair-raisingly...towards...
 The NERVOUS WAITER perched on top of his ladder,
 Desperately trying to protect his PYRAMID of CHAMPAGNE GLASSES!
 As she glides over the glasses...the Nervous Waiter DUCKS!

THE HAUGHTY WOMAN

...leans towards the dignified fellow sitting just to her left...

HAUGHTY WOMAN

Isn't this appalling?

If she cared to look, she'd realize she'd been talking to an ORANGUTAN.

ON THE DANCE FLOOR

EASY finally makes it to...
 The PROTECTIVE CIRCLE OF ANIMALS around THE LANDLADY.
 Who stands in awe, watching as...

THE AMAZING ESME HOGGETT

...continues her wild flight around the Ballroom.
 She's looking down...searching for BABE.

MRS HOGGETT

Come Pig! Come Pig!

There he is! Down below, staggering away from the Dessert Table.

BABE

...is smeared with pudding, and a little disoriented.

FERDINAND

Incoming! Incoming!

Babe just gets out of the way of...

THE HOT-HEADED CHEF

...who is CHARGING across the dance floor!

This man is absolutely determined to stop Mrs Hoggett.

He jumps onto a table and...

To the Cheers of the Crowd...

Launches himself at her legs!

Their COMBINED WEIGHT puts enormous strain on the GREAT CHANDELIER from which the golden sashes are hung...

And...

WAY UP IN THE ROOF

Small fragments of plaster drift down on...

ZOOTIE and BOB who have taken refuge with their BABIES in the Chandelier.

DOWN BELOW

The HOT-HEADED CHEF clings doggedly to Mrs Hoggett's shoes...

Her TRICK STOCKINGS stretch and streeetchh until...

Her legs look ten feet long!

BABE

...watches concerned.

Now the CHEF is swinging the BOSS'S WIFE around and around by her stockings...faster and faster!

BABE

We have to stop him, Ferdy!

FERDY

Oxygen! Oxygen! Pig, don't go there!

The CROWD is treated to the sight of...

A SQUEALING PIG charging across the dance floor.

It runs straight into the knees of the HOT-HEADED CHEF who...

FALLS...yanking the stockings right off the whirling Woman!

MRS HOGGETT

...is FLUNG WIDE...once more into the path of the NERVOUS WAITER!

The Waiter DUCKS...wobbles precariously on top of the ladder...
Almost falling onto his precious PYRAMID OF GLASSES.

Then..
Just as he finds his balance...
MRS HOGGETT swings back!

She SLAMS into him and he topples off the ladder...
Into the Chef's spectacular DISPLAY of FOOD.

As the NERVOUS WAITER scrambles to his feet, he's holding a piece of the
CLOWN SUIT...a BIG YELLOW TAG that reads...

DO NOT PULL

Which is why...

UP ON THE BALCONY...

MRS HOGGETT is BLOWING UP LIKE A BALLOON!

BABE and Ferdinand...
THELONIUS...
The LANDLADY and her Circle of ANIMALS...
Indeed the ENTIRE BANQUET...watches transfixed.

When the TRICK SUIT has fully INFLATED, Mrs Hoggett looks just like the
MICHELIN MAN.

THEN...

BABE runs over towards her.
He clammers up on a side-table...
And standing on his hind legs...
Reaches up the COLUMN...
Trying to get to his BOSS'S WIFE.

Mrs Hoggett hooks her feet on the balustrade and drops forward.
Hanging upside down...
She reaches down the column...trying to get to...
Her ARTHUR'S PIG.

The CROWD murmurs in anticipation...amongst them...THELONIUS.

But the 'Michelin Lady' loses her footing...and goes swinging out across the Ballroom...then...BOUNCES like a huge rubber ball...
Up to THE BALCONY on the other side!

The CROWD's sigh is tinged with disappointment.

THELONIUS

...rises to his feet. THE HAUGHTY WOMAN next to him does a classic double take...and yelps hysterically.

The GUESTS turn to look...all those FACES...Thelonius backs away:

BABE

...is looking across the ballroom to MRS HOGGETT.
He jumps down off the side-table and sets off after her.

BUT...

The Main Doors burst open and three SECURITY GUARDS rush in.
It's all too much for FERDINAND. He starts flapping around in circles.

FROM THE BALCONY

MRS HOGGETT watches as a couple of WAITERS herd BABE...ducking and weaving...towards the SECURITY GUARDS. The Pig is surrounded.

She's about to swoop to his rescue...but...

Across the way, the HOT-HEADED CHEF is also up on the balcony...
Ready to swing out and INTERCEPT HER!

She jumps.

HE jumps!

SWINGING feet first...he slams into her!

The CROWD gasps!

Mrs Hoggett flashes past BABE as she SPINS off her trajectory...out of control...
She just makes it to the opposite balcony.

THELONIUS

...is jolted into action.

To everyone's astonishment...and with impressive grace and speed...he springs up the column...to the balustrade.

He grabs one of the GOLDEN SASHES and...
 SWINGS across the ballroom...LANDING RIGHT NEXT TO...

