

A Very Hanno Christmas

**Narrator-** Matthew Bodinham

**Hanno-** Andrew Miller

**Jackov-** Will Mason

**Morris-** Daniel Jones

**Helga-** David Sawyer

**Security Guard Rod-** Nick Arthur

**Trainee Gareth-** Nathan Fletcher

1. CURTAIN UP.

A lone figure stands on stage.

**NARRATOR**

Now that you're fed and ready  
for fun,  
The time for a story has  
begun,  
So sit right there, and  
please don't go,  
As we tell you the tale of  
ol' Hanno.

Of this golden brown lion,  
you may not have heard,  
But stay where you are and  
we'll give you the word.  
His only desire was too be  
free,  
To celebrate Christmas and  
deck out the tree.

When you're locked in a cage  
with no reason for joy,  
You have time to think, to  
plan and to ploy,  
He developed a plan, a piece  
of art,  
And this is where our story  
shall start.

LIGHTS FADE.

2. EXT. ZOO ENCLOSURE. EVENING.

The zoo has just closed for the day. JACKOV (Zebra),  
HELGA (hippo), and MORRIS (giraffe), are all stood around  
waiting for the zookeepers to leave.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

(off stage)

Okay, we're all clear-  
everyone have a good  
Christmas

**JACKOV**

(Standing up)

Finally! I was getting back  
ache standing around like  
that!

**HELGA**

(Standing up as well)

Don't you think it's strange  
that we pretend to be less  
evolved than we actually are?

**MORRIS**

Not as strange as I find it  
that you, a hippopotamus are  
friends with a lion! But hey,  
if Dreamworks can get away  
with it, why can't we?

**HELGA**

What ARE you talki-

**JACKOV**

(interrupting)

Speaking of lions, where is  
Hanno?

**HELGA**

I don't know, but maybe if we  
call him really loudly, he'll  
come.

**JACKOV**

Giggity.

**MORRIS**

(to audience)

We'll need your help boys and  
girls, on the count of three,  
we all need to shout 'HANNO'

as loud as we can.

**HELGA**

(whispering to JACKOV)  
Who is he talking to?

**MORRIS**

1...2...3

**EVERYONE**

HANNO  
(pause)

**HELGA**

I don't think he heard, we're  
going to have to be louder

**MORRIS**

Okay, 1...2...3

**EVERYONE**

HANNO!  
(pause)

**HELGA**

One more time?

**JACKOV**

(laughing)  
That's what she said

**MORRIS**

(ignoring Jackov)  
Okay guys, REALLLLY loudly  
this time; 1...2...3

HANNO comes plodding on stage looking forlorn.

**JACKOV**

There you are Hanno!

**HANNO**

Oh. Were you guys looking for  
me? I didn't hear you.

**HELGA**

What's up, you look down.

**HANNO**

Do I?

(sighs)

I guess it's because it's Christmas, and I'm going to be trapped here with nowhere to go, while everyone else celebrates it.

**HELGA**

But you do get to celebrate it- with us!

**JACKOV**

Besides, what's the alternative?

**MORRIS**

Break out with the help of penguins, run around the village for a while, end up on a ship to a random African island, only to get knocked overboard and find ourselves washed up on the very island we were being shipped to?

**HANNO**

That got weirdly specific, how did you come up with that?

**MORRIS**

It just came to me- I mean, a plot like that can't have had more than a few seconds of thought. Certainly not TWO sequels.

**HELGA**

What-

**MORRIS**

Not to mention a spin-off  
about the penguins

**HELGA**

-are you talking about?

**MORRIS**

Never mind.

**JACKOV**

Riiight. Now that we've  
got...whatever that was out of  
the way, what's all this  
about Christmas, Hanno?

**HANNO**

Well, guys, it's kind of like  
this:

(HANNO sings song about how  
he's always wanted to be  
free-just for Christmas)

**HELGA**

I'm sorry you feel that way,  
Hanno.

(HELGA and MORRIS exit)

**JACKOV**

(awkward silence)

You know who I hate

(HANNO walks off, not  
listening)

(shouting and following  
HANNO)

DON'T WORRY- IT'S NOT YOU!

LIGHTS FADE

3. LIGHTS UP. EMPTY STAGE.

The narrator is on stage.

