

The Jungle Book

by **Rudyard Kipling**

adapted by **Sheila Laughton**

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The Jungle Book

This play was first performed by **The Man In The Moon** on 9 April 2014

Cast in Order of Appearance

Tabaqui, *the golden jackal*

Shere Khan, *the tiger*

Raksha, *the mother wolf*

Won Tula, *a wolf-cub*

Won Bula, *a wolf-cub*

Akela, *a wolf*

Ko Crow

Kaa, *the snake*

Bagheera, *the panther*

Mowgli, *the man-cub*

Baloo, *the bear*

Mysa, *a water buffalo*

Rama, *a water buffalo*

Hathi, *the elephant*

Raja, *an elephant*

Tantor, *an elephant*

Stampy, *a baby elephant*

Buzzy, *a vulture*

Dizzy, *a vulture*

Farleigh Hungerford, *an explorer*

Abu Tu, *a servant*

Rudy, *a monkey*

Kip, *a monkey*

Baden, *a monkey*

Powell, *a monkey*

Director's Note

There are 25 named speaking roles. Many can be doubled up and the play can be performed with a minimum of 18 actors.

Additional monkeys and elephants can be included to increase the cast size, and the lines split accordingly.

It is intended that the action flows fluidly from scene to scene without large scene changes or black outs.

The play runs approximately 60 minutes.

Being An Actor

You're now an **actor** about to begin rehearsing a **play** of **The Jungle Book**.

Rehearsing or **rehearsals** are the words that actors use when practising for the show. It's an exciting time and is a lot of fun too.

Before you get started, you might like to read this section about putting on a play. It will also help you learn some of the words we use in the theatre. You'll be talking like a real actor in no time at all.

The Script

This book is your **script**. It tells you what your **character** says and does in the play:

Kaa Neither do I. Just wonderful ssskin and gorgeousss eyesss and a good appetite.
(He slithers up to Mowgli and wraps himself around him) Look into my eyesss.

You can see the character names are in **bold** and **stage directions** (*what you do*) are in *italics*. You don't say the stage directions out loud.

Who's Who

Different people work very hard to put on a play. The **director** is in charge of the creative parts of the show. The **producer** looks after the **budget** (money), booking the theatre and rehearsal rooms and makes sure that everything's in the right place at the right time.

There will also be **designers** for the **costumes** (what you wear), **lighting** and **scenery**.

The **Stage Manager** makes sure that rehearsals and performances run smoothly.

The Parts of the Theatre

The **stage** is where you do your acting. The **wings** are the spaces just **off-stage** left and right where actors wait before they make their entrance.

The area behind the stage is called **backstage**. The place where the audience sits is called the **auditorium**.

The place where you get into costume and make-up is called the **dressing room**. You must always be really quiet when you're backstage.

Stage Directions

When you start rehearsing the play, the director will tell you which side of the stage you need to come on from and where you should stand. Sometimes they will ask you to move to different places whilst you're saying your lines.

Stage right and left are as the actor looks at the audience. **Downstage** is closest to the audience. **Upstage** is furthest away, towards the back of the stage.

	Upstage Right (USR)	Upstage Centre (USC)	Upstage Left (USL)	
The Wings	Stage Right (SR)	Centre Stage (CS)	Stage Left (SL)	The Wings
	Downstage Right (DSR)	Downstage Centre (DSC)	Downstage Left (DSL)	

The Audience



Rehearsals

You'll have a **read-through** at your first rehearsal when everyone sits together and reads the script for the first time.

After this, you'll start **blocking** the play where everyone finds out where they come on from and the different things they'll do. It's a great idea to **write all this down in your script** to help you remember. You should always write in pencil, just in case you need to change it later (sometimes you might find a better way of doing it). Once you've finished blocking, you'll begin **run-throughs**.

After a few rehearsals and once you've learnt your lines, you'll be **off-book**. If you forget a line, the **stage manager** will give you a **prompt** (remind you of your line).

Once you get to the theatre, you'll have a **technical** (or tech) **rehearsal**, where you practise with the lights and sound.

Finally, you'll have a **dress rehearsal**, which you'll do in your full costume and make-up. The last rehearsal before you have an audience. Exciting!

Rehearsals/performances usually start with a warm-up to get your voice and body ready.

During the show, your director might give you notes after the performance about anything that didn't go quite right, or something they might like you to change.

Learning Your Lines

The hardest part of being in a play is learning your **lines** (the things you say). Sadly, there's no magic way of doing this, you just need to practise – a lot!

Here are some helpful tips. Remember, the sooner you do it, the more fun you'll have at rehearsal:

- * Read your lines out loud to yourself. Hearing them spoken helps you to remember.
- * Ask a friend for help. They can read the other characters and correct any mistakes that you make.
- * Do a little bit at a time. First thing in the morning and bedtime is a great time to practise.
- * Record your scenes. You can listen to it on your headphones while you're out and about – maybe leave gaps for you to say your own lines.
- * Learn your **cues**. The line before yours is called the **cue line**. It's important to know this, or you won't know when it's your turn to speak.

Enjoy The Show!

We hope that you've found this interesting. There are lots of new things to learn, and you'll pick them up easily during rehearsals. Don't forget to ask questions if there's something that you don't understand.

We hope that you have a brilliant time putting on **The Jungle Book**.

Break a leg – that's what people in the theatre say to wish each other good luck!

Act One

Scene I

Deep in the jungle a scream is heard, it is Abu Tu. "My child, my child! Shere Khan has stolen my child". A group of men appear with torches, beating the undergrowth searching for Shere Khan. We see the tiger run across the stage, followed by Tabaqui. They stop to get their breath

Tabaqui I told you it was reckless to take a man-cub so close to the village. And then to drop the baby... Your father would never have been so stupid. But would you listen?

Shere Khan moves closer to Tabaqui and leisurely exposes his long sharp claws

Shere Khan And where did it get my father, the mighty tiger? He's now a rug on someone's wall. Haven't I got the right to hunt them as they hunt us? Or perhaps you think it more fitting I hunt... let's say, a golden jackal.

Tabaqui (*grovelling*) No, mighty tiger. You are the greatest hunter of them all...

Shere Khan (*who is by now holding Tabaqui by the neck*) Hush, little jackal, don't worry, I prefer tastier morsels. We'll come back when the humans have returned to their village and I will have my...

There are more torch flashes. Off stage a villager yells, "Over here, I can see the tiger". There are loud noises. Tabaqui and Shere Khan look round in terror and exit

Scene 2

High up on a hill, two cubs are playing noisily outside a cave entrance. Their mother, Raksha, is watching over them

Raksha Be quiet my darlings. Your father needs to sleep before he goes hunting.

Won Tula But mother, we need to practise being hunters. I don't want to let the pack down.

Akela (*entering*) And you won't, little Won Tula. Your mother is the best hunter in the pack.

Raksha Akela, I didn't hear you approach. Did we wake you up?

Akela (*smiling*) No.

Won Tula Please tell us again how you found Mother and brought her back to the pack.

Won Tula and Won Bula (*together*) Please, Father, please.

Raksha Leave your Father alone. He doesn't have time to tell you stories you've heard so many times before.

Akela (*stretching*) True, but there aren't many cubs whose mother was known as the demon.

Raksha I was young, alone and frightened. If you hadn't found me... (*She tails off, looking into the distance*)

Akela I wouldn't have the best wife a wolf could ever want.

Won Bula And we wouldn't have the bravest mother in the pack.

Won Tula And the most loving.

Won Bula And I'm hungry.

Raksha You're always hungry, Won Bula.

The cubs begin to rough and tumble

Raksha (*separating them*) Stop it, you two.

Akela (*smiling*) They'll be a credit to the pack when they're older. Why don't you both go and see if you can catch some little green Mowglis?

Won Tula What are little green Mowglis?

Akela Those little green frogs that you love playing with and eating.

Won Bula I love little green frogs! They're delicious. Race you there, Won Tula.

Won Bula exits crashing through the undergrowth

Won Tula We'll never catch anything with the noise he makes.

Won Tula exits, following Won Bula

Raksha Now, Akela, why have you really sent the cubs away?

Akela Word has reached me that Shere Khan is back and has taken the son of Abu Tu.

Raksha He has taken a human child? He insults us all.

Akela They were travelling through our lands when Shere Khan struck.

Raksha looks worried

Raksha The law of the jungle says a life for a life. None of us will be safe from the humans.

Akela Shere Khan doesn't think about anyone but himself.

Tabaqui (*entering from the shadows*) Be careful, Akela. My master, Shere Khan, has a long memory when it comes to insults.

Akela Where did you crawl from, snivelling one?

Tabaqui I'm not afraid of you, Akela. You may call me all the names you like.

Akela Then you're a fool, Tabaqui. I could kill you with one swipe of my paw.

Tabaqui (*taking a step back*) You have a lovely family, Raksha. It would be such a shame if an accident befell them.

Raksha Harm one hair on their bodies and I will hunt you down.

