

MONKEY BUSINESS

Chapter 2



After serving only one year in jail for the theft of the emperor’s most wonderful possession, the Golden Banana, Mubato and Morgano walked out of the prison. Since the Golden Banana had never been found, the emperor decided to send Mubato and Morgano out of his country, never to return.

When they left the prison, No one was waiting for them. They had expected someone from their families to come and take them home, but no one was there.

As they were walking toward the town, an old monkey who was wearing unusual clothes and who had a strange accent, walked up to them.

“Are you interested in finding the Golden Banana, and returning it to the emperor?” the old monkey asked.

Surprised, the boys stopped and turned around to listen.

“Of course, what do you think? We would get a pardon from the emperor and then our records would be clean,” Mubato stated.

The old monkey began to tell them his tale.

“This story began many years before when the emperor was just a young prince in the house of his father the emperor. The prince liked to sneak out of the palace and travel around the town exploring new things. He felt, that if one day he were going to be the emperor, he would need to know how the people thought and what they needed.

“His favorite place to visit was the old market down by the river. He would bring a

few gold coins in order to buy the things he wanted.

“A new merchant had opened a new tent. The seller was from a country to the north. The clothing he was wearing identified him as being from a far off place. None of the other merchants knew who he was. His tent was red and it was brand new. The vendor had many golden items spread out on a gold colored blanket.

“Unknown to the prince, most of the monkeys in the market knew who he was. They knew he was the prince from the palace.

“One day, while he was looking through the merchandise in the new tent, he found something very special. He found the Golden Banana. He did not have enough money to pay for the banana, so he became sad.

“The new merchant approached the prince while he was admiring the Golden Banana and told him he would sell it to him for whatever money he had in his coin purse. This made the prince very excited. He gave all of the money he had to the merchant and went home with his new purchase.

“He showed it to his father. His father asked him where he had bought it. When the prince told his father he had gone to the market, the emperor was not pleased. He was angry that his son had gone to the town without anyone knowing about it. His father took the Golden Banana and told the prince he could have it back when he showed the emperor that he would be a more responsible monkey.

“The prince worked hard to prove to his father that he was responsible and worthy of getting the Golden Banana back. He worked hard on his studies in school. He did all that his father asked him to do. He never returned to the market.

“When his father was old, he told the prince that soon he was going to die and the prince would soon be the emperor. This made the prince sad, because he loved his father very much.

“His father returned the Golden Banana to him and told him that he was proud of him and he knew the prince would make a wonderful emperor.

“Soon after, the emperor died, and the prince became the emperor of the empire.”

When the old man finished the tale, the two young monkeys looked at each other.

“How does this help us find the Golden Banana?” Mubato asked, with a very confused look on his face.

“Think about the story. The clue to the location of the Golden Banana is in the story,” the old man replied.

He then walked away, not saying anything else.

“Who was that old man? Why is he interested in helping us?” the two monkeys questioned what they had just learned.

The boys were confused.

They asked each other, “What did the story mean? What did the old man know about the location of the Golden Banana? Why had he only told them the story and no other information?”

Now they were more confused than ever because they did not have an answer to any of their questions.

The two monkeys picked up their things and started to walk home.

When Mubato arrived at his home, no one was there. The house was empty. He looked around. Everything was gone.

He had not seen his family since after the trial. No one had come to visit him while he was in jail. Now the house was empty. What had happened to them?

It was the same for Morgano. His house was empty and his family was not to be found.

Something had happened.

The boys began to ask questions of the people who lived around them, but no one would talk to them. Mubato and Morgano were ignored, as if they did not exist.

They found out that the emperor had made a law saying the boys did not exist and they were to be ignored.

It turned out that their parents were so embarrassed by the actions of their children, they had moved away because the neighbors would not talk to them and treated them

very badly. As a result, they moved to a new place and changed their identities so no one would associate them with the boys who had stolen the Golden Banana.

Now Mubato and Morgano knew they must find the Golden Banana or they may never see their families again.

The first thing they did was to go to the market to find the merchant who had sold the Golden Banana to the emperor. They asked many questions and found out he no longer came to the market. It had been several years since he was there. They also found out he was from another country, and as far as they knew, he had returned to his country in the north.