**NARRATOR**

We just left our hero,  
feeling quite sad,  
But this Christmas wasn't  
going to be too bad,  
Because unknown to Hanno,  
this very night,  
There came a brand new  
trainee to watch over the  
site.

LIGHTS FADE.

**4. EXT. ZOO PARK. NIGHTTIME**

Two security guards walk through the zoo grounds,  
inspecting various exhibits.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Did you just hear something?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

It's a zoo, there's always  
strange noises- I wouldn't  
worry too much about it

**TRAINEE GARETH**

But it sounded like a  
lion...singing

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Right, well, no, that doesn't  
happen. Lions don't sing.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Are you sure?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Yes I'm sure- google it!  
Right, where was I?  
(Jackov comes on stage)  
Oh yes, Jackov the zebra!

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Excuse me?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Jackov the zebra

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Is this some sort of  
initiation, because I'd  
rather not...

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Rather not what? No! JackOV,  
not...well, not what you  
thought. It's JackOV.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(awkward pause)  
So why is it that you said  
you were leaving again?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

I've dedicated my whole  
working life to this place,  
haven't even had any time off  
in the last 40 years! But now  
it's time to re-prioritise.  
I need to take care of my  
wife.

**JACKOV**

Giggity.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(with heavy inference)  
Yeah, I bet you do  
(nudges and winks at SECURITY  
GUARD ROD)

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

...she's disabled.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Oh.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Yeah.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Oh wow. I didn't mean...

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Don't worry about it.

(awkward pause)

**JACKOV**

You know who I hate?

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Did that Zebra just say something?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

What? Of course not! But that reminds me, I'm supposed to be giving you the tour! This is Jackov the zebra,

(JACKOV leaves and the other animals enter and exit stage as they are announced)

this is Helga the Hippopotamus, this is Morris the giraffe, and THIS is our star attraction: HANNO THE LION.

(HANNO plods on stage but this time remains on stage)

Huh. Usually he's a bit more energetic. So, any questions?

**TRAINEE GARETH**

So you only have four animals?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

No, we were just limited on time... and cast members

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Fair enough. So other than being an expositional tool, my job is just to make sure that they don't escape and/or

kill each other?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Exactly! It's a pretty easy gig, but then, I've devoted the last 40 years of my life to it, so I've got the routine down to a tee. It's all about expecting the unexpected, and not letting these animals take advantage of you.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Sounds great! When do I start?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Right now! We need someone to keep watch over night, and you're as good as anyone.

(HANNO looks up, taking an interest)

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Me? But I've hardly been inducted!

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

I'll be honest with you. It's Christmas eve, and all the animals are locked away and fed, all we need is some idiot to be here to cover us for insurance.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Well...I think I qualify- my mum used to tell me that I was some idiot.

(HANNO starts looking really excited)

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

(not really listening)  
That's the spirit! Right,  
here's your keys, see you  
later!

(SECURITY GUARD ROD hands  
TRAINEE GARETH the keys and  
exits)

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Ohhh, this BETTER help me on  
my dream of becoming a  
dolphin trainer!

(TRAINEE GARETH exits looking  
nervous)

**HANNO**

Well, this changes  
everything!  
(Runs off-stage)

LIGHTS FADE

**5. EXT. ZOO ENCLOSURE. NIGHT TIME**

JACKOV, HELGA, and MORRIS are hanging out chatting.  
HANNO runs in, excited.

**HANNO**

Guys, guys- you'll never  
guess what!

**JACKOV**

America's great again?

**HANNO**

No

**HELGA**

Zayn's coming back to One  
Direction?

**HANNO**

What? No

**JACKOV**

The government's seen sense  
and they've scrapped Brexit?

**HANNO**

No! Anyway, this is meant to  
be the 1930's! Admission is  
"sixpence" for goodness sake!

**HELGA**

They're sending monkeys into  
space now?

**HANNO**

No, that technology won't be  
available for at least  
another 20 years.

**MORRIS**

A new security guard is  
taking over from Old Rod and  
now you can exploit his  
ignorance in order to break  
out and experience the  
freedom that you've been  
pining after

**HANNO**

No...actually yes. How did you  
know?

**MORRIS**

(shrugs)

**HANNO**

Well...yeah!