Tabaqui Your days as the demon hunter have long since passed, Raksha. Know your place, woman wolf.

Raksha goes to swipe Tabaqui but Akela holds her back

Akela Be assured, scavenger, the whole pack would hunt you down. Now, why are you here?

Tabaqui To warn you to stay out of Shere Khan's business. He'll be back when the sun sets to find the man-cub and finish what he began.

Akela So the mighty tiger has lost his prey?

The wolves laugh

Won Tula (*enters dragging something behind him. Won Bula follows*) Look what we found. We're not quite sure what it is.

They stand aside to reveal a small baby

Raksha Why, it's a man-cub.

Won Bula Can we keep it? Please?

Tabaqui Let me see it... (*He tries to grab the man-cub who pulls his nose*) Ouch, you little...

Raksha Leave him, jackal, or it will be more than just your nose that hurts.

Akela By the law of the jungle, this little one has the right to join our pack, as he shows no fear of us.

Tabaqui Shere Khan will not be happy about this.

Raksha The man-cub came to us. It's for us to decide if he stays.

Akela We must call a pack meeting, to see that everyone agrees.

Tabaqui (*his anger is growing*) Then call a pack meeting. But know this, jungle law or not, Shere Khan *will* have what's rightfully his.

Scene 3

The pack meeting

Akela, Raksha, Won Tula, Won Bula, Bagheera, Baloo, Tabaqui, Shere Khan, Ko Crow, Kaa, Dizzy and Buzzy the vultures are all present. Mowgli is sat in the centre with Won Bula

Ko Crow Order, order. Now who is proposing that the man-cub joins the wolf pack?

Raksha I am. My sons found him and by the law of the jungle I humbly ask that he be allowed to join my family.

Akela I don't understand why it was necessary to bring you here, Ko Crow. This is a pack decision and doesn't concern anyone else.

Ko Crow Normally that would be so, but an allegation of stealing another's prey has been made and that is a serious matter.

Shere Khan Ko Crow, as usual you have got to the heart of the problem. I appeal to you, as noble keeper of the law of the jungle, to let me have what is rightfully mine. This man-cub is not one of us. Why, he doesn't even have fur.

Kaa Neither do I. Just wonderful ssskin and gorgeousss eyesss and a good appetite.
(*He slithers up to Mowgli and wraps himself around him*) Look into my eyesss.

Ko Crow Kaa, behave yourself. Leave the man-cub alone.

Tabaqui Didn't your mother teach you it's rude to play with your food?

Shere Khan My food.

Kaa I could sssettle thiss argument for you. Let me have it.

Kaa races forward but Shere Khan stands on his tail. Tabaqui laughs. Kaa turns on the jackal and a silly fight happens. Other animals get involved. There is a huge bundle

Ko Crow (*trying to keep order*) Stop it!

The fight and bundle carries on

Baloo With your permission...

He wades in, separating the bundle, throwing animals in various directions. Kaa is trying to

sneak off with Mowgli, wrapped in his coils

Baloo Just a minute Kaa, what have you got there?

Kaa Nothing. I must be off, animalsss to sssee, thingsss to do. (*Baloo grabs him*) How dare you. Let go... Look into my eyesss. (*Baloo begins to be hypnotised*)

Shere Khan Mine, I think. (*He smacks Kaa who drops Mowgli*)

Akela The man-cub is no one's until we have heard Ko Crow's decision.

Ko Crow But how can I decide when I don't know all the facts?

Shere Khan It's simple. I caught the man-cub, he escaped and I want him *back*.

Ko Crow Then the law of the jungle is clear. If there is any doubt in claim of ownership, the life can be bought for a price.

Bagheera Then I will purchase his life with a water buffalo I killed earlier.

Akela A fair exchange. Much more meat on the buffalo.

Shere Khan I *demand* the man-cub.

Bagheera So you refuse to follow the law of the jungle?

The other animals are shocked and mutter, "Not follow the law," etc. Shere Khan is silent

Ko Crow We must vote. All those in favour of this man-cub's life being purchased for Bagheera's water buffalo, raise your right paw.

Kaa I don't have a right anything to raise, unless you count my right eye, which you ssshould try looking into Ko Crow...

Baloo I don't think so. (*He puts his paw over Kaa's eyes*)

Kaa You'll be sssorry bear. (*He slithers off*)

Ko Crow Akela, count the votes. There's no need to count the vultures, though. You can never tell what side they're on.

Dizzy Charming. We're not on anyone's side, but our own.

Buzzy We're just on the look out for a free meal.

The votes are counted. The majority have agreed

Ko Crow Then it's decided. The man-cub joins the wolf pack.

Shere Khan But...

Akela He'll be an asset to our pack. I will teach him our ways.

Ko Crow Shere Khan, I rule that you must accept Bagheera's blood price and leave the man-cub alone. He stays with the wolves.

Shere Khan (*brushing against Bagheera*) Watch your back, panther. I never forget an insult or what rightfully belongs to me. I will have that man-cub and revenge on anyone who stands in my way.

Shere Khan exits as the wolves move menacingly towards him

Buzzy Well, it doesn't look as though there'll be anything to eat here, today. That man-cub certainly has a charmed life.

Dizzy There's no point hanging around here, then. Let's go somewhere else to look for dinner.

The Vultures fly off

Ko Crow Bagheera, you have made a powerful enemy. He won't give up.

Bagheera I know but he won't strike while the man-cub's with the pack.

Akela Or whilst I'm the leader.

Bagheera (*turning to Akela*) What are you going to call the man-cub?

Akela We will call him Mowgli after the frogs we found him by.

Ko Crow Well, after all that excitement, I'm off for a mud bath and a long nap. Remember to watch your backs, my friends.

Scene 4

In the jungle, many years later

Mowgli has grown into a young boy, and is being taught by Baloo how to collect prickly fruit without hurting himself. Bagheera is watching. Kaa is asleep in a tree. He wakes and listens

Bagheera Baloo, Mowgli is a man-cub, not a bear. He should be refining his survival skills, not picking fruit.

Baloo I couldn't agree more. But isn't fruit an important part of survival? Everyone needs their five a day.

Bagheera They do, but it's five, not five hundred a day.

Baloo That's not fair. I...

Mowgli (*interrupting, laughing*) That's enough you two. Akela has already taught me

how to defend myself. Bagheera, you really need to chill out.

Baloo Yeah...

Bagheera Do you suppose Shere Khan “chills out”?

Mowgli Not Shere Khan, again. (*Changing the subject*) Baloo told me that this was a special place to you.

Baloo It is. It was where Bagheera was set free.

Mowgli You were a prisoner, Bagheera?

Bagheera (*sighing*) I was bred in captivity. Every night, I heard the sounds of the jungle and wondered what was out there. When my old master died, his son brought me here and released me. I was very frightened, until Akela found me.

Baloo And they’ve been friends ever since.

Mowgli How did you and Baloo meet?

Bagheera (*smiling*) It’s rather funny. Baloo was climbing some vines to reach a bees’ nest...

Baloo Bees can be dangerous critters.

Bagheera (*Allowing himself to chuckle*) So can vines.

Mowgli You got caught up in the vines?

Baloo I may have... I don’t really remember.

Bagheera I do. I’d stopped for a cool drink when I heard a loud buzzing and a yelping sound. I had to investigate and saw this bear cub hanging upside down, being attacked by bees. He fell out of the vines and threw himself in the river to cool his...

Mowgli laughs. Buzzy and Dizzy fly in

Buzzy What’s so funny, Mowgli?

Baloo Nothing.

Mowgli Baloo getting stung on his...

Dizzy Bum. Yes we’ve heard that story but it’s not as funny as the one when Baloo got his head stuck in...

Baloo I *am* here you know. Growing up in the jungle can be very dangerous.

Buzzy But you got your head stuck just last week.

Baloo Ha, ha. Very funny. Aren't you a long way from your perch?

Dizzy We're just on the way back from seeing Akela. He's asked us to deliver a message.

Buzzy Yes. He said to remind you, Bagheera, about your visit to Hathi.

Baloo I didn't know about this.

Bagheera I thought I'd told you. We'll be leaving shortly.

Baloo Why?

Dizzy Because of you know who.

Mowgli You know who?

Buzzy You. Know. Who.

Baloo (*finally understanding*) Oh, Shere Khan. Whoops, I shouldn't have said that. Come on Mowgli, we best get going.

They all exit

Kaa Sso, Shere Khan'sss back then. Thisss ssshould be fun...

He slithers off hissing

Scene 5

Somewhere else in the forest. They are near Hathi's camp

Bagheera Come on Baloo, we'll never get there if you stop at every tree for grubs.

Baloo But it's hungry work walking and we've travelled miles.

Mowgli Yes, miles and miles.

Bagheera About ten to be exact. Now come on. I want to reach Hathi, before dark.

Mowgli Baloo, who is Hathi? Why does Bagheera want me to meet him?

Baloo He's a bit of an oddball. An elephant. Been around a long time. They say he served the Maharajahs back in the old days. Still thinks he does.