They realized that it was the old monkey who had sold the Golden Banana to the prince. The two young monkeys had an idea of how to find the Golden Banana and return it to the emperor.

Mubato and Morgano made plans to visit his country.

It took almost a month to get to the capital city of the country where the merchant who had sold the emperor the Golden Banana had come from.

They walked until they found the market in the middle of the city. They asked questions if there was a merchant selling golden items, especially a Golden Banana. The monkeys they talked to told them there were two new vendors in the market from another country, and that there was a story they were trying to sell a Golden Banana.

Excited by the news, the boys went to the tent where new merchants were. Just before they entered the tent, they realized it was Dampao and sitting next to him was Frako!

In order not to be seen, they quickly hid behind a cart on the street.

They needed a plan to get the Golden Banana back and return it to the emperor.

They crossed the street to get something to eat.

While they were sitting in a café, making their plan, they heard a voice in a familiar accent say, “You’ve done well my young monkeys. You have found the place in my story.”

The boys spun around to see the old monkey who had met them when they had gotten out of jail standing behind them.

“What are you doing here?” Mubato asked.

The old man pulled up a chair and sat down at the table.

“I was hoping you would come here. The merchants in this city know me too well. It would be too difficult for me to recover the Golden Banana, but you two are strangers, so you will be able to get it back. I’m sure of it,” the old monkey explained to them.

“Do you have a plan?” Morgano asked.

“Yes. Listen carefully. If you do what I say, you will retrieve the Golden Banana and then you can return to your country.

“First of all, go to the merchants in the market and tell them you know someone who wants to buy a Golden Banana. Let them know the buyer is very wealthy and will pay a large amount of money. Spread the story to as many of the merchants in the market as you can. Soon the monkeys who have the Golden Banana will hear about it, and then they will fall into our plan.

“Second, tell them the buyer will meet them in the garden on the east side of the city. Once the merchants who have the Golden Banana hear that someone is interested in buying it, they will come. I’m sure of it.

“And finally we can set the trap to capture them,” the old monkey finished.

“Why are you helping us?” Mubato asked.

“I want the emperor to have his wonderful gift back,” he answered.

“Why do you want to do that?” Morgano asked.

“I was the merchant who sold it to him in the first place. When it is returned to him, he will be happy. When he is happy he will make me the chief merchant of the kingdom,” the old monkey smiled as he told of his own plan. “Then I will be the happiest man in all the land.”

He sat back and smiled.

The boys liked the idea and began to tell the merchants in the market they knew of

an important monkey who wanted to buy a Golden Banana. They asked if they knew of someone who had a Golden Banana. If so, a buyer would pay a large amount of money for it, but the purchase had to be in a secret place. They told them the buyer would be waiting in the garden on the east side of the city.

They went from tent to tent spreading the story, making sure that Dampao and Frako did not know they were the ones who were telling the story.

Mubato and Morgano had found a place where they could spy on Dampao and Frako without being seen. From there they could see when one of the other merchants told them about the buyer.

It took a few days, but the story finally got to Dampao. He and Frako got excited.

The two young monkeys watched from across the street as the bad monkeys took the Golden Banana from a hiding place and put it into a leather bag. They looked very excited thinking that they were finally going to sell the prize they had stolen. If they could sell the Golden Banana, they would be rich and then the emperor would never know who had it.

It was the perfect plan.

After closing their tent, they left to meet with the rich monkey who was going to buy the stolen object.

After Dampao and Frako left, Mubato and Morgano snuck into the tent and picked up several items off the rug on the ground. After they put the merchandise, into a bag they crawled out of the back of the tent and ran to meet the two thieves.

Dampao and Frako were so excited about selling the Golden Banana, they did not notice when Mubato and Morgano dropped a net over them in a narrow walkway.

The boys took the bag with the Golden Banana. Then they put the things they had taken from the tent into the pockets of the two monkeys in the net, and then they ran away leaving the two bad monkeys trapped in the net screaming for help.

On the way out of the city, Mubato, Morgano, and the old monkey, went to the police. They told them that everything Dampao and Frako had been selling in the market

were stolen items. They gave the police a description of the stolen items, and told the police where they would be able to find the two foreign merchants. They would find the stolen things in their pockets.

