

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

[DEATH FISH]

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&
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DAVIS

9th Draft - 4th April 1995

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CAST

(in order of appearance in 9th Draft - 4th April 1995)

Rollo Lee	John Cleese
Willa Watson	Jamie Lee Curtis
Vince McCain	Kevin Kline
Rod McCain	Kevin Kline
Sam Coltrane	Bille Brown
Di	Maria Aitken
Adrian "Bugsy" Malone	Michael Palin
Ronnie Sea Lions	Ronnie Corbett
Hugh Primates	Re-casting
Sydney Lotterby (was Woofy)	Robert Lindsay
Pip (was Cyn)	Cynthia Cleese
Derek Ungulates	Derek Griffiths
Cub (was Tress)	Carey Lowell

DAVIS

0 EXT. HONG KONG SKYLINE. DAY.

0

We see Hong Kong's bustling harbour.

SUPER: FISH PRODUCTIONS

0a EXT. BUSY HONG KONG STREET. DAY

0a

Chinese teem.

SUPER: JERSEY FILMS

Towering above the local citizens, ROLLO LEE is walking towards the camera. He is a tall, rangy, faintly ex-military type with a moustache.

0b EXT. LARGE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE. DAY

0b

ROLLO approaches the building.

SUPER: JOHN CLEESE

ROLLO strides up to the building and enters it. The camera zooms in to show the Octopus logo and the words 'Octopus TV Hong Kong'. A beat:

1 INT. OCTOPUS INC. ATRIUM. ATLANTA. MORNING.

1

A large Octopus sits in a medium-sized tank, glowering. We watch it for a moment, as threatening music builds.

Suddenly we hear some agitated, excited, angry voices.

PROTESTORS
(O.O.S.)

Octopus cruel to Octopus! McCain out!
Release the Octopus now!

In a very wide shot we now see the whole, rather sterile atrium, including the Octopus tank. We see the Octopus Inc name and logo prominently displayed. Various youngish BUSINESS PERSONS are crossing the atrium briskly and purposefully. By the tank is a small group of five PROTESTORS who are still unfurling banners. The banners read 'Octopus tortures Octopus' 'Rod McCain is cruel', 'Free the Octopus now' 'McCain unfair to animals' 'Let it go, Rod'. The BUSINESS PERSONS slow down to stare, and three SECURITY GUARDS run across the atrium to deal with the PROTESTORS.

In the middle of the atrium WILLA WATSON, a mid-30s rather earnest strawberry-blonde, stops dictating into a dictaphone as she walks, and instead hurries over towards the action, just as the SECURITY GUARDS arrive at the PROTESTORS and lay hands on the banners. She restrains the GUARDS.

1 CONTINUED:

1

WILLA

It's OK guys, Willa Watson, customer-care, I can handle this. Thanks for your help.

The GUARDS stop and take a couple of paces back. The PROTESTORS turn to WILLA.

WILLA

Hi! I'm Willa Watson. You obviously have a problem with this (She indicates the Octopus and holds out the dictaphone to them)

SUPER: JAMIE LEE CURTIS

PROTESTOR ONE

You're torturing it!

PROTESTOR TWO

It doesn't have enough space, look!

PROTESTOR THREE

It needs the ocean floor!

PROTESTOR FOUR

It's like putting someone in a cell ...

WILLA

Good. I'm registering your complaints and I'll bring in a Marine Biologist tomorrow to see if ...

PROTESTOR TWO

We want action now!

PROTESTORS

Octopus Out! Octopus Out! Octopus Out.

WILLA

These things take a little time. I promise you ...

PROTESTORS

Octopus Out! McCain Cruel to Octopus.

This is being watched by a crowd of curious BUSINESS PERSONS, including VINCE MCCAIN, an Armani-draped pronoid with excellent legs. He smiles and steps forward.

VINCE

Ladies, gentlemen, I'm Vince McCain.

WILLA does not hear this, as she is in a fervent discussion with a PROTESTOR, who has grabbed her dictaphone. The other PROTESTORS, however, are impressed.

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

PROTESTOR THREE

McCain!!

VINCE

May I say how much I admire you for your protest - it's completely justified ...

The PROTESTORS quieten. WILLA turns and sees VINCE.

SUPER: KEVIN KLINE

VINCE

... except ... that this is not a real octopus. Look! It's an electronically controlled model. Incredible, isn't it? It's Belgian - we call them 'auto-animatronics' ...

PROTESTORS

Really?

VINCE

Very expensive, look at those ^{side} fins ... we bought it because ^{OK} Rod McCain would never ... abide cruelty to any living thing, apart from his employees. No, seriously ... I can assure you of that. Thank you for your concern.

PROTESTOR ONE

We didn't realise ...

PROTESTOR THREE

Sorry.

VINCE

No we're sorry. We should make it more obvious.

PROTESTORS

Thanks.

VINCE

Thank you. And good luck.

The PROTESTORS move off, a little sheepishly, giving VINCE the thumbs up. VINCE turns to WILLA.

VINCE

Hi.

WILLA

Willa Watson, Customer Care and Quality Control.

VINCE

Please call me Vince. You're new here.

1 CONTINUED: (3)

1

They walk off together towards the elevators.

WILLA
Second day.

VINCE
Well it's good to know you, Ms Watson.

WILLA
Willa, please.

VINCE
Thank you. You must meet my father.

WILLA
(Puzzled) ... Your father?

VINCE
You'll like him.

WILLA
... Great! ... I feel stupid.

VINCE
Hm?-

WILLA
I didn't realise the Octopus was fake.

VINCE
Don't worry. It isn't. (To a passing
ENQUIRER) Never better!! Never!!

WILLA
(Astonished) But you told them ...

VINCE
I changed their perception of the
situation. First rule of Marketing.

WILLA
But ...

VINCE
Look, they're happy, you're happy, I'm
happy. Problem solved.

WILLA
...Is the Octopus happy?

VINCE
It hasn't complained yet.

They have arrived at the elevators. VINCE hits a YOUNG
EXECUTIVE, SOLOMON, who is talking to someone, on the ass
with his newspaper. SOLOMON turns a little startled

1 CONTINUED: (4)

1

VINCE

Ed! What did you shoot Saturday?

SOLOMON

(Quite pleased with himself) Seventy-eight!

VINCE

Beat you! Hi Joe, where did you get that jacket?

As JOE tells him, WILLA starts dictating into her dictaphone as the elevator arrives.

WILLA

The signage by the main elevators is a little confusing and some of the colours are hostile ...

1a INT. ELEVATOR

1a

They step inside the elevators, accompanied by several other Octopus EMPLOYEES. VINCE takes the opportunity of giving WILLA a full visual once-over.

WILLA

We could achieve a more visitor-friendly effect by ...

VINCE sees a young woman, LISA, in the elevator.

VINCE

Lisa! Hi ...

LISA

Hello Mr McCain.

WILLA hears the name and turns sharply to look at VINCE.

VINCE

Please, Vince ...

LISA

Oh!

VINCE

Lisa - posture. (Confidentially) You have a lovely figure but ... take your hips back, relax the shoulders ... now let the neck grow ...

LISA is obligated to go along with his instructions despite the humiliation. WILLA watches a little surreptitiously.

VINCE

Better! I'll give you the name of a guy.
(He glances at WILLA)

1a CONTINUED:

1a

WILLA
 (Starting again) ... could be halved by a
 clear floor plan, and an LED display by
 the side of ...

VINCE leans across and takes the end of a VISITOR's necktie,
 turns it round and looks at it, to the VISITOR's
 astonishment.

VINCE
 Oh. Could have sworn it was pure silk.
 Never mind.

The OCCUPANTS of the elevator look round at the VISITOR as
 the elevator stops at a floor.

VINCE
 (To WILLA) You want to meet father?

She follows VINCE's look and sees a large photograph of ROD
 MCCAIN on the wall opposite the elevator. She stares.

WILLA
 Certainly, yes.

VINCE
 Come on.

DAVIS

WILLA, amazed, allows VINCE to propel her out of the
 elevator, watched by the other occupants, who exchange
 glances. He guides her down a corridor towards a SECRETARY's
 desk outside an impressive, large door. The SECRETARY
 glances up.

WILLA
 I'm sorry, I didn't realise ...

VINCE
 I like to keep it quiet. You know,
 hangers-on ...

SECRETARY
 Er, Mr McCain ...

VINCE
 Stay here. (To SEC) He called me, Gina.

1b INT. MCCAIN OFFICE. DAY

1b

Leaving WILLA outside, he enters through the big door. SAM,
 MCCAIN's most trusted lieutenant, who is waiting outside
 another door, looks at VINCE in surprise - and registers
 dislike and impatience.

VINCE
 Hi Sam! (He slaps him on the shoulder)
 How's it going?

1b CONTINUED:

1b

SAM
Rod's busy!

VINCE
That's the way he likes it.

SAM
Vince, he said ...

From the other side of the door comes a voice that causes them to stop and stare.

MCCAIN
Oh yes. Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes!! Yes!!
Oh my God, yes. Yes!! Yes!! Yes!!!

The door flies open and ROD MCCAIN, a world class tycoon, bursts out.

MCCAIN
I did the deal! I did the (He sees
VINCE) ... Oh! It's you ...

SAM
One four five?

MCCAIN
One three eight!

SAM and MCCAIN share a moment of triumph. VINCE claps MCCAIN on the back, which MCCAIN does not appreciate.

VINCE
Way to go! Father ...

MCCAIN
No.

VINCE
Can I just introduce someone ...

MCCAIN
I don't have time, I'm late for the TV studio.

VINCE
But father ...

SAM
So what do we do about Des Moines, Rod?

MCCAIN
Close it.

SAM
It's done.

1c INT. CORRIDOR. DAY

1c

MCCAIN, with SAM close behind, pushes open the door and strides into the corridor, only to check his stride as WILLA is standing there - looking very attractive. A beat. WILLA takes a pace forward.

WILLA

Mr McCain, I'm Willa Watson, Customer Care and ...

MCCAIN

Quality Control!

WILLA

Yes! Your son ...

MCCAIN

You were at Coca Cola.

VINCE arrives.

VINCE

Father, may I introduce.

MCCAIN

Shut up. I've just done a great deal, Willa - Alliance Leisure, UK! (He indicates she should walk with him, and they set off down the corridor.)

VINCE

One three ... er ...

MCCAIN

And the sweetest part of it is - I snatched it from under the nose of that bastard Janssen!

WILLA

What are the crown jewels?

MCCAIN

Northwest Television and Great British Publishing. Then there's a film distribution company, 14 multiplexes, some bingo halls ...

SAM

... three ice rinks, a crematorium.

MCCAIN

Nice little earner. And a zoo!

WILLA

A zoo?

1d INT. STUDIO. DAY

1d

Suddenly MCCAIN swings through an open door, into a smallish TV studio, where executives and crew are nervously awaiting him.

ALL
Good morning, Mr McCain!

MCCAIN
Good morning boys. Good morning Ted.

He goes straight to a desk in front of a TV camera and sits at it. The desk looks very homely, with many family photographs and mementoes. As a make-up girl starts powdering him ...

STUDIO MANAGER
You want to rehearse, or ...?

MCCAIN
No, let's get it over with.

STUDIO MANAGER
Roll tape!

WILLA
(to SAM) A zoo?

SAM
Hm? Yeah. Bit of dead wood there ...

WILLA
(Disagreeing) Some of animal parks are doing very well. Particularly in the ...

SAM
(to WILLA) Sh!

STUDIO MANAGER
Quiet! Speed!

MCCAIN
Hello my darling Megan. It is with a heavy heart that I send you this message, since pressure of work once again prevents me being with you on this our 23rd anniversary. Cut! "Heavy heart?" Didn't I say that last year! Lieberman!

A human jelly called LIEBERMAN runs in with the scripts.

LIEBERMAN
No Mr McCain, this was last year's script.

MCCAIN snatches it from him.

1d CONTINUED:

1d

WILLA leans to whisper to SAM.

WILLA
What's happening there?

SAM
... Where?

WILLA
At the zoo.

SAM
At the zoo?

We're closing in on the greenery between and behind them, SAM glances at a print out, as the camera zooms past him.

SAM
... Nothing. Rod'll eventually get round to deciding what to do with it. As a stop-gap we plan to put in someone from Octopus TV Hong Kong.

MIX THROUGH TO

2 EXT. MARWOOD ZOO - SOUTH OF ENGLAND. DAY

2

The camera reveals the stunning ~~Orang-Utan~~ enclosure (at Jersey Zoo) and then picks up ROLLO and DI, his mid-40s assistant. ROLLO is peering at a map and trying to orientate himself.

SAM'S VOICE
... Name of Lee. Used to be in the Hong Kong police. Hardnosed little Chinese bastard ...

WILLA'S VOICE
A stop gap?

SAM'S VOICE
Yes. Course, he doesn't know that ...

ROLLO
So the small animal house is over there.

DI
That's right.

ROLLO nods and they start to move off together.

DI
Do you have any background in animals?

ROLLO
Well I've eaten a lot, you know. Joke!
No, I have to admit my mind is quite uncluttered by any knowledge of zoos

2 CONTINUED:

2

DI

Everyone's ... a bit nervous.

ROLLO

Well, I know about the entertainment business, you know, from Octopus TV.

DI

No I meant ... Mr McCain has a reputation for closing things down.

ROLLO

Ah. Now this is the Insect House, isn't it?

3 INT. INSECT HOUSE. DAY

3

A swarm of **Driver Ants** make their inexorable way across their glass enclosure.

BUGSY'S VOICE

Not only are Driver Ants the most organism-like of all insect varieties, they are also famous for their extraordinary ferocity. They will literally eat anything in their path.

From the reverse angle, we see **BUGSY MALONE**, the Insect House KEEPER, talking to ROLLO and DI. **BUGSY** has an Olympic Gold in Explaining Things.

BUGSY

Indeed in Africa, mothers take great care never to place ... their infants anywhere near a Driver Ant trail, as there are documented instances where these ants have eaten their way right through a baby.

SUPER: MICHAEL PALIN

ROLLO

Excellent! (He notes this on a clipboard)

Music lifts as the camera closes in on the **Ants** again.

BUGSY'S VOICE

In their social organisation there are some surprising parallels with the hierarchical structure ...

SUPER: FIERCE CREATURES

BUGSY'S VOICE

... Found in many termite societies, although of course the Driver Ants being more mobile are ...

3 CONTINUED:

3

A reverse shot reveals that BUGSY is now talking to himself.

BUGSY
Somewhat more flexible in their
organisation.

He glances round, takes the situation in, pauses, and then
continues talking anyway.

BUGSY
... Nevertheless, the characteristic
family behaviour ...

Music continues.

4 EXT. SEALION POOL. DAY

4

A group of Sea lions. We reveal RONNIE, their KEEPER, who
is little taller than they are. He talks to ROLLO and DI who
do not look very impressed. In the background we see the
lower two-thirds of his very tall assistant, SKY. ROLLO
makes a sceptical face which worries RONNIE.

5 EXT. GORILLA ENCLOSURE. DAY

5

HUGH is pointing out to ROLLO and DI features of the family
of Gorillas in the enclosure. We close in on the big male
Jambo, and admire him.

6 EXT. LEMUR ENCLOSURE. DAY

6

A ring-tailed Lemur sits on SYDNEY's shoulder, happily eating
bananas fed to him by SYDNEY's assistant, PIP.

SYDNEY
Oh yes! Very sweet nature.

ROLLO is disappointed. SYDNEY and PIP exchange puzzled and
somewhat anxious looks.

6a INT. GIRAFFE HOUSE. DAY

6a

PERCIVAL and two other KEEPERS are holding buckets from which
feed some Giraffes'. In front of them, DEREK is
demonstrating martial-arts type kicking, to ROLLO's approval.

6b EXT. TIGER ENCLOSURE. DAY

6b

CUB, the striking BIG CATS KEEPER, is feeding her Tigers,
who eat fiercely. ROLLO and DI watch fascinated. We close
in on one of the Tigers who snarls. It's frightening.

6c EXT. FLAMINGO LAKE. DAY

6c

ROLLO and DI are standing on a little bridge, ROLLO asking
DI's opinion of something. As he gestures, we pan to take in
an exquisite view of the lake with its **Flamingos** and other
Waterfowl, and a few zoo VISITORS enjoying their stroll.

6d EXT. CAPYBARA ENCLOSURE. DAY

6d

SYDNEY is talking excitedly to ROLLO and DI. In the background, a Capybara stands amazingly still. ROLLO claps his hands. No movement. BUGSY watching from a distance, shakes his head pityingly.

7 EXT. RHINO ENCLOSURE. DAY

7

DEREK and another KEEPER are tickling a large White Rhino behind the ears. ROLLO is listening, and then astonished.

ROLLO

Forty feet in the air!!!? A grown man!?

The camera cranes up rapidly as DEREK nods. We hold this high angle view of Marwood Zoo in all its glory.

SUPER FINAL CREDIT. DIRECTOR: ROBERT YOUNG

FADE TO BLACK

We hear sound of the KEEPERS waiting in the Lecture Hall.

8 INT. LECTURE HALL. DAY

8

Now we see this motley crew. Altogether about forty-five of them, and very assorted. BUGSY and SYDNEY are arguing. Suddenly there's a stir.

From their p.o.v. ROLLO has entered, followed by DI, who is carrying clip boards, a brief case, a pointer and so on. He rapidly crosses the raised stage area to address them. A flip chart is on the side of the stage. DI sits near it.

ROLLO

Good evening. My name is Rollo Lee, 'L' double 'E', and as of yesterday morning I have ... assumed command of this zoo ...

KEEPERS are startled.

ROLLO

... having been appointed Director by the Octopus Group, following its take-over of Alliance Leisure.

ROLLO indicates the Organisational Chart beside him.

ROLLO

As a result, I shall now be reporting directly to Octopus in Atlanta, which is of course run by Mr Rod McCain, who is, as I'm sure you know, a remarkable man. Starting with his father's radio stations in New Zealand, Mr McCain has built up an empire that stretches from San Francisco to Shanghai. and Sydney to

8 CONTINUED:

8

ROLLO (cont'd)
rapidly - currently it is worth more than
\$6 billion!

8v DELETE ROD'S VIDEO

8v

8 DELETE BACK TO THE HALL

8

BUGSY
How much does he want in the end?

ROLLO
... What?

BUGSY
How much bigger does he want to get?

ROLLO
Well, there isn't a limit. He wants,
growth.

CUB
You mean, he'll never have enough.

ROLLO
... Enough? Enough for what?

BUGSY
That's what we're asking you.

ROLLO blinks. He's puzzled.

DEREK
At what point would he be satisfied?

ROLLO
Any sensible questions? Yes?

PIP
Are you going to close the zoo?

ROLLO is fazed by the directness of this.

ROLLO
... Well I'm glad you asked me that.

SYDNEY
No you're not.

ROLLO
... Yes I am, bec ...

KEEPERS
(Louder) No you're not!!

ROLLO
Look!

An edov silence.

8 CONTINUED:

8

ROLLO

It is true that this zoo is ... in danger if we do not substantially improve its profitability. It is a commercial operation; it has to make money.

BUGSY

It does.

ROLLO

Yes, yes ... but not enough.

DEREK

Enough for what?

ROLLO

Don't start that. I will tell you precisely what enough is. Mr McCain demands a 20% return on capital from every asset in his empire.

DI flips the chart to show the words "20% Return On Capital Expenditure".

SYDNEY

Why 20%?

ROLLO

... Because he does, that's why.

BUGSY

Could we explore that thinking a little?

ROLLO

No. 20% it is. Otherwise we will be closed down. So we have to solve two problems. One. How do we cut costs?

PIP

By firing people.

ROLLO

No. Not people. Second problem. How do we attract larger attendances? Well, I know from my work in television what attracts the biggest audiences everywhere in the world. Violence! Violence knows no frontiers - it is the new international language of entertainment. This is a fact of life. Therefore we need in this zoo only ... animals that carry the threat of violence - fierce animals! Animals that are too tame ... will have to go.

KEEPERS start a bit of an outcry. SYDNEY's on his feet.

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

ROLLO

I appreciate how painful it may be for you to lose some of your charges ...

PIP

But this has always been a conservation zoo.

ROLLO

Yes! And I am all for conservation.

Surprise

ROLLO

And the three things I want to conserve are: the zoo; your jobs; and fierce animals.

SYDNEY

What about conserving non-fierce animals?

ROLLO

All zoos have to choose which animals to conserve, and we've chosen fierce ones.

RONNIE

What happens to the others?

ROLLO

We'll have to find other homes for them.

SEVERAL KEEPERS

Do you know how difficult that is?

DI flips the chart to reveal: FIERCE ANIMAL POLICY.

ROLLO.

Life is difficult. So the Fierce Animal Policy is now in force, ladies and gentlemen, and over the next few days I will be deciding which of our animals are fierce, and which ones will, sadly, have to go. Thank you.

ROLLO turns and leaves, DI hurrying after him.

9 EXT. MARWOOD ZOO MAIN GATE. DAY

9

The KEEPERS are leaving the zoo, and making for their regular watering hole, the Marwood Arms, which lies across the road from the main gate. At the front of the group are SYDNEY, PIP, RONNIE and DEREK, all very upset; just behind them, CUB and HUGH are talking. BUGSY is droning on at PERCIVAL further behind.

BUGSY

Diabolical! Unbelievable!

9 CONTINUED:

9

RONNIE
It's incredible.

DEREK
Insane ...

PIP
It's absolutely ... absolutely ...

BUGSY
Diabolical!

PIP
Exactly! Yes!!

SYDNEY
He knows nothing about zoos, he barges in here starts firing animals without any idea what ... (He catches sight of the group behind) You don't seem very upset!

CUB and HUGH react a touch guiltily.

SYDNEY
Just because your animals are fierce ...

CUB
Oh, we are upset, really!

HUGH
We think it's ...

CUB AND HUGH
Diabolical.

DEREK
The thing is ... what is 'fierce'? A giraffe can kick a man's head off, but you wouldn't call them fierce ...