They hear an elephant's trumpet call

We must be near.

Bagheera Stand behind us Mowgli, and follow our lead. He's a good friend, but likes to follow the etiquette of days gone by.

Tantor and Raja enter and escort Bagheera, Baloo and Mowgli into Hathi's camp. Hathi is present, along with Stampy, a baby elephant, and the rest of the herd

Tantor Permission to present the visitors, Sir?

Hathi Permission granted.

Raja (*pushing Mowgli forward*) Stand up lad, show some respect.

Bagheera Hathi, old friend. It's good to see you.

Baloo (*overly familiar*) You're looking good, old boy.

Hathi Wish I could say the same about you. Let yourself go a bit around the middle. There's no excuse for that.

Baloo I may have put a few pounds on...

Hathi A few? (*They all laugh*) Warriors need to keep fit.

All the herd pull in their stomachs and stand upright trying to look in shape

Now who's this fine fellow, hiding behind you?

Mowgli I'm Mowgli and you are very rude.

There is a sharp intake of breath from the elephants

Tantor Permission to give him a clip round the ear, Sir?

Bagheera He meant no harm, Hathi. He's the man-cub Akela sent the message about.

Hathi The one Shere Khan has vowed to kill?

Bagheera Yes.

Mowgli I'm not afraid of Shere Khan.

Hathi Well, you should be. Bravery is all very well but never underestimate your opponent. As I learned while in the service of the Maharajah, get to know your enemy, think like him and then crush him.

The Elephants (*eagerly*) Crush him.

Raja Listen and learn, young one, from the mightiest elephant warrior that has ever lived.

Baloo (*under his breath*) In his own opinion.

Hathi I remember as a young calf watching my father drill his herd. He never lost a battle. He'd take me aside and say practice, knowledge and protecting your herd is all an elephant needs. Once, during the great tiger hunt of '47, I was glad I'd

followed his advice. It was a...

Baloo Now we're in for it. Wake me up when he's finished.

Baloo settles down for a nap, Mowgli copies him

Bagheera Mowgli, don't be so rude.

Mowgli But he's... (*Pointing to Baloo*)

Bagheera Being a very rude bear!

Stampy Grandfather, forgive me for interrupting you, but the man-cub looks very tired. They've had a long journey.

Hathi (*smiles*) You're right. Where are my manners? Mowgli, this is my grandson. He's a chip off the old block.

Mowgli Hello, what's your name?

Stampy I can't tell you that. Our names are only known within our herd. Give the enemy less of a hold over us if we're captured.

Hathi Don't tell him your name, Stampy. Never give the enemy anything they can use against you.

Mowgli But I know your name. It's Hathi. That's not a secret.

Bagheera It means mighty warrior. It was given to him by the prince he saved in '47. But that's not his real name. Now how about some food?

Baloo (*begins to snore and wakes himself*) Did someone say food?

Tantor It's all right Baloo, our scouts told us you were coming. There's plenty of fruit under that tree.

They settle down to eat

Mowgli (*looking around, to Stampy*) Where's your mother?

Stampy It's our job to go out on patrol and keep the area safe so the women folk can bring up the babies. Don't your women folk do the same?

Mowgli No, they hunt with us and protect the pack.

Raja Now, you two, time to sleep. It will be a long day tomorrow.

Mowgli and Stampy settle down. Hathi, Bagheera and Baloo are deep in conversation

Hathi Shere Khan seems to be getting more careless the more desperate he gets to find Mowgli. His actions have made it harder for everyone to find easy prey. We're

even getting more trouble from that sneaky snake, Kaa. He tried to hypnotise my grandson the other day.

Raja Anything else you need before I turn in? No? Goodnight then.

Bagheera We know Shere Kahn's spies are everywhere. That's why Akela thought it best we brought Mowgli to stay here for a while in the safety of the herd.

Hathi (*nodding in agreement*) It's late. I suggest you get some rest. Patrol begins at dawn.

They all sleep. Time passes. Eventually, they are rudely woken up by an elephant trumpet call calling them to muster

Mowgli What was that?

Stampy Our call to muster. We have two hours of drill before we begin patrol.

Baloo Two hours. Nooooo.

Everyone gets into line and waits for inspection

Hathi Pull that stomach in soldier. Comb your hair. Baloo put down those berries.

Baloo But I'm hungry.

Hathi Tough.

Baloo Well that's not very nice. I didn't come here to get insulted.

Bagheera No, you can go anywhere for that. Now shut up and pay attention. We need Hathi's help.

Hathi Attention, quick march.

Baloo manages to ruin everyone's marching until Raja and Tantor pin him between them.

Raja Stop struggling, try and do it right. He won't let us stop until you do.

Tantor (*to Baloo*) Aren't you ashamed that the man-cub can march better than you.

Hathi (*creeping up behind Baloo*) Pay attention. You're a poor excuse for an elephant.

Baloo (*sarcastically*) That's because I'm a bear.

Hathi While you're under my command, you're an elephant. Now, what are you?

Mowgli He's an elephant, Sir. (*He salutes*)

Stampy Permission to show Baloo how to march properly.

Hathi Permission granted.

Stampy Baloo, copy me.

Stampy and Mowgli show Baloo how it should be done

Hathi and Bagheera (*together, wiping away a tear*) That's my grandson/man-cub.

Baloo Bears are much better at dancing than they are at marching.

Hathi Dancing!

Baloo Yes, like this.

He does a bear dance version of the marching. All but Hathi begin to join in, until they're doing a proper disco dance

Mowgli This is fun.

By this time even Hathi and Bagheera are nodding in time to the dance, then Hathi remembers himself

Hathi Stop! In all my years I have never seen such a display. How dare you disrupt our training?

In the distance we hear a trumpeted message

Mowgli What's that?

Hathi Shhhh! It's a message from the commander of the nursery.

He listens

Hathi (*translating*) Kaa tried to hypnotise one of the babies last night and failed. She asks that we return immediately. Sorry, Bagheera, duty calls. Muster the men. We need to return home and protect the nursery.

Bagheera I quite understand. What would you suggest is the safest way for us to go?

Hathi Nowhere is safe, but if I were you, I'd go along the edge of the bandar-logs land. They tend to stay near the temple at this time of year. Farewell and good luck.

The elephants march off

Bagheera Stay close Mowgli. We need to travel quickly.

Bagheera, Baloo and Mowgli head off in the opposite direction

Scene 6

In a clearing by the Paw Paw Tree, Farleigh Hungerford and Abu Tu are setting up camp.

Farleigh Hungerford I think that we should make camp here before the light fails.

Abu Tu If you say so Mr Hungerford, but I'd rather we cover a few more miles. They say that there's a mighty, man-eating tiger around here.

Farleigh Hungerford That's what you say wherever we are. I came here for adventure and to film my film. So let's make camp.

Abu Tu Very well, but I have a bad feeling about this.

They continue setting up camp and begin lighting a fire. Unseen by them Shere Khan and Tabaqui are watching from behind the Great Paw Paw Tree

Tabaqui I told you that they'd be here.

Shere Khan We'll wait until dark and then pounce. Shhh, something's nearby.

Kaa (*entering and muttering*) It'sss good to be home.

Shere Khan I thought you'd be out hunting.

Kaa What are you doing here?

Tabaqui (*pointing at the humans*) Dinnertime!

Unseen by everyone, Bagheera, Baloo and Mowgli enter

Bagheera Mowgli, come back here. Baloo, put down that Paw Paw and make sure that Mowgli doesn't get into trouble.

Baloo But they're so tasty. Here, have one.

Bagheera (*sniffing the air*) Strange...

Baloo What?

Bagheera There's a smell I can't quite make out. (*Spotting Shere Khan*) Shere Khan!

But it's too late. Shere Khan and Tabaqui spring at the human camp and attack. Farleigh Hungerford and Abu Tu flee. It's a close call, but they escape unharmed

Shere Khan Drat, another running buffet. Dinner's escaped.

Kaa (*pointing at Bagheera, Baloo and Mowgli*) I think you're wrong. It looksss like dinner'sss just arrived.

Baloo Mowgli, get behind me.

Mowgli (*bravely*) I'm not afraid.

Baloo I am!

Shere Khan I'm looking forward to this.

Bagheera You'll need to get through me first.

Shere Khan With pleasure.

Shere Khan and Bagheera fight. Baloo and Tabaqui fight. Kaa tries to attack Mowgli. Mowgli grabs a nearby bag that was left behind and begins to swing it at Kaa. Kaa slithers backwards, upsetting the fire, which spreads quickly up the tree

Shere Khan (*freezing in terror at the fire*) Fire! Run for your lives.

Shere Khan and Tabaqui exit at speed

Kaa (*watching his home burn*) That Paw Paw Tree hasss been in my family for yearsss.
(*Mowgli goes towards Kaa*) Ssstay away from me, man-cub, you bring nothing but bad luck. I ssswear I'll sssqueeze the last breath of life out of you.

He exits

Mowgli I didn't mean to destroy his home.