**HELGA**

I dunno, Hanno; that's the  
human world, and you're just  
a lion

**HANNO**

And you're just a Hippo

**HELGA**

HEY! How many times do I have to tell you, that's OUR word, it's not okay for you to use it!

**HANNO**

FINE! Hippopotamus

**JACKOV**

(to MORRIS)

More like Hippo-BOTTOM-us

**HELGA**

Oh, shut up, Jackov- your name's just a cheap masturbation joke! Could you BE a bigger ass?

**JACKOV**

Could you HAVE a bigger ass?

**HELGA**

Grow up, Jackov

**JACKOV**

You grow up

**HELGA**

I am grown up, you should grow up

**JACKOV**

Really? Grow up.

**HELGA**

I am. You're not. So grow up.

**JACKOV**

Oh, that's grown up, grow up!

**HELGA**

Yeah, you should.  
(HANNO exits silently)

**JACKOV**

We'll see who's grown up,  
won't we?

**HELGA**

Grow up

**JACKOV**

Grow up

**HELGA**

Ohhh, grow up!

**JACKOV**

GROOOOOOW UUUUUUP!

**HELGA**

Grow up

**MORRIS**

Errrrr, guys. He left.

**HELGA**

Now look what you've done!  
Great one, Jackov!  
(HELGA exits)

**MORRIS**

(pregnant pause)  
So. Who DO you hate?

**JACKOV**

Geez, Morris, we haven't got  
time for that, we need to go  
and find Hanno!  
(Both exit)

LIGHTS FADE

## 6. EXT. ZOO BENCH. NIGHTTIME.

TRAINEE GARETH is doing the rounds. He sits down on a bench, yawning.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(to audience)

Man, I am exhausted- it's dull work being a security guard when everything's already...secure. I wasn't really expecting to have to be on a shift straight away like this either! Oh well. Hey! Since you're all here, I can have a little bit of shut eye, and if anything is out of place! You guys can wake me up! Does that sound like a plan?

**AUDIENCE**

(hopefully)

YES!

(If not, coax it out)

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Perfect, if you see anything out of place, just shout 'GARETH'

(TRAINEE GARETH settles in for a snooze.)

(HANNO pops his head out)

**AUDIENCE**

GARETH!

(HANNO ducks back and TRAINEE GARETH is suddenly awake and alert)

**TRAINEE GARETH**

What is it it?

(TRAINEE GARETH looks around)

wildly.)  
 There's nothing there! Oh, I  
 get it, you guys were just  
 checking to see it would  
 work! Well, I'm glad we've  
 got it down. I'm going back  
 to sleep.

(TRAINEE GARETH settles back  
 in for a snooze.)

(HANNO pops his head out  
 again)

#### **AUDIENCE**

GARETH!

(HANNO ducks back for a  
 second time. TRAINEE GARETH  
 suddenly wakes up, falling  
 off the bench)

#### **TRAINEE GARETH**

(getting up and looking  
 around)

Seriously guys, I know the  
 drill! You don't need to keep  
 testing me! I've got this.  
 Okay? Only wake me up, if  
 something is out of place.

(TRAINEE GARETH settles back  
 in for a snooze.)

(HANNO pops his head out  
 again)

#### **AUDIENCE**

GARETH!

(This time, HANNO dives  
 behind the bench. TRAINEE  
 GARETH immediately swivels to  
 try and catch whatever is  
 happening, just missing  
 seeing HANNO as he disappears  
 behind the bench)

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(to audience)  
Okay, if something's up,  
where is it?

(The classic "he's behind you" scene ensues, with TRAINEE GARETH being completely unaware as he slowly turns, and HANNO remains positioned behind him. Eventually, HANNO allows himself to be seen, roaring at TRAINEE GARETH, causing him to faint.)

**HANNO**

IT WORKED! Kind of...see you  
later zoo, here I come,  
Christmas!  
(runs off stage)

JACKOV, HELGA, and MORRIS all run on stage from the other side.

**HELGA**

This is where the roar came  
from, he must have come this  
way!

**JACKOV**

What happened to that guy?  
(indicating TRAINEE GARETH)  
He looks like that time we  
tipped the starfish out of  
their aquarium.