RONNIE
Same with sea lions and penguins. People don't think of them as violent, but they can be killers ...

A silence as everyone thinks what to say. RONNIE looks at them all, walking beside him.

RONNIE
(Resentfully) Why have you all gone quiet!?

10 DELETE INT. MARWOOD ARMS. LOBBY AND BAR

10

SYDNEY is staring at BUGSY who is still lecturing away at PERCIVAL

10 CONTINUED:

10

SYDNEY

I'm surprised you're so calm, Buggy.

BUGSY

Don't call me Buggy, please. Well, my little chaps happen to be rather fierce, thank you. (To PERCIVAL) Nonetheless ...

SYDNEY

Fierce?!!

BUGSY

Oh yes. They scare the excrement out of most people, I'm delighted to ...

They are reaching the Marwood Arms.

SYDNEY

That's not fear, that's disgust.

BUGSY

Well they're more alarming than some furry little brown jobs I could mention ...

SYDNEY

My lot eat your lot!

DEREK

Come on, chaps!

BUGSY

Name one deadly poisonous mammal!

SYDNEY

You can't kill mine by treading on 'em!!

DEREK

Break it up!! Look ... we're all a bit jumpy tonight.

CUB

(Squeezing SYDNEY's arm) SYDNEY, we're all on your side.

Pause. They're all standing outside the Marwood Arms.

SYDNEY

Do you think he really means it?

PIP

I'm scared.

11 INT. ROLLO'S OFFICE. DAY

11

ROLLO is leafing through a big new volume 'Fierce' by T G Parry Jones, and chatting with DI, whose outfit matches the upholstery of the easy chair she's sitting in

11 CONTINUED:

11

ROLLO

I'm sure they're upset, Di, but I have a job to do.

DI

Well yes, but ...

ROLLO

Look, I have to be hardnosed. Rod demands toughness. One moment of compassion and you're out. I've got this one chance to show I can run something. Because at my age ...

A SECRETARY looks in.

SECRETARY

Mr Lee, there's a call from Atlantis.
(She leaves)

DI

Atlantis?

ROLLO

Atlanta. (Picks up phone)
Hello, Lee here.

12 INT. MCCAIN'S MAIN WORK ROOM. DAY

12

SAM COLTRANE, MCCAIN'S henchman, is on the telephone to ROLLO. Behind him MCCAIN sits at a vast, empty desk quite unlike the "family photo" one we have previously seen.

SAM

Ah Rolo. Rod would like a word with you, OK?

ROLLO'S VOICE

Th ... that's nice.

SAM

Your wife and kids settled in yet?

WE NOW INTERCUT BETWEEN 11 & 12.

ROLLO

Yes, everything's fine here.

MCCAIN reaches for the phone and SAM transfers it to him as VINCE and WILLA enter his office. MCCAIN, while taking the call, gestures to them to sit down.

MCCAIN

(Charmingly) Hello Rolo, Rod here. Got your wife and kids settled in?

12 CONTINUED:

12

ROLLO'S VOICE

Fine! No probs, Rodlem ...

MCCAIN

So let me know what you're going to do to push earnings up to our favourite twenty percent. OK?

ROLLO

Yes we're going to have to be hardnosed here. Actually it's marvellous to have an opportunity to explain what I've got in mind ...

SAM'S VOICE

Hello Rolo!

ROLLO

Hello again Rod.

SAM

No, this is Sam. So your wife and kids are settled in all right ...

ROLLO

... Look I don't want to seem awkward but I'm not married and I don't have any children. What happened to Rod?

SAM

He's been called away. So you'll let Rod know ...

The camera focuses beyond SAM, on to MCCAIN, who is looking at some figures, with WILLA. VINCE, sitting further back, eyes WILLA throughout.

WILLA

But think about it, Rod! With the ...

MCCAIN

I don't want to - it's less than 2% of the whole acquisition. I do have bigger fish to gut (He focuses on one particular document). Now, I ...

WILLA

Rod, wait! Hear me out.

MCCAIN

It's a zoo, Willa. They're not money-makers, OK?

WILLA

Not a zoo, Rod. A theme park. Think Disney. Think Universal.

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

VINCE

It could be quite inter ...

MCCAIN

... I've thought of them. Now, let's ...

WILLA

But Mr McCain ...

MCCAIN

Strewth. I make a standard 15 second
good-will call and it turns into a bloody
congressional debate!

13 EXT. COATIMUNDI ENCLOSURE AND ENVIRONS. DAY

13

ROLLO stands arguing with SYDNEY, PIP, DEREK, HUGH and
others. SYDNEY is inside the enclosure, holding a chair,
which he occasionally uses, lion-tamer style.

ROLLO

Fierce??! That coatimundi ...

He indicates a Coatimundi, which is watching in a friendly
manner.

SYDNEY

It's a wild animal, sir. *DAIS* It's not
domesticated.

ROLLO

Neither's a house fly and I wouldn't call
that savage.

SYDNEY

You take a liberty with him and he'll
give you a nasty nip.

ROLLO

A safety pin could give me a nasty nip
Lotterby. I'll tell you what's fierce:
fierce is taking your whole hand off.

KEEPERS

Whole hand!?! No! Impossible! No!!

ROLLO

(Walking away) Lotterby, could I have a
word with you over here please

HUGH

It is all right if it wrenches the hand
off??

ROLLO

Oh yes.

13 CONTINUED:

13

HUGH

Phew.

SYDNEY

(Showing a scar) That's what a coati did to me. Look!

ROLLO

I'm surprised you lived. Now ...

ROLLO and SYDNEY have arrived at some cages. SYDNEY looks at them, winces and then puts on a very positive, cheerful polite act.

ROLLO

... These are your meerkats, correct?

SYDNEY

Er ... yes sir.

ROLLO

(Pointing) On the new plaque here it says ... they're known as the 'Piranhas of the Desert'? Is that right?

SYDNEY

Yes sir, they can strip a human carcass in three minutes.

ROLLO

(Pulling out a book) My encyclopedia says they're easy to tame and are often kept as pets. (He shows SYDNEY the page) See?

SYDNEY

Well, you haven't been attacked by one sir.

ROLLO

Nobody's been attacked by one, Lotterby (He moves on) Or if they have, they didn't notice ...

SYDNEY

They've got diabolical temperaments, sir ...

ROLLO

(Arriving at the next cage) Now the Patagonian Mara. Devastate entire Argentinian villages, do they? (He points to his book) It says here: they eat grass.

SYDNEY

That's for hors d'oeuvres sir. When their blood's up ...

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

ROLLO

Be quiet, Lotterby. You are trying to deceive me into thinking ... that some of your animals are fierce ...

SYDNEY

I'm talking about the rogue ones sir!

ROLLO

... when they are in fact lovable, cuddly and 'out'.

SYDNEY

You want every animal here a psycho?

ROLLO

Exactly.

SYDNEY

So what do we do with the others?

ROLLO

Get rid of them. I want a lethal weapon in every cage.

14 DELETE EXT. MEERKAT ENCLOSURE. DAWN

14

15 DELETE INT. VINCE'S APARTMENT. DAY

15

16 EXT. ZOO. EARLY MORNING

16

We are close on SYDNEY. RONNIE, DEREK, CUB and PIP who are walking, with determined expressions, each carrying a particularly appealing animal and its cage - respectively: a Bambi, a Ring-Tailed Lemur, a Coati Mundi, and two out of the following three - a baby Ostrich, a Mara or a Monkey. Behind them SKY and PERCIVAL are carrying cages. Dramatic music.

They march in line down a path with bushes or trees on either side.

Outside the cafeteria BUGSY, and OTHER KEEPERS are sitting, enjoying their morning tea. BUGSY is holding forth. As the procession passes behind them in the background they turn and stare. They are surprised. BUGSY is momentarily silent. But not for long.

17 INT. BREAKFAST ROOM. MORNING

17

ROLLO and DI are having a working breakfast - ROLLO English-style, DI health food. (Again DI's outfit matches the colour of the chair.) As they talk, we can see the procession through the main window, as it wends its way towards them.

17 CONTINUED:

17

DI

Another fax from Octopus ... (She hands it to him).

ROLLO

(Taking it and reading the top)
Marketing! (He puts the fax down) Have you met any marketing people? Oh! The worst. They'd sell advertising space on their wife's coffin. Their patron saint is Joseph Goebbels, apparently ...

There is a loud knock at the dining room door.

ROLLO

(Annoyed) Oh! Yes.

The door opens, and the procession enters and lines up opposite ROLLO and DI. There is a pause.

ROLLO

... Yes?

SYDNEY

Here are the animals, sir.

ROLLO

What animals?

SYDNEY

The first batch of animals that are definitely not fierce, sir.

ROLLO

Ah, good. The coatimundi I see ... well?

PIP

They're going to have to go, sir.

ROLLO

Good. Well done! ... Yes?

DEREK

We've tried to place them with other zoos, sir. No takers.

ROLLO

(Puzzled) What?? You mean that of all the zoos in this country ...

SYDNEY

Zoos are a contracting business sir.

RONNIE

They're all trying to get rid of animals.

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

CUB

You can't just add these to other animal groups you see, they'd kill them. Wrong scent ...

ROLLO

Well ... what about people taking them as pets?

They all shake their heads sadly. PIP has started to cry.

DI

They need expert attention.

RONNIE

Anyway not allowed, sir, quarantine regulations.

ROLLO

... What about returning them to the wild?

KEEPERS

(Overlapping) No safe habitat for this one sir. It's very expensive. Takes months to prepare them for re-release sir. They don't know how to feed themselves. This one's been hand-reared. Sorry, sir. Sorry ...

ROLLO

So what do you propose?

CUB

Only one solution, Mr Lee. What the boss at London Zoo a few years ago, proposed when the government wouldn't give any more funds.

ROLLO

(Impressed) What was that?

CUB

Shoot them.

The sound of a tea-spoon dropping. Pause. DI nods, slowly. PIP sobs loudly. RONNIE snuffles. A tear runs down CUB's cheek. All the others are just holding themselves together. ROLLO flicks the spoon clean.

ROLLO

Are you seriously telling me there's no other way of getting rid of these animals.

ALL

No, sir, no sir. 'Fraid not sir. Sorry sir. Tragic.

17 CONTINUED: (3)

17

SYDNEY

Not ... unless you were to change the ...
Fierce Animal Policy sir ...

ROLLO

No!

SYDNEY

You're quite sure about that in the
circumstances?

ROLLO

Perfectly sure, thank you, Lotterby.

RONNIE

They're very dear animals, sir.

ROLLO

That's not in dispute ...

DEREK

But you would like them killed in line
with your Policy?

ROLLO

If you've really explored all the other
options ...

Pause. ROLLO starts eating his egg. The KEEPERS start
putting the cages on ROLLO's breakfast table and then putting
the animals into them. ROLLO looks at DI and then back.

ROLLO

What are you doing?

CUB

Well it's just that we'd rather not shoot
them ourselves, sir.

RONNIE

We're very fond of them.

PIP

We're Keepers and now ... we're not
keeping them.

ROLLO

... I see. So I'm shooting them, am I?

SYDNEY

If it's not too much trouble, sir.

ROLLO

... .. Right! (To DI) Have you got my
diary there.

PIP puts her Lemur into its cage on the table.

17 CONTINUED: (4)

17

PIP

You will make it quick sir, won't you?

ROLLO

Oh! You mean I'm not allowed to torture them a bit first? Just for fun!!

PIP

(Shocked) Oh! You wouldn't do that.

SYDNEY puts an arm round her.

ROLLO

I wasn't being serious you stupid girl.

RONNIE

Hardly a time for jokes.

ROLLO is paralysed with frustration. The KEEPERS make their tearful farewells.

SYDNEY

Good bye, Suzie

RONNIE

Good bye, Cindy. I tried.

CUB

Be brave, Mitzi.

DEREK

Bye, Bye Petal. God speed.

PIP

Farewell Rollo.

ROLLO

... I'd prefer it if you called me "director".

PIP

(Tearfully angry) I was talking to the lemur.

ROLLO

The lemur is called "Rollo"?

SYDNEY

We named it after you sir. Day after you arrived. Good bye ...

The KEEPERS, all breaking down, start to exit.

ROLLO

Could you pass the marmalade, please?

17 CONTINUED: (5)

17

DI
(Doing so) I'll see them out.

As DI leaves, ROLLO reaches for some toast. But his hand checks, as he realizes that the toast rack is empty. Very near, a piece of toast protrudes from one of the cages, shaking slight as the occupant holds and nibbles it. ROLLO stares, then snatches the toast back. Uncomfortable, he looks into the cage. An adorable Lemur looks reproachfully at him. ROLLO addresses the animals.

ROLLO
Would any of you like me to call you a priest?

18 EXT. ZOO CAFETERIA. EVENING

18

The KEEPERS are sitting with their mugs of tea. There are fifteen of them, at least. SYDNEY, RONNIE and DEREK are telling the others about their success in manipulating ROLLO, to much laughter. CUB, PIP and HUGH are much more restrained; BUGSY is distinctly disapproving.

RONNIE
You should have seen his face when he realised he was supposed to shoot them.

Roars of laughter.

DEREK
(To SYDNEY) What was it you called your coat?

SYDNEY
Hooter? I called him "Suzie"!

RONNIE
You were wonderful darling.

BUGSY
Without wishing to detract from your award-winning performances, may I be so bold as to inquire what you are hoping to achieve by this prank.

CUB
It was not a prank. We're trying to confront him with the reality.

OTHER KEEPERS
Exactly. Yes. That's it.

BUGSY
If you paint him into a corner ...

SYDNEY
Look, he's not a cold-blooded murderer! And we've given him the five sweetest

18 CONTINUED:

18

DEREK

(Pointing at PIP) Farewell, Rollo!

More laughter. Then a shot - a very loud one - shatters the atmosphere. SYDNEY's jaw drops. RONNIE yelps. Total silence. Another shot. Several tea cups are dropped. Another shot. Two KEEPERS stand up slowly, as the others look at each other. Another shot.

PIP

(To SYDNEY, with much emotion) It was your idea.

KEEPERS look at SYDNEY and wait. SYDNEY is standing. A fifth and final shot.

19 EXT. LEAFY GLADE. TWO MINUTES LATER

19

ROLLO is patting the earth down with a spade, at the end of a line of empty cages. We crane up to see some KEEPERS creeping up from a distance, trying to stay hidden. ROLLO finishes, puts his police revolver in its holster, puts the spade on a large wheelbarrow and pushes it off, out of the glade.

The KEEPERS stare, numb and distraught. RONNIE, PIP, DEREK CUB, SKY and PERCIVAL console each other.

BUGSY

(From some way behind) I warned you.

SYDNEY glares round at him.

SYDNEY

He'll start on yours next!

20 INT. ROLLO'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

20

We pan down off a Hong Kong photo of ROLLO with a rifle, past one or two of ROLLO's possessions on to a large book on his bedside table, open at a large picture of a Lemur. During this we hear snoring. Then the phone by the book rings. ROLLO jerks upright and grabs the phone.

ROLLO

Yes?

21 INT. VINCE'S APARTMENT. ATLANTA 9.00PM

21

VINCE, in his Armani on a sofa, is speaking on an ordinary telephone. WILLA is striding around with a mobile phone in her very smart work-out gear.

VINCE's decor is heavily GQ influenced. Copies of GQ litter the coffee table. Bound copies adorn the shelves. There is also marketing literature including the complete works of Ries & Trout. Armani jackets, bags and ties are placed on the furniture. We see neat lines of shoes and clothes in the

21 CONTINUED:

21

VINCE

Rolo?

ROLLO

... Yes?

VINCE

It's Vince. Are we interrupting dinner?

WE NOW INTERCUT BETWEEN 20 & 21.

ROLLO

Dinner? (Peers at bedside clock) It's two o'clock in the morning.

VINCE

Oh, were you asleep?

ROLLO

Yes, I frequently am at 2.00am, I'm afraid. Filthy habit I picked up in the Far East.

VINCE

Look, if this is a sleep-interruptive call, we'll call you back.

ROLLO

... No, it's not 'sleep-interruptive' really, let's chat now. I can always catch up on some rest ... at Christmas probably.

VINCE

OK. Now let's talk marketing.

ROLLO

Oh good (Puts fingers down throat)

VINCE

The figure for marketing you gave us ...

The Lemur that ROLLO supposedly shot now lands on ROLLO's head startling him. The other animals soon start harassing him.

ROLLO

(Sotto voce) Careful! Get off! Please ...

At the US end VINCE and WILLA are looking surprised. Pause as strange noises come down the line.

WILLA

Are you all right?

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

VINCE

Rolo?

ROLLO

Hang on, sorry! (Sotto voce) Suzie, no!
Move over. Get your leg ... ooh!

WILLA looks at VINCE: they both suspect sexual antics.

ROLLO

I'm sorry, I'm going to have to put you
on hold for just a moment - sorry ...

VINCE

(To Willa) Another filthy habit he picked
up in the Far East.

WILLA is listening with a certain interest. At ROLLO's end,
he is being swarmed over by all five of the animals he
'shot'. One is under the bedclothes, and he's trying to get
it out.

ROLLO

Ah. Don't. Will you ... Don't ... Look

The DEER treads on the hold button.

At VINCE and WILLA's end, they hear the following:

ROLLO'S VOICE

Mitzi, get off, will you just ooh! Just
go over there both of you and play with
each other. Petal! Get your tongue out
of my ear!

VINCE and WILLA look at each other.

VINCE

He's got two girls there!

ROLLO'S VOICE

Cindy, don't bii-eye-eye-eye-te! Please,
aaah ... Cindy! Please ... I'm talking
to those marketing moonies.

VINCE looks at WILLA. She's listening hard and holding up
three fingers.

VINCE

... Three girls!

WILLA

(Thoughtfully) Yes.

ROLLO'S VOICE

Oh christ, no! ooooh.

21 CONTINUED: (4)

21

VINCE

Sad?

WILLA

... Yes.

VINCE

Oh yes! Sad. Yes. I see what you mean.
No, not really. He was always busy you
see. He was so successful. That's why I
want to show him what I can do at the
zoo. I want power, Willa.

WILLA stares out of the window. VINCE starts to undress.

WILLA

Me, too.

VINCE

... Who doesn't!?

WILLA

That's why I'm so ambitious. Which is
good. Have you read 'The Art of the
Deal'?

VINCE

Sure (He points at a bookshelf).

WILLA

But ... I want power so that I can help
people.

VINCE

... What people?

WILLA

Just people. Any people. I really care
for them, you see.

VINCE

... Care for them?

WILLA

Yes.

VINCE

Sure! Care for them - great! So do I.

WILLA

There are so many people out there who
don't know what they're doing with their
lives, who I can help to ... what are you
doing?

VINCE

I'm undressing. (He continues to do so)

21 CONTINUED: (5)

21

WILLA

... Vince, not yet. When we take over
the zoo ...

VINCE

Not?

WILLA

(Glancing at her watch) Anyway, I have to
talk to your father now.

As she gathers up her coat, VINCE has a horrible thought.

VINCE

... You're not after him are you?

WILLA

Vince. Whatever gave you that idea?

21a INT. OCTOPUS TV STUDIO. DUSK

21a

MCCAIN is sitting in a ultra-comfortable make-up chair in a corner of the studio, surrounded by communications technology, but not mirrors. A MAKE-UP ARTIST is at work on him. WILLA is talking earnestly to him, while VINCE floats peripherally in the background, showing signs he has dressed very fast.

MCCAIN

(Puzzled) You want to go to Marwood Zoo
with Vince?

WILLA

We can make it work, Rod. It's never
been marketed properly. And you won't
miss us. You hired me to sort out WSTV
and now you've sold it.

VINCE

And Lubar can handle my promotions - I've
nothing big on.

MCCAIN

(Drily) Oh, really?

22 DELETE EXT. ROOF OF OCTOPUS H.Q. DUSK

22

WILLA

And we won't ask you for any money to
develop it - it'll cost you nothing, Rod.
We can do it all with sponsorship.

She leans forward to touch MCCAIN on the arm. MCCAIN
notices. So does VINCE.

VINCE

We can handle it, Dad.

22 CONTINUED:

22

MCCAIN looks at VINCE, thinks of squashing him, changes his mind.

MCCAIN

OK! Do it!

VINCE & WILLA

Great. Thanks!

MCCAIN

But ... fly economy.

As VINCE and WILLA celebrate internally, SAM walks into shot.

SAM

The journos are here, Rod.

WILLA

I hope you'll come and visit us Rod.

SAM ushers VINCE and WILLA out of the studio into the corridor, as the MAKE-UP ARTIST finishes off MCCAIN. SAM closes the door behind them, and VINCE and WILLA can finally express their delight. They embrace warmly.

WILLA

Yesssssss!

VINCE

I did it ...

Back in the studio, MCCAIN rises from his chair.

MCCAIN

Well! I never thought I'd get rid of him so easily. And it'll get his mother off my back.

SAM

You'd better send a good bookkeeper with him. Pity to lose Willa though.

MCCAIN

No, we'll find out if she can cut the mustard. If she suggests turning it into a golf course, she's cut it.

SAM

Yeah. Then you could give her something bigger to close down.

They approach three JOURNALISTS who are waiting for them on the TV set, a very simple affair of chairs against a white cyclorama (possibly with CNBC logos).

MCCAIN

(He extends his hand) Ah, you must be the intellectuals. What do you want to know?

23 INT. ROLLO'S OFFICE. DAY

23

C/U TV set. A JOURNALIST is asking MCCAIN a question on the programme itself. Pull back to reveal ROLLO at his desk, intently watching this. As he does so, a Tarantula Spider, the size of your hand flits across the floor towards ROLLO's desk. ROLLO continues to watch the TV. The Spider climbs up the desk and then peeps over the edge at ROLLO. Then it clambers into full view, and then moves to within a few inches of ROLLO's hand. ROLLO suddenly sees it. He freezes and then slowly backs away in slow motion, pushing his chair back, until he's a yard or so from it. Then he takes a deep breath, sees the large volume entitled 'Fierce' by T.G. Parry Jones, reaches for it, and slowly raises it to strike the Tarantula.