Bagheera (*licking his wounds*) Fire has a life of its own which is why we fear it.

Baloo Yes, shame about the tree though, it produced the best paw paws for miles.

Bagheera We need to go deeper into the jungle where even Shere Khan's spies can't find us.

They exit

Scene 7

Mowgli (still carrying the bag that he found), Bagheera and Baloo have found a place to rest, deep in the jungle. There are lots of vines hanging down. Bagheera is limping

Baloo I'm so puffed. I can't run any more.

Bagheera We must find a safe place, before it gets dark.

Mowgli We could make camp here.

Bagheera (*nods and begins to tend his wounds*) You should get some rest. I'll keep watch.

Baloo What about tea?

Bagheera (*annoyed*) What about it?

Mowgli I'm hungry too.

Baloo You see, it's not just me. There's bound to be some berry bushes nearby.

Bagheera Alright, but stay together.

Bagheera exits. Baloo begins to look for berries. Mowgli begins to look in the bag

Baloo What have you got there?

Mowgli I'm not sure, I used it to fight off Kaa.

Baloo takes the bag and tips the contents out over the ground

Baloo Nothing interesting in here. Wait a moment! What are these? (*Picking up a box of matches*) Fire sticks...

Mowgli Fire sticks?

Baloo (*Giving them to Mowgli*) Keep them safe. Don't tell anyone we've got them. Let's use the bag to collect berries.

They carry on looking for berries

Mowgli (*finding some*) The berries over here look really tasty.

They fill up the bag. It's beginning to get dark. They put the bag down and go to collect more berries. Two monkeys sneak in and take the berry-filled bag before disappearing behind the foliage

Mowgli Baloo, where have the berries gone?

Baloo I don't know.

Mowgli (*looking around*) I don't like it here, Baloo.

Baloo Neither do I.

Mowgli I've never seen vines like these before.

Baloo No, they really do look very strange.

Rudy/Vine 1 (*unseen*) Who are you calling strange?

Mowgli Who said that?

Kip/Vine 2 (*also unseen*) Who said what?

Mowgli I don't think we're alone Baloo.

Kip/Vine 2 You're not, you're talking to us.

Mowgli Who's us.

Rudy/Vine 1 Now that's the question. Who are we?

Baloo I think they're g-g-g-ghosts?

Mowgli Ghosts? What are ghosts?

Baloo My mother used to tell me terrible stories about the...

Kip/Vine 2 (*spookily*) Spirits of another world. Horrors beyond your imagination.

Baloo Yes, like he says.

Mowgli Did your mother tell you these stories when you were naughty?

Baloo Yes. She said they would come and pull off our ears, if we didn't go to sleep.

Mowgli (*laughing*) So did Raksha. They're only stories they tell us to make us behave.

One of the vines begins to move on its own, then another

Baloo Looook! Those vines are moving all on their own.

The monkeys make spooky noises

Run for your life. It's a banshee.

Rudy/Vine 1 Come on Kip, let's have some fun.

The monkeys whizz round the stage twirling Baloo and Mowgli around

Mowgli Baloo, we need to get out of here.

Baloo We're doomed. Doomed, I say.

Rudy (*slaps him round the face*) Yes doomed. Hehehehe!

Baloo Something slapped me.

Mowgli Baloo, pull yourself together. I'm sure they're not ghosts.

Baloo is spun round by the monkeys, falls to his knees, covers his eyes

Baloo Mercy, Mercy. I plead for mercy. I'm too young to die.

Rudy Miserable pleader isn't he.

Kip Certainly is.

Rudy (*speaking in a lordly voice*) Do you believe in us?

Baloo I do, I do, I do.

Mowgli (*grabs a monkey*) Gotcha! Baloo, open your eyes, they're just monk...

Kip (*finger to lips*) Shush. Let's have some fun.

They pull Mowgli with them and hide in the vines

Baloo (*opens his eyes and can't see Mowgli*) Mowgli, where are you? They've taken

Mowgli. If the banshees don't finish me off, Bagheera will.

Rudy (*trying not to laugh, unseen*) We are the spirits of the great and powerful vine lords. Tell us why we should spare you?

Baloo Oh mighty vine lords, merciful and kind vine lords. What pleasure would it bring you to kill a poor bear? Let me serve you. Let me entertain you.

Rudy Let me confer with my other lords.

Kip (*aside to Mowgli*) Man-cub, what can we make him do? Can he sing?

Mowgli Not very well, but he can dance.

Rudy We demand that you dance.

Baloo does a comical dance. He hears laughter, pulls back the vines and sees Mowgli, Rudy and Kip

Baloo I wasn't afraid. I knew it was you all along.

Unseen by Baloo, Bagheera has entered. He's been watching the fun, creeps up behind him and shouts, "Boo!" Baloo jumps

Bagheera I see you have met the bandar-log, Mowgli.

Kip Good to see you again, Bagheera. We heard about your fight with Shere Khan.

Mowgli How did you hear so quickly?

Rudy The jungle drums.

Kip We heard that the Paw Paw Tree, Kaa's home, was burnt to the ground.

Mowgli It was an accident, I didn't mean it to happen.

Rudy Is it true that you possess fire, man-cub?

Bagheera Of course not. Whoever heard of an animal having fire?

Baloo Don't tell them about the fire sticks, Mowgli. Oh. Whoops.

Bagheera We need to go, Baloo. (*Forcefully*) Maybe we could find something nice to eat.

Baloo No, I'm not hungry.

Bagheera (*to Mowgli*) Typical, the only time I need him to think of his stomach and he's not hungry!

Kip What does Mowgli know about the fire sticks, Baloo?

Baloo They were in the bag that he found.

Bagheera Baloo, we really need to go!

Rudy Not so fast, panther. Show some respect to your betters.

The monkeys begin to advance threateningly

Kip Show us.

Bagheera (*whispers*) Baloo, these are the bandar-log. Think of the damage that they could do with fire. Now, let's go.

Rudy (*kicks Bagheera's bad leg*) Not so fast.

Baloo (*realising the mistake that he's made*) I was mistaken, Mowgli certainly doesn't have any fire sticks...

Bagheera (*to Mowgli*) I'll distract them and then you can run.

One of the monkeys kicks Bagheera's bad leg again, causing him to fall down in pain. He is helpless. The monkeys seize the opportunity and drag off Mowgli and Baloo.

Rudy (*dragging Baloo off*) You're coming with us!

Kip (*dragging Mowgli off*) We'll have your fire sticks if it's the last thing that we do!

They exit noisily

It is quiet. From the shadows, Akela and Raksha appear. They spot the injured Bagheera tending to his leg

Bagheera Akela. Raksha. How did you find me? No one knew we were coming this way.

Raksha Hathi soon realised that Kaa's attack on the nursery was a trick by Shere Khan to separate you from his protection. He marched the herd back as quickly as he could, sending out scouts to find any news of where you had gone.

Akela What were you thinking of, taking Mowgli deep into bandar-log country?

Bagheera It's a decision that I deeply regret. (*Defeated*) The bandar-log have taken Mowgli.

Akela I will muster the pack and see if we can find him.

Raksha Won Tula has a fine nose; he will be able to find the trail.

Akela I don't think so, the bandar-log will have taken Mowgli up into the trees.

Bagheera We must rely on our bird friends.

Raksha Hathi sent for Ko Crow. He should be here soon. Where's Baloo?

Bagheera The monkeys took him as well.

Akela So Mowgli's not alone. Then there is *some* hope.

Bagheera (*under his breath*) Depends on what you mean by hope.

Ko Crow arrives, out of breath

Akela Do you have news?

Ko Crow I have asked the vultures to follow the dust trail that was heading deep into the bandar-logs' domain.

Akela Then it is hopeless, we will never reach them in time over land, before Shere Khan finds them. After all these years, Shere Khan will win.

Bagheera Mowgli is strong. We have taught him well. Besides, the monkeys may lose interest. You know how fickle they are. They won't harm Mowgli whilst he has the fire sticks.

Raksha Fire sticks?

Bagheera Long story. I'll tell you later. We must be on the move to catch them up.

Raksha But you are hurt and not strong enough to fight Shere Khan. At least wait till the pack joins us.

Bagheera Do you think Shere Khan will wait for me to recover before he kills Mowgli? No. This is personal now. I will have Shere Khan.

Bagheera exits at speed

Interval

Act Two

Scene I

The monkeys' encampment at the ruined temple

Rudy and Kip enter with Baloo and Mowgli. Baden and Powell greet them like heroes

Rudy Get back, get back.

Kip Give us some space.

Powell Show us the fire sticks.

Baden We want fire sticks, we want fire sticks.

Baloo (*raising his paw for silence*) Dear friends, your welcome has overwhelmed us, but I'm afraid there's been some mistake.

Powell What does he mean?

Baloo I may have been mistaken about us having any fire sticks.

Baden No fire? If that's true I shall be knocking some heads together.

Baloo Now don't let's be hasty. Think about it... No animal could ever have fire. It's far too dangerous...

Baden (*advancing on Baloo*) So, whose head do I smash first?