**MORRIS**

(to audience)  
Which way did he go?  
(audience indicates)  
Thank guys

**HELGA**

Who are you talking to when

you do that?

**MORRIS**

No time to explain  
(MORRIS runs off)

**HELGA**

What even is this?

**JACKOV**

(pauses)  
You know who I hate?

**HELGA**

Come on, Jackov, time to get  
going.

**JACKOV**

Giggity.

LIGHT'S FADE

7. EXT. ZOO BENCH. NIGHT.

TRAINEE GARETH is just waking up from being out cold.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(groaning and moving slowly)  
Eurgh, what happened?  
(suddenly remembers and jumps  
up, looking around as if to  
check on the various  
exhibits)  
Ohhhh, balls! They've gone!  
Pretty strange that the only  
four animals Rod told me  
about are the only four to  
have gone missing, but still,  
they're gone! WAIT! That's  
it! ROD!  
(pulls out phone and calls a  
number)  
Rod, we've got a situation.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

(walking on stage)  
What's happened?

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(still with phone to ear)  
wow that was quick

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

As I said, I've been doing  
this for 40 years, I take zoo  
security very seriously!

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Right you are.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Well, out with it

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Out with what?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Whatever you rang me for! The  
situation! What is it?

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Oh, yeah. Right! Well sir,  
it's the animals...they've  
escaped.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Escaped? Which ones?

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Hanno, Helga, Morris, annnd  
the zebra

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Jackov?

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Sir, I know I messed up, but  
there's no need for name

calling!

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**  
THAT'S HIS BLOODY NAME!

**TRAINEE GARETH**  
Oh yeah.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**  
What are we going to do? How  
are we going to catch four  
wild animals on the loose in  
Kidlington: Europe's largest  
village?

**TRAINEE GARETH**  
Actually, it's not. There's  
a village in Germany that's  
bigger.

(Seeing Rod's face)  
Errr, maybe we can get them  
to help  
(indicates audience)

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**  
Who?

**TRAINEE GARETH**  
THEM!  
(indicates the audience  
again)

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**  
What are you talking about,  
Gareth, I can't see anyone!

**TRAINEE GARETH**  
You just need to look PAST  
the fourth wall

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**  
(squints and then suddenly  
sees the audience, falling

back a few steps)  
 Bloody hell! Where did they  
 come from?

**TRAINEE GARETH**

They've always been there,  
 sir. You just need to look at  
 it through your meta-lens.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Great! That should be enough  
 people to help find the  
 animals! But if they're going  
 to help, they'll need some  
 zoo uniform- luckily, I have  
 a load right here

**TRAINEE GARETH**

This is great! I'm sure we  
 can do it now.

(TRAINEEE GARETH and SECURITY  
 GUARD ROD start singing a  
 song about how they can do  
 this, during which they throw  
 out the presents to the  
 audience.)

LIGHTS FADE.

8. LIGHTS UP. EMPTY STAGE.

The narrator is on stage.

**NARRATOR**

So, Hanno got his wish, and  
 now has broken free,  
 Hanno's friends are on the  
 trail; they just couldn't let  
 him be.  
 And now it's down to Rod, to  
 try and get them back,  
 But you can have a quick  
 break, and get yourselves a  
 snack.  
 He only wanted Christmas, now  
 we'll see what he gets,

Use this intermission wisely,  
 and maybe place your bets!  
 For now this part is over,  
 it's the ending of Act 1,  
 But come back in 5 minutes,  
 for a bit more Hanno fun.

LIGHTS FADE

9. EXT. VILLAGE HIGH STREET. NIGHT TIME.

An empty street. HANNO bursts onto stage, reveling in his new found Christmas freedom.

**HANNO**

(Singing and frolicking)

Give me the snow,  
 Light up the trees,  
 Deck every hall,  
 And wall you can see,  
 Roast every nut,  
 Mistle the toe,  
 This is gunna be the best  
 Christmas since the original!  
 79 years from now, they'll  
 say:  
 The most successful Christmas  
 was today!  
 (HANNO poops in the corner,  
 then exits)

LIGHTS FADE

10. EXT. VILLAGE HIGH STREET. NIGHT TIME.

The same empty street. HELGA, MORRIS, and JACKOV all enter, mid-conversation.