BUGSY'S head pops round the door.

BUGSY

Scared? Now the point I'm making is this ... (He sees ROLLO's amazement Oh don't worry about Terry, ^{he indicates} ~~he indicates~~ TERRY), he wouldn't hurt a fly. Now ... well actually he would hurt a fly, of course being a Theraphosid Sericopelma Communis, or Panamanian Tarantula, and therefore particularly partial to flies. (He picks up the tarantula and holds it in his hand). My point is that Terry has a bite relatively harmless to human beings and yet you reacted as though he were fierce, which he isn't.

He holds Terry out towards ROLLO, who shrinks involuntarily.

ROLLO

(Sweating) Yes, I've always had a bit of a thing about spiders actually..

BUGSY

So, if creatures are thought to be fierce, they are "fierce" by your ...

The door flies open and HUGH, CUB and PERCIVAL rush in and run to the gun rack, followed by DI.

HUGH

Sorry director, we need the guns!

They run to the gun rack, unlock it, and they take a rifle each.

ROLLO

What?

CUB

Animal's escaped, Mr Lee, we've got to corner it.

23 CONTINUED:

23

HUGH

We need three, sir.

ROLLO

Tranquillizer darts?

HUGH

Derek's got the blowpipe sir, but we need the real thing just in case ...

ROLLO

OK. I'll take one too.

PERCIVAL

Don't worry sir, we can handle it.

HUGH

Let's go. It's all under control, sir.

They run out. ROLLO runs to the rack, takes a gun and runs out. BUGSY follows him still explaining the point he's making.

24 INT. CORRIDOR. DAY

24

ROLLO chases after the others, followed by BUGSY.

25 EXT. AREA NEAR OFFICE. DAY

25

ROLLO runs out, followed by BUGSY. Some KEEPERS are stopping zoo VISITORS and asking them to stay back.

KEEPERS

Keep back, please. Don't worry. No need to panic.

The VISITORS are a bit alarmed. One turns to ROLLO

VISITOR

What's going on?

ROLLO

Just recapturing an animal.
Keep back please! Nothing to worry about. It's not fierce ...

VISITOR

Why have you got a gun then?

ROLLO

Just a precaution. Don't worry, everything's under control.

ROLLO looks round and sees that the animal has been recaptured. It is a **Collared Anteater**, and doesn't look either big or mean. ROLLO hurries towards the cage as the KEEPERS call to the spectators.

25 CONTINUED:

25

KEEPERS

It's all right. We've caught it. We got it. Relax. The fun's over.

ROLLO sees SYDNEY at the centre of the operation, and looks again at the cage, rather beadily. DEREK is 'covering' the Anteater with his blowpipe.

ROLLO

Thank you for your co-operation, ladies and gentlemen (To SYDNEY) Is that an anteater?

SYDNEY

Spot on, sir, careful! It's still angry.

The KEEPERS start carrying the cage off. ROLLO follows it.

ROLLO

Angry?

ROLLO looks closely at the Anteater.

SYDNEY

They've got wicked tempers sir.

ROLLO

Devastate small towns, do they?

SYDNEY

(Surprised) No sir. Not ~~these~~ But look at the claws sir. Diabolical. You can never be too careful with an anteater, sir.

The KEEPERS slow down so that ROLLO can admire the claws.

ROLLO

Nevertheless ... and correct me if I'm wrong, it is an anteater, rather than a maneater..

SYDNEY

Er ...

A stretcher goes by but ROLLO is too absorbed by the Anteater to notice it. So the stretcher goes round the back quite quickly, in order to re-appear.

ROLLO

Lotterby, you have over-reacted.

SYDNEY

If it had jumped on that pram over there, what would you be saying to the mother now?

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

ROLLO

I'd be saying, "Madam, you are the victim of an eight billion to one chance, a jumping anteater, an evolutionary mutant previously unknown to naturalists".

SYDNEY

They can climb like monkeys sir.

ROLLO

Lotterby, you did not need three guns to recapture this. A sharp stick would have sufficed.

SYDNEY

A sharp stick, sir!? Believe you me, those jaws would splinter ...

ROLLO

Will you shut up! Get this fluffy pet back to its enclosure, and stop insulting my intelligence. Now!!

As BUGSY starts talking to ROLLO, the ~~stretchers~~ comes through again and this time one of the ~~stretcher~~ bearers tries to attract ROLLO's attention:

SEAN

(Loudly) You all right PIP?

PIP

(On stretcher) Yes, I'm fine ... I'll be OK.

ROLLO has turned and seen them. He hurries after the stretcher.

ROLLO

What's happened? Is she hurt?

RICHARD

Little local difficulty sir. She took a liberty with a bandicoot.

He raises the blanket to reveal a bloody wound.

ROLLO

My God!

PIP

Just a flesh wound sir. Few stitches and I'll be back at work.

ROLLO

Are you sure, I mean ...

25 CONTINUED: (3)

25

PIP

Don't worry sir. Part of the job with bandicoots.

The stretcher is carried off.

SEAN

Just be careful of those bandicoots, sir.

ROLLO

... Right. (To himself) Bandicoots ...

DI

Pity about PIP's leg sir but it's good for the zoo isn't it?

ROLLO stops, and turns to DI and JENNY, puzzled.

DI

I mean the fierceness, sir.

ROLLO

Oh! Yes, yes, our policy precisely.

ROLLO

(Seeing a bandage on JENNY's arm) ... What's that?

JENNY

Just a bite, sir ...

JENNY and DI walk off. ROLLO is about to say something to them when he notices some YOUTHS hurrying past him. He stares at them, and then, when two more rush past him excitedly, he hurries after them, still bearing his gun. He calls to a KEEPER.

ROLLO

What's happening?

CHOY-LING

(Turning to reveal an eye patch)
Sea lions sir.

ROLLO

Sea lions? Are they attacking someone?!

26 EXT. SEA LION POOL. DAY

26

ROLLO runs up to the quite big crowd now surrounding the Sea lion pool. He pushes his way through, a little alarmed.

ROLLO

Excuse me! Thank you. No cause for concern! It's all under control!

26 CONTINUED:

26

VISITORS

Get back. I was here first. Oi!

ROLLO

No need to worry!

Suddenly ROLLO sees the cause of the crowd and their excitement. RONNIE's attractive assistant SKY, in a swimsuit, is throwing fish to the Sea lions. ROLLO's jaw drops. RONNIE appears at his elbow, wearing one of Des O'Connor's jackets.

RONNIE

Nice crowd today, Director

ROLLO

Er ... very good. (He looks around at it)

RONNIE

Oh yes. We're very busy

MAN IN CROWD

Stunning creatures, sea lions ...

FRIEND

Wonderful plumage.

SECOND FRIEND

Lovely movers, too, considering ...

MAN

God at his best, I'd say.

All through this they are staring fixedly ahead. SKY throws another fish.

ROLLO

How long has this been going on?

RONNIE

Well we only actually started it Monday. But we've been thinking about it since Friday ...

ROLLO

(Rather impressed) Seems to have caught on.

RONNIE

Between you and me, I think the girl helps.

At this moment, SKY executes a perfect dive into the pool. Applause.

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

ROLLO

You do?

RONNIE

And ... she has a PhD.

BUGSY

(Suddenly appearing) As I was saying ...

SKY shoots out of the water expertly taking a fish from RONNIE's outstretched hand in her mouth, Sea lion-style.

RONNIE

Ole!

Huge applause

MAN

Wonderful thing, nature.

27 EXT. PATH BETWEEN POOL AND OFFICE. DAY

27

ROLLO is striding back to the office with his gun. RONNIE is some way behind, running after him. Behind RONNIE, BUGSY can be seen in the distance. RONNIE catches ROLLO up.

RONNIE

Of course, she couldn't do that if they were fierce...

ROLLO

What?

RONNIE

Well if they were fierce ... she couldn't go in there with them, you see.

In the background, a WOMAN in a striking red dress falls, rather spectacularly, and injures herself. Her HUSBAND and MOTHER go to her assistance. But ROLLO and RONNIE don't notice.

RONNIE

I mean I'm 100% in favour of the Fierce Animal Policy, but obviously with some animals, like ... (He points back to the Sea lions) the attendances speak for themselves. I mean the purpose of the FAP is to increase attendances ...

As RONNIE babbles on, BUGSY joins them. But ROLLO sees a KEEPER, JULIE appear from a building near them, wearing a bandage. Suddenly, the KEEPER adjusts the bandage in a very odd way, and then waves back into the building with her bandaged arm, which she then slips into a sling. ROLLO stares, his eyes narrowing.

27 CONTINUED:

27

RONNIE

... but where the attendances are very high for non-fierce animals, there's obviously an exception to the general rule.

ROLLO makes a gesture to him to quieten, and makes for the building.

ROLLO

Stay!

RONNIE stares after him. BUGSY starts talking to RONNIE.

28 INT. BUILDING. DAY

28

Inside the building, there's a room with three KEEPERS in it. Two of them are applying theatrical blood to PERCIVAL's stomach. ROLLO stands at the door and watches them.

DEREK

Bit more.

FRED

Not too much. Got to keep it real.

DEREK

Right. I don't think we should do anyone else today. Otherwise he might get suspicious.

PERCIVAL

Yes we don't want to make him too fierce ... (They all laugh)

ROLLO cocks his gun. The KEEPERS look round.

ROLLO

I have a suggestion. To make a complete idiot of him, make those wounds as realistic as possible (He raises the gun to his shoulder)

KEEPERS

No!! No!!! No!!!!!!

They fling themselves to the ground and grovel as ROLLO starts shooting, calmly picking off a few tea mugs on a shelf above them.

ROLLO

There's something wrong with the sights on this one. I keep hitting those mugs. Oh well. You three see me in my office nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

ROLLO starts to leave. RONNIE rushes in. The KEEPERS gibber. PERCIVAL is lying in such a way that his stomach is

28 CONTINUED:

28

RONNIE

Look!

RONNIE screams.

29 EXT. ZOO. DAY

29

ROLLO marches out of the hut past BUGSY, and immediately notices quite a large crowd of KEEPERS and VISITORS some distance away. PIP runs up to him

PIP

(Fearful) Were you shooting more animals?

ROLLO

(Reassuringly) No just culling a few Keepers. Leg better, is it? Miracle recovery?

PIP reacts. BUGSY catches up and starts talking. ROLLO moves towards the crowd. At this moment RONNIE comes running out of the building behind PIP, shouting ...

RONNIE

He just shot a keeper! Watch out!

ROLLO

(Turning) No, I didn't ...

RONNIE

He's in there dying! Look out!

Some of the CROWD turn and look.

ROLLO

Be quiet!

RONNIE

Oh my God. He's gone mad!

ROLLO

Be quiet! ... Stop ranting or I'll ...
(He raises the gun to threaten RONNIE)

PIP throws herself flat. RONNIE runs out of sight, hands in air, howling. BUGSY starts talking. ROLLO turns back towards the CROWD, some of whom are still staring. He starts walking towards them. Suddenly fifteen yards away, he checks. From his p.o.v. we see that, in the middle of the CROWD, the KEEPERS are lifting a stretcher upon which lies the WOMAN IN RED whom we earlier saw injuring her leg at the Sea lion pool. She is accompanied by her HUSBAND and her MOTHER, but it is SYDNEY who is organising the stretcher party. ROLLO stares at SYDNEY with growing fury.

ROLLO

Right. Right!!!

29 CONTINUED:

29

He strides over to the group.

SYDNEY

Ah, director. I'm afraid there's been an accident ...

ROLLO

Of course there has, and I can assure you it's the last one, Lotterby.

SYDNEY

What?

CUB

This lady fell off some steps, Mr Lee and ...

ROLLO

No, surely no, she's been savaged by a koala bear, or gored by a bunny rabbit or ripped to shreds by a canary hasn't she? (To WOMAN) Come on, get off that.

HUSBAND

What?!

ROLLO

I've had enough of this (To KEEPERS, who are RICHARD and SEAN again) Put that stretcher down. Now!

WOMAN IN RED

I fell!

SYDNEY

She did, Mr Lee, scout's honour!

ROLLO

I'm warning you, Lotterby. Put ... it ... down!

The KEEPERS do so, cowed.

CUB

Mr Lee ...

HUSBAND

What are you doing?

ROLLO

(To WOMAN) Come off it, friend. (To WOMAN IN RED) Just get up and stop shamming will you?

HUSBAND

She needs treatment!

ROLLO
No, she doesn't.

HUSBAND
She's hurt her leg! (He points)

ROLLO
It's fake.

HUSBAND
What?

ROLLO
It's fake blood. Taste it (He does so, removing a smear from the woman's ankle with his finger.)

CUB
Mr Lee ...

ROLLO
Fake.

HUSBAND
Fake?

ROLLO
Yes, fake. Try it.

HUSBAND
(To KEEPERS) Who's this?

ROLLO
(Tasting the blood again) See?

SYDNEY
He's the Director of the Zoo. He's in charge ...

As SYDNEY says this, VINCE and WILLA are getting out of a London taxi in the background. WILLA looks towards ROLLO and VINCE starts paying the cabbie. They're quite smartly dressed and both carry bags: VINCE a suit-carrier for his Armanis, WILLA an overnight bag. WILLA sets off towards the melee. Over this ...

ROLLO
(Bending down to the WOMAN) You've been rumbled old girl.

WOMAN IN RED
What?

ROLLO
Come on, the game's up.

29 CONTINUED: (3)

HUSBAND

What is going on?!

ROLLO

Don't you know? This is theatrical blood. It's a charade, it's been going on all day ... She's not hurt.

HUSBAND

She is hurt!!

ROLLO

No, no she's just one of the keeper's wives. Taste the blood.

HUSBAND

She's my wife.

ROLLO

(Tastes it again) See ... she's your wife?! (Registers and tastes again, and for the first time registers doubt)

CUB

She did fall down, Mr Lee.

ROLLO

(Examining her leg, which ~~he~~^{she} has lifted up, and then licking ~~it~~^{up}) Wait a moment.

MOTHER

He's drinking her blood! Will you stop that? (She hits ROLLO who drops the leg)

WOMAN

Aagh!!

ROLLO

Sorry! Are you ... sure she's your wife?

HUSBAND

Of course I'm sure!!! (He threatens ROLLO) Get away from her.

ROLLO

Wait, wait. Let's be sensible.

HUSBAND

Sensible?!! (To everyone)
Count Dracula's telling me to be sensible!!!

ROLLO

Look ...

WILDA steps forward

29 CONTINUED: (4)

29

WILLA
What's happening here?

MOTHER
He was sucking her blood.

WILLA
(Unbelieving) He was what?

MOTHER
Look at his lips.

ROLLO brushes his lips guiltily.

HUSBAND
He's the director of the zoo!

WILLA
You're Rolo Lee?!

MOTHER
Christopher Lee, more like!

ROLLO
Yes.

WILLA
(Indicating WOMAN) She needs attention,
she's injured

ROLLO
I know she's injured!

HUSBAND
You just told everyone she wasn't.

MOTHER
Before you bit her!

ROLLO
Look ...

WILLA
Are you in pain, Mrs ...?

WOMAN
Pike. No, but it's very tender and ...

ROLLO
I can manage this, thank you.

WILLA
Not on the evidence so far, you can't (To
WOMAN) We'll get you straight to
hospital.

VINCE arrives.

29 CONTINUED: (5)

29

ROLLO

No, you won't! I'm in charge here.

WILLA

No you're not. Mr McCain and I ...

ROLLO

Yes I am, yes I am!! Now why don't you
bugger off?! I mean, who the hell do you
think you are ...?!?

WILLA

Willa Watson.

VINCE

Vince McCain.

ROLLO

... .. Welcome to Marwood Zoo. Can I
offer you a coffee, or ...

RONNIE now hurries up accompanied by TWO POLICEMEN. The
CROWD has grown as the drama unfolds, and the KEEPERS who
were shot at by ROLLO have joined it.

RONNIE

That's him!

POLICEMAN

(To ROLLO) You're under arrest.

OTHER POLICEMAN

He shot one of the keepers.

PIP

He shot five animals too!

WILLA & VINCE

What!?

PERCIVAL

No! He missed ...

RONNIE

Missed? What about that?!

He pulls up PERCIVAL'S shirt, revealing appalling injuries.
All the WOMEN scream, the STRETCHER BEARERS drop the
stretcher, a POLICEMAN grabs ROLLO's gun, and the MOTHER hits
him hard with a handbag so that ROLLO falls in a heap.

ROLLO

I can explain everything ...

30 INT. ZOO HALL. DAY (TO BE SHOT IMPRESSIONISTICALLY)

30

The KEEPERS are open-mouthed and impressed by the
presentation in progress. VINCE and WILLA are using all

30 CONTINUED:

30

WILLA

To summarise, we want you to join the Octopus family. But families work because they've got a lot in common. So let's see what we've got in common.

ROLLO, sitting near the back, looks faintly sick.

VINCE

You all want job security. Ms Watson and I want you to have that security.

WILLA

You love your animals. We respect that, and know this zoo cannot succeed without that love.

VINCE

You see conservation is the heart of your work here. Great by us! No problem! All of that is what we all want. But to get it, the numbers have to be right. And they depend on customer pull-through. The stats are all visitor volume-sensitive. Sadly, zoos face growing competition. In the last decade there's been a five-fold increase in alternative family-oriented ticketed leisure opportunities.

ROLLO feigns vomiting.

VINCE

So we must acknowledge our core business and orient our marketing to position ourselves not just as an adventure-outlet-recreational-leisure-environment, but also as a multiple-facility-merchandising-opportunity-situation.

BUGSY stands up in the audience.

BUGSY

May I ask if the epithet 'Theme Park' effectively defines your ...

VINCE

Not yet. Willa.

WILLA

Thank you Vince. Our aim must be to give each visitor a warm buzzy experience. And I believe passionately that we can do that only if the communications between all of us are really open. So that we can ask you how you feel about what's happening here, and each and every one of you feels free to ask us anything you

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

BUGSY stands up again.

BUGSY

Well if I may ask something ...

WILLA

Please, let me finish ... Anything at all about, for example, zoo policy ...

BUGSY

Yes, that's what I'm trying to do ...

WILLA

And we will be organising a series of seminars for this purpose.

BUGSY

Are you planning a theme park?

VINCE and WILLA are momentarily thrown. But ...

SYDNEY

Well it's better than a shooting range!!

Applause. Shouts of approval. ROLLO straightens his tie.

VINCE

(To BUGSY) Thank you for your contribution. Three final points. One: conservation remains the aim of this zoo.

WILLA

Two: there's no danger of layoffs unless we lose market share.

VINCE

And, three: the Fierce Creature Policy is no longer in force.

Wild applause from SYDNEY, RONNIE, DEREK, PIP and OTHERS.

Many KEEPERS have leapt to their feet, cheering.

WILLA is a little surprised by their enthusiasm.

VINCE basks in their approval.

The KEEPERS turn towards ROLLO, cheering triumphantly. But ROLLO's seat is empty. The KEEPERS make rude gestures towards the vacant place.

31 DELETE EXT. ZOO GROUNDS. DAY

31

32 INT. ROLLO'S NEW ATTIC ROOM. DAY

32

ROLLO is feeding Rollo, the Lemur with obvious affection. Two other animals are eating or drinking from glasses on a low table. The other two animals from the famous five are

32 CONTINUED:

32

corner is his unmade bed; his cases have not been properly unpacked. By the window is a table with papers on it. A cage lies near the table. There is an open door leading to a medium-sized bathroom.

ROLLO

I don't know what I'm going to do with you. They'll probably fire me, you see. Pity. I shall miss you. Anyway you can't stay here much longer ... I think I'll start putting you back in your cages, one by one, then maybe nobody will notice ... Oh! Look what you've done!

One animal has knocked its bowl of mushy food all over ROLLO.

ROLLO

Honestly! That's the second time. (He stands and starts taking his trousers off) Don't they teach you any manners in Madagascar? You do that again, and I will shoot you.

DAVIS

He has his trousers round his ankles and is showing the guilty animal his soiled shirt, when there is a knock on the door. ROLLO freezes.

ROLLO

Hang on! Shan't be a moment!

He grabs a couple of the animals.

33 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE. DAY

33

VINCE and WILLA are waiting to be let in. VINCE, impatient, knocks again.

ROLLO'S VOICE

Coming!

Pause. The door opens and a slightly anxious ROLLO peers out, in a dressing gown.

ROLLO

... Oh! Hello.

WILLA

May we come in?

ROLLO

Er ...

WILLA

You are working now? It's three o'clock.

ROLLO

It's a bit of a ... oh! You want the report.

33 CONTINUED:

33

VINCE
So may we come in?

ROLLO
Good idea.

34 INT. ROLLO'S NEW ATTIC ROOM. DAY

34

They enter and glance around. ROLLO hurries to the table.

ROLLO
I just spilt something, so it's all a bit
of a mess ...

VINCE and WILLA note the glasses, the rumpled bed, the food
on several plates, the vodka bottle and ROLLO's state of
undress.

ROLLO
(Offering the report) Well, here's the
report ...

WILLA
(Taking it) Rolo, we've been reviewing
your situation and we've decided to move
you to an administrative position.

ROLLO
Oh!

VINCE
Away from the public ...

WILLA
You saw the local paper?

ROLLO
Er ...

VINCE
The "Vampire Gunman Runs Amok" story.

ROLLO
Oh that. Bloody newspapers ...

WILLA
(Leaving) So will you report to me at
nine tomorrow, please? We'll discuss
your new position then.

ROLLO
Absolutely. Look! About those five
animals I'm supposed to have shot.

VINCE
Smart career move.

34 CONTINUED:

34

ROLLO

... What?

VINCE

Shooting them saved your bacon, Rolo.
When we told Rod, he said 'I like his
style, he's got balls. Keep that
hardnosed bastard'...

ROLLO

Oh, I see!

There's an odd noise in the bathroom. ROLLO hears it and
starts talking to cover it.

ROLLO

It wasn't an easy decision, but you've
got to be ruthless.

The sound of two WOMEN talking quietly comes from the
bathroom.