The police found Dampao and Frako right where Mubato and Morgano had told them they would be.

The bad monkeys tried to tell the police about the Golden Banana being taken from them, but the police did not believe them and arrested them for having the stolen merchandise.

Mubato and Morgano returned to the city of the emperor. The old monkey went with them.

When they got to the palace, they asked to see the emperor. They said they had something very important to show him.

At first, the guards refused to allow them to enter. They knew who Mubato and Morgano were. The emperor's orders were very clear. They were not to come into the palace, in fact they were not allowed to be in the country.

The old monkey stepped forward.

"I have something for the king. Tell him my name is Bronza. I sold him the Golden Banana many years ago. He will remember me," the old monkey spoke in his northern accent.

The guard left, but a few minutes later, he returned.

"You may come, but these two monkeys must go. They cannot enter," the guard ordered.

"I will not talk to the emperor unless they come with me," the old monkey insisted. "Tell him please."

The guard left, and when he returned, he told them the emperor had agreed to what the old monkey had asked. However, the two young monkeys were not to speak.

When the three monkeys went into the palace, the guards took them to the throne room. The emperor was there. He remembered the two boys. His face showed how

displeased he was that they were in his palace again.

“What do you want?” he asked, in a very strong voice. “I only allowed you to speak to me because of your kindness to me many years ago. If you have nothing important to tell me, I will have all of you arrested!”

Instead of talking, Mubato opened the leather case and showed the emperor the Golden Banana.

The emperor jumped up from his throne and shouted, “You have found my Golden Banana! You have returned it to me. How were you able to do this?”

The old monkey explained how Mubato and Morgano had helped to fool the real thieves into a trap, and how they had told the police about them. He told him the two bad monkeys were in prison in his home country for stealing many other valuable golden items.

The emperor was so pleased with Mubato and Morgano, they were pardoned, and the emperor hired them to be detectives in his police department. They became famous for solving many other important crimes in the city.

When their families heard of the pardons, they returned to the city and welcomed the boys into their homes.

The old monkey became the chief merchant for the kingdom and he was very happy.

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

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. accent _____ | a. mystery, plot |
| 2. intrigue _____ | b. realm, kingdom |
| 3. sneak _____ | c. court proceeding before a judge |
| 4. empire _____ | d. to be, live |
| 5. trial _____ | e. law, ruling by a king |
| 6. exist _____ | f. main city of government |
| 7. edict _____ | g. slowly leave without notice |
| 8. associate (n) _____ | h. speech pattern |
| 9. capital _____ | i. where the king sits |
| 10. throne room _____ | j. friend, workmate |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Mubato and Morgano were in jail for their whole lives. | T / F |
| 2. An old monkey told them a tale of mystery and intrigue. | T / F |
| 3. The old monkey spoke with an accent. | T / F |
| 4. The old monkey sold the emperor the Golden Banana. | T / F |
| 5. The tent was black. | T / F |
| 6. The monkeys went to the ocean. | T / F |
| 7. Morgano's parents met him at the jail and hugged him. | T / F |
| 8. Dampao and Frako sold stolen many items at the market. | T / F |
| 9. Mubato and Morgano were sent back to jail. | T / F |
| 10. The emperor was happy to have his Golden Banana again. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. When the old monkey spoke, what was different? _____
 - a) he spoke German
 - b) he used his hands
 - c) he had an accent
 - d) he wrote his story

2. Where were Mubato's and Morgano's parents? _____
 - a) at home
 - b) in the capital city
 - c) in jail
 - d) in another city

3. In what city did they find the Golden Banana? _____
 - a) at home
 - b) in their capital city
 - c) in jail
 - d) in another capital city

4. Who was happy to have the Golden Banana back? _____
 - a) the emperor
 - b) the old monkey
 - c) Morgano
 - d) Mubato

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

1. Who met the monkeys when they got out of jail?

2. What happened when they went to see their parents?

3. Where did Mubato and Morgano go to find the Golden Banana?

4. What did they tell the merchants to trick Dampao and Frako?

5. Where did Dampao and Frako sell the golden goods?

6. Where was the Golden Banana?

7. What did they use to catch Dampao and Frako?

8. What did Mubato and Morgano tell the police?

9. Who went with them to the palace?

10. What was old monkey's name?