Kip Now there's no need for that. We all know Baloo. He's such a joker and you are joking, aren't you Baloo?

Baloo looks uncomfortable

Kip (*backing from the annoyed monkeys*) Come on Baloo, you can trust us.

Rudy (*pushing Kip aside*) Let's make it simpler for you. If you don't give us what we want, Mowgli becomes Shere Khan's dinner and Baloo his dessert!

Baloo (*gulps*) How about I show you how to dance? No? OK, how about some magic tricks? (*He takes a banana from Powell*) See this banana? (*He shows it around*) By magic I shall make it disappear. Pawpawabunda.

He eats the banana

(*With his mouth full*) And it's gone.

Baden is astounded and claps enthusiastically

Powell But you ate it.

Baloo *(still with a very full mouth)* No I didn't.

Powell Yes, you did. I saw you.

Baloo *(still with a mouth full)* No you didn't.

Baden *(amazed)* He made it disappear by magic.

Powell This is ridiculous. Look I'll show you. *(He picks up a banana and repeats the trick)*

Baden Wow, I didn't know you could do magic. That's amazing.

Baloo *(a mouthful of banana)* Well done, you're a quick learner. Come on Mowgli, we must be off.

Kip I don't think so. Perhaps I should explain why you should give us what we want.

Mowgli If you must.

Kip Watch my lips, man-cub, I will say this only once. We are the bandar-log. Once we ruled as far as the eye can see. We were kings.

Rudy Everyone asked our advice. We were wise and protected the small and helpless. Our loving subjects built us this temple and filled it with offerings.

Mowgli But why did they come to you?

Kip Because we walked on two legs when everyone else crawled, slithered or flew.

Rudy Everyone marvelled at how we had hands instead of paws.

Kip Even the mighty tigers wanted to be friends.

Mowgli So what happened?

Powell The humans came.

Mowgli Humans..?

Baloo They hunted us for food and drove us from our homes. They were dark days, before we had the law of the jungle.

Rudy Yes, the law that we, the bandar-log, drew up. What thanks did we get? I'll tell you, man-cub, our grateful subjects left us.

Powell We were hunted down and forced to flee.

Baloo But it's not just the bandar-log who were treated like that. Lots of us were...

Powell But you chose them over us, so that's not our problem.

Baden We want to regain our rightful position as rulers.

Kip We need a way to drive Man away. The fire sticks will give us that power.

Rudy With fire there would be no difference between us.

Baden (*looking at Mowgli*) We'd be just like you.

Mowgli Me? I'm a wolf. Raksha and Akela are my parents.

Rudy (*looking at Baloo*) He doesn't know?

Baloo We thought it was safer if he was never told.

Mowgli Told what?

Powell Have you never wondered why you are called a man-cub?

Baloo That's enough. Mowgli, don't listen to them, they're just trying to cause trouble.

Mowgli It's all right, Baloo, I quite like them. Man-cub is a nickname.

Powell Mowgli, you are...

Baloo (*interrupting*) An inquisitive wolf cub.

Powell Human.

Mowgli (*unsure*) Baloo, I don't understand.

Rudy Look at your hand. Look at ours. They're the same (*Mowgli does*) Look at Baloo's paw. He's different. He's not one of us.

Mowgli I've never noticed that before.

Rudy Mowgli, we're the same. Give us the fire sticks and we'll release you.

Kip (*aside to Rudy*) But what about the deal we made with Shere Khan?

Baloo Why you two-timing bunch of...

Powell Shere Khan may try and break my bones but words will never harm me.

Baloo Then I'll fight you. Mowgli, get behind me

Baden I've had enough of this. Now where are the fire sticks before I crack some heads?

Kip Mowgli has them.

Powell There's one way to sort this. Shake the man-cub. If he has them they'll fall out.

Baloo You'll have to get through me first. Put 'em up.

He raises his fist, dances around jabbing at the monkeys, who run rings round him

Rudy Can't catch us. We're too quick for you.

Mowgli has climbed to the very top of the temple

Mowgli Oh boys, up here! Leave Baloo alone or the fire sticks will be gone forever.

Powell There's no need to be hasty. I'm sure we can agree on something.

Mowgli (*resolutely*) Never.

But unseen by Mowgli, Baden has climbed to the top of the temple

Baden Gotcha.

The surprise causes Mowgli to drop the fire sticks

Rudy I've got them! I've got the fire sticks!

He tries to make the fire sticks light, but doesn't know how they work. Baden grabs them.

Baden Here, let me try.

Baden strikes a match, which bursts into flame. He drops it in shock. The fire ignites the vines around the temple which bursts into flames

Baloo Here we go again!

Powell You fool. Look what you've done! Save our temple!

The monkeys desperately try to extinguish the flames

Baloo (*aside to Mowgli*) And that, Mowgli, is why animals should never have fire. Come on, let's get away from here.

They leave the monkeys frantically trying to save their temple

Scene 2

Bagheera enters followed by Dizzy and Buzzy. He is clearly in a lot of pain. He settles for a minute and then hears a noise

Bagheera Who's there? Come out, show yourself. I'm in no mood to play games.

Rama It's only us Bagheera.

Bagheera Rama, Mysa, what are you doing here?

Mysa Our herds are at the Abututu waterhole, which is buzzing with news of

Mowgli's capture.

Bagheera But how did they find out?

Rama Well Akela met Ko Crow and told him. Ko Crow told the blackbucks, who then told the rhinoceros, who passed the news onto the Asiatic lions...

Bagheera Yes...

Mysa Who roared the news to the snow leopards, who then told the kashmir stags, but you know them, they keep themselves to themselves so...

Bagheera Don't they just...

Rama So, the snow leopards told their brothers, the clouded leopards, who then passed it on to the giant squirrels, who told our herd.

Bagheera And you're telling me?

Mysa No. We sent word to the great Indian buzzard to ask if they'd heard anything...

Bagheera And had they heard anything?

Mysa Unfortunately not.

Rama But the red pandas sent us a message via white-bellied heron that the bandar-log had taken Baloo and Mowgli to their temple. As far as we know, they are both OK.

Bagheera Well that's a relief, but for how long? I must get word to Hathi.

Rama No need, it's already done. Hathi's on his way.

Mysa What you might call an inter-species rescue mission.

Rama It makes me proud to live in the jungle.

Bagheera Quite. But is there any news on Tabaqui's whereabouts?

Tabaqui (*entering*) Did I hear someone say my name?

Bagheera (*growling*) What are you doing here?

Tabaqui Probably looking for the same thing you are. We should co-operate. You get your friend, Baloo and I get the man-cub for my master. We could discuss it over a supper of (*looking at Rama and Mysa*) let's say water buffalo.

Rama But...

Bagheera There will never be a bargain with the likes of you. Now get out of my sight.

Tabaqui You're looking quite poorly, Bagheera. Back leg is it? I'll just have to wait until you succumb to that evil looking wound.

Rama You really are the lowest of the low.

Tabaqui Do you think I care about what you think? My master will reward me well if I finish the panther off.

Mysa Don't worry Bagheera, we won't leave you.

Tabaqui Oh I'm quaking in my paws.

Akela and Raksha enter

Akela And neither will we.

Tabaqui You again?

Tabaqui turns to leave

Akela Tell your master no one harms our friends.

Tabaqui You are no match for Shere Khan.

Akela Do you know why she's called the demon, Tabaqui?

Tabaqui shakes his head

Rama I reckon he's going to find out.

Akela I found Raksha when she was a young wolf. I helped her hunt the tiger that killed her family. That day she fought like a demon, hence the name and do you know who that tiger was?

Raksha It was Shere Khan's father. I wish now I had hunted down his whole family.

Tabaqui But Shere Khan told me that his father was shot by hunters.

Raksha How could the great and powerful Shere Khan admit that a young, female wolf killed his father?

Tabaqui I don't believe it.

Raksha Oh believe it, scavenger, and let it be a warning to anyone who crosses me.

Tabaqui (*gulps*) Well, I'd love to stay and chat but as they say, time waits for no jackal.

He exits, running

Akela (*to Bagheera*) How are you old friend? Is your leg as bad as it looks?

Bagheera I've had worse. We can't stay here chatting. We should be looking for

Mowgli.

Raksha Hathi has entered the other side of the bandar-log country. We'll meet in the middle.

Akela Are you well enough to keep up Bagheera? (*Bagheera nods*) Good. Then let's go and hunt some bandar-log.

They exit

Scene 3

Baloo and Mowgli enter. Kaa is sleeping unseen in a nearby tree

Mowgli Where are we?

Baloo (*puffing*) I don't know, I think we're lost. I'm a failure.

Mowgli Never in my eyes. I love you just the way you are.

Baloo (*wiping away a tear*) Shucks, you'll make me cry. I've got to get you safely back to the pack. The bandar-log won't give up until they find us.

They start to leave the clearing but Rudy and Kip jump them

Rudy Gotcha!

Kip You're right. We never give up, until we've caught our enemies.