ROLLO

... You know, no-nonsense management ...

35 INT. BATHROOM. DAY

35

One animal is licking a dial on a small radio on the sink.
In the background, the Lemur is sitting on the cistern of an
old fashioned lavatory.

ROLLO'S VOICE

I mean, toughness is what it's all about,
really.

34 INT. ROLLO'S NEW ATTIC ROOM. DAY

34

ROLLO

That, and ... hardnosed...ness.

There is the sound of flushing.

ROLLO

Damn radiator. Hardly slept last night..

The sound of a lot of activity comes from the bathroom.

WILLA

I'm not surprised.

VINCE

Rolo ...

ROLLO

Yes?

34 CONTINUED:

34

VINCE

I think you need to reposition your attitude to relationships with some of the female staff? Yes?

ROLLO

"Some of the female staff"...?

WILLA

(Giving him a knowing look) Oh, come on ...

ROLLO is mystified.

VINCE'S VOICE

Sexy! That blood-sucking stick insect ...

36 EXT. GORILLA ENCLOSURE. EARLY EVENING

36

VINCE and WILLA, in singlets and shorts, have finished jogging. WILLA is leaning on the wall of the enclosure, staring at Jambo. Behind her, VINCE is doing fancy exercises, perhaps with a balletic flavour.

VINCE

What a haemorrhoid. The way he moves! He looks like he borrowed his body for the weekend and hasn't figured out how it works yet.

WILLA

Well he's got something. The girls are all over him.

VINCE

... I bet they're really dogs. Mangy, short-sighted ...

WILLA is concentrating on Jambo, as VINCE rails behind her.

WILLA

... He's strangely attractive.

VINCE

(Spinning) Him!?

WILLA

No, Jambo ... Wonderful.

VINCE

... Yeah!

WILLA

... He makes me think of my father.

VINCE

... Was your father ugly?

WILLA

No! It's just that ... when I did see him, he used to take me to Atlanta Zoo to see Willy B, the gorilla there. That's when I felt close to him.

VINCE

To the gorilla?!

WILLA

No, to my father. Life felt ... natural then ...

VINCE

Natural? Yeah. Yeah ...

They are both watching. A beat.

VINCE

... Is that all he does?

WILLA

... What?

VINCE

I mean this zoo's after the entertainment dollar right? So is that the show? I mean if this is the evening performance, I'm glad I missed the matinee. What does he do for an encore, fall asleep?!

WILLA

You don't really like animals, do you?

VINCE

It's not that I don't like 'em, I just don't see the point of them. When I was about five, my parents gave me a dog - I didn't "get" it. I mean, I had no sticks I needed to be fetched.

WILLA

That's so sad.

VINCE

(Nods a lot) ... For the dog.

WILLA

No, for you.

VINCE

Oh yes! ... In what way?

WILLA

That you couldn't love the puppy.

VINCE

Oh no! No, no.

WILLA

What?

VINCE

No, no. (He moves away from her towards a bush) I know this. This is the kind of of conversation two people have if one of them is female.

From behind the bush he suddenly pushes a little wooden drinks trolley, with a bottle of Dom Perignon, two glasses and some nice clean linen, and a long stemmed rose in a tall thin glass.

VINCE

Surprise! Champagne! (Off WILLA's surprise) To celebrate our partnership.

WILLA

(Agreeing) Our partnership.

VINCE

(Opening the bottle) Just one thing... I couldn't help noticing ... don't know if you did ... we still have separate bedrooms.

The cork pops. He pours champagne. WILLA looks a little uneasy. VINCE gives her a glass, runs a finger along her collar-bone, collecting her sweat, flicks it into his glass, and toasts.

VINCE

To us.

He drains his glass, Willa sips.

WILLA

Vince ... Let's not mix business with pleasure.

It takes several seconds for this to sink in. Actually, more than several. Eventually.

VINCE

But we've taken over the zoo. Remember?

WILLA

I think we should wait.

36 CONTINUED: (3)

36

VINCE

... Why?

WILLA

Because what we have is special.

VINCE

... No it isn't.

WILLA

(Softly) Yes it is. (Looking tenderly into his eyes) Can't you feel how different it is?

VINCE

Yes. Yes I can ... different, yeah. Absolutely. ... In what way?

WILLA

You know. (She kisses him a little more tenderly) It's too soon.

VINCE

How too soon?

WILLA blows him a kiss and walks away. VINCE just stands there, visibly throbbing. In the background, ROLLO suddenly hoves into view, pushing a little basket on wheels with the Lemur in it. He is moving away from VINCE and therefore unaware of him. That is, until VINCE attacks the drinks trolley, smashing it into pieces. ROLLO spins round, stares in absolute astonishment for some seconds and then starts to beat a retreat. VINCE suddenly sees Jambo staring at him.

36a DELETE (SCENE 36)

36a

VINCE

(Shouting at Jambo) This is your fault!

And then he sees ROLLO disappearing and does a quick burn.

VINCE

You!

ROLLO freezes and then turns.

ROLLO

... Oh. Hello! Lovely evening ...

VINCE

What are you doing with that ...?

ROLLO

... Oh! The lemur?

VINCE

Yes.

36a CONTINUED:

36a

ROLLO
Just putting it back.

VINCE
Back? Why did you take it out?

ROLLO
For a walk.

VINCE
... It can hardly move in there.

ROLLO
Oh! No, no, the exercise is for me.

VINCE
Why do you need the lemur then?

ROLLO
Why do I need the lemur? Er... Good point, actually. Well, next time I won't bother. Thanks for the advice (He starts to leave).

VINCE
Wait a moment! Why have you ~~taken~~ it?

Pause. ROLLO is thinking.

VINCE
For target practice?

ROLLO
... I took it out because it was lonely.

VINCE
Lonely?!

ROLLO
Yes. Lemurs happen to suffer from loneliness - that's what the word 'lemur' means in Madagascan incidentally ...

VINCE
Bullshit! Maybe it's for one of your orgies!

ROLLO
... Orgies?

VINCE
You bet.

ROLLO now looks from VINCE to what is left of the drinks trolley.

36a CONTINUED: (2)

36a

ROLLO

Excuse my asking ... but are you having a mid-life crisis?

VINCE is unsure how to reply.

ROLLO

Come on Rollo, it's time I got you back home.

VINCE's face is a picture.

VINCE

'Come on Rollo'? (Looking around in amazement, he sees JAMBO still staring at him) Now he's talking to himself ... (Still to JAMBO) Hello? He..ll..oo? Would a drink cheer you up?

VINCE grabs the champagne bottle on the wall of the enclosure and throws it at Jambo, who watches impassively as it sails by. VINCE now gives Jambo the finger.

37 EXT. ZOO COMPOUND. DAY

37

RONNIE and DEREK, in new KEEPER outfits, ~~are~~ ^{being} approached by two zoo VISITORS. These are BUGSY and DI, but perfunctorily disguised.

BUGSY

(In a different voice) Could you tell us the way to the lions, please?

DEREK

Straight on to the bandicoots, left, hang a right at the Rinkajous, they're just past the pumas.

DI

Thank you.

They start to leave. But ..

RONNIE

Hi! My name's Ronnie.

DI

(Pausing) Good bye, Ronnie.

They move off again, but DI checks.

DI

Are there any other animals that you'd recommend?

This floors both DEREK and HUGH. They look at each other. No inspiration.

37 CONTINUED:

37

DEREK

Well, today's specials are ...

WILLA'S VOICE

No!

DEREK

Sorry.

DI

Not at all. Thank you for your help.

She starts to leave. DEREK calls after her.

DEREK

It's been my pleasure to facilitate your enjoyment of this leisure, ticketed-environment pull through venue, today.

WILLA appears and walks right up to HUGH. We now see all the other KEEPERS, who are watching this role-playing exercise. And SYDNEY, who is watching WILLA a lot.

WILLA

What are you talking about, facilitating something, it didn't make sense.

HUGH

I know that. I was just trying to sound more like Vince.

RONNIE

You know, more consumer-friendly.

WILLA

No. You're very formal.

RONNIE

Thank you.

WILLA

No, no ... I want you to be warmer.

Pause. Some discomfort.

RONNIE

Warmer?

SYDNEY

Friendlier!

Pause.

RONNIE

Last week, you ...

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

WILLA

Last week I was trying to eradicate out-and-out rudeness. This week I'd like to move on to something more positive - helping people. Yes? Which means ... real warmth towards our customers.

This produces tremendous unease, discomfort and anxiety, except for SYDNEY and CUB. WILLA notes this.

WILLA

OK. Fine. I think we need to talk about our feelings here.

RONNIE

Feelings?

WILLA

Yes.

DI

Do we have to?

WILLA

Why not?

CUB shrugs at SYDNEY.

HUGH

Well ...

RONNIE

It's embarrassing.

WILLA

... Embarrassing?

SYDNEY reacts with impatience. CUB yawns.

DI

They're private.

WILLA

I'm not asking you who's screwing who.

Stir. HUGH and CUB exchange glances, as do other couples.

WILLA

I just want to know your professional feelings, OK? So how do you feel ... about our customers?

Pause.

BUGSY

They're pests.

37 CONTINUED: (3)

37

WILLA

... Pests!?!?!?

PIP

Yes, annoying the animals ...

DEREK

Feeding ice-cream to the fish ...

RONNIE

Knocking you over ...

BUGSY

All they ever want to know is where the
lavatories are. And, of course, whether
...

WILLA

(Almost speechless with horror) Look!
One! They pay your salaries. Two -
they're people. ... People?! Don't you
like people?

RONNIE

Not much.

HUGH

No.

BUGSY

That's why we became zoo keepers, really.

RONNIE

We don't even like ~~each~~ other that much.

WILLA

(Trying to keep the lid on her righteous
fury) If you don't like people, why did
you come into a people business? Why
didn't you become lighthouse keepers or
novelists, or ... snipers, or something?

The KEEPERS look a bit sheepish.

WILLA

OK. Let's go back to last week.

RONNIE

Oh!

WILLA

Have a nice day, right. Have you been
practising?

Quiet groaning and shifting of feet.

37 CONTINUED: (4)

37

WILLA

Cub, you're American. Remind us.

CUB

Have a nice day.

A single raspberry is heard.

WILLA

Excellent. OK, everyone. And ...

ALL KEEPERS

(Flatly)) Have a nice day.

WILLA

Again.

ALL KEEPERS

(Not much better) Have a nice day.

WILLA

Smile.

ALL KEEPERS

(Smiling woodenly) Have a nice day!

WILLA

Say it as if you mean it!

RONNIE

Can we say it as though we mean it.

WILLA

What?

RONNIE

Is it all right if we don't really mean it?

WILLA

Why wouldn't you want our customers to have a nice day?! Oh, I forgot, you hate them, don't you?

RONNIE

No, we don't hate them ...

WILLA

You'd like them to die in car crashes on the way home so they don't come and annoy you again. Hey! We could put up a notice at the exit, saying 'Hope you had a lousy visit, now get lost.'

RONNIE

Look people come here to see animals, not to form relationships with us.

37 CONTINUED: (5)

37

WILLA

Look, I'm not asking you to invite them for Sunday lunch, or ... to send them presents at Christmas, I just want you to smile at them and say 'Have a nice fucking day', OK?

KEEPERS

(With great vivacity) Have a nice fucking day.

Pause. WILLA takes a moment to recover from giving them this easy victory.

WILLA

OK. Now each one of you is going to say 'Have a nice day' and anyone who says it unconvincingly will be on the Customer Complaints Desk for a month.

A ripple of horror. Followed by big smiles. WILLA points at HUGH

HUGH

Have a nice day.

WILLA

Next.

The camera now tracks along the line of KEEPERS, even if the director doesn't want it to.

BUGSY

Have a nice day.

DI

Have a nice day.

DEREK

Have a nice day.

PERCIVAL

Have a nice day.

RONNIE

Have a nice day.

SKY

Have a nice day.

CUB

Have a nice day.

SYDNEY

Have a nice day.

But when we get to PIP, she does not speak. She stares past WILLA.

37 CONTINUED: (6)

37

WILLA

Come on, kid. Have you forgotten the line?

More silence. Something has gobsmacked PIP. She points ahead.

PIP

Rollo.

WILLA

What? (She turns)

PIP

Rollo.

We see to where she is pointing. Rollo the Lemur is looking into camera.

WILLA

(In irritation, loudly) Rollo!?

38 INT. ROLLO'S NEW OFFICE. DAY

38

ROLLO, at his desk, is listening to BUGSY in full flow.

BUGSY

So I said "A zoo has an educational purpose, Mr McCain" and he says "The public are not really interested, you just have to grab their attention and sell them what you can while you've got it".

ROLLO

I know what you're say...

BUGSY

I assume he's planning to turn the whole zoo into a supermarket, where he can sell videos about animals in other zoos.

ROLLO

Yes, I know exactly what ...

He rises, and so reveals that ROLLO's office is an old fashioned animal cage, with a solid roof but bars on three sides.

BUGSY

Actually the zoo shop looks like a supermarket now. I'm surprised he's not selling the zoo animals yet.

ROLLO

If I could just say something ...

A bun hits ROLLO and falls on his desk. ROLLO reacts.

38 CONTINUED:

38

BUGSY
(He's off again) Special summer sale,
antelopes 50% off ...

ROLLO picks up the bun off his desk, and places it in a waste paper basket already full of other buns.

BUGSY
... Ocelots £200 a pair, including VAT.
Rhino horn - prices on application.

ROLLO
Would you please let me speak.

BUGSY
A free porcupine with every purchase of
two overpriced T-shirts.

ROLLO
Be quiet!

BUGSY
And all these sponsors!

ROLLO
Thank you. I just ...

BUGSY
If you ask me...

ROLLO
I don't! I haven't finished. *DAVIS*

Suddenly the door in the solid side of the cage, behind ROLLO's desk, flies open and PIP and CUB dash in, followed by SYDNEY and DEREK.

PIP
(To Rollo) You didn't kill them!

ROLLO
... What?

PIP hugs him round the waist, while CUB embraces him.

CUB
We've checked! They're all alive!! You
never shot them. You ...

She kisses ROLLO enthusiastically, to his surprise.

PIP
They're safe!

ROLLO
I say ...

After a moment, ROLLO relaxes and joins in a little, allowing

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

into view, ahead of a group of eight SPONSORS, which he's addressing. WILLA is bringing up the rear.

VINCE

This old lion house is obviously no longer suitable for keeping animals in, so we're using it for middle management. (He turns, sees ROLLO and seethes) ... What the hell do you think you're doing!?

ROLLO spins round. PIP and CUB separate. VINCE and the smartly suited SPONSORS stare at him from outside the cage. WILLA, at the back of the group, nods to VINCE.

VINCE

Can you not control yourself for one goddam minute!? You're supposed to be working, not prancing round your cage like a stick insect on heat, molesting every bit of passing skirt. (To SPONSORS) I'm sorry, I'm sorry. (To ROLLO) This is a family zoo, not the Playboy Mansion! This is your last warning, Lee. (To SPONSORS) Please gentlemen, this way. I do apologise

He leads the SPONSORS away.

WILLA, still intrigued by ROLLO's sexual allure, lingers a moment. Two SPONSORS come back to her.

MALE SPONSOR

Who is he?

WILLA

...He's our personnel director.

FEMALE SPONSOR

Certainly knows how to handle the staff.

MALE SPONSOR

No wonder you keep him in a cage.

The SPONSORS move off. Back in the cage, ROLLO grasps the bars in an attempt to control himself.

ROLLO

That ...

CUB & PIP

Sorry Mr Lee.

SYDNEY pats ROLLO on the shoulder. WILLA turns away thoughtfully and follows the others.

ROLLO

I'll break his bloody neck.

39 EXT. TORTOISE ENCLOSURE. DAY

39

VINCE is addressing the SPONSORS. WILLA observes from the back of the group. A small Tortoise sits motionless in the middle of its enclosure. Covering the entire wall behind is a large anonymously coloured curtain.

VINCE

I'm looking at a whole new concept in marketing. For instance, what have we here? (He indicates a motionless Tortoise) A Galapagos Tortoise. Look at it. Who gives a shit? I ask you. If it died, who would know? My grandmother's grave is a bigger attraction than that. But wait!!! (He pulls a cord and the cloth falls to reveal a giant blow-up photograph of Bruce Springsteen at the back of the cage). It's not some nonentity tortoise now, it's Bruce Springsteen's tortoise. Immediately it's an event. If Bruce has sponsored this tedious little runt, it's practically a celebrity itself. OK?

SPONSOR

Does he come and visit it?

VINCE

When his schedule allows.

SPONSOR 2

So he's actually agreed to sponsor it.

VINCE

Bruce is actively considering it as we speak. But the potential! We can market little Bruce Springsteen tortoises. Jurassic Park made half its income from little plastic dinosaurs. They're even deader than that little twat. Now! Let me show you another angle.

40 INT. TAPIR'S CAGE. DAY

40

Close on a picture of a Tapir. As we pull out, we see VINCE beside it.

VINCE

This is a Brazilian Tapir. I have to say I've dated better looking women (He presses a button on a small information box which is attached to the cage) Hah! Now listen

RECORDED BOX VOICE

Brazilian Tapirs, which can attain a mature weight of 660lbs. are solitary

40 CONTINUED:

40

RECORDED BOX VOICE (cont'd)
 lowland forests in sunny Brazil,
 reachable now in less than ten hours via
 British Airways non-stop flights to Rio,
 with fares from as low as £652 return. (A
 BA jingle starts)

During the latter part of this recording, the Tapir actually walks into shot. It is wearing a full body stocking with the words "British Airways" on it, and the BA logo. WILLA stares and then winces. Behind the Tapir a model aeroplane takes off. The SPONSORS applaud. As VINCE leads them away from the Tapir, a SPONSOR sees an 'endangered sign' on its cage.

SPONSOR
 It's endangered?

VINCE
 It deserves to be. Nothing that ugly
 should be allowed to have sex.

This brings an alarmed reaction from some of the SPONSORS. A KEEPER, dressed as a British Airways Steward, brings the Tapir food on a tray.

41 EXT. ZOO. DAY

41

VINCE leads the SPONSORS into a new area.

VINCE
 ... here's yet another kind of commercial
 opportunity, and a part of our zoo policy
 of facilitating people to enjoy nature.

He indicates a largish state-of-the-art capsule with a sign saying "Atfachrome presents: TIGER TERROR." "Dare to experience a Fully Authenticated Tiger Attack." "No Pregnant Women." Suitable horror pictures complement these words.

VINCE
 This is a simulated attack by a Bengal
 man-eater - a real white-knuckle-brown-
 trouser job.

SPONSOR
 How's it done?

VINCE
 It's a high-tech animatronic tiger
 operated by a couple of guys, fantastic
 sound effects. It's Belgian.

A big roar. They all jump. Except WILLA. Another roar.

SPONSOR
 What happens?

41 CONTINUED:

41

VINCE

For £5 you stand in the long grass and
get stalked by a maneater ...

Another roar.

VINCE

And for another £3 you get a Atfachrome
picture of the moment it kills you.

Terrified FATHER emerges with 7 year old SON. We suddenly
notice that RONNIE is standing behind the SPONSORS, taking in
all this, with amazement. We zoom in on him, as VINCE
continues

VINCE

Gentlemen, ladies, this is the way zoos
are going - one day soon we'll be able to
replace animals with models ... models
that will do what we programme them to
do, instead of hiding away from the
paying public ...

RONNIE's jaw is sagging.

(From now onwards, signs of sponsorship should proliferate,
and become more and more present in all our shots of the
zoo.)

41a EXT. MARWOOD ARMS. EVENING

41a

Our favourite hostelry looks busy inside.

42 INT. MARWOOD ARMS BAR. EVENING

42

The KEEPERS are playing darts. ROLLO is wearing clothes more
like the KEEPERS' normal attire. SYDNEY is throwing, as
RONNIE is 'going on' at him.

SYDNEY

You're forever on about some disaster
that's just about to happen.

RONNIE

It is! Then he started talking about
synchronised swimmers in the sea lion
pool dressed as penguins!

CUB

He told me he wants notices saying what
time the animals have sex.

DEREK

And the ostriches and giraffes to race
each other so people can bet.

42 CONTINUED:

42

HUGH

I've got the chimps booked for their first sky-diving lesson on Thursday (He throws a dart).

ALL KEEPERS

No!?!

HUGH

No. No, it was a joke. Sorry ... (He throws again)

RONNIE

It's not funny! This isn't going to be a proper zoo any more.

BUGSY

Who was it, I wonder, who first mentioned the phrase 'theme park'?

Annoyance and anxiety.

SYDNEY

Look, let's not get excited.

PERCIVAL

Why not? I saw a lot of money changing hands with those sponsors.

Pause as everyone takes this in and worries.

DEREK

The trouble is, there's ~~no~~ way of knowing how far he's going to go.

BUGSY

He'd know.

BUGSY points at the TV above the bar.

CUB

What's he saying?

DEREK

Turn it up!

They move closer to watch the set.

42v MCCAIN ON TV

42v

MCCAIN

... I'm very confident that government permission will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

REPORTER

And will your newspapers be supporting the government at the next election, Mr

42v CONTINUED:

42v

MCCAIN

I never control the editorial content of
my newspapers.

The picture cuts back to the studio.

ANCHORMAN

In Northern Ireland today ...

42 INT. MARWOOD ARMS. EVENING (AGAIN)

42

Groans, as the sound is turned down. RONNIE starts worrying
loudly at SYDNEY and HUGH. In the foreground, ROLLO throws a
dart. CUB is close to him.

CUB

Could you find out what's happening?

ROLLO

You think he'd tell me.

CUB

No, but perhaps ...

There is a conspiratorial moment between them. And ROLLO
throws his final dart.

ROLLO

I'll think.

He steps aside and PIP buttonholes him.

PIP

Why don't you just break his neck.

ROLLO

What?

PIP

Like you said.

ROLLO

Maybe ...

BUGSY

Careful. If you killed someone like
Vince, you'd be facing twenty, twenty-
five ... hours of community service. At
least.

