

MONKEY BUSINESS

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Chapter 1



In a village, deep in the forest in the middle of Africa, there lived a young monkey named Mubato. This young monkey was always getting into trouble. He never obeyed 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.

During breakfast, he sat with his family at the table. His father Molasso, was always the first to leave the table because he had to prepare to go to work. When their father was at the table, the children had to behave themselves. He didn't like a lot of noise in the morning. The children always liked it better after he left.

Mubato was usually the first one to finish eating, so he had to wait for everyone else while they continued to eat. While he waited, he liked to tease his brothers and sisters.

As soon as his father left the table, the children began to laugh and play, especially Mubato.

Their mother was more fun. She would laugh at them as they joked and laughed. However, Dargo, the older brother, was not very happy because the other children always

threw food at him.

Every morning their mother would tell them to stop throwing food, but Mubato never listened. He always threw food. On this day, he threw an apple that missed Dargo, and hit Fuo, the baby, on the top of his head.

The baby screamed, which made his mother very angry with Mubato. Mubato was always doing things like this. He never thought before he did anything, and it always turned out badly.

After his mother yelled at him for his behavior, she sent him to his room to clean it up and to make his bed.

Mubato thought it was unfair. When he went to his room he threw all his things under his bed or behind his chair. Then he pulled the sheets and blankets up to cover up even more things on his bed.

When he was finished, he went down to the kitchen. His mother told him he would have to clean the kitchen because of the big mess he made when he was throwing food. Then his mother told him to clean the dishes in the sink. While he was washing the dishes, he just threw water on them and put them away. He did not use soap or even dry them.

His mother inspected the work he had done and she was not pleased. Mubato did not have time to do the work over again because it was time to go to school, this was part of his plan. She told him he would have to redo everything when he got home from school. This was normal for him.

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

His mother gave him his lunch and he smashed it as he put it into his backpack. Mubato liked his sandwiches that way.

He left the house to walk to school. On the way to school, he looked into the windows of all the stores. There were many things he wanted to buy, but he had no money because he always had to pay to repair the things he broke.

On the way to school, he met his best friend Porgano. They had known each other since the first grade. Their mothers never let them play together because they always got into so much trouble.

Today was no different.

As usual, they walked to school very slowly. Neither one of them liked school very much. They always looked for ways to make the trip to school more fun. They invented stories of how pirates or zombies were chasing them, and they made stories in their minds of how they would escape.

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 next to the school. They thought about swimming, but they did not have their swimsuits. They also thought that the pirates or alligators might come and get them. That scared them, yet they decided to go anyway.

While walking around the lake they met some other monkeys who were fishing. Porgano and Mubato asked if they could join them. After a few hours of fishing, they had not caught any fish.

The conversation turned to other things.

“We love to go on adventures. Every day we make up stories about pirates, zombies, and alligators. Then we run away,” Mubato said, thinking the older monkeys might want to join them.

The two monkeys told them they knew about an adventure they would never forget.

“If you come with us we will take you on the greatest adventure of your lives. We know of a place that will make you excited and happy,” one of the older monkeys said with a big smile on his face.

Porgano and Mubato were curious. They always liked a good adventure. They thought the other monkeys were talking about an imaginary story, but it would turn out to

be all too real.

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 close. He was too afraid because there were stories that children who went too close to the palace never returned.

The other monkeys began to tell them about the golden banana that the Emperor considered to be his most valuable possession. They suggested it might be fun to steal the golden banana and then sell it for a lot of money.

No one had ever seen the golden banana, but everyone knew about it.

“Why don’t you come and help us try to steal the golden banana? We can sell it and get a lot of money,” the older monkeys proposed.

“Do you have any money?” they asked Mubato and Porgano as they began to make their plan.

“Let me see,” Porgano looked in his pocket and found his money. As he counted it, he said, “I have \$25.00. Will that help?”

Turning to Mubato, he asked, “What about you? Do you have any money?”

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

The older monkey, whose name was Dampao, told Porgano to give him his money.