Rudy You shouldn't have burnt down our temple.

Baloo But it wasn't our fault. It was just a ruin anyway.

Kip (*sadly*) To you, yes, but to us, it was our home.

They begin to drag Baloo and Mowgli off

Mowgli Where are you taking us?

Rudy To Shere Khan. He's told us he'll make you pay for destroying our home.

Baloo If you believe that...

Kip Well, it's better than your promise of fire.

Mowgli We never promised you fire.

Rudy It doesn't matter now. You'll soon be Shere Khan's supper.

Kip It's a win, win situation for us.

Baloo Let the man-cub go. Give me to Shere Khan.

Rudy Ahh, how sweet. The bear has a heart.

Kip Brings a tear to the eye... Not.

Rudy We have to be at Shere Khan's camp by sunset, if he's to keep his bargain.

They are about to drag Baloo and Mowgli off when they hear an elephant trumpet call

Kip It's Hathi. He'll crush us if he finds us with these two.

Rudy And Shere Khan will kill us if we don't deliver them.

Kip What shall we do?

Baloo Mowgli, shout as loud as you can.

Kip knocks Baloo out and hides him behind the foliage. Rudy knocks Mowgli out and throws him into the bushes as well

The monkeys run in both directions but are too late. They are caught by the elephants

Hathi That's right, men, line them up. Good work. Now where are Mowgli and Baloo?
Come on, speak up.

Rudy Begging your pardon, Hathi. One minute the man-cub was here, the next he'd gone. Vanished into thin air.

Kip Poof! They both did.

Rudy Disappeared.

Raja Permission to bang heads, Sir?

Tantor But it's my turn to bang heads this time. You did it last time.

Raja If anyone is going to bang heads it should be me. It's always your turn.

Tantor That's because last time you squished too hard. Real messy it was...

The monkeys are looking concerned

Hathi Now, lads, don't tease them. (*Looking at the monkeys*) Do you have anything to say?

The Monkeys notice Kaa asleep in the tree and are eager to blame someone else

Rudy and Kip (*shouting together and pointing*) It was him.

Rudy We couldn't stop him.

Kip He hypnotised us with his eyes.

Kaa (*looking sleepily*) There'sss nothing quite like a nap after a nice big lunch.

Rudy See! Kaa admits to eating Mowgli.

Kaa hears his name and looks puzzled

Baloo (*staggers out from the bushes*) My head hurts. Hathi, thank goodness you're here.

Kip (*trying to cover their tracks*) Kaa must have hypnotised him as well.

Kaa slithers down from the tree

Kaa I'm sssure it wasssn't me. I was asssleep up there in the branchesss 'till I was woken up. By what sssounded like a herd of elephantsss. (*He looks at Hathi and the herd*) Oh, it was a herd of elephantsss. Mind you I'm not sssaying I wouldn't have enjoyed eating the man-cub...

Rudy See! He admits it.

Kaa I admitsss nothing.

Kip But he's not denying it. Surely you remember, dear Baloo, how we...

Rudy ... Were taking you back to your friends when Kaa jumped us...

Kaa First of all, I never jump. Ssecondly, if I was resssponsible for the man-cub'sss disssappearance I'd be ssshouting it from the tree topsss, just to uppsset Ssshre Khan.

Kip Kaa must have swallowed the man-cub.

Rudy How cowardly.

Kaa and the monkeys fight. Hathi intervenes

Hathi (*grabbing Kaa and swinging him backward and forward*) Look here, that's just not cricket! Spit Mowgli out. Where's your sense of honour?

Rudy Yes, where's your sense of fair play?

Kip Bad show, Kaa, bad show.

Rudy He must have eaten the man-cub. Look how big his belly is. Why, it's nearly as big as Baloo's.

Baloo and Kaa (*together*) How rude.

Baloo I'm a bear. I'm meant to be this size. Besides, mine isn't fat, it's muscle.

Hathi You have to admit, Kaa, your belly is rather big. If it's not Mowgli in there, then who is it?

Kaa (*embarrassed*) I have a trapped wind problem.

Rudy Quick! Squeeze him!

The monkeys squeeze Kaa. There is a loud fart. Everyone takes a step back, covering their noses. The smell seems to bring Baloo to his senses

Baloo Hold on, I'm beginning to remember.

Kip (*still holding his nose*) That it was Kaa who attacked you and ate poor...

Rudy Quick Hathi, squish Kaa before he can...

Hathi I think we've squished Kaa enough already.

Baloo It wasn't Kaa who took Mowgli. (*Pointing at the monkeys*) It was... you!

Rudy and Kip Us? Never.

Kip Do we look like the kind of animals who would harm our dear friends?

The monkeys try to leave

Kaa Not so fassst bandar-log. You're even sssneakier than me.

Rudy (*bowing*) Why, thank you.

Stampy Permission to speak, Grandpa?

Hathi Permission granted.

Stampy I can hear a rustling noise over there.

Kip Probably the wind.

Kaa Well it wassn't me thiss time.

Tantor Permission to look, Sir.

Hathi nods. The elephants look and pull out a tied and bound Mowgli

Hathi Well this puts a completely different angle on things.

Kaa It doesss indeed. I ssshall expect a full apology and compensssation for the ssslur on my good name.

Hathi Don't push it Kaa.

Rudy and Kip (*together*) Mowgli's alive! It's a miracle.

Hathi Untie the man-cub.

They do. The monkeys are trying to quietly walk away but are blocked by the elephants

Now boy, don't be nervous. Who was it who tied you up?

Mowgli It was the bandar-log.

Hathi I thought so.

Raja Permission to squish them, Sir?

Hathi Tempting though it is, we're civilised elephants.

Rudy We always knew you were a gent.

Kip One of the best.

Tantor The bandar-log should apologise to Kaa.

Kaa is trying to slide off unnoticed with Mowgli wrapped in his coils

Hathi Just a minute Kaa.

Kaa Apology accepted. I'd love to chat, but musst go...

The elephants turn their attention to Kaa and block his exit. The Monkeys take this as their exit and leave quietly, unnoticed

Hathi You'll need to leave Mowgli here.

Kaa Mowgli?

Hathi Yes Mowgli. He's wrapped in your coils.

Kaa (*looking shocked*) How did he get there? (*Releases Mowgli and pats him on the head. He goes off muttering*) Eyesss in the backsss of their headsss, ssshould have got them looking into my eyesss.

Stampy You were very brave standing up to the bandar-log.

Mowgli Baloo's the brave one, not me.

Hathi How so, little man-cub?

Mowgli He offered himself as Shere Khan's meal if they let me go.

Hathi That is indeed worthy of recognition. When this is over, Baloo, I shall make you an honorary member of my platoon.

Stampy Oh my! That's a huge honour.

Baloo Will there be a party afterwards? Cup cakes? Sausages on sticks?

Hathi Of course.

They all laugh, just as Bagheera, Akela and Raksha enter

Bagheera Thinking about your stomach again, Baloo? (*He hugs Baloo*)

Baloo Ain't that the truth?

Mowgli (*running up and hugging Bagheera*) Are you all right? I was so worried about you. How's your leg? Were you worried about us?

Bagheera Of course not. You had Baloo to watch out for you. We thought we saw Kaa slithering away.

Hathi You did, but Kaa wasn't to blame for Mowgli or Baloo's capture. It was the bandar-log.

Raksha We must get you home Mowgli.

Mowgli But where is home, Mother?

Raksha What do you mean, my son?

Mowgli I'm not one of you. I'm not a wolf, I'm human. The bandar-log told me.

Hathi It's clear that we can no longer protect him from Shere Khan. He must return to his own kind.

Akela I have to agree.

Raksha But he's my man-cub. Can't he stay?

Akela No, we must return him as soon as we can.

Raksha But will they accept him after all this time?

Bagheera It will be hard, but he will learn their ways. I think it best that we take him to the village of Abututu. It's far from the usual hunting grounds of Shere Khan.

Hathi Bring the prisoners.

Raja (*nervously*) Begging your pardon sir. They've gone.

Hathi (*roaring*) GONE?!

Tantor (*nervously pointing to Raja*) I thought he was watching them.

Raja (*to Tantor*) I thought you were.

Hathi Very bad show.

Baloo I told you they weren't to be trusted.

Akela We need to return Mowgli to the human village as soon as possible.

They all exit

Scene 4

Shere Khan's lair. Tabaqui has brought news of Mowgli

Shere Khan So the bandar-log have the man-cub and they are bringing him here?

Tabaqui But we can't trust them. They'll lose interest and forget where they left him.

You know what they're like. What you need in a situation like this is a second in command, someone who you can trust. Someone who's never let you down...

Shere Khan Someone like you, I suppose.

Tabaqui Me? Oh, I've never thought of that.

Shere Khan Of course you didn't.

Kaa slithers in

Kaa Didn't what?

Shere Khan Tabaqui was just telling me that I need a second in command like him.

Kaa I'd make an excellent second in command? I'm cunning, not afraid to...

Tabaqui But you're never here when you're needed.