Suddenly there are shouts of 'Oi' from all the DART PLAYERS.
ROLLO spins round and sees DEREK holding his blowpipe to his
mouth, about to 'throw' his dart.

DEREK

(Jokily ingenuous) It's a dart!

43 EXT. ZOO. DUSK/NIGHT

43

ROLLO is making his way rather unsteadily along the path by the side of the main building. He has a pie, on which he is munching. As he reaches the corner, he arrives at a large statue of a Gorilla. He salutes it. Then starts loping forward in an ape-like manner and approaches a tree. We now realise that WILLA, in her jogging outfit, is at the window of her first floor flat, resting her elbows on the window-sill as she takes in the night air and drinks water from a bottle. And she now watches ROLLO as, ape-style, he pulls himself up on to a branch of the tree. She's amused.

WILLA

Hi.

ROLLO hears this just as he reaches the point of balance and is about to take another bite of pie. He raises his hand.

ROLLO

Hi.

But he falls off the branch backwards in one smooth movement. Pause. He reappears from the dark in the nether regions of the tree.

WILLA

Are you all right?

ROLLO

Fine. (He waves the pie) Dinner. It's a wonderful view from up there.

WILLA

... And you can smell the whole zoo.

ROLLO

I know what you mean ...

WILLA

It all feels so natural.

Behind her an electronic machine summons her by beeping. Her face falls.

WILLA

Oh. Atlanta. Enjoy dinner.

She disappears from sight.

ROLLO

Good night ...oh toothsome one. What a waste!

He wanders on, lost in thought not entirely un-Willa-connected. Suddenly he becomes aware of a voice. It is VINCE, sitting at the open window of his office only a few feet away. VINCE suddenly switches on a light forcing ROLLO

43 CONTINUED:

43

VINCE

It'll be great to see you, Dad ...
Willa's coming, yes. Dad, there's
something really important that we need
to discuss so it's great you can drop in
... oh, hello Sam. Yes, it's right on
your way to Southampton, the Marwood
Arms, Churchill Suite ...

ROLLO is noting something in his diary.

43a EXT. MARWOOD ARMS. EVENING

43a

44 INT. CHURCHILL SUITE, MARWOOD ARMS. EVENING

44

[SEPARATE DIAGRAM OF ROOM]

We start on a photograph of Winston Churchill. In the foreground BUGSY is fixing a small microphone to a flower in a vase on the coffee table E. In the background, ROLLO appears in the doorway A, carrying a large reel-to-reel tape recorder. The door is kept open with a waste bin.

ROLLO

Where shall I put this?

BUGSY

Oh. On one of the beds in our room.

ROLLO turns back into the room he has hired.

ROLLO

Did we really need this huge thing?

BUGSY

The Revox A77 has always been heavier
than comparable models ...

ROLLO carries it over to one of the beds and puts it down.

BUGSY

... due to its high density tape stock;
for the layman - it's got "bigger ears"!
The reason ...

There is a knock on the door of ROLLO's room. ROLLO starts, then races to that door, closing the connecting door to the Churchill Room, as he passes. BUGSY drones on.

BUGSY

... this machine gives maximum auditory
clarity with ambient reach is that ...

ROLLO opens the door to reveal a maid. She looks at a forum.

MAID

Would you like your bed turned down, Mr
Lee?

CONTINUED:

ROLLO

No. No, thanks, everything's fine.

He closes the door and takes a deep breath. Then he hears BUGSY still talking.

BUGSY

This particular ultra-directional capacitor microphone utilises an electret element, which is ...

ROLLO, irritated, opens the connecting door again.

BUGSY

... Of course, a special capacitor, with one plate being a flexible diaphragm ...

ROLLO

Please, how much longer will ...

BUGSY

... provides the necessary high output ...

ROLLO

Please! Please!

BUGSY

Incidentally, there are ...

ROLLO

Shut up! Sorry! Sorry, I'm anxious ...

BUGSY

We've got plenty of time.

ROLLO

We have not got plenty of time.

BUGSY

McCain isn't due for ...

ROLLO

Do you know the risk we're taking here?
If he finds out, we're all dead meat.

BUGSY

(Pointing to ROLLO's room) We'll be safely in there.

ROLLO

You do realise this is a criminal act.

BUGSY

Oh yes.

CONTINUED: (2)

ROLLO

Good!

BUGSY

Section 5 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act
of 1949 revised in ...

ROLLO

How soon? How soon?

BUGSY

Just one more microphone to check ...

ROLLO

Right! (Looking at his watch)

BUGSY

... Actually, the interesting thing about
this new electret element is ...

ROLLO thinks of killing him, but refrains.

BUGSY

... that, surprisingly, although it is
now used in the new generation of micro
recorders, there is ...

ROLLO gives up and leaves the room.

BUGSY

... nevertheless ... Oh look! A dead
wasp. Lucky you!

BUGSY delicately picks up a dead Wasp from the fruit bowl,
and drops it carefully into his jacket pocket, opening up the
pocket with his other hand, while continuing.

BUGSY

... a fascinating technical problem to do
with cracking the sonar radius
capacitance.

45 INT. HOTEL STAIRCASE. EVENING

45

ROLLO runs down the stairs.

46 INT. HOTEL RECEPTION. EVENING

46

ROLLO strolls nochalantly down the last three stairs and
saunters across the lobby to a window at which PIP is
casually sitting, with a Lamb in her arms, keeping an eye on
the street outside.

ROLLO

See all right?

46 CONTINUED:

46

PIP
Everything.

ROLLO
About half an hour.

PIP
OK.

ROLLO walks across towards the main entrance, and goes up to CUB, who is hanging about there, pretending to read a noticeboard.

ROLLO
You OK?

CUB
Everything under control. You?

ROLLO
Oh I'm fine. Half an hour then ...

He leaves and makes for the stairs.

CUB takes a deep breath, and then sees something through the main entrance doors. She peers, then takes a few quick steps towards the doors to get a better view ...

47 EXT. HOTEL

47

MCCAIN's car driven by SAM arrives opposite, in front of hideous new Zoo gates. VINCE is waiting on the pavement with the MANAGER and other HOTEL STAFF.

48 INT. CHURCHILL SUITE. EVENING

48

BUGSY
And as Stephen Hawking has pointed out,
in order to understand ...

ROLLO enters, realises BUGSY is still talking, and reacts with a variety of emotions, the last of which is extreme irritation.

BUGSY
... What you would see if you were
watching a star collapse to form a black
hole, one has to remember that in the
theory of relativity ...

ROLLO
Will you hurry up!

BUGSY
May I point out ...

48 CONTINUED:

48

ROLLO

No! Get the microphone fixed, and get
...

BUGSY

It is fixed.

ROLLO

So let's get in there (Indicating their
room) and close the door!

They begin walking towards their room.

BUGSY

I'd just like to make the point ...

ROLLO

I don't care I just want you to be quiet
...

They've stopped. Pause. As they move off ...

BUGSY

I know my loquacity sometimes ...

ROLLO

Shut up!! Will you put a sock in it?!

They've stopped. Pause, as they move off ...

ROLLO

Are you aware what a complete windbag you
are?

BUGSY pauses.

BUGSY

(Putting his finger to his lips) Sssh!

ROLLO could kill him. But there's a knock at the door B.

ROLLO

(Quietly) Cub?

He moves towards the door, BUGSY grabs his arm.

BUGSY

It might be the maid!

They freeze. Another knock, more urgent.

49 INT. CORRIDOR. EVENING

49

CUB, very nervous, is outside the door, and looking back down the corridor towards the top of the stairs. She gives up, runs eight yards back down the corridor and hurries into the room ROLLO has taken.

50 INT. ROLLO'S HOTEL ROOM. EVENING

50

CUB runs in, hurries to the connecting door A, pushes it further open and looks in.

51 INT. MARWOOD ARMS. EVENING

51

Not seeing anyone for a moment, CUB takes some further steps into the room, and then spots ROLLO and BUGSY peering out into the corridor on the far side of the big cupboard.

CUB
They're here!!

ROLLO
What?!!

ROLLO stares at his watch. The door closes quietly behind CUB, pushing the waste bin out of its way with its new momentum.

CUB
(She beckons towards door A) Quick!!

BUGSY, ROLLO and CUB now hurry to door A, which connects with ROLLO's room. Half way to it, they realise it has closed, and they run to it and try to get it open with their fingernails, their alarm growing.

ROLLO
Quick!

They all run towards door B into the corridor but just feet from it, they hear a key in the lock and muffled voices. They freeze. ROLLO and CUB disappear into big cupboard D, near the door. BUGSY suddenly finds they're not there, is amazed, and runs into the bedroom through door C. Door B opens and in walk MCCAIN, SAM, VINCE, HOTEL MANAGER, TWO ASSISTANT MANAGERS and a WAITER carrying champagne. The WAITER places the champagne on low table E, while the MANAGERS fawn. The telephone on table F starts ringing and SAM heads for it.

MANAGER
... enjoy your stay, although it is so short, if there's anything at all you need, please just ...

SAM
Rod, it's Melbourne.

MCCAIN
Ah. Gentlemen, ladies, if you'll excuse me, I have to take a rather important call.

51 CONTINUED:

51

MANAGERS

Of course. Thank you. Please.

SAM now starts to usher out the throng, while MCCAIN sits at TABLE F, and VINCE starts helping himself to champagne at table E. As the throng make for the door, BUGSY walks after them from door C, trying to pretend, very casually, that he is one of them. He carries a bowl of fruit, waiter-style, with a hand towel on stiff arm. But as he approaches door C, he realises he is too cut off from the throng, especially when SAM and the HOTEL MANAGER pause in the doorway conversing discreetly. BUGSY looks at MCCAIN, deep in his phone call, then at VINCE, back turned to him at table E, then back at SAM, with increasing alarm, and then the cupboard door slides open, he steps in, and the cupboard door slides closed, just as SAM closes door B and turns back into the room.

MCCAIN

And what'd be the cost of a plant in
Papua New Guinea?

In the cupboard, ROLLO and CUB both very anxious, are uncomprehendingly staring at the bowl of fruit.

MCCAIN'S VOICE

Right, I'm going to close Melbourne down.

After a moment, BUGSY offers them some. They decline. BUGSY starts trying to whisper to ROLLO, who absolutely forbids him to utter. They all listen intently.

MCCAIN'S VOICE

Well they should have thought of that before they made the demand. But don't tell them for three weeks, just keep negotiations going while we move the machinery to Papua. Then tell them.

In the room, SAM is now standing by the telephone.

MCCAIN

Just give them our standard redundancy speech ... Well they shouldn't be so greedy.

MCCAIN rings off, and gives a sheet from the telephone pad to SAM

MCCAIN

Fax Atlanta about this.

SAM makes for the door, and MCCAIN moves to join VINCE at the sofas.

MCCAIN

Well now Vince, what do you want to talk about?

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

VINCE

Dad it's good of you to spare the time
...

MCCAIN

It was on my route.

In the cupboard. ROLLO and CUB are listening hard, but BUGSY wants to tell ROLLO something.

BUGSY

(Whispering) It's ... not ... being ...
recorded.

ROLLO

(Whispering) I know! That's ... why ...
I'm ... trying ... to listen. Now, shut
up!

ROLLO makes a threatening face. BUGSY goes quiet. In the room ...

VINCE

The zoo's going real well.

MCCAIN

So?

VINCE

So what I wanted to ask was ...

MCCAIN

Have you got the sponsorship figures with
you?

VINCE

Yes, you won't believe what I've ~~put~~
together.

VINCE goes to his slimline briefcase and flips it open.

52 INT. CORRIDOR. EVENING

52

PIP is creeping up the corridor, carrying her Lamb and listening hard. She knocks quietly on the door of ROLLO's room, pushes it open, peers inside and enters.

53 INT. ROLLO'S HOTEL ROOM. EVENING

53

PIP is puzzled by the empty room. Then she hears voices. She looks at the tape recorder, registers puzzlement, hurries over to it, puts the Lamb down on the bed, stares at the controls and switches the recorder on. Pleased, she hurries to door A and opens it a crack to listen.

MCCAIN'S VOICE

Only 200,000 from Schweppes?

53 CONTINUED:

53

VINCE'S VOICE
I'm hoping to talk 'em up.

54 INT. CHURCHILL SUITE. DAY

54

MCCAIN is staring at a memo.

VINCE
... Dad, what I really wanted to ask you
was this.

There's a knock at door B, VINCE reacts with fury, and SAM
looks in.

SAM
Rod, the Hong Kong call has come through.
Vince, I think he'd like to take this one
alone.

VINCE
Oh good! I needed to visit the john ...

VINCE hits himself with anger. The phone rings, MCCAIN
hurries towards it. SAM shepherds VINCE towards door C. In
the cupboard ROLLO and CUB listen, engrossed. BUGSY suddenly
looks puzzled, pats his pocket and starts looking around.
Obviously Terry has gone missing.

MCCAIN'S VOICE
Great!

In the room, MCCAIN slams down the phone triumphantly.

MCCAIN
The Chinese are seriously interested!

SAM
The public executions?

MCCAIN
They'll give us world rights.

SAM
How often?

MCCAIN
Weekly!

SAM
No!

MCCAIN
At least five guys a show. Do you
realise what this is worth?!!

SAM
... We'll get a lot of liberal whingeing,
Rod.

MCCAIN

We'll just show them in Asia to begin with. My God. Executions! This is totally cross cultural. This is what satellite was invented for!

Inside the cupboard, BUGSY is on all fours peering round the cupboard. This has attracted ROLLO's attention and he reacts - he's in a closet with a madman. BUGSY starts looking through the fruit. ROLLO returns to listening avidly. BUGSY looks around, then taps ROLLO again.

MCCAIN'S VOICE

(Loud) But no documentation! Not yet ...

ROLLO

(Very quiet and angry) ... What?

BUGSY

Terry's escaped.

ROLLO

Who's escaped?

BUGSY

Terry.

ROLLO

(Scornfully) ... Terry?

BUGSY

The tarantula.

BUGSY indicates his pocket, ROLLO stares, ^Sthen realises! And panic follows, albeit a silent panic. CUB looks at him, completely puzzled; then taps him on the ~~shoulder~~. ROLLO jumps and dies of fear.

CUB

... What?

ROLLO

His tarantula's loose.

CUB joins in the panic without further delay. Fearful that Terry may be in their clothing, they both start loosening it frantically.

BUGSY

He's harmless!

Back in the room, SAM is letting VINCE back into the room through door C. He then gives MCCAIN an envelope and leaves. MCCAIN pockets the envelope.

MCCAIN

Sorry about that, Vince. When's Willa coming?

54 CONTINUED: (2)

In the cupboard, there is frenzy. Pieces of clothing fly everywhere.

VINCE'S VOICE
About ten minutes. ...

MCCAIN'S VOICE
So, what's on your mind?

ROLLO hits the door of the cupboard by accident. In the room, MCCAIN turns and looks in the direction of the cupboard.

VINCE
I feel very close to you Dad ... I'm personally indebted that you've given me this great managerial opportunity ...

MCCAIN
(Turning back to VINCE) Time is money
Vince, what's your point?

VINCE
I'm being really successful, Dad ... Now, can I have an advance on my inheritance?

MCCAIN
... out of the question.

There's another loud bump and MCCAIN turns again towards the cupboard.

VINCE
Dad ...

MCCAIN
I don't have the money.

VINCE
You've got Six billion dollars!!

MCCAIN
Seven! But things are tight at the moment.

There are a couple of bumps and a rattle. MCCAIN strides towards the cupboard. VINCE makes an enraged face at him, and hits something. But MCCAIN goes past the cupboard, and opens door B, to find no-one there. He turns, and walks back towards VINCE, puzzled

VINCE
You've got to give me something.

MCCAIN
... Why?

54 CONTINUED: (3)

54

VINCE

You fucked up my childhood.

MCCAIN

How could I have? I wasn't even there.

VINCE reacts with fury, biting himself hard. He reacts. In the cupboard, CUB and ROLLO are in a state of undress, frozen with terror, staring around them In the room ...

MCCAIN

My father never gave me any money.

VINCE

(Indignantly) You inherited a fortune!!

MCCAIN

That's different. Anyway I paid my father back.

VINCE

... How?

MCCAIN

I made his name famous.

In the cupboard, a coathanger is swinging slowly in the direction of CUB's shoulder.

VINCE'S VOICE

... Look, it's only a small advance against my inheritance.

In the room ...

MCCAIN

What inheritance?

VINCE

(Appalled) I'm your son! You've got to leave me something.

MCCAIN

... I'm not leaving.

A very quiet bleat. MCCAIN thinks he heard something.

In the cupboard, the coat-hanger is even closer to the frozen CUB. She and ROLLO still search the gloom with fearful eyes.

VINCE'S VOICE

What do you mean you're not leaving.

MCCAIN

The moment I become seriously ill, I'm being cryo-genically frozen until they've found a cure. Everything goes in a trust until I'm back.

54 CONTINUED: (4)

54

VINCE

Back!?! You mean you're not going to die.

MCCAIN

You're goddam right, I'm not.

A scream. MCCAIN looks round.

In the cupboard, CUB is frozen with her hand over her mouth. ROLLO and BUGSY wait to be discovered

In the room, MCCAIN stares at the cupboard. Then a Sheep bleats very loudly. MCCAIN is truly bewildered. He looks around. Another bleat, which is mysteriously curtailed and followed by the sound of a water carafe being knocked over. MCCAIN approaches the window.

MCCAIN

That was a sheep.

In the room, MCCAIN is looking towards the cupboard, and moving slowly in that direction.

VINCE

(Horrified) ... You're going to be immortal?

MCCAIN

Right!

As MCCAIN's back is towards him. VINCE snatches up a fruit knife, thinks of stabbing of MCCAIN, changes his mind, prepares to cut his own wrists, changes his mind again, makes a face expressing his rage, and stabs himself in the thigh. A beat. Horror! VINCE pulls the knife out, drops it and puts his hand over the wound. MCCAIN turns to him.

MCCAIN

Listen. Don't think this cryo-genics plan is cheap. Their charging me an arm and a leg.

We now see that Terry is very clearly visible on the back of the sofa, towards which MCCAIN now moves. VINCE, trying to staunch the bleeding in a casual manner, now sees it.

VINCE

Christ!

MCCAIN

... What?

VINCE

The biggest spider I've ever seen!

MCCAIN sees it, but in an instant Terry disappears. MCCAIN reacts with dislike.

54 CONTINUED: (5)

54

VINCE

That's what must have been making the
bleating noise. It went under the sofa.

MCCAIN

(Moving away) I don't like spiders - kill
it!

VINCE

It's terminated, Dad.

A noise from the cupboard.

Inside the cupboard, ROLLO has BUGSY in a head lock, while
CUB has him round the knees. BUGSY struggles frantically.

In the room, VINCE is trying to find Terry, under the sofa,
while keeping his hand on his wound. MCCAIN addresses him.

MCCAIN

Now listen to me. You may have to close
the zoo down at 24 hours notice.

VINCE

(Really shocked) What?!

In the cupboard, ROLLO is trying to listen, while he and CUB
sit on BUGSY, and pinion his limbs.

ROLLO

Shut up, shut up!

VINCE'S VOICE

(Pleading) I've got more sponsors, Dad.

MCCAIN'S VOICE

Fuck your sponsors - some Japanese may
make me a big offer to turn this into a
golf course.

ROLLO and CUB look at each other.

VINCE'S VOICE

Do you realise we'd have to shoot most of
the animals?

In the room.

MCCAIN

Well that's a problem for the PR
department. We'll buy a vet to say
they've got some dangerous plague. Now,
when you fire the keepers, just read this
out.

MCCAIN pulls out the envelope SAM gave him and puts it on the
coffee table.

54 CONTINUED: (6)

54

MCCAIN

This is what we always say.

VINCE

(Limpily) Just read it out?

MCCAIN

It's easy. Employees are remarkably docile - they're an underclass. (Suddenly seeing VINCE's wound) What's that?

VINCE

(Surprised) Oh! ... Er ... the spider must have stung me.

But MCCAIN is not interested in the flow of blood now revealed.

VINCE

(Shouts) There he is.

MCCAIN

Well, kill it!! There!

Seeing Terry, MCCAIN throws a heavy glass ashtray at it. A burst of banging and rapping comes from the cupboard. MCCAIN turns towards it and takes a couple of steps in that direction.

In the cupboard, ROLLO is throttling BUGSY who goes still.

In the room, the noise stops. But MCCAIN continues to approach the cupboard. Then there is a clear knock at door B. MCCAIN veers past the cupboard, and opens the door. WILLA is standing there.

WILLA

Oh, hello, Mr McCain.

MCCAIN

Rod.

WILLA

Thank you. Am I early?

From VINCE's direction comes a curse.

MCCAIN

Let's get some dinner. It's good to see you. How's business?

WILLA

It's really exciting. We ...

MCCAIN

Good! I'm hungry.

MCCAIN leaves the room. WILLA moves to follow him but then

54 CONTINUED: (7)

54

WILLA

What's wrong with your leg.

VINCE

Insect bite.

WILLA

How did it go?

VINCE

(Making 'perfect' gesture) Never better!

(He exits, limping)

WILLA, slightly concerned, hurries after him. The door (B) closes loudly. Pause. The doors of the cupboard slide open and BUGSY, CUB and ROLLO fly out. BUGSY is off round the room, looking for Terry; CUB, who is in bra and panties, and ROLLO who is in shirt, underpants and socks, breathe deeply, and try to recover.

ROLLO

Oh dear. Please God! Never again ...
please!

He sees the envelope, and picks it up. Suddenly we hear the sound of a key being put in the lock. CUB and ROLLO turn, see the bag, and disappear from sight. BUGSY also disappears behind a sofa. WILLA enters, picks up her handbag, opens the door again, glances in the mirror, checks, lets the door go and opens her bag to get a lipstick. The door closes quite loudly, and behind her both ROLLO and CUB emerge again, quite unaware WILLA is still in the room. ROLLO is half way through an exhalation of relief when he sees her. As WILLA senses something and turns, ROLLO projects himself horizontally behind a sofa. CUB has managed to find a better hiding place, half-way to the ajar connecting door, where we can see PIP, still watching. PIP reacts with dread, as WILLA slowly walks towards ROLLO. She deliberately walks round the sofa, pace by pace and appears right above ROLLO who is on all fours. He glances up and waves.