“We’ll use your money to buy the things we need to get the golden banana out of the palace,” Frago, the other monkey said.

Porgano gave them the money from his pocket.

When Mubato did not give them any money, Frago said to him, “Oh, you stupid kid. Why don’t you have any money?”

Mubato told him the same thing he had told Dampao, “I always have to pay for the things I break.” Pausing for a moment, he looked inside his bag. “I have a sandwich I can share with you.”

When they saw the smashed sandwich they all said, “No thank you.”

Rather than putting the sandwich back into his backpack, Mubato ate it.

Dampao told Frago to take Porgano's money and go to the store to buy the things they would need to break into the palace to find the golden banana.

While the older monkeys went to the store, they told the two younger monkeys to wait for them in the forest.

When they returned with the supplies, the four monkeys talked about the plan and what each of them would do in order to enter the palace.

First of all, they needed to dig a tunnel under the wall.

The group started to walk slowly toward the wall looking for the best place to dig. Frago made Porgano and Mubato carry the rope, a big sack, and the shovels.

After two hours of walking in the hot sun, they found a place they thought would be excellent for digging under the wall.

Above them, on top of the wall, were monkey guards who were so hot from the sun they were covered with sweat. They had two chairs they were sitting in and because of this, they did not notice the four monkeys as they walked around the walls. They were drinking water and sitting under a tent trying to get out of the sun. In addition, the four monkeys kept close to the wall making it more difficult for the guards to see them.

Just before they began to dig, two monkey warriors came up to them and asked them what they were doing.

"We are doing a special job for the Emperor. We have been asked to create a new water supply for the garden," Dampao answered.

The guards did not believe them and when they questioned Frago, he hit one of them with his fist causing him to fall to the ground. Dampao jumped on the other one and forced him to the ground as well. The older monkeys tied up the two guards so they would not be able to go for help while Mubato and Porgano continued to dig as fast as they could.

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

coming.

Once the tunnel was finished, they entered by crawling under the wall and ended up in the palace garden. The hole was hidden behind a large tree so no one inside could see it. The garden was made up of bamboo and banana palms, which made it darker and cooler than being in the sun.

“It’s a lot cooler here than outside the walls!” Mubato exclaimed.

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

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

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

The four monkeys looked through the trees and watched all the activity in the courtyard. People and soldiers walked from building to building, while merchants tried to sell them food and clothing. It was a very busy place.

As evening began to fall, the courtyard became quiet. Everyone had gone to their homes. The monkeys stayed in the garden waiting for the chance to look for the golden banana. Just as they were about to leave the cover of the trees, something happened.

To their surprise, the old Emperor walked out of his house to the middle of the yard. He looked like he was going to get a drink of water. Normally the Emperor would not get his own water. He would have asked a servant to bring it to him. So, this seemed odd to them.

They watched as the Emperor took a rope from his pocket and attached it to the pulley over the well, then dropped it down inside. He pulled on the rope and to their bigger surprise, out of the well appeared the golden banana!

The Emperor stood and admired his prized possession for a long time, and he then put 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, but now the four young monkeys knew exactly where it was.

They waited until the Emperor and his soldiers left. Then 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 Frago, as he showed him the rope.

Frago tied the rope to the pulley just as the Emperor had done and then motioned for Mubato to hold onto the rope.

“Am I going down there?” Mubato asked quite 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,” Frago said softly.

Frago gave him a flashlight he had purchased and turned it on.

Mubato asked if they were sure that the rope was going to be long enough to reach to the bottom.

Dampao nodded his head.

As they lowered Mubato into the well, he began shouting “Ooh-ooh! Ooh-ooh,” like an owl. The sound echoed out of the well as he descended deeper into the well.

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

Mubato finally reached the bottom. There wasn’t any water, but he found the golden banana. He hooked the rope to the golden banana and then it was pulled up. Shortly after the golden banana reached the top, the rope dropped down. Mubato realized the older monkeys had decided to leave him in the well.

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

But no one came.

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 began to be pulled up slowly.

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

The Emperor yelled, “Guards come here, NOW!”

