

MONKEY BUSINESS

Chapter 1



In a village deep in the jungle in the middle of Africa, lived a young monkey named Mubato. This young monkey was always getting into trouble. He never listened to his elders, especially his parents.

Because of this, one day he found himself in so much trouble, he was unable to find a way out, and no one was able to help him, not even his parents.

The day started out just like any other day. Mubato got up and ate his breakfast, but he did not clean his room.

During breakfast, he sat with his family at the table. Mubato was usually the first one to finish eating. He always had to wait for everyone else to be done. His mother never let him get up from the table until breakfast was over, so while he waited, he liked to tease his brothers and sisters.

When his father Molasso was finished eating, he would leave because he had to prepare to go to work. He was very strict and made the children sit quietly while he was there. Once their father left the table, the children began to laugh and play. They always liked it when he left because afterward they could be themselves. Mother would laugh at them as they joked and laughed.

On this day, Dargo, Mubato's older brother was not very happy because the other children were throwing food at him. He was not as much fun.

Mubatos' mother, told them to stop throwing food, but Mubato did not listen. He

kept throwing food. He threw an apple that missed Dargo, but hit Fuo, the baby, on the top of his head.

The baby always screamed when this happened, which made Mubato's mother very angry with him. It was not unusual. He was always doing things like this. Every day something happened that got Mubato into trouble because he never thought before he did anything, and it always turned out badly.

After the baby calmed down, his mother sent him to his room to clean it up, and then she told him he would have to clean the kitchen afterward because of the big mess he had made when he threw the food.

Mubato thought this was unfair. He went to his room and threw all of his things under his bed or behind his chair so his mother would not see his mess.

When he finished his room he went to the kitchen to clean it up. While he was washing the dishes, he just threw water on them and then put them away still dripping water. He did not even dry them.

His mother inspected the work he had done and she was not happy, however Mubato did not have time to do the work over again because it was time for him to go to school. She told him he would have to redo everything when he got home later that day. He was not surprised. This was normal for him.

He packed his books and his homework, which he had not finished, into his backpack.

On his way out the door, his mother gave him his lunch, which he smashed as he put it into his backpack. Mubato liked his sandwiches that way, especially peanut butter and jelly.

He quickly left the house to walk to school. He was finally free.

On the way to school, he looked in the windows of all of the stores. There were many things he saw that he wanted to buy, but he had no money because he always had to pay to repair all of the things he broke.

On the way, he met his best friend Morgano. They had known each other since the

first grade. Their mothers never let them play together because they always got into so much trouble, but they were able to walk to school.

Today was no different. As usual, they walked to school very slowly. They did not like school very much. They always looked for ways to make the trip to school more fun. They invented stories about pirates or zombies chasing them, and they made stories in their minds of how they would escape. They would run through the park, hiding behind trees and rocks trying not to get caught.

Mr. Toobo, their teacher, would yell at them every day for being late to school. Mubato did not care. He was having fun.

On this day, they decided not to go to school at all. They wanted to explore the lake close to the school. They thought about going swimming, but since they did not have their swimsuits, they thought of other games to play. If they were in the water, the pirates might come and get them. That scared them.

While walking around the lake they met some older monkeys who were. Morgano and Mubato asked if they could join them.

“Hey, can we fish with you? It looks like a lot of fun,” Morgano asked the older monkeys.

“It’s a free country. Sure, but you have to share whatever you catch,” one of the other monkeys answered.

After a few hours of fishing, they had not caught any fish.

The conversation turned to other things. The two older monkeys told them they knew about an adventure they would never forget.

“How would like to help us find something very valuable, like a treasure?”

Morgano and Mubato were excited. They always liked a good adventure. They thought the other monkeys were talking about an imaginary adventure, but it would turn out to be all too real.

“Sure, what do we have to do?” Mubato asked.

“Come with us and we will take you to the treasure. We will be like pirates,” the

older monkey explained. “By the way, I am Dampao and this is my friend Frako.”

“Nice to meet you, I am Mubato and this is my friend Morgano,” he replied.

“Follow us and we will have a great adventure. You like adventures, don’t you?”

Frako said with excitement in his voice.

“Of course!” the two monkeys said together.

The group of monkeys left the lake and walked toward the palace where the emperor lived. Mubato had seen the walls of the palace, but he had never gotten very close. He was too afraid because there were rumors that children who went close to the palace never returned.

They began to tell Mubato and Morgano about the Golden Banana. It was the emperor’s most valuable possession.

“The treasure we are looking for is the Golden Banana. Whoever owns the Golden Banana is the richest person in the whole world. There is not treasure that is more valuable. We are on a mission to find it. Do you want to join us?” Dampao asked.

Mubato and Morgano looked each other in excitement. This was going to be the best adventure they had ever been on. It was better than anything they had ever imagined on their own.

They older monkeys said that they had a plan to steal the Golden Banana. After they found it, they would each get a part of the money from selling the Golden Banana.