ROLLO

Hi!

WILLA looks at ROLLO for some time.

WILLA

... What are you doing here?

ROLLO

... Contact lens. No, it's gone (He stands)

WILLA

No. What are you doing here?

54 CONTINUED: (8)

54

ROLLO

Well, to cut a long story short ...

WILLA

No, let's have the whole thing.

ROLLO

Oh. Well ... last April ... hah! Joke.
No, the thing is um

WILLA

Go on.

Behind WILLA, CUB is edging her way towards the other room,
still very des-habille, and BUGSY is stalking Terry.

ROLLO

Well, you see I took the room next door
for the evening, and not three minutes
ago, I found the connecting door was
unlocked, so I kind of wandered in here,
purely out of curiosity...

CUB makes it into the next room closing the door very
carefully. Terry appears over the top of the sofa very close
to WILLA.

ROLLO

And to my absolute astonishment, you
walked in, and I ... er ... panicked.

WILLA turns to look at the connecting door. ROLLO sees Terry
and reacts. WILLA turns back to ROLLO, BUGSY's hand grabs
Terry, WILLA does a double-take on where Terry was, thinks
hard, shakes her head, recovers and turns to ROLLO.

WILLA

You ... took the room next door for the
evening?

Pause.

ROLLO

... Just wanted a bit of quiet. The
hyaenas have been playing up a bit
recently, and ...

WILLA suddenly walks rapidly to the connecting door, which
has not closed properly, and throws it open. From WILLA's
p.o.v. we see the bed. With the Lamb on it. WILLA reacts.
She takes a few slow paces towards it, and then sees CUB,
still very undressed, and PIP. WILLA turns and looks at
ROLLO who has moved towards her. ROLLO shrugs innocently.
WILLA looks at him and many thoughts pass through her mind.

55 EXT. ZOO. EARLY MORNING

55

BUGSY is playing for DEREK. RONNIE and PERCIVAL the tape of

55 CONTINUED:

55

MCCAIN'S VOICE

We'll buy a vet to say they've got some disgusting plague ...

RONNIE

... Well, now we know what we're up against ...

BUGSY quickly turns the sound off and nudges the KEEPERS who realise that WILLA is jogging past. She waves.

WILLA

Good morning!

KEEPERS

Have a nice day ... Missing you already.

WILLA laughs and jogs on to the strains of WOMAD melodies. We see her jog through a series of beautiful zoo locations, somewhat marred by VINCE's advertising hoardings and other marketing ploys: through one where ROLLO is handing some congratulatory KEEPERS copies of the Octopus Firing Instructions, which are rapidly concealed; then through the Wallaby enclosure recording something on her dictaphone; and then alongside the Gorilla enclosure, where she catches Jambo's eye, and shares a look with him for several paces as she slows down before turning away in the direction of the Gorilla Keeper's hut.

She goes up to to the door of this, knocks, waits, and opens it.

WILLA

Hugh?

No reply. So she enters the hut, goes straight to the faucet, and fills a glass from it. As she does so we become aware of a figure behind her. She drinks, puts the glass down, and turns ... to find a large Gorilla, Jambo, just a few feet away, looking at her.

WILLA is clearly initially scared; then slowly she relaxes as she ceases to feel fear, and instead becomes fascinated by the intimate experience of the animal. She holds out a hand and the Gorilla touches it. They move closer together to look into each others eyes. Music

WILLA is now quite without fear, and totally involved in her contact with the Gorilla.

WILLA

You're beautiful.

A few seconds later we hear ...

HUGH'S VOICE

Where have you gone?

55 CONTINUED: (2)

55

HUGH now appears from the cages on the inner side of the hut and, seeing WILLA, starts a little.

HUGH
... everything all right?

WILLA
Just fine.

Pause

HUGH
Better go now Jambo.

As Jambo turns to return to his cage

WILLA
Good bye ... (To HUGH) He's beautiful.

HUGH
Yes, he is.

He follows Jambo. WILLA stands for a few moments and then leaves.

56 EXT. GORILLA KEEPER'S HUT. EARLY MORNING

56

As WILLA emerges, still in her sublime state, she walks towards some KEEPERS, who are enjoying their early morning cup of tea. The KEEPERS see her rather dazed expression.

DEREK
...Are you all right, Ms Watson?

WILLA just looks at them

CUB
You look a bit dazed.

WILLA
...No, I'm fine...I just... (She indicates the Gorilla's hut) ...with the gorilla...

DEREK
Oh! You made contact.

WILLA
Yes!

SEVERAL KEEPERS
Good!

WILLA
It's... (She shrugs, meaning 'amazing')

56 CONTINUED:

56

CUB

We know.

WILLA

Oh. You all know...

They nod

SYDNEY

That's why we work here ... it's not the money.

WILLA

But you never talk about it.

Pause.

KEEPERS

No. No, we don't really. No point.

PIP

You either understand or you don't.

DEREK

(To WILLA) We always thought you might
...

There's a pause. WILLA could cry. The KEEPERS go all quiet and respectful, and start turning to move off. Then we hear a strange lolloping sound which causes a few of the KEEPERS to turn back. From their p.o.v. we see WILLA still having a little snuffle while a huge Kangaroo-suited person hops up to her from behind. She is so distracted by her emotion that the kangaroo reaches her without her realising. The Kangaroo gestures to her vainly and then clears its throat.

ROLLO

(For it is he!) Good morning ...er...

WILLA comes to and turns to him.

ROLLO

...Ms Watson, Mr McCain would like ...

WILLA

Aaagh!

ROLLO takes a pace back, and starts taking his head off.

ROLLO

Sorry!! Only I was told to practise my hopping ...

The moment that WILLA recognises him...

WILLA

You. Your timing is not your strong point, is it? Please go away.

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56

ROLLO

Oh. Right!

ROLLO now tries to leave but his feet get tangled up, ski style, and he slowly falls in a heap. The KEEPERS kill themselves with laughter. ROLLO has difficulty getting up and gets cross.

SYDNEY

Natty outfit.

ROLLO

... (Indignantly) You wait 'til you see
yours

Even WILLA smiles.

57 DELETE EXT. SEA LION POOL. EARLY EVENING.

57

58 DELETE EXT. ZOO. EARLY EVENING.

58

59 EXT. PANDA'S CAGE WITH PANTECHNICON BESIDE IT. EARLY EVENING.

59

VINCE is standing in front of a large nondescript cloth screen attached to the front of a cage, which looks very new and contains quite a lot of foliage.

VINCE

Ladies and gentlemen, first I want to share with you our successful process at the sponsorship interface.

We now see the KEEPERS who have gathered to hear him. They are all wearing absurd animal costumes and look completely ridiculous. In addition, they give off strong vibes of boredom and mutiny. Their dislike for VINCE is palpable. WILLA is watching from a distance, distinctly uncomfortable.

VINCE

And I want to thank you sincerely for the truly terrific enthusiasm you've shown for our innovative initiatives, which have injected real excitement into the Marwood Animal Leisure Experience. Most exciting of all ... today I have for you a truly phenomenal attraction which should enable us to double our ticketed revenues over the next two accounting periods. Fellow conservationists, this is the big one! But first, I challenge you to guess what I'm about to unveil - (He gestures towards the screen).

DEREK

Is it giraffes tap-dancing?

59 CONTINUED:

59

VINCE

No. (To DI) Write that down.

HUGH

Is it a machine for firing keepers?

VINCE

... What, into nets? Good try. Yes?

BUGSY

Is it a supermarket with all the assistants dressed as complete idiots?

VINCE

No, you lose! ... It's only - the biggest draw in the zoo spectrum.

He pulls a cord, and the screen falls. First, we see a big plaque "This animal is very dangerous". Then we see the KEEPERS staring into the newly revealed cage, but they can't see anything, until HUGH shouts.

HUGH

Look!

He points, and suddenly we can see a Giant Panda's head peeping over the top of some greenery at the back of the cage. It remains there, chewing bamboo. Astonishment!

SYDNEY

A Panda!?!?!?

DEREK

... Incredible!

The KEEPERS are absolutely astounded. They look at each, slack-jawed.

SYDNEY

How did you get it?

VINCE

It wasn't easy. It's beautiful, look!

Suddenly he opens the door to the cage and walks in and up towards the Panda. For a moment, the KEEPERS are frozen with shock. Then.

ALL

No, no! Stop!

HUGH

It's dangerous!

PIP

It'll kill you!

59 CONTINUED: (2)

59

DEREK

Get out of there!

HUGH

Get the guns.

HUGH and DEREK run to the door of the cage and run after VINCE, with WILLA and ROLLO in pursuit. Their speed is reduced by their animal costumes. The other KEEPERS run round the outside of the cage calling to the unruffled VINCE, especially BUGSY who is shouting all kinds of information about Pandas.

SYDNEY

It'll rip you to pieces.

RONNIE

Listen to us!

PIP

They're killers!

CUB

Stop!

Chasing up behind VINCE, HUGH and DEREK collide and fall. ROLLO fails to hop over HUGH. VINCE is very near the Panda.

RONNIE

Get back!!

HUGH

(To DEREK) Blow pipe, quick!

But DEREK hasn't got it.

CUB

Stop, for God's sake!

ALL

No! Don't! Stop!!

Some of the KEEPERS scream and cover their eyes; others look away. Pause. More Pause. The KEEPERS stare in disbelief. VINCE is now sitting, perched on top of the Panda's head, and moving rhythmically up and down as it moves in the course of continuously eating bamboo. In silence the KEEPERS slowly approach, both inside and outside the cage. VINCE is smiling triumphantly. The KEEPERS gape. WILLA's face is stony.

SYDNEY

(Quietly) You bastard ...

ROLLO

Pity it wasn't a real one.

BUGSY

You can't put an animatronic animal in a zoo!

VINCE

Why not?

RONNIE

It's not real.

VINCE

It fooled you, and you're Keepers!

RONNIE

But

PIP

But ... you ... you can't do this.

VINCE

Why not?

The KEEPERS can't express their indignation. WILLA is looking sad. VINCE is getting annoyed.

VINCE

What is the problem?

SYDNEY

It's a model!

VINCE

So? It gave you all a thrill. Look! Thousands of people are going to come here who've never seen a panda before! The experience of a lifetime!

RONNIE

Are you going to say it's not real?

VINCE

What?! And spoil it for everyone.

CUB

But that's ...

PIP

Dishonest!

ALL KEEPERS

Yes!!

VINCE

I don't believe this! You're trying to take this fantastic thrill away from people who've paid good money - that's dishonest!

59 CONTINUED: (4)

59

ALL

But ...

BUGSY

Why have the Panda at all? Why not just say it's inside sleeping.

VINCE

Who's being dishonest now!? Because ... that won't give them a thrill.

SYDNEY

But it's not a real thrill. It's artificial.

VINCE

Having pandas in England is artificial, for God's sake. What do you want to do, fly everyone to Africa.

KEEPERS

(To each other) Africa?

BUGSY

They come from China.

VINCE

I don't want some cheap Chinese pandas here. This panda was handmade in Belgium. I accept nothing but the best.

KEEPERS are almost bewildered into silence. Then...

VINCE

Look at my shoes - quality! Quality!!!

The KEEPERS cannot find a proper way into this conversation. WILLA looks angry and confused. ROLLO looks at PIP.

ROLLO

All right. I'll break his neck.

VINCE

What is the matter with you all? Are you the British who built Hadrian's Wall?! I cannot stand all this negativity (He turns away)

60 EXT. BY THE GORILLA ENCLOSURE. EARLY EVENING

60

C/U VINCE who turns towards camera and continues in the same vein, although he is now alone with WILLA. Against the enclosure is a hoarding advertising Gordon's Gin, and a plaque describing Jambo as Gordon.

VINCE

What's wrong? Customer pull-through is way up - the zoo's a success

WILLA

Vince. When people come here they can feel their connection with nature, they can find out where we came from, who we are, and what we're still a part of. You don't get that from electric pandas and bill boards (She points). And the Gorilla's name is not Gordon.

VINCE

But they don't know that! Look, they give us their money and we give them what they want.

WILLA

(A heart-felt cry) ... But what about quality!?

VINCE

Quality has never worked for Rod.

WILLA

That's right. He's never improved the quality of anything. Everything he touches gets tackier.

VINCE

He's improved the quality of your salary.

WILLA

Vince ... I know you didn't major in sensitivity, but if I can share something, maybe you'll understand where I'm coming from ...

VINCE

Two Trees, Oklahoma, isn't it?

WILLA ignores this.

WILLA

I had an extraordinary experience today.
I ...

VINCE

(Impatiently) What sort of experience?

WILLA

(Indicating JAMBO) ...With him.

VINCE

With him!? (He laughs)

WILLA

Yes. A kind of contact ...

VINCE pulls a face indicating incomprehension.

60 CONTINUED: (2)

60

WILLA

..You don't know what I'm talking about,
do you?

VINCE

I know exactly what you're talking about.
You've gone cold on me, but that gorilla
turns you on.

WILLA

(Trying to explain) No, Vince it's much
more than ...

VINCE

Great! That big ape is more attractive
than I am, right?

WILLA

You said it, I didn't ...

VINCE

Well, let me ask you something? How much
does he earn? Just tell me that, will
you? How much does Mr Gorilla take home
each week? Eh? Come on, impress me.
I'll tell you. Zilch. Zip. Zero. (He
indicates 'O' with his fingers)

WILLA

Are you serious?

VINCE

Are you? Do you know what I'm worth? Do
you ... do you know what I've made from
this zoo in just 37 days? (Defiantly) One
point two (To JAMBO, shouting) One point
two million dollars!

WILLA

... What are you talking about?

VINCE

You don't believe me? I've made nearly
\$800,000 on sponsorship deals in cash,
plus consultancy fees, plus commission on
futures. Do you know what rhinoceros
horn is worth?

WILLA

(Quietly astonished) ... You've been
stealing?

VINCE

Aren't you impressed?

WILLA

You've been stealing?!

DAVIS

60 CONTINUED: (3)

60

VINCE

No matter what I do, no matter what I wear, I never impress you. You're just like my father.

WILLA

You stole.

VINCE

I saw an opportunity and I took it.

WILLA

You stole.

VINCE

... Alright, I stole - so what!?
Everybody steals. How do you think the big players get so rich? By playing by the rules? It's in the Godfather: "Behind every great fortune lies a crime" - Balzac. So don't start lecturing me on morals when you've got the hots for that ...

Unable to express his contempt for the Gorilla, VINCE gives him the finger. The Gorilla watches calmly.

WILLA

This will close the zoo Vince. How can we make enough profit if you're milking it.

VINCE

Screw the zoo. We make two million and move on - the place closes, what a shame, golf course, finish.

WILLA

... I never realised just how far down the food chain you come. You know what you are? You're pronoid.

VINCE

... "Pronoid"?

WILLA

Yes, your perception of life is that it's one long benefit dinner, where everyone cheers you on and wants you to win everything. You think you're the Prince, Vince. You think that contrary to all evidence, people like and admire you. Is it listening? Right! You put every last cent back in the zoo account by ten tomorrow, or I tell Rod.

And she goes, leaving VINCE open-mouthed. A beat. VINCE curses WILLA, and then forces himself to think. He sits on a bench, cogitates, makes a decision, pulls his mobile phone

60 CONTINUED: (4) 60

VINCE
Give me the number for British Airways
Reservations.

61 INT. VINCE'S BEDROOM. EVENING 61

VINCE is packing fast. Basically it's his Armanis, his Guccis, and his toothbrush. He gets the case shut and leaves, grabbing his travelling bag.

62 INT. CORRIDOR. OUTSIDE VINCE'S OFFICE. EVENING 62

VINCE comes along the corridor, checking that the coast is clear and hurries in to his office, locking the door.

63 INT. VINCE'S OFFICE. EVENING 63

VINCE puts his travelling bag on his desk, and kneels to open the safe. He takes out a lot of money and transfers it to the bag. He repeats this, and then places his passport on the desk too, pauses, glances at his watch, exhales, and is about to pick up the bag when he sees the gun rack. He stares. He looks again at his watch.

VINCE
Why not? I have some time to kill.

64 EXT. ZOO. EVENING 64

VINCE is striding through the zoo with the gun under his arm. There is no-one around at all.

65 EXT. DIFFERENT PART OF ZOO. EVENING. 65

WILLA sits contemplatively, drinking in the atmosphere.

66 EXT. ZOO. EVENING 66

VINCE suddenly stops. He checks his rifle is loaded and walks forward carefully. Now we see he is approaching the Gorilla Enclosure. He approaches it.

VINCE
Jambo! (Calls) Jambo! (He catches sight of Jambo) I just came to say "good bye", Jambo (He starts moving forward menacingly) Hello!

Jambo is clearly alarmed and starts to move away. As he does so, VINCE hurries, but Jambo is moving towards a tunnel that will offer him cover against VINCE's fire.

VINCE
I've got a nice roast chicken for you.
Bananas on the side.

Jambo disappears into the tunnel so that VINCE cannot get a clear shot at him. VINCE curses, thinks, then moves round

66 CONTINUED:

66

succeeded in climbing up into the central tower where he can interpose the column between himself and VINCE. VINCE moves to get a better position, but Jambo simply adjusts his position behind the column.

VINCE now places a scarf where Jambo can see it, and then runs below a ridge until he appears at 90 degrees to his previous position. In this way he can get a clear shot at Jambo.

VINCE

Yes!

He puts the gun to his shoulder and we see the cross wires trained on a frightened Jambo. But as VINCE aims the gun, the picture of Jambo starts to wobble. Puzzled VINCE takes his eye from the sight and looks at the rifle.

All seems normal. So he trains the sights on Jambo again. But the wobbling is worse. VINCE checks the gun again. Then once more puts the sights to his eye. The wobbling is very fierce indeed. VINCE is totally bemused for a moment, but suddenly turns his head. From his p.o.v. we see 5,000lbs of charging Rhino, fifteen feet away. VINCE's face registers amazement.

In wide shot VINCE is hit by the Rhinoceros, and his body arcs up and up towards and over the camera, as the rhino slows down and veers off. The Gorilla watches and then applauds.

67 EXT. MEERKAT ENCLOSURE. MORNING

67

C/U faces of SYDNEY, RONNIE, HUGH and PIP. They are looking downwards at VINCE's dead body. In the background, DEREK and CUB are arriving.

VINCE's head is at a very strange angle, indicating a very broken neck. PIP looks at SYDNEY..

PIP

My God! He did it!

HUGH

... What?

PIP

... Well ...

DEREK

... What?!

PIP

Well, somebody broke his neck ... didn't they?

Pause. Puzzlement.

67 CONTINUED:

67

CUB

... What do you mean?

SYDNEY

She means 'Somebody broke his bloody neck'.

A ripple. Some KEEPERS now understand.

HUGH

... You don't really ...

PIP

So how else did it happen? (Pointing to the meerkats) Well it wasn't them, was it?

The KEEPERS look around and stare upwards in search of an explanation. Others are arriving.

RONNIE

What?! What are you saying?

CUB AND DEREK

... Not Rollo!? My God!

RONNIE

Murder?!!

PIP

Well who else wanted him dead?

RONNIE

(Shaking) Murder!?!?

DEREK

(Pointing) My God! He threatened to ...

RONNIE

Murder!!!! In Marwood ...

ROLLO'S VOICE

What's going on!

DEREK claps his hand over RONNIE's mouth and they all turn towards the approaching ROLLO and try to look more relaxed.

CUB

He'll never get away with it.

DEREK

Hello Director! Personnel Director, sorry.

RONNIE is very frightened of ROLLO and is trying to get away from him.

67 CONTINUED: (2)

67

ROLLO

What's this Mother's Meeting then?
Haven't you all got work to do? Well ...?

Silence. ROLLO notices RONNIE's odd behaviour, and then sees VINCE.

ROLLO

My God ... (He drops on one knee by VINCE and looks hard) It's Vince!

KEEPERS

Oh yes! So it is. Certainly looks like him. Yup! Extraordinary!

ROLLO

(Examining the body expertly) Dead as a doornail. Neck's broken ...

RONNIE is trying to escape. The other KEEPERS are watching ROLLO closely, glancing at each other, and quietly approving what they take to be excellent acting.

SYDNEY

(Quietly) Very convincing ...

Some quick nodding.

ROLLO

When did you find him?

PIP

Five minutes ago sir. I just came in, and ...

ROLLO

Do any of you know anything about this?

HUGH

No sir. None of us have any ideas of who might have killed him, Mr Lee.

ROLLO stares at HUGH.

DEREK

Definitely not sir. Definitely ...

They all shake their heads

ROLLO

But ... how ...

SYDNEY

And none of us have heard of anyone threatening to kill him either, sir.

67 CONTINUED: (3)

67

ROLLO

What?

SYDNEY

It doesn't look to any of us as though he
was attacked ... by a giant kangaroo.

ROLLO

But the zoo has no ... What do you mean?

ROLLO steps towards SYDNEY. RONNIE breaks free.

RONNIE

Don't kill him! Don't kill him.

ROLLO

Kill him?

RONNIE

No! There's been enough killing already.

Somebody nudges RONNIE hard, and DEREK clamps his hand over
his mouth again. There is an ominous silence. ROLLO looks
from KEEPER to KEEPER, suspiciously. Suddenly.

ROLLO

Oh! You don't think I ... (He points to
VINCE's body)

PIP

(To ROLLO) Congratulations!

HUGH

Of course not sir!

ALL KEEPERS

No, no! No! Last thing on our minds sir
...

ROLLO

... You do don't you.

DEREK

Don't worry sir, we're on your side.

CUB

Yes!

ROLLO

... No. No, no ...

SYDNEY

We'll pretend it was an accident sir.

CUB

You tell us what to say.

67 CONTINUED: (4)

67

ROLLO
But I didn't do it.