Kaa (*glaring at him*) Well I know where the man-cub is.

Tabaqui We already know that. We're leaving shortly to take him from those silly monkeys.

Kaa (*looking smug*) If the monkey still had him.

Shere Khan I feel there's something you're not telling us, Kaa.

Kaa Maybe.

Shere Khan Kaa, must I exercise my claws?

Kaa (*gulps*) No. Well, the monkeys were stupid enough to be caught by Hathi, they hid the man-cub and that stumbling bear, and then tried to blame me for Mowgli's disappearance. I never could abide those monkeys always thinking they were better than us.

Shere Khan Do get on with it before I lose the will to let you live.

Kaa Hathi has them prisoner.

Tabaqui That's not too much of a disaster.

Kaa Did I mention Bagheera, Akela and the pack have also arrived?

Shere Khan Tabaqui, mark them down for my special attention.

Tabaqui But they are protected by the law of the jungle.

Shere Khan And your point is?

Rudy and Kip enter. Kaa hides

Rudy Oh mighty Shere Khan, we've come to warn you that the man-cub has been stolen from us.

Kip Yes, we had him firmly bound and were almost here, when that snake interfered and gave our position away to Hathi.

Shere Khan You mean Kaa?

Kip Yes, if it hadn't been for him you would now be feasting on the man-cub.

Shere Khan And where is Kaa, the traitor, now?

Rudy Still there. Helping your enemies.

Shere Khan What do you say about this, Kaa?

Kaa (*coming out from hiding*) How dare you?! Look into my eyes.

Shere Khan Enough children, I'm trying to think. Now, if you were Mowgli's friends, where would you take him?

Kaa Back to the wolves' homeland.

Rudy I agree. It's the only place he'd be safe.

Tabaqui Well I'd take him to the human village far, far away from you.

Kaa No one in their right mind would take a man-cub through unknown territory.

Shere Khan It's brilliant, Tabaqui. A human settlement is the safest place for him. Ask the vultures to find out which village Mowgli is being taken to and we'll cut them off before they get there.

Tabaqui At once, master. Does this mean you'll make me your second in command?

Shere Khan If you are correct, yes.

They all exit

Scene 5

Mowgli, Bagheera, Akela, Raksha, Baloo, and the elephants enter. The Vultures are circling

Hathi Keep in line there. No slacking. Can't afford to give Shere Khan a chance to

break our formation.

Baloo But there's been no sign of Shere Khan or his followers for days.

Mowgli Baloo, why do Dizzy and Buzzy keep circling us? I don't trust them.

Akela You're right, you should never trust a vulture, always on the look out for their next meal.

Hathi (*to Raja*) Keep a watch on them, Raja. Ask the others to stay close to Mowgli and my grandson.

Raja Will do. Would you like me to question the pesky vultures, Sir?

Akela How can you do that? They don't look like they're going to land any time soon.

Tantor Maybe not, but they'll land if they think there's a chance of an easy meal.

Raja How are they going to think that?

Tantor Trust me.

Tantor calls over Stampy and whispers in his ear

The other animals are instructed to hide. Stampy staggers around dramatically screaming in pain. He falls down and pretends to be dead. The vultures swoop

Buzzy I told you if we followed them long enough, we'd be rewarded.

Dizzy We haven't eaten in weeks, but it certainly looks like we've hit the jackpot.
(*They go towards the Stampy*) I'm surprised they left him with us in the neighbourhood.

Buzzy There's plenty here to keep us full for days.

Dizzy There certainly is.

Raja trumpets and everyone bundles the poor vultures

Buzzy Hey, don't ruffle the feathers.

Dizzy Can't a poor bird eat in peace?

Stampy (*opening his eye and looking up*) You could. If I was actually dead.

Hathi You seem like decent birds, so I'll be honest with you. We need to know why you've been following us. Are you working for Shere Khan?

Buzzy We're just opportunists, so to speak.

Dizzy We'll work for whoever's likely to offer us dinner.

Mowgli So you don't kill your own prey?

Buzzy Kill our prey? You've got to be joking. It's far too dangerous.

Dizzy We're like cleaners. We keep the jungle clear of rotting flesh.

Buzzy (*handing Hathi a business card*) We offer a service second to none.

Hathi (*reading*) 'Dizzy and Buzzy, Jungle messaging and cleaning service - second to none. Will work for food'. It's so hard to find good help these days.

Bagheera (*bluffing them*) So, does Shere Khan have a message for us?

Dizzy Well, Shere Khan wants to know where you're taking the man-cub to.

Buzzy He plans on cutting you off before you get there.

Dizzy He's promised us dinner if we find out.

Baloo Well, we're safe as long as no one tells him we're taking Mowgli to the village of Abututu.

The two Vultures look at each other

Whoops. I don't think that I should have said that.

Dizzy (*quickly*) Well, we must be off. We need a place to spend the night.

Before anyone can stop them, the Vultures fly off

Buzzy (*to Dizzy*) That bear really is as stupid as we thought.

Hathi Well done, Baloo.

Akela Didn't I tell you never to trust a vulture?

Baloo I'm so sorry, I've let everyone down. I didn't mean to...

Hathi No. We can use this to our advantage. We need to make it to the village before Shere Khan. We can alert the humans to the danger. They hate the tiger more than we do and may well kill him for us.

Akela There's not a moment to lose.

They rush off

Scene 6

Outside the village of Abututu

Bagheera, Mowgli, Won Tula and Won Bula enter

Mowgli Must I go now, Bagheera? Can't I stay with the pack a little bit longer?

Bagheera It's time, man-cub.

Won Tula We'll take him, Bagheera.

Won Bula Mowgli, we won't let you go on your own.

Bagheera Yes, I believe it's only right. They should go with you.

They exit

Scene 7

In a clearing, Farleigh Hungerford and Abu Tu have set up a camera and are waiting

Farleigh Hungerford You're sure this is the spot?

Abu Tu Yes, my people have said they've often spotted creatures hiding here.

Farleigh Hungerford OK, let's begin. Hello and welcome. Pathé News this week comes from the village of Abututu in India. My guide, Chief Abu Tu, has brought us to this clearing where a strange creature has been spotted. It is neither man nor beast. Could it be related to Big Foot? Chief Abu Tu, when did you first see this creature and why did you contact Pathé News.

Abu Tu Over the last few months my people have reported seeing a creature that walks on two legs.

Farleigh Hungerford But why would this be unusual? There are many stories about mythical creatures in India.

Abu Tu True, but not ones that are accompanied by two wolves.

Farleigh is suddenly distracted by the arrival of Mowgli, Won Tula and Won Bula

Farleigh Hungerford Look over there! (*Whispering*) It seems our mystery creature isn't going to disappoint us.

Won Tula Are you nervous Mowgli?

Won Bula I'd be a little bit scared. You aren't going to leave us forever are you Mowgli?

Mowgli Of course not. I just want to find out who I really am.

Won Tula You'll always be our brother.

Mowgli, Won Bula and Won Tula rough and tumble

Shere Khan and Tabaqui quietly enter

Tabaqui I told you they'd be here. Do you want me to fetch the bandar-log so that they can take care of the wolves?

Shere Khan (*nodding*) And Kaa. It will be good for them to witness the slow death of this man-cub. He has avoided my capture once too often.

Tabaqui goes off and reappears with the monkeys and Kaa, who are followed by the two vultures

Won Bula Brother, I thought I heard something.

Won Tula It's probably your stomach rumbling.

Won Bula hangs back, sensing something is wrong

Mowgli (*laughing*) I'm sure it's nothing. Race you to the village.

Tabaqui (*stepping in front of him*) Going somewhere, man-cub?

Won Tula It's a trap!

Shere Khan Yes! I suppose it is.

Dizzy and Buzzy fly in and land on top of a rock

Dizzy Shere Khan was right, dinner is, almost, served!

Buzzy I wouldn't count on it. Remember I told you that the man-cub has a charmed life.

Mowgli and Won Tula stand back to back for protection

Won Tula (*looking around*) Where's my brother? What have you done with him?

Tabaqui He ran away leaving you to... die.

Won Tula I don't believe it. He would never leave us. If you have hurt him, I swear I will...

Shere Khan Enough, already. The rest of you can have the wolves, but the man-cub is mine.

Bagheera enters

Bagheera Not so fast, Shere Khan.

Dizzy (*indicating Bagheera*) I'd say dinner, breakfast *and* lunch all in one.

Buzzy I'd be happy with anything right now. I'm so hungry.

Dizzy You're such a killjoy. Look at the odds against the man-cub. I'd say this time we were on for a certainty.

Buzzy Maybe...

Baloo, Raksha and Akela enter. Won Bula returns with them and runs to his brother

Shere Khan Interesting that we've come full circle since that first pack meeting. So fitting that you all should witness my triumph.

Shere Khan flicks his claws and advances toward Mowgli, who stands up

Farleigh Hungerford Why! It's a human child. Keep filming.

Raksha and Akela get between Shere Khan and Mowgli

Raksha Over my dead body.