MRS HOGGETT!

He stares at her...
 She ventures a timid smile.

A SQUEAL!

Down on the dancefloor...
 The SECURITY GUARDS have managed to catch her Pig!!!

MRS HOGGETT looks around, preparing to jump...
 A MAN IN TAILS and a WAITER have also climbed up onto the balustrade...
 Ready to join the HOT-HEADED CHEF in his attempt to thwart her.

DOWN ON THE DANCE FLOOR

The SECURITY GUARD carries BABE...wriggling and squealing...towards an exit.
 But the LANDLADY and her DOGS block his way!

MRS HOGGETT

...makes her move. She launches off again...
 So do the THREE MEN.
 Then THELONIUS!

The CHANDELIER is close to overload.

The CROWD gasps as...
 The FIVE FIGURES swing TOWARDS each other.
 But they miss...
 And arc away in a kind of AERIAL BALLET.
 The CROWD sighs.

On the upswing...MRS HOGGETT turns...lets out a wild Yell and...
 Lines up on the SECURITY GUARD running off with BABE.

BUT...

THELONIUS grabs her and...
 Hanging on to the balustrade, holds her back...just for a moment.

So that....

The THREE MEN are thrown slightly out of sync.
They SWOOP through ahead of Mrs Hoggett, giving her a clear path...

The SECURITY GUARD turns to see...
A FORCE OF NATURE descending...ESME CORDELIA HOGGETT!
She bounces into him and...
Wrests BABE away as...
Behind her, the THREE MEN COLLIDE and plummet to the ground!

Time slows...

The Farmer's Wife leaves the chaos below as...
She SOARS UP towards us...

ARTHUR'S PIG SAFELY IN HER ARMS...AT LAST.

Now...A VICTORY LAP.
One balletic bounce after another.
Woman and Pig...followed by a swinging Orangutan and a flying Duck.

The LANDLADY and her ANIMALS beam with pride.
Even the CROWD is inclined to cheer.

CAMERA tilts to the Ceiling...

NARRATOR

If only the weight of the Orangutan, the Pig and the
Farmer's wife had not finally overloaded the
Chandelier...

THE CHANDELIER

...is being torn from it's moorings.

BOB and ZOOTIE cry out as it gives way...
It's FALLING!!!
They leap clear...
Onto a NET holding thousands of BALLOONS.

It feels like the whole ceiling...and even the sky beyond is plummeting towards
the ground...The CHANDELIER...the CANOPY of golden sashes...MRS
HOGGETT...The PIG...The FULL CATASTROPHE!!!

BOB and ZOOTIE ride the net to safety, releasing the BALLOONS.

Mrs. Hoggett and Babe BOUNCE clear...
As the chandelier CRASHES to the floor!!

Now the BALLOONS!
THOUSANDS of them...
Cascading...floating...down on...

THE CROWD

They emerge from under tables...their faces alive...like children's.

ON THE STAGE

TUG is having the loveliest time...batting away Balloons.

ACROSS THE ROOM

...there's a commotion.

ZOOTIE searches frantically through the debris.

ZOOTIE

No...no...

BOB

Honey...?!

ZOOTIE

I've lost...one of the babies!

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BALLROOM.

A balloon flutters down on the dazed BABE.

He looks up...

Way, way up on the ceiling where the chandelier used to be.

He glimpses something...

A tiny BALL of DARK FUR!

IT'S...

The missing BABY CHIMP...hanging onto a most fragile fragment of plaster...

The little chap is sneezing...

And with each tiny sneeze the plaster crumbles.

WA-A-A-A-Y DOWN BELOW

BABE looks across to Mrs Hoggett. But she is face down...rocking to and fro like a big rubber ball.

THELONIUS is helping her to her feet...but with that suit, it's difficult.

ABOVE...

Another sneeze. The Plaster gives a little more.

BABE

BABE

Thelonius!

THELONIUS turns to the Pig.

BABE

Look!...

With one final sneeze, the PLASTER BREAKS FREE.

The BABY CHIMPANZEE plummets...somewhere a woman screams.

THELONIUS

What?

The CROWD gasps.

BABE

LOOK UP!

Thelonius looks to the ceiling and...

Just in time...

He thrusts out his arms...

And...

PLOP!!!!...

The tiny BABY CHIMP lands safely his outstretched hands.

All the CREATURES gathered...Human or otherwise...watch in silence as...

THELONIUS makes his way to ZOOTIE.

He places the baby gently...in her embrace.

AT THE MICROPHONE

The GRAND MATRIARCH lets out...
A DELIGHTED SIGH...which echoes throughout the hall.

TUG sighs too.

GRAND MATRIARCH
Much more exciting than last year.

For the first time, we see her face...She looks uncannily like a PIG.

IN ZOOTIE'S ARMS...

Another baby sneeze.
She looks up from her twins...

ZOOTIE
Thank-you.

BOB
Yeah Thelonius...Thank-you.

THELONIUS stares at BOB...

THELONIUS
Thank the Pig.

Hold on BABE.

FADE TO BLACK