KEEPERS
We know. That's right, Mr Lee. You can count on us.

ROLLO
No, no, really ... look!

KEEPERS
Really ...

SYDNEY
Mr Lee! (He indicates several zoo VISITORS who are staring at them)

ROLLO and the other KEEPERS turn guiltily towards the VISITORS, checking their watches.

SYDNEY
We'd better move the body sir.

VISITOR
What's that man doing?

GIRL
Is he dead?

SYDNEY
Ha, ha! He was looking down one of the burrows and he fell asleep.

ROLLO
(Whispering) Right! You get rid of the body while I think what to do.

BOY
Why doesn't he wake up?

PIP
One of those (Indicating the animals) ran up out of the burrow and stunned him.

KEEPERS (TO VISITORS)
Have a nice day. Over there. Have a nice day over there. The Panda's usually awake by now.

The VISITORS continue to stare.

SYDNEY
(To ROLLO) Here are his keys and stuff.

WOMAN VISITOR
Has there been an accident?

67 CONTINUED: (5)

67

The VISITORS are not budging.

KEEPERS

No, no. Have a nice day. Good bye.
Missing you already. Enjoy ... over
there...

SYDNEY

Oh, fuck off.

Obediently the VISITORS disperse.

ROLLO

Thanks. Well done. You'll ... er

SYDNEY

We'll take care of the body.

ROLLO

You'll take care of it? Right I'll be
back in a few minutes. I need to think.

DEREK

Leave it to us, Rollo. (He winks)

ROLLO

And I didn't ...

ALL KEEPERS

No, no, no.

ROLLO leaves and the KEEPERS begin to bear VINCE's body away.

68 EXT. ZOO. DAY

68

ROLLO is sitting on a bench, thinking feverishly. After a
few moments he glances by chance towards a Giraffe which is
drinking at a trough. He stares.

ROLLO

Good idea!

69 DELETE INT. DI'S OFFICE. DAY

69

69a INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE VINCE'S OFFICE. DAY

69a

ROLLO, looking about himself for signs of life, pulls out
VINCE's keys, and opens the office door.

70 INT. VINCE'S OFFICE. DAY

70

He closes the door, hurries to the drinks cabinet, pours
himself a stiff vodka, downs it, sighs with relief, and
starts to ponder.

ROLLO

Now, let's think ...

70 CONTINUED:

70

He notices VINCE's travelling bag on the desk. He stares at it, goes over, peers into it, and is astonished to see so much cash and other valuables in it. He tries to figure it out. There's a loud knock at the door. ROLLO starts, grabs the bag and drops behind the desk with it. DI puts her head round the door, and then disappears.

ROLLO

No! No, this is ridiculous.

He puts the bag in the open safe, closes the door, stands, picks up VINCE's portable phone, dials and takes another mouthful of vodka.

ROLLO

... Hello, police?

He chokes, splutters, cuts the phone call off, stares and suddenly hurries out of the office.

71 EXT. ZOO

71

ROLLO is striding back to the Meerkat enclosure but changes direction when he sees a group of KEEPERS who are talking some distance from where the Big Cats are enjoying their meaty breakfasts. The Group includes BUGSY, SYDNEY, CUB, DEREK, HUGH and PIP plus RONNIE who, throughout this scene, stands swaying and moaning quietly with his hands over his eyes. Some of the KEEPERS are wearing VINCE's clothes; SYDNEY is wearing his shoes, HUGH has made a bandana out of his tie. ROLLO strides up to them.

ROLLO

Sorry, we shouldn't have moved the body.
My mistake! Can we get the body back
please. (He looks at the gaping KEEPERS)
I've taken a decision. We've got to play
this straight. OK?

The KEEPERS seem a little uncomfortable. One or two glance at the Big Cats.

ROLLO

I'm going to call the police. It's the
only thing to do.

PIP

You're not going to confess!?

ROLLO

(Annoyed) No, no, I'm not going to
confess ...

PIP

Great!

71 CONTINUED:

71

CUB
We're with you.

SYDNEY
They won't get a word out of us.

DEREK
Solidarity!

ROLLO
Look. I'm not going to confess because I
didn't do it! All right?

Pause

KEEPERS
We know. We know.

ROLLO
(Giving up) The police will sort
everything out and establish exactly what
happened. But we shouldn't have moved
the body. It was stupid of me. So we'll
just put it back. Right?

More KEEPERS start looking at the Big Cats.

ROLLO
So that it's in place when the police
arrive. OK?

Silence, considerable discomfort and glancing at the
breakfasting Cats. ROLLO looks at RONNIE.

ROLLO
... what's the matter?

The KEEPERS are all looking around in a disconnected way.
BUGSY is moving slowly away. ROLLO stares at him.

ROLLO
(To BUGSY) You're unusually silent today.

BUGSY
... hm ... um.

ROLLO
Is something bothering you? It's
perfectly simple. Put the body back. All
right?

More silent unease.

SYDNEY
... The body??

SYDNEY starts nodding meaningfully towards the feline feast.
Others follow.

71 CONTINUED: (2)

71

ROLLO

Yes!! Where is it? I want it put back
in the meerkat enclosure. OK? So (To
SYDNEY) Will you organise that straight
away.

Nothing happens, except KEEPERS nodding towards the Big
Cats. ROLLO is dialling. The KEEPERS start to point very
deliberately. RONNIE moans quite loudly.

ROLLO

Go and get it now! (To phone)
Hello, police? This is Rollo ...

ROLLO glances at the Big Cats again and in a split second
freezes, registers horror, screams, throws the telephone
upwards in panic, and stands staring at the Big Cats,
dumbstruck, his mouth moving aimlessly. He points and shakes
his head.

SYDNEY

You told us to take care of the body ...

HUGH

Leave it to us.

DEREK

Don't worry, we've done this before.

Several KEEPERS nod. ROLLO looks at them flabbergasted.

BUGSY

(Nodding towards the eating) He's finally
found someone who likes him.

C/U Tigers enjoying VINCE.

ROLLO

But you've committed a crime!

PIP

You murdered him.

ROLLO

No, I didn't!! Oh my God, what have you
done!? What ... have you ... done!?!?!

He sinks slowly to the ground and rolls over, moaning.
RONNIE follows suit. The other KEEPERS start noticing
something else. After a few seconds of this madness, WILLA
walks sedately into shot...She stares at two writhing men.
Then we see a posse of eight grey-suited SPONSORS behind her,
watching. After a moment or two, RONNIE becomes aware of them
and freezes. But ROLLO goes on writhing and moaning, as the
KEEPERS try to draw his attention to WILLA. ROLLO has now
rolled rather close to CUB and has grasped her leg as
emotional support.

71 CONTINUED: (3)

71

Eventually....

WILLA
What's going on?

ROLLO sees her. And then the SPONSORS.

ROLLO
Ah! Hello!

WILLA
What on earth are you doing?

ROLLO
Nothing....

WILLA
Nothing?

ROLLO
Much. Actually I was just showing
them....Showing them....

WILLA
Showing them what?

ROLLO
Showing them, you know, what's it called,
um...that thing when... oh! what is it?
I've completely forgotten the word...er

WILLA
Word?

ROLLO
Er...infuriating...er

HUGH
Tetanus!

WILLA
What.

HUGH snatches off the bandana.

HUGH
... Tetanus.

BUGSY
You know, irregular contractions or
spasms of the musculature often resulting
from viral affluences. He was just
demonstrating it to us.

ROLLO
Exactly!

71 CONTINUED: (4)

71

WILLA

...Why?

ROLLO

Because...isn't that extraordinary, I've completely forgotten. (To KEEPERS) Why was it...?

KEEPERS

Er...er...

WILLA

Oh it doesn't matter...

ROLLO

No it doesn't, does it, you're absolutely right...funny how you can get side tracked by something. I remember once...

WILLA

These people have come to see Vince. Have you seen him?

ROLLO makes a strange noise and then looks at WILLA

ROLLO

...Who?

WILLA

Vince! Or have you completely forgotten him too!?

ROLLO

Oh no! Oh! Mince. Vince!!! Have any of you...?

The KEEPERS are not absolutely sure which way to jump...

KEEPERS

Er...no...no...don't think so...This morning? Er...no, no, no, No.

There is a belch from one of the Big Cats and they all cringe, and look at the Cats. They are eating happily

WILLA

I know exactly what has happened.

72 EXT. BY THE LAKE. EARLY EVENING

72

C/U WILLA (in more 'natural' clothes) as though she is continuing the previous speech.

WILLA

A terrible crime has been committed, here at our zoo. I say 'terrible' because it's going to hurt us badly.

72 CONTINUED:

72

WILLA, her clothes changed, stands addressing all the KEEPERS. They are very tense and anxious. RONNIE is half-dead with fear.

WILLA

But I promise you there will be no cover-up. I intend to have the criminal pay the full penalty, despite his seniority.

Some of the KEEPERS glance at ROLLO. SYDNEY gives him the thumbs up.

WILLA

I'm in hourly contact with the police, and already they're beginning to assemble the pieces of evidence.

Several KEEPERS look alarmed. One KEEPER pats ROLLO on the back, encouragingly. ROLLO jumps. Suddenly RONNIE leaps up.

RONNIE

My sea lions don't eat red meat!

WILLA

... I beg your pardon?

RONNIE disappears, as DEREK and HUGH get him under control.

DEREK

It's a line from a song he's writing' ...

A pause. WILLA carries on.

WILLA

... Vince McCain has been stealing from our zoo.

General surprise.

WILLA

He disappeared last night, taking one point two million dollars with him.

ROLLO has a light-bulb moment. The other KEEPERS start looking at each other with dawning relief.

WILLA

The police believe he took a flight to Caracas, Venezuela, first thing this morning. They are in contact with ...

The KEEPERS explode with excitement, joy and relief: some punch the air, some hug, some shake hands. A few pummel ROLLO. CUB and PIP hug him. WILLA stares at their reaction, very surprised.

72 CONTINUED: (2)

72

KEEPERS

(Suddenly becoming aware of WILLA's reaction, they now direct their comments towards her) Of course! That would explain it - South America! It's obvious! Why didn't I think of that! He was always talking about Venezuela. Yes, he was. I never trusted him. Yes, South America. Of course.

But WILLA gives up trying to understand their behaviour; she suddenly changes up a gear.

WILLA

Please ... please!

The KEEPERS immediately quieten, sensing something important. They begin to sit down again.

WILLA

I need your help. We have a chance to make this place what a proper zoo should be. Conservation and education, and a place where people can come and experience animals in a way that ... (She shrugs) you know ...

The KEEPERS, slightly surprised, nod. They know. In the background there is the faint sound of a helicopter

WILLA

But I need your help to make our zoo work financially. You see, I don't know that we can ever make the profit Rod McCain requires. But ...

The sound of the helicopter is getting louder. BUGSY is the first to notice it. He reaches and taps ROLLO on the shoulder.

WILLA

... I've been talking to some bankers this morning, and I think we may be able to make McCain an offer to buy the zoo from him. But we need time to ...

She becomes aware of the helicopter. The KEEPERS, who are spellbound, turn to see what is bothering her. Everyone realises it must be MCCAIN. ROLLO, BUGSY, SYDNEY and OTHERS are talking to each other.

WILLA

Oh, not him ... (To the KEEPERS) Stay here please, I'll handle this.

She hurries off through the KEEPERS towards the helicopter. As she passes ROLLO, he rises.

72 CONTINUED: (3)

72

ROLLO

Let me come. There's something ...

WILLA

No. I know him.

WILLA walks on and then turns to him.

WILLA

... but thanks.

73 EXT. ZOO. OUTSIDE RHINO ENCLOSURE. DAY

73

The helicopter is a few feet off the ground. In it we can see SAM, the pilot, and MCCAIN. As it lands, MCCAIN is out of it very fast, and heading towards WILLA, who is moving towards him. SAM is out a couple of beats later.

WILLA

Hello Mr McCain. I didn't know you ...

MCCAIN

Vince has been stealing.

WILLA

... Yes.

MCCAIN

Sponsorship money. When did you find out?

WILLA

He told me last night.

MCCAIN keeps walking as he gets to WILLA, so she turns and walks with him. SAM is catching them up.

MCCAIN

Thanks for keeping me informed. Where is he?

WILLA

... Venezuela. I was just telling the Keepers.

SAM

Where are they?

WILLA

Over there. Rod ...

SAM is steaming towards the KEEPERS, MCCAIN a few paces behind, as WILLA tries to bend his ear.

WILLA

Let me run this place for a time. I believe in it, Rod. And do you realise how good this zoo will be for your image?

73 CONTINUED:

73

MCCAIN stops. In the background, SAM strides round the side of the assembled KEEPERS.

MCCAIN

You are joking?

WILLA

Everyone leaves here a happier person, Rod.

MCCAIN

Vince certainly did.

MCCAIN makes off towards SAM, who has started to address the KEEPERS, referring to some notes.

WILLA

Rod! You're not going to close it!!!

74 EXT. BY THE LAKE. DAY

74

SAM is by the lake. MCCAIN halts a few feet from SAM, and listens to him. WILLA hurries up to them and also stops.

SAM

As you can imagine, after a big acquisition, it takes some time to get everything sorted out. But ... when we examined the figures, we ...

KEEPERS

(Chanting in unison) ... found they were worse than we'd thought.

SAM stares at the KEEPERS. Pause. He tries again.

SAM

Frankly ...

KEEPERS

(Louder) ... It was a bit of a surprise!!

SAM glances at MCCAIN anxiously. He's quite shaken.

SAM

(Tentatively) ... We agonised over this for a long time, be ...

KEEPERS

(Very loudly) ... lieve me, but in the end we had to bite the bullet.

Laughter. The KEEPERS are enjoying this more and more, and their chanting has become louder and freer. SAM glances at MCCAIN, takes a deep breath and ...

74 CONTINUED:

74

SAM

So ...

KEEPERS

(With gusto) I'm afraid ...

Pause. MCCAIN winces.

SYDNEY

Let's have it!

SAM

... We're going ...

KEEPERS

... to have to let you go.

Applause.

SAM

(Angry) You stupid Pommie shit-shovellers! I'll smash your stupid faces in!

Pause. Then ...

DEREK

Don't ad lib!

Big laugh. Suddenly MCCAIN takes two strides forward, pushes SAM out of the way, quite roughly, and takes over.

SAM

Sorry, Rod ...

MCCAIN

Somebody's got hold of one of our confidential documents. Well done. Good joke. But I'm afraid it doesn't alter the fact that I'm going to have to close this zoo.

SYDNEY

Why?

MCCAIN

Because it doesn't make enough money.

CUB

Look it's useful and people love it. Why don't you just take the profit it does produce.

MCCAIN

Because if I started doing that. I couldn't grow fast enough.

74 CONTINUED: (2)

74

ROLLO

How big do you want to get?

MCCAIN

... What?

ROLLO

How big would be enough for you?

MCCAIN is stopped in his tracks by this question. After various attempts to take the question in ...

MCCAIN

Enough? Enough? Enough!? There's no such thing as enough.

BUGSY

You mean you'll never have enough of whatever it is you're sacrificing your life for?

MCCAIN

I'm very satisfied, thank you.

SYDNEY

Why do you want more then?

MCCAIN is truly gob-smacked by this. A pause.

MCCAIN

You're anti-capitalists!

CUB

No. We just want capitalists with decent values.

MCCAIN

But this way the market works! Through competition! A level playing field - survival of the fittest. You of all people should know your Darwin.

CUB

Animals only kill what they need.

MCCAIN

... The zoo's closed, your employment is terminated. Sorry. Nothing personal.

MCCAIN now takes a pace or two away and then, as SAM follows, he turns back to WILLA.

MCCAIN

I'm only talking about them of course, Willa. This doesn't affect us.

74 CONTINUED: (3)

74

WILLA

I'm not us any more, Rod. I'm them.

MCCAIN

... And they told me you were smart.

He sets off again, down through the KEEPERS, followed by SAM.
After a couple of beats.

WILLA

I'll give you three million for the zoo,
Rod.

MCCAIN stops and turns.

WILLA

I can raise it.

MCCAIN

... Three million? (He shakes his head
sadly)

ROLLO

Four! Four point two!

Everyone turns to stare at ROLLO.

ROLLO

One million now, the rest later (To the
KEEPERS) A legacy. My grandmother died.

PIP

(To SYDNEY) He probably shot her.

MCCAIN

(Is he interested or just surprised?)
Four point two?

BUGSY

Four point two five.

HUGH

Four point two seven.

The KEEPERS start standing up. DI waves her pearls.

KEEPERS

Four point two seven five. I can
mortgage again. £4,000. Yes. We can
raise more ...

WILLA

Rod, we can give you about four point
five million.

MCCAIN

I've been offered five point five, to
turn it into a golf course. (He shrugs)

74 CONTINUED: (4)

74

Pause.

WILLA

You'd destroy all this for a lousy million.

MCCAIN

... It's a matter of principle, sorry.

He strides off and SAM follows him. The KEEPERS are quiet.

ROLLO

Ah well. It was worth a try.

He gets up and strolls after MCCAIN. The others follow, including WILLA - who is the only one, for some reason, who looks truly gutted.

75 EXT. AREA ROUND HELICOPTER. DAY

75

As MCCAIN and SAM stride up to the helicopter, the KEEPERS drift up to watch their departure. MCCAIN and SAM get into the helicopter, and after a moment, the KEEPERS start to wave. WILLA stares at the KEEPERS, quite fazed. RONNIE is blowing kisses. For several seconds the KEEPERS continue to wave, while the helicopter stays motionless. After a little more delay, MCCAIN and SAM get out of the helicopter, walk back towards the KEEPERS, and halt a few feet from them.

MCCAIN

All right. Who's got the key?

ROLLO

(Holding it up) I have. Sorry, but it's plan B.

WILLA stares sharply at ROLLO. She's seeing him with new eyes. And suddenly ... there's hope. (We're writing this bit in this manner as we're told studio executives find it exciting)

MCCAIN

I want that, now.

ROLLO

... Yes, we realise that.

KEEPERS nod and agree.

MCCAIN

Give it to me.

ROLLO

No.

KEEPERS

No, no, no. Nope.

MCCAIN

You people have a funny way of saying
'Good bye' to your severance pay.

SYDNEY

... Oh, shuddup!

MCCAIN

What did you say?

SYDNEY

... I said 'shut up'.

SAM

Nobody says 'Shut up' to Mr McCain.

RONNIE

He just did.

DEREK

If people said it more often he wouldn't
be such a failure as a human being.

MCCAIN

Sam!

SAM pulls a gun and threatens the KEEPERS. Then he takes a
couple of paces towards ROLLO.

SAM

Give me that key.

ROLLO

Look! How exciting!!!

SAM

Come on!

ROLLO

Don't get upset, Sam. Well, it's a bit
of a blow, that gun. I say, it's a
really stunning gun isn't it. Yes it's a
bit of a blow, that gun. Oh that's
better, now you have such tranquil eyes.

He looks at DEREK, who stares back, blankly. The KEEPERS are
scared.

SAM

What are you playing at. Give it one.

ROLLO

Perhaps at this point, I could inject a
little humour into ...

SAM

Shut up! Give me the key!

75 CONTINUED: (2)

75

ROLLO

Well I can see you're going to blow me away, so I'd better pipe down, and just dart over to the office to get the key.

DEREK now gets the message and moves into action, surreptitiously taking out his blow pipe.

MCCAIN

You've got the key. I saw it.

SAM

Come on

ROLLO

Oh, damn! (He now starts moving in order to manoeuvre SAM round so that his back is towards DEREK) You two have completely outwitted me. I'll have to hand it over then. (He puts his hand in his pocket, feels around, and starts patting his other pockets) Hang on. Ah! (He produces a paper clip) Oh no. Sorry, I'm always losing keys. Did I drop it? I had it here, in this hand ...

SAM

(Threatening) Come on!!!

The KEEPERS start looking around on the ground for it. DEREK is helping by edging round behind SAM. WILLA is looking at ROLLO strangely.

ROLLO

What's this? ... No, it's a photograph. Of our house in ...

SAM fires one shot quite close to ROLLO's head. Some KEEPERS throw themselves to the ground. DEREK is in position, at the side.

WILLA

Give him the key!

ROLLO

Ah. You're in luck. (He waves the key) Here it is! Catch! Sorry ...

He throws the key so that it lands some way in front of SAM. MCCAIN turns and strides off towards the helicopter. SAM, still threatening the KEEPERS with the gun, leans forward and picks up the key. DEREK blows a dart which hits SAM in the buttock. SAM reacts with some pain, curses, turns round, puts the gun in the other hand and picks out the dart from his ass.

75 CONTINUED: (3)

75

SAM

What the ...?

SAM looks at the KEEPERS, and back at the dart.

SAM

How pathetic. We close your zoo, and
this is the best you can do. What next,
are you going to blow bubbles at me?

SAM turns and starts trying to walk after MCCAIN. But his
legs buckle, he comes round in a circle, quite out of
control, and stumbles around, trying to keep his balance.
MCCAIN turns, sees this extraordinary spectacle and takes a
few paces towards the KEEPERS.

MCCAIN

Sam?

SAM

I'll be with you in a moment, Rod. The
ground's at the wrong angle, temporarily,
and there's a lot of possums coming at me
...

SAM bats the 'Possums' away with his arms, and falls in a
heap. ROLLO picks up his revolver and puts it in his pocket.

ROLLO

See you in about forty minutes. Now,
ladies and gentlemen, what are we going
to do with Mr McCain?

PIP

... I have a suggestion.

ROLLO

Yes?

PIP

Let's kill him.

ROLLO

... Kill him?

PIP

Yes.

ROLLO

Well, I agree we all need to let off a
little steam, but ...

PIP

No, no. If we kill him, his Empire
collapses. Right?

75 CONTINUED: (4)

75

CUB

It'll be years before they have time to think about a little business like us ...

SYDNEY

And by then, we'll be making enough money to buy the zoo from them.

PIP

Like Willa said.

Pause. WILLA is astonished by all this.

ROLLO

Sounds good. OK. So there's 'kill him'. Now, any other suggestions?