To Mubato and Morgano it seemed like a really good plan.

No one had ever seen the Golden Banana, but everyone knew about it. Because of this the boys thought it was just an adventure.

“After we find the Golden Banana we can sell it for a lot of money, but in order to get it, we will need to buy some supplies. Do you have any money?” Dampao asked, as they began to make their plan.

“Let me see. I have \$25.00, will that help?” Morgano said while looking in his pocket.

He asked Mubato, “What about you? Do you have any money?”

“I never have any money. I’m broke twenty-four seven. I always have to pay for the things I break,” Mubato answered, showing his empty pockets.

“But I have a sandwich I can share with you,” Mubato said as he took the smashed sandwich out of his backpack.

They others looked at it and told him he could keep it for himself.

Frako said to Morgano, “We’ll use your money to buy the necessary things to get the Golden Banana out of the palace.”

Morgano gave him the money from his pocket.

Frako took Morgano’s money and went to the store to buy the things they needed to break into the palace in order to find the Golden Banana.

While Frako went to the store, the two younger monkeys to waited for them in the forest.

It was exciting for them. This was going to be the best day ever! It was so much better than going to school.

When Frako returned with the supplies, the four monkeys discussed the plan and what each of them would do once they entered the palace.

The first part of the plan was they needed to dig a tunnel under the wall.

The group started to go slowly toward the wall looking for the best place to dig. Frako made Morgano and Mubato carry the supplies. They had a rope, a big sack, and shovels.

After two hours of walking in the hot sun slowly and carefully so as to not be seen by the guards on the wall, they found a place they thought would be excellent for making a tunnel under the wall.

Above them, on the walls, they saw two guards who were so hot from the sun they were covered with sweat. They did not notice the four monkeys as they walked around the walls because the guards were drinking water and complaining about how hot the sun was.

Just before they began to dig, two guards came around the corner of the wall and

saw the four monkeys. The guards approached them and asked them what they were doing.

When they questioned Frako, he hit one of them with his fist causing him to fall down. Dampao jumped on the other one and forced him to the ground. They tied up the two guards so they would not be able to go for help.

“Hurry, we don’t have much time.” Drampao whispered to Mubato and Morgano. “DIG!”

It was hard work digging in the hard soil and in the hot sun. Morgano and Mubato did most of the work while Dampao and Frako watched to see if any more guards were coming.

Once they had dug the tunnel, they entered the palace by crawling under the wall. As they went into the tunnel, Dampao replaced the dirt behind him so no one inside would find it.

When they came out on the other side, they found themselves in the palace garden. The garden was made up of bamboo and banana palms, which made it a lot cooler than being in the sun.

“Whew, I’m glad we under these trees. It’s not so hot here!” Mubato exclaimed softly, wiping the sweat from his forehead. “Our tunnel is hidden. No one should find us here.”

“You’re right,” Morgano responded. “Maybe we should rest for a while and wait for it to get dark?”

“SHHHH! You idiots! Be quiet or one of the guards will hear us,” Dampao whispered with an irritated tone in his voice.

Frako shook his fist at them to let them know he was serious about them being quiet.

The four monkeys looked through the trees and watched all of the activity in the courtyard. They rested and waited for a chance to run across the courtyard. Dampao thought they would find the Golden Banana in the Emperor’s room. They would search

his room while he was at dinner. That was the plan.

As the sun was going down, to their surprise, the emperor walked out of his house to the middle of the yard. He looked like he was going to get a drink of water. As far as they knew, the emperor never got his own water, so this was very curious to them.

The emperor took a rope with a big hook on the end of it from his pocket and attached it to the pulley over the well. After he dropped the rope down into the well, then he pulled on the rope pulling it back up from the bottom of the well, and to their bigger surprise, out of the well appeared the Golden Banana!

The emperor admired his prized possession. He let the sun shine on it. To the monkeys behind the trees, it was the most beautiful thing they had ever seen. After he admired it for a long time, he lowered it back down into the well.

“What a great hiding place! No one would ever think to look into a well to find the Golden Banana,” Mubato thought to himself, but now the four monkeys knew exactly where it was.

They waited until the emperor and his soldiers left.

In the evening, clouds rolled in and blocked the moonlight. The courtyard was completely dark except for the light from torches on the side of the palace. The center of the courtyard was completely dark. They crawled across to the well and looked down inside. It was very deep and dark.

“How are we going to get the Golden Banana out of there?” Mubato asked.

“Shhh,” said Frako, as he showed him the rope.

Frako tied the rope to the pulley just as the emperor had done and then motioned for Mubato to hold onto the other end of the rope.

“Am I going down there?” Mubato asked, frightened.

“Yes, and you had better be very quick about it too,” Dampao whispered at him.

“After you find the Golden Banana, we’ll pull you back up,” Frako also whispered instructions to him.

Frako gave him the flashlight he had purchased and turned it on.