Looking at Mubato in the face he asked, “Where is my golden banana?”

Mubato did not answer. He was too scared.

The guards 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 jail cell.

“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 of how he had decided not to go to school, how he met the two older monkeys, and of how they made the plan to steal the golden banana.

“We have no record of any monkeys in our country named Dampao or Frago. I think you made them up to protect you and your friend. We’ll find him and ask him what he knows about all of this. For now, 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.

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

Mubato was very afraid.

He just sat on the hard bench and waited to see what was going to happen next.

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

“Porgano, are you OK? What happened to Dampao and Frago? Why did you leave me in the well?” Mubato asked.

He told Mubato, “Dampao and Frago ran away with the golden banana. 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,” Porgano shared.

“I have no idea where they went. When the police arrived at my house, they were very angry. My parents did not know what to say or do. Then I was brought here.”

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

Dampao and Frago were never found.

MONKEY BUSINESS

Chapter 2



After serving their time in jail for the theft of the Emperor’s most wonderful possession, the golden banana, the boys walked out of the prison. No one was waiting for them. They had expected someone from their family to come and take them home.

As they were walking toward the town, an old monkey who was wearing strange clothes and who had an accent to his voice, walked up to them and asked if they were interested in finding the golden banana and returning it to the Emperor.

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 plan.

“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 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.

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

“A new merchant had come to the town and opened the booth where he found it. His tent was red and it was brand new. The merchant had many golden items spread out on a golden blanket.

“The merchant was from the northern part of the country. He wore clothing that identified him as being from a far-off place. None of the other merchants knew who he was.

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

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

“He showed it to his father. His father asked him where he bought it, and when he realized that he had gone to the market outside the walls of the palace, he was not pleased 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 the golden banana. He did not go to the market again. He worked hard on his studies in school. He did all that his father asked him to do.

“When his father was old, he told the prince that soon he would be the Emperor. This made the prince sad, because he loved his father very much.

“His father gave him the golden banana and told him he was proud of him and he knew that the prince would make a wonderful Emperor.

“Soon after, the old Emperor died, and the prince became the Emperor of the Empire.”

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

“How does that 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.

“Who was that old monkey? 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 where the golden banana was? Why had he only told them the story and no other information?”

Now they were more confused than ever. 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 Porgano. 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 said a thing. Mubato and Porgano were ignored, as if they did not exist.

They found out the Emperor had made a law that the boys were to be ignored.

It turned out that their parents were so embarrassed by the actions of their children, they moved away. The neighbors had ignored them and treated them very badly. They moved to a new place and changed their names so no one would associate them with the bad boys, because their sons were the ones who had stolen the golden banana.

Now they knew they must find the golden banana or they may never see their

families again.

After leaving their neighborhood, they went to the market to find the merchant who had sold the golden banana to the Emperor when he was a prince. They asked many questions and found out the merchant no longer came to the market. It had been several years since he was there. They knew the merchant had come from another country and that he had returned to his country in the north.

So, Mubato and Porgano made plans to visit the country.

It took almost a month to get to the capitol city of the country where the merchant had come from.

They searched until they found the market in the middle of the city. They asked questions if there were merchants selling golden items, especially a golden banana. The boys were told there were two new traders in the market, and there was a story they were trying to sell a golden banana. No one knew for sure.

The boys went to see those new merchants, but just before they entered the tent, they realized it was Dampao and sitting next to him was Frago.

They quickly hid so they would not be seen. They needed a plan.

While they were sitting in a café making their plan, an old monkey came up behind them.

He said in a familiar accent, “You’ve done well my young monkeys. You’ve found the place in the story.”

The boys spun around to see the old monkey who had met them at the prison.

“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 find this place. The merchants here know me too well. I’m not able to recover the golden banana, but the two of you are strangers. You will be able to get it back, I’m sure of it,” the old monkey explained to them.

“Do you have a plan?” Porgano asked.

“Yes. Go to the merchants in the market and tell them you know about someone

who wants to buy a golden banana. Let them know the buyer is very wealthy and will pay a large amount of money,” the old monkey began the plan.