Pause. MCCAIN watches disbelievingly.

KEEPERS

No. No. No. No. No. No. No.

ROLLO

OK. Ah, there you are, Mr McCain. Bit of bad news, I'm afraid ...

76 EXT. TIGER CAGE. DAY

76

C/U Plaque: **Tiger** (Panthera Tigris) Habitat: India: Strictly Carnivorous. Longevity 15-20 years.

The camera pans off the plaque to reveal the KEEPERS arranging deck chairs, carrying six-packs of beer and packets of potato chips, putting up parasols, checking their video cameras, laying SAM - still unconscious - in a deck chair, and setting up a hot-dog stand, all in a cheerful carnival atmosphere. DI is in an Ascot outfit with a picnic hamper dispensing champagne.

MCCAIN is standing inside the cage. ROLLO claps his hands.

ROLLO

May I have your attention, everyone?
Thank you. May I remind you all that once Mr McCain has been eaten, we must clear all this stuff away. OK?

MCCAIN

Just what do you people think you're doing?

RONNIE

We're creating a classic free-market situation.

MCCAIN

... what?

RONNIE

Well, two very aggressive players meeting each other on an absolutely level playing field ...

PIP

Healthy competition ...

DEREK

Ensuring the survival of the fittest ...

DI

Thus bringing great benefits on society.

HUGH

Not every member of society, of course, but ... (He shrugs)

RONNIE

And we're benefitting the company by ... removing a layer of the management hierarchy, and cutting animal food stuff costs at the same time.

MCCAIN

In God's name, what is this about?

ROLLO

(Glancing at his watch) ... It's about feeding time, I'm afraid. (He calls) No. No video cameras, please! (He hurries off)

MCCAIN

You don't really think you'd get away with this!

RONNIE

... Why not? Your bodies are found dead in a tiger cage, with a set of keys. We have no idea why you went in ...

DEREK

We all went straight home after we were fired, remember.

HUGH

You must have thought the tiger had been locked up for the night ...

DI

Unless he got the idea the tiger wouldn't attack him.

PIP

Ah, yes!

76 CONTINUED: (2)

76

HUGH

You read about that now and again.

DEREK

True!

RONNIE

And maybe Sam tried to save him!

ROLLO

... We'll never know.

ALL KEEPERS

We'll never know.

MCCAIN looks at WILLA who is watching him through the bars.

MCCAIN

Willie, are you really going to feed me to a tiger?

WILLA

Rod, sometimes you just have to take tough decisions.. Sorry it's not personal....

MCCAIN

This is unacceptable! Listen to me!!!

The KEEPERS start slightly, and stare. MCCAIN is incandescent with rage.

MCCAIN

Do you people have any idea how powerful I am? Presidents, Prime Ministers, CEOs - they have power in one country for a few years, then they're gone. My power isn't limited by national borders, or elections or shareholders. Nobody can take it away. It's true power. I am the most powerful person in the world - I obey no rules. I can fire a thousand men before breakfast. My media tell people what to like, who to hate, what sort of world they live in and what they should want out of life. And you, (He confronts the KEEPERS) the underclass, try to scare me with some overgrown candy-striped Garfield. Well he can't eat me - I own him! (He turns towards the Tiger house) Don't I puss? (He calls as to a pet) Come on then, come on. (He claps his hands) OK.

At the door of the Tiger House there now appears the Tiger's head in the shadows.

76 CONTINUED: (3)

76

MCCAIN

There you are! So, you think you're the king of the jungle (he unzips his flies) Well what do you think of this? Look at it. It's mine and it's big. Eh? Ever seen a one-eyed trouser-snake this long? Well listen Felix, it's not just huge, it's bigger than my father's. So come on! (He drops on all fours) Come and get me, Felix - I'll rip your fucking throat out. (He roars and makes aggressive movements with his right fore-paw)

77 DELETE EXT. TIGER'S CAGE. DAY (76 CONTD)

77

The Tiger's head now appears clearly at the open door in the tiger house. It looks at MCCAIN for a moment and then emits the most terrifying roar our audience has ever heard. MCCAIN stares for a time. Then briskly he straightens up, zips himself up and addresses WILLA.

MCCAIN

All right. Let's talk.

78 INT. TIGER HOUSE. DAY

78

Inside the Tiger's cage, CUB and KIM are helping BUGSY and SYDNEY who are in a tiger skin, with the head at the door to the enclosure.

CUB

Get your ass lower ... that's it!

SYDNEY

How's it going?

CUB

He's talking to Willa.

BUGSY

I'll give him another roar.

SYDNEY presses the appropriate button and a huge roar results. Through the door in the house, from their p.o.v., we see MCCAIN jump.

CUB

That helped. You look great. Now keep to the right, in the undergrowth. Then you can get quite close without him being able to see you properly. Good luck!

SYDNEY

Here we go ...

They let loose another roar, and go out of the door.

78 CONTINUED:

78

CUB

(To KIM) God, I'm nervous ...

She closes the door as she walks away, revealing behind it, a real **Tiger**. It looks up. CUB, unaware, shivers with anxiety, and exits the cage with KIM, closing the door behind her, as the tiger looks towards where SYDNEY and BUGSY have exited.

79 EXT. AREA ROUND TIGER CAGE. DAY

79

MCCAIN, still in the cage, is talking to WILLA, ROLLO, HUGH, DEREK, and the other KEEPERS. By now he is very keen to get out of the cage.

MCCAIN

Look, the zoo's yours!

WILLA

We need something that'll stand up in court.

MCCAIN

I'll sign anything.

MCCAIN glances back to where the **Tiger** is approaching slowly through the undergrowth on one side of the enclosure, growling.

C/U the **Tiger**. When we're this close, it doesn't look quite so impressive. SYDNEY trips and the whole thing nearly topples.

SYDNEY

Aagh!

MCCAIN

What do you want!?

WILLA

I've drawn up a contract, that sells the zoo to us for a fair price - four and a half million ...

In the background the **Tiger** falls over. But it's up again in a flash!

ROLLO

One million down, the rest paid off over ten years.

MCCAIN

Ten years! By the time I get the last payment, with inflation ...

There's a roar, MCCAIN spins round. Our **Tiger** is quite close now. MCCAIN is momentarily paralysed. In the background, the real **Tiger** has entered the enclosure and is looking

79 CONTINUED:

79

MCCAIN

Give it me! (He grabs the paper and starts to sign)

Our Tiger staggers, but remains upright.

WILLA

(To MCCAIN) And there please ...

Our Tiger roars again. MCCAIN finishes signing and hands the contracts through the bars to WILLA. WILLA waves them and the KEEPERS cheer. ROLLO opens the gate for MCCAIN who runs out. The gate is slammed behind him. SAM begins to show signs of life and stares vaguely at our Tiger. It roars. Twice.

80 EXT. INSIDE CAGE. DAY

80

Inside the Tiger, BUGSY and SYDNEY are triumphant.

SYDNEY

We did it, Bugsy! Hurray! Hurray!

At this moment they both become aware of a huge feline presence beside them. They stop cheering. They freeze. Their eyes pop and their stomachs rumble a lot. The real Tiger sniffs, sniffs again, then moves behind them and sniffs again.

SYDNEY

Sorry, Bugsy ...

But the real Tiger lopes forward again, leaving them. There's a moment when they're frozen - then they fly towards the back of the cage faster than they have ever moved in their lives. SAM is the only person watching them from the front, as all the others are celebrating. SAM is utterly amazed by what he now sees, as he begins to recover consciousness. His jaw sags as, in the course of reaching the door to the inside cage, BUGSY and SYDNEY fall over, together and separately, run into each other and trees and walls, due to their impaired vision, and contrive to take twice as long to get out as if they'd walked. Finally, they disappear from sight.

81 EXT. AREA AROUND TIGER CAGE. DAY

81

SAM is transfixed. Round him the KEEPERS celebrate happily, having noticed nothing of this. After all, there's still a Tiger in the enclosure, quite close to where it has always been, in the undergrowth. WILLA is looking closely at the contract MCCAIN has signed.

WILLA

This looks fine. Here's your copy.

She hands MCCAIN a copy.

81 CONTINUED:

81

ROLLO

You'll get the down-payment on Monday.

MCCAIN

You cheated me Willa.

WILLA

Four and a half is a fair price, Rod.

MCCAIN

Five and a half! That's what I'd get if you weren't using duress.

ROLLO

What do you mean, 'duress'?

MCCAIN

... What?!?!

ROLLO

What duress? You don't mean the pussy-cat? That's not duress. Look!

ROLLO opens the cage gate, walks inside, waves to the Tiger, and walks up to the bars. HUGH, DEREK, DI, RONNIE, PIP, CUB and others enter the cage with ROLLO and stand in a line next to him, looking through the bars. They are acting very casually.

ALL KEEPERS

Duress? No. No. No.. No. No. Not duress.

MCCAIN is completely, totally and utterly dumbstruck. So is SAM.

ROLLO

No. The duress is all in your mind, Mr McCain. It was a fair deal.

As MCCAIN goggles in disbelief, SYDNEY, BUGSY and CUB appear round the corner of the cage, behind him, look at him, see the KEEPERS in the cage and react with absolute horror. SAM now sees two men in a Tiger skin standing next to him, and assumes he is having hallucinations. MCCAIN takes a few steps forward to stare past ROLLO and company, at the Tiger. It snarls. ROLLO has turned towards the Tiger.

ROLLO

(Quietly, to HUGH) Fantastic isn't it? Absolutely realistic ...

HUGH

(A scintilla of doubt) ... Yeeeeeeeees ...

The Tiger has moved right up to ROLLO, who now pats it.

81 CONTINUED: (2)

81

MCCAIN

(To WILLA) I don't know what's going on here but I know disloyalty when I see it. I gave you a top job in my company and you've paid me back by cheating me.

He turns and leaves. SAM whose jaw is sagging to ground level, stares again at the two men in a **Tiger** skin standing next to him. He then stares at the real **Tiger** next to ROLLO, and blinks. Then he turns and stumbles off after MCCAIN. WILLA stares after the departing MCCAIN, clutching her copy of the contract. She has been stung by his last remark.

RONNIE starts a little dance.

RONNIE

(Chanting) It's not a real tiger. It's not a real tiger ...

WILLA makes a decision and hurries after MCCAIN. The KEEPERS in the cage pick up the chant and the dance, which is a bit silly.

KEEPER

(Slowly crescendoing) It's not a real tiger, it's not a real tiger, it's not a real tiger, it's not a real tiger, it's not a real tiger ...

BUGSY, SYDNEY and CUB, not sure quite what to do, walk forward trying to shush the chanting KEEPERS. DEREK spots them first, he waves, stops, looks puzzled, turns to stare at the **Tiger** ... and slowly realises, freezes and nudges ROLLO. ROLLO repeats the same sequence of actions. By now most of the KEEPERS have seen BUGSY and SYDNEY, and are putting two and two together. Thus the chanting slowly diminishes in volume, till RONNIE, quite unaware of developments is the only one left chanting.

RONNIE

It's not a real tiger, it's not a real tiger ...

BUGSY and SYDNEY confront RONNIE.

RONNIE

It's not a real ... Hello Bugsy. 'Hello SYDNEY'. We won!! ... What's the matter?

He too now glances back at the **Tiger** and realises.

BUGSY

(Quietly) Don't panic

Pause. One of the longest in cinematic history ...

81 CONTINUED: (3)

81

RONNIE
(Quietly) Why ... not?

Suddenly, pandemonium as they all climb the bars, hurl themselves out of the gate, or just scream.

The Tiger yawns and saunters off.

82 EXT. PATH TO HELICOPTER. DAY

82

SAM is trying to keep up with MCCAIN, but he is very affected by the tranquillizer. MCCAIN strides ahead, glancing through the contract.

MCCAIN
This could stand up in court. It really could. Christ!

SAM
Did you see the tiger act - it was great!

As SAM stumbles past a wall, an animal places its feet on it and peers over the top at him.

A CHEAP
ANIMATRONIC ANIMAL
Hello. Have a nice day!

DAVIS

SAM staggers, does a triple take, and then runs after MCCAIN.

SAM
Strewth!

MCCAIN
(Still staring at the contract) It looks like the market price, the cunning little bitch!!

SAM now looks up to see a red-and-white striped Mule with a big beer can on its saddle, and then sees a Llama, which is wearing a large bright necktie, and which has a huge balloon attached to its head saying "Gap For Men". SAM staggers after MCCAIN, who is near the helicopter.

MCCAIN
(Musing frantically) I'll have to prove duress.

He turns to see SAM lurching up. Some way behind, WILLA is gaining on them, but MCCAIN does not see her.

MCCAIN
(Intently) Sam! what did you actually see? (He gestures 'back there')

SAM
Well, I saw the talking (cheap animatronic animal)

82 CONTINUED:

82

MCCAIN

... What?

SAM

Can we come back here, Rod?

MCCAIN grabs him by the lapels.

MCCAIN

What's the matter with you?!

SAM

Give me a kiss.

MCCAIN

Did you see what happened in the tiger cage?

SAM

Yes.

MCCAIN

You did!!

SAM

(Pleased) Yeah! The bit where it fell over and its back legs came off!

MCCAIN

(He hits SAM) You bozo. Let's get out of here.

MCCAIN throws SAM the key, strides to his side of the helicopter, and opens the door. SAM bumbles round to his side and starts getting in. But MCCAIN is staring at WILLA. From his p.o.v. he can see her copy of the contract in her pocket. He slams the door of the helicopter - SAM thinks he's got in behind him - and walks back towards WILLA. WILLA halts some way from him.

WILLA

You said I was disloyal, Rod. But I was loyal to the job you gave me ...

MCCAIN

(Smiling) I know, Willa. Look, I was angry. Not many people outsmart me - but you and your tame tiger did, damn you. I always liked you, Willa - good luck (He offers his hand and takes a slow pace towards her.)

WILLA

(Tearing a little) Thanks Rod. We're going to make this place terrific - somewhere where conservation education

82 CONTINUED: (2)

82

MCCAIN pushes her in the face and pulls the contract from her pocket in one movement. She sprawls backwards as he waves the contract in triumph at her.

MCCAIN

Without this, you have no deal. How could you be so stupid?

Behind MCCAIN the helicopter's blades are whirring. Behind WILLA, in the distance, the KEEPERS, led by ROLLO appear, and start running towards MCCAIN. He turns away and then turns back. The helicopter, behind him, starts to lift off. But with a lot of wobbling.

MCCAIN

Oh! And one thing ... It's not a lousy million. It's a glorious million! Good bye, Willa.

He takes a pace towards the helicopter but turns back. As he speaks the helicopter starts lurching about behind him.

MCCAIN

You see Willa, the way to win is to know exactly the strength of your position and of your opponent's. Without the helicopter, I'm outnumbered and the zoo's yours. But with the helicopter ... (He gestures towards it and hardly notices it is by now some ten feet off the ground) and the contract, the zoo ... (He does a double take) with the helicopter ... (He screams at SAM) What are you doing!!?!?

83 INT. HELICOPTER. DAY

83

SAM is piloting happily away, his cans on.

SAM

We could have the club-house over there, couldn't we Rod?

84 EXT. ZOO. DAY

84

MCCAIN is running after the helicopter.

MCCAIN

(Screaming) I'm not in it, you moron. I'm down here!

MCCAIN looks round towards the KEEPERS who are getting closer. The helicopter suddenly swings off in a new direction and MCCAIN veers after it, waving at SAM and calling to him. He vaults a fence.

85 INT. HELICOPTER. DAY 85

SAM

I feel so peaceful today, don't you?

86 EXT. ZOO. DAY 86

MCCAIN is running frantically, trying to catch the helicopter. It takes another unpredictable swing and drops away from him, but low enough for him to continue to pursue it.

The KEEPERS run up to WILLA who is rising shakily to her feet.

WILLA

(Pointing) He's got the contract.

ROLLO

Right!

ROLLO, BUGSY, SYDNEY, DEREK, CUB, HUGH, PIP, DAVIS, SKY, the OTHER KEEPERS and, some way behind, RONNIE run by after MCCAIN, clearing the fence with varying degrees of difficulty. We now have the sight of an inebriated helicopter pursued by a maddened MCCAIN and, not far behind, a phalanx of flying KEEPERS.

87 INT. HELICOPTER. DAY 87

SAM

She's a bit frisky today, Rod, but we're getting there. (He starts humming 'Waltzing Matilda')

88 EXT. ZOO. DAY 88

The phalanx of KEEPERS suddenly and quite inexplicably stops. A beat. They turn and run away. MCCAIN shouts up at SAM.

MCCAIN

Here!

As he stands there beckoning, he starts, ever so gently, to shake. The shaking increases in intensity. Suddenly MCCAIN stares, in panic. From his p.o.v. we see the Rhino charging at him, only a few yards away. From the Rhino's p.o.v. with horn in foreground, we see MCCAIN's expression.

MCCAIN

You're fired!

89 INT. HELICOPTER. DAY 89

SAM is singing 'Waltzing Matilda' with gusto. His altimeter registers 40 feet. In the background MCCAIN appears, looking surprised, some feet from SAM and passes upwards out of shot. A beat. MCCAIN falls through shot just as SAM looks in his

89 CONTINUED:

89

SAM
(Glancing) Hello, Rod!

MCCAIN disappears, and SAM reacts.

90 EXT. NEAR RHINO ENCLOSURE. DAY

90

The KEEPERS are watching the trajectory of MCCAIN's body.

91 EXT. MEERKAT ENCLOSURE. DAY

91

Our Meerkats are staring vertically upwards, as they are wont to do. MCCAIN'S body falls between them and they scatter. Pause. Two of them look out of their burrows, and one chatters loudly.

SUBTITLE
Another fucking stiff!!!

The KEEPERS, ROLLO and WILLA are arriving at MCCAIN's body. ROLLO reaches down, takes the contracts from MCCAIN's pocket and gives them to WILLA.

DAVIS

HUGH
Er ... should we have a minute's silence?

Pause as the KEEPERS consider this

KEEPERS
No ...

SYDNEY
After all, there are some species ...

BUGSY
... that one simply does not wish to conserve.

BUGSY and SYDNEY look at each other. They're suddenly friends.

SYDNEY
Everyone over to the Marwood Arms!!

All the KEEPERS move away in celebratory mood, arms round each other, laughing and talking loudly. ROLLO calls after them.

ROLLO
And this time ... leave the body! OK?

Big laugh, except from WILLA, who is extremely puzzled. As ROLLO laughs.

WILLA
... What?

91 CONTINUED:

91

ROLLO
(Realising) ... Um?

WILLA
What was that about leaving the body this time.

ROLLO
... You have the most wonderful eyes.

WILLA
We won, Rolo. It's ours ...

ROLLO
Rollo, actually.

There's a pregnant pause as they look at each other. Music swells as John Du Prez does his harmonic nut. Their lips move slowly together and pause a few inches apart, when WILLA turns to camera and says.

WILLA
You're probably wondering what happened next. Well, McCain was buried, of course ...

DAVIS

92 INT. VAGUELY RELIGIOUS BUILDING. DAY

92

A memorial service. A lot of men in dark suits nod somberly as one of their kind eulogises MCCAIN.

WILLA'S VOICE
And lots of other very greedy men paid lengthy tributes to him ...

EULOGISER
A true visionary ...

WILLA'S VOICE
... While trying to conceal how delighted they were to see him dead ... and his wife sent a very touching video.

On a large screen hanging in front of the alter, MRS MEGAN MCCAIN is speaking.

MEGAN MCCAIN
... but when I saw the figures they were so much worse than I thought, I just had to bite the bullet and take a tough decision to forget about cryo-genics and have him cremated.

93 INT. OCTOPUS ATRIUM. DAY

93

It's bleak, empty and windswept. The Octopus tank is empty. Across it is painted the slogan 'SCORP' on the building.

93 CONTINUED:

93

WILLA'S VOICE

Octopus Inc duly fell apart - because Rod had never told anyone how it all worked, 'cos it would have made them too powerful ...

94 PHOTO OF A NORTH AFRICAN BAR, OUT OF FOCUS. SEVERAL MEN SIT IN CHAIRS, AND ON STOOLS.

94

WILLA'S VOICE

The police never succeeded in tracing Vince, although he was once photographed, in a bar in Tangier, with someone strongly resembling Elvis Presley ...

95 INT. OPERATING THEATRE. DAY

95

An operation is being performed. SAM stands in the background.

WILLA'S VOICE

Sam, incidentally, dropped out of business and qualified as an anaesthetist.

SAM falls backwards out of shot.

96 EXT. LOVELY VIEW OF ZOO. DAY

96

WILLA is walking as she addresses the camera.

WILLA

And back here at the zoo ... We were able to set the place up as a conservation trust, so the animals are safe ...

97 INT. RHINOCEROS HOUSE. DAY

97

As the KEEPERS surround the Rhinoceros, making a fuss of it, and drinking champagne. On the wall is a sign 'Played 2, won 2'. And another sign, 'Animal of the Year 1996', 'Animal of the Year 1997', 'Animal of the Year 1998'.

WILLA'S VOICE

The Rhino was elected Animal of the Year for the next few years, and we started to have exceptional successes with our breeding programmes ...

97a EXT. LAWN IN FRONT OF MARWOOD HQ. DAY

97a

A photograph-like shot of all the KEEPERS, plus WILLA. Some of them have paired off, and everyone is holding either a baby animal or a baby. ROLLO is in the background - but in such a way that the cinema audience will not notice him.

98 DELETE ASSORTED, QUICK SHOTS OF: 98
99 EXT. SOMEWHERE IN THE ZOO. DAY 99

WILLA is sitting.

WILLA

And Rollo and me ... well, I'm afraid he
didn't quite live up to expectations ...
and somehow we really never hit it off.
A few months later he went back to Hong
Kong and opened an English restaurant.
..... I never saw him again.

A pause. A hand clamps itself on WILLA's right breast.

WILLA

Just kidding ...

In a wider shot we see that ROLLO and WILLA are sitting
together. ROLLO beats his chest, gorilla style. WILLA
responds.

END