Mubato asked, “Are you sure the rope is long enough to reach to the bottom?”

But there was no answer.

As they lowered Mubato into the well, for fun, he shouted like an owl, “Ooh-ooh! Ooh-ooh”.

The sound echoed out of the well as he dropped deeper into the well.

Frako yelled in a whispered voice, “Keep quiet! or we’ll be discovered.”

Mubato finally reached the bottom. There wasn’t any water there, but he found the Golden Banana. He hooked the rope to the Golden Banana and then those at the top pulled it up. It was heavy so it took a while for it to reach the top of the well.

“We’ve got it!” a voice from above whispered down into the well, and then the entire rope dropped down. The others had decided to leave him in the well.

Mubato yelled, “Hey, where did you go? Let me out of here! Come back!”

But no one replied.

The well was very dark and Mubato was scared. He sat down and cried.

The next day a rope dropped down on top of him and woke him up. Mubato grabbed the rope and then he was pulled up slowly.

When he got to the top, he was face to face with the emperor.

The emperor yelled, “Guards! Come here! NOW!”

They took Mubato into the palace and put him into a jail cell.

Soon after, a big angry monkey came to where Mubato was being held and entered the room.

“So young man, what can you tell me about how you ended up in the well and how the Golden Banana became missing?” the big monkey asked.

Mubato told him the whole story.

“My friend Morgano and I decided not to go to school. We wanted to something fun. We met two older monkeys named Dampao and Frak who were fishing. They told us we could joint them on a great adventure with them and find a treasure just like the pirates. We thought it was a joke, but then we found ourselves inside of the palace

looking at the Golden Banana. It was so big and beautiful. I had no idea that they really wanted to steal it until they left me in the well. Then I was face to face with the emperor. I have never been so scared in all my life,” Mubato shared his story.

“We have no record of any monkey in our country named Dampao or Frako. I think you made them up to protect you and your friend. We will find him and ask him what he knows about all of this.

“You will stay here,” the big monkey said as he picked up his papers.

The big monkey left, but Mubato was still in the jail. He was very frightened and did not know what to do. He just sat on the hard bench and waited to see what was going to happen next.

A few hours later, Mubato’s parents came to see him. They told him that he had done a very bad thing and they would not be able to take him home. He was going to have to stay in the jail until his trial.

The next day Morgano arrived at the jail and was put next to Mubato.

“Morgano, are you OK?” Mubato asked.

“Yeah, they came to our house this morning. They told my parents about what you had said. They are not happy. Then they brought me here. I think we are in really big trouble this time,” Morgano answered.

What happened to Dampao and Frako?” Mubato inquired.

“They ran away as soon as we got on the other side of the tunnel. They pushed me down so I wasn’t able to follow them. I have no idea where they went,” Morgano shared.

After a very short trial, Morgano and Mubato were given five years in jail.

Dampao and Frako were never found.

VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. scream _____ | a. to do again |
| 2. inspect _____ | b. explore, fun trip |
| 3. redo _____ | c. yell, shout |
| 4. smashed (v) _____ | d. all day, every day |
| 5. pocket _____ | e. check over, look at closely |
| 6. adventure _____ | f. meat or fruit between bread |
| 7. steal _____ | g. without mercy |
| 8. twenty-four-seven _____ | h. place to put things, pouch |
| 9. merciless _____ | i. pushed down hard |
| 10. sandwich _____ | j. take without permission |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Mubato was an old monkey. | T / F |
| 2. The children had to be quiet when their father was there. | T / F |
| 3. Mubato's friend was Morgano. | T / F |
| 4. The monkeys liked pirate adventures. | T / F |
| 5. The older monkeys caught many fish. | T / F |
| 6. The monkeys went to the palace. | T / F |
| 7. They were looking for the yellow banana. | T / F |
| 8. Mubato was left in the well. | T / F |
| 9. The emperor forgave Mubato and Morgano. | T / F |
| 10. The older monkeys got away. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. What did Mubato throw that missed his brother and hit the baby? _____
 - a) bottle
 - b) banana
 - c) apple
 - d) toast

2. Who was Mubato's and Moragno's teacher at school? _____
 - a) Mr. Toboo
 - b) Mr. Toobo
 - c) Mr. Tumbo
 - d) Mr. Tooloo

3. How did they get into the palace? _____
 - a) dug a tunnel
 - b) broke the wall
 - c) climbed over the wall
 - d) walked in the front gate

4. How long would Morgano and Mubato be in prison? _____
 - a) six months
 - b) one year
 - c) two years
 - d) the rest of their lives

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. Why didn't Mubato ever have any money?

2. How much money did Morgano have?

3. Who hit the guard and knocked him unconscious?

4. Where did the monkeys hide before going to the well?

5. What did Dampao and Frako buy at the store?

6. Where was the Golden Banana?

7. Who owned the Golden Banana?

8. Where did the emperor find Mubato?

9. What happened to Mubato?

10. What happened to Dampao and Frako?