“Tell them the buyer will meet them in the garden on the east side of the city. Once the two bad monkeys hear that someone is interested in buying the golden banana they will come. I’m sure of it,” 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 that?” Porgano asked.

“I was the merchant who sold it to him in the first place. If 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.

After speaking with the old monkey, the boys began to go around the market telling the merchants they knew a person who wanted to buy a golden banana. If the merchants knew of someone who had a golden banana, a buyer would pay a large amount of money for it, but the purchase had to be in a secret place, the garden outside of the city.

They went from one merchant to another spreading the story, making sure that Dampao and Frago did not know it was them.

Mubato and Porgano found a place where they could watch Dampao and Frago work. They watched as the other merchants went to them to tell them about the buyer. The two bad monkeys got excited.

From their hiding place, the two young monkeys watched as the bad monkeys took the golden banana from a hiding place and put it into a leather bag. They looked very excited. If they could sell the golden banana, they would be rich and then the Emperor would never know who had stolen it. It was the perfect plan.

Then, Dampao and Frago left their tent to meet with the rich monkey who was going to buy the stolen prize.

After they left their tent, Mubato and Porgano sneaked inside and picked up

several of the other stolen golden items from the rug on the ground. Then they went out the back of the tent to meet the two thieves.

Dampao and Frago were so excited to sell the golden banana, they did not notice when Mubato and Porgano dropped a net over them in a narrow walkway. When it landed on them, it forced them to the ground. They could not get free, no matter how hard they tried.

When Mubato and Porgano came to them, they were even more surprised.

“How did you get here? How did you know how to find us?” Dampao yelled while struggling to get free from the net.

“We had a little help. Let’s just say a person who has a very big interest in returning the golden banana is our friend,” Mubato responded.

The boys took the bag with the golden banana from them. Then they took the things they had taken from the booth and put them into the pockets of the two bad monkeys. Then they ran away leaving them stuck in the net.

Mubato and Porgano went to the police. They told them that everything the merchants were selling were stolen items. They gave the police a description of the merchandise that had been stolen. Then they told the police where they would be able to find the merchants, and that they would find the things they had stolen in their pockets

The police found Dampao and Frago right where Mubato and Porgano had told them they would be.

They tried to tell the police about the golden banana being stolen from them, but the police did not believe them and arrested them for having stolen merchandise.

Mubato and Porgano returned to the city of the Emperor. The old monkey went with them. It took a month to get back to the city.

Upon arriving, they went to the palace and asked to speak to the Emperor. They said they had something very important to show him.

The guard at the door refused to let them in. He knew who the boys were. The Emperor had given very strong orders to never let them into his palace again.

The old merchant spoke up, "I would like to give a very special present to the Emperor. My name is Kontoo. He will remember me."

The guard left and a few minutes returned.

"You may come in, but the two must stay outside," the guard explained.

"I will not enter without them. They have a wonderful story to tell," Kontoo insisted.

The guard left again, and when he returned he said, "Okay, you may all come in, but the two young monkeys must not speak.

When they went into the palace, they were taken to the throne room. The Emperor was there. He remembered the two boys.

"What do you want?" he asked.

Mubato opened a leather case and showed the Emperor the golden banana.

The Emperor was shocked. He had not expected to see his golden banana ever again.

"How did you get that back? Where did you find it?" the emperor demanded.

The old monkey told the story of how the boys had fooled the thieves and had gotten them arrested.

The boys were pardoned and the Emperor gave them jobs in his police department. Mubato and Porgano became famous for solving many other important crimes in the city.

Kontoo, the old merchant, became the chief merchant for the kingdom and he was very happy.

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 Porgano. | 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 Porgano. | 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 Poragno'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 Porgano and Mubato be in prison? _____
 - a) six months
 - b) one year
 - c) five 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 Porgano 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 Frago buy at the store?

6. Where was the Golden Banana hidden?

7. Who stole the golden banana?

8. Where did the boys find Dampao and Frago?

9. What happened to Dampao and Frago?

10. What happened to Kontoo?