Shere Khan That can be arranged.

Akela Stand back, my friends. I'm leader of this pack. I will deal with Shere Khan.

Shere Khan (*bowing*) You can try, but I am in my prime and you have long passed yours.

Shere Khan and Akela circle each other. There's much snarling and swiping

Abu Tu I must intervene, the child is in danger. I lost my own boy when he was a baby. I will not stand back and watch another fall victim to Shere Khan... (*He raises his chief's spear but Farleigh Hungerford pushes it aside*) I just want to scare them and give the boy a chance to escape.

Farleigh Hungerford There's something wrong. Look at their positions. They're not attacking the boy. They're protecting him, from the tiger.

Abu Tu You're right. But why? Where did this child come from? He looks more wild than the animals.

Farleigh Hungerford Could *this* be the child that the tiger took all those years ago?

Abu Tu My son. It's impossible...

Farleigh Hungerford Think about it. Supposing he escaped and these wolves found him and brought him up as one of their own. That's why they are trying to protect him.

By now, Baloo has hold of Kaa by the neck, who is trying to hypnotise him. Bagheera is being fought by the monkeys. The two young wolves are having a fight with Tabuqui

Bagheera Baloo, don't look into his eyes.

Baloo What did you say?

Kaa He sssaid look into my eyesss.

Baloo Look into your eyes?

Won Bula (*rushes over and bites the snake's tail*) Leave Baloo alone, you bully.

Kaa (*wraps himself around the wolf and begins to hypnotise him*) You're getting sssleepy, you can hardly keep your eyesss open.

Baloo I don't think he is. Take that!

Baloo knocks Kaa out. Baloo and Won Bula begin to do a victory dance

Bagheera If it's not too much trouble, I'd like some help over here.

The monkeys are trying to pull out Bagheera's whiskers, others are pulling his tail

Rudy This is fun.

Baloo So is this.

Baloo swings Rudy around who gets giddy. He staggers into other animals. It's like ten pin bowling

Kip Hey, watch where you're going.

Rudy (*grabbing Kip's leg*) Quick help me! I've got him.

Kip That's me, you idiot.

Rudy Who are you calling an idiot?

The monkeys begin a slapstick fight, eventually knocking each other out

Shere Khan Ready to give up, Akela?

Akela is wounded. Raksha moves forward to protect him

Shere Khan I'll fight you all if I have to. I'll even fight you with one paw behind my back.

Tabaqui Don't be rash, master. There are two of them.

Won Tula and Won Bula (*together*) Four with us.

Baloo Five with me.

Bagheera Six with me. After all these years, Shere Khan, do you really think we'd let you take him?

Shere Khan We'll see. My loyal followers, the bandar-log, are easily a match for you any day...

Tabaqui (*looking around*) Ah, master, you might want to reconsider...

Shere Khan Why? (*He looks around to see the monkeys slowly backing off*) Perhaps today is not such a good day to end this, after all. (*He goes to leave*)

Mowgli I think today is a very good day to end this. Everyone stand back. By the law of the jungle you must promise not to interfere. This is between me and Shere Khan.

Tabaqui (*sarcastically*) So brave.

Shere Khan Or stupid.

They begin to circle each other and fight. The monkeys begin chanting from a safe distance "Shere Khan, Shere Khan".

Raksha Akela, do something.

Akela Ignore the law of the jungle that has kept us safe for centuries? What are you thinking, Raksha?

Raksha runs forward to help Mowgli but is held back by Akela

Raksha Bagheera, please help.

Bagheera (*sadly*) I can't.

Rudy He's doomed.

Kip We've picked the winning side again.

Rudy and Kip begin a victory dance. They don't notice Baloo behind them who grabs them

Baloo No you haven't. Gotcha!

Shere Khan (*triumphantly*) You're mine, man-cub. All mine. Prepare to die.

Mowgli slips, Shere Khan moves towards Mowgli thinking he has him beaten. He begins to play with Mowgli and take chances. Mowgli picks up a sharp branch, sees his chance and stabs Shere Khan

Shere Khan Maybe I was mistaken. (*He dies*)

Tabaqui You've killed him. You've killed the great Shere Khan. Let me be the first to congratulate you Mowgli. May I call you Mowgli? I always knew you'd beat him.

Baloo Really, Tabaqui?

Dizzy (*to Buzzy*) I told you it was a waste of time following them. I'm still starving. I'm off to follow a safari. They always have spare food.

Both vultures fly off in a huff

Mowgli falls to his knees, exhausted. His friends gather round him, Raksha checks he's all right

Mowgli Mother, I'm fine. Just a few scratches. Is he really dead?

Akela Yes. His reign of terror has ended today.

Bagheera For years to come, parents will tell their children how Mowgli, the brave man-cub, killed the mighty Shere Khan.

Tabaqui But what about me? (*Feeling sorry for himself*) I've served Shere Khan since I was a cub.

Baloo feeling sorry for Tabaqui puts his arm around him

Baloo You can stay with us, we'll look after you. Kaa as well if he promises not to try and hypnotise us.

Farleigh Hungerford steps out

Bagheera (*noticing the humans*) Humans!

All the animals freeze. Abu Tu looks at the panther who is helping Baloo get up

Abu Tu Stay still, they've spotted us. (*He looks at Bagheera*) Wait a minute, that panther looks familiar. It can't be...

Abu Tu steps forward

Bagheera, is that you? The panther I released when he was just a cub.

They greet each other like the long lost friends that they are.

Bagheera Mowgli, come here. Let me introduce you to your first human.

Farleigh Hungerford Did we get all that? It's amazing footage.

Abu Tu (*checking*) Yes. The camera is still running.

Farleigh Hungerford Good. No one will believe what we've seen. In fact, it would make an excellent book. I may tell my friend Mr Kipling about it, we could discuss it over some cake...

Scene 8

Three years later, back in the jungle

Farleigh Hungerford It's now three years since the man-cub was returned to the human village and we have returned to give you an update.

Mowgli, although living with his human family, often disappears for days with his animal friends, who are always welcome in Abututu. Mowgli was indeed Abu Tu's long lost son. Things were a little strained on both sides when Mowgli first returned, but he quickly learnt the human ways.

Now, the villagers are quite used to seeing panthers, wolves and bears sunning themselves in the town square. In fact, seeing the human children marching with the elephants has become quite an attraction. This is Farleigh Hungerford signing off for Pathé news.

Curtain

Perusal Copy

Useful Theatre Words

Speak Like An Actor

Act: A group of scenes.

Aside: When an actor says their lines to the audience, not to another actor.

Audition: A bit like a team try out, to see which role would best suit you.

Auditorium: The part of the building that is used for performances. Sometimes called the House.

Applause: When the audience claps the actors.

Backdrop: A big curtain, painted as scenery, hung at the back of the stage.

Backstage: The wings, dressing rooms and other parts of the theatre out of the audience's view.

Black Out: When all the lights on the stage are turned off.

Blocking: An early rehearsal where the Director decides how everyone is going to move around the stage.

Book: Another word for the script.

Cameo: A small but important role, sometimes played by a famous actor.

Cast: The actors in a play.

Character: The part an actor takes in the play.

Costume: What an actor wears.

Corpsing: When an actor laughs on stage but isn't supposed to.

Cue: The words or action signalling something to happen on stage.

Curtain Call: When all the actors come on stage for a bow.

Debut: An actor's first-ever performance.

Director: The person in charge of everything that happens on stage.

Down-Stage: Moving towards the audience.

Dressing Room: Where an actor gets ready for the performance.

Dress Rehearsal: The final rehearsal that the actors do in costume before an audience comes to watch.

Ensemble: A group of actors performing together, sometimes playing smaller roles.

Finale: The final scene of a play.

Front of House: The area outside the auditorium, that the audience use before the show and during the interval.

Fourth Wall: An imaginary wall between the actors and the audience.

Improvisation: An unrehearsed performance.

Intermission or Interval: The break between acts (time for ice cream!).

Monologue: A long speech spoken by one actor.

Off-Stage: The area that the audience can't see.

Performance: When you do the play in front of an audience.

Plot: The story of a play.

Premiere: The first performance of a play.

Props: The things an actor uses in the play.

Projecting: Making sure that you are loud enough to be heard.

Prompt: To help an actor with a forgotten line.

Rehearsal: When you practise for the performance.

Rostra: A raised platform or piece of scenery.

Scene: Uninterrupted action within a play.

Script: The words an actor says in the play.

Sight Line: The different view that the audience has of the stage.

Soliloquy: When a character says their thoughts out loud.

Spotlight: A special light to shine on a particular actor.

Stage Manager: The person who makes sure that the performance runs smoothly.

Tab: The word that is used for the theatre curtains.

Technical Rehearsal: The rehearsal in the theatre when you make sure that the sound, lights and special effects all work.

Thespian: An old fashioned word for an actor.

Understudy: An actor ready to step in if needed e.g. If an actor's sick.

Up-Stage: Moving away from the audience.

Wings: The spaces off-stage, at the side.



My Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

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