**HELGA**

-broken windows, destroyed  
 hedgerows, half-eaten birds,  
 smashed street lamps, a  
 ransacked butchers, and now-  
 (points to a corner of the  
 stage)  
 -public excretion!

**JACKOV**

Excretion?

**MORRIS**

It means poo.

**JACKOV**

(noticing)

Oh yeah! Ahahaha, what a lad!

**HELGA**

(looking disapprovingly)  
ANYWAY, Hanno had BETTER be enjoying his freedom, because after all this, there's no way any of us will ever be able to get out, ever again! We better find him before he causes even more damage, Morris, what way did he go next?

**MORRIS**

I can't tell. It's like he stopped here to do a little dance number or something—the tracks are all muddled. He definitely either went either that way

(indicates off stage)

or THAT way

(indicates off stage the other way)

which is really pretty convenient since that's the only two options we really have on this stage.

**HELGA**

(shaking her head as if to brush off MORRIS' last comment)

Right, we're gunna have to split up, Morris, you go that way, Jackov, stick with me.

**JACKOV**

Yeah, no surprise that you want to keep me close. Don't worry, you're not the first woman to find me irresistible.

**HELGA**

First off, that doesn't make any sense, since we're two completely separate species

**MORRIS**

Not to mention that we don't have time for romantic "will they, won't they" subplots to be shoe-horned in.

**HELGA**

And second of all, the reason that you're staying with me is because you cannot be trusted unsupervised, you idiot.

**MORRIS**

Geeez, I was just kidding.

**HELGA**

Right, now that we've got that cleared up, we best be off. Morris, how will we know if you find him?

**MORRIS**

I wouldn't worry about. I'm sure they'll be some plot convenience that brings us together when we need it to.

**HELGA**

Riiiiight, well, let's get going then!

(HELGA and JACOV run off one

way, MORRIS the other)

LIGHTS FADE

11. EXT. VILLAGE HIGH STREET. NIGHT TIME.

Same empty street as before. SECURITY GUARD ROD and TRAINEE GARETH come onto stage. SECURITY GUARD ROD is bent over, sniffing to find his way. He comes to the poo corner, sniffs, and recoils in horror.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

GOOD GRIEF!

**TRAINEE GARETH**

What is it, sir?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

It's feces!

**TRAINEE GARETH**

What's feces?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

You know, poo!

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(Looks scared. Whispering)  
Voldemort?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

NOO! Not 'you know who', it's  
POOOO!

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Poo? Where  
(steps forward, accidentally  
putting his foot in it)

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

You've put your foot in it,  
Gareth

**TRAINEE GARETH**

What have I done now?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

No, your foot- it's in the  
poo

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(suddenly realises and starts  
wiping his foot furiously)  
Which way did they go from  
here then sir?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

(starts sniffing again. Heads  
towards back of stage)  
They came this way and then-  
(sniffs)  
The split up! Two of them  
went this way, and the other  
one went that way. We're  
going to have to split up.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Split up? What do I do if I  
find them? I don't want to be  
eaten by a lion!

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Judging by all the mess we've  
found, he's not that hungry  
anymore. Besides, you don't  
have to do anything. You've  
got your walkie talkie, if  
you find any of them, just  
radio over, and I'll be there  
in a flash.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Got it, boss  
(both run off in separate  
directions)

LIGHTS FADE

## 12. LIGHTS UP. EMPTY STAGE.

The narrator is on stage.

**NARRATOR**

So now our characters are all  
spread apart,  
They've all come a long way  
since the start.  
They're looking for Hanno,  
but no-one knows where,  
It's time to go home, but he  
doesn't care.  
He's gunna celebrate  
Christmas, however he can,  
But now he-  
Look, can I be honest? I'm  
fed up of rhyming. We know  
what's going on. Hanno's  
running around, looking for  
Christmas, everyone else is  
split up looking for him, now  
let's see what happens when  
Morris meets Gareth.

LIGHTS FADE.

## 13. EXT. KIDLINGTON. EARLY EARLY MORNING.

Another empty street in Kidlington.

**MORRIS**

(walks on stage. To the  
audience)

I don't know why I agreed to  
this. I don't know anything  
about tracking. I'm a  
giraffe. Trees don't need  
tracking! Either way, the  
trail of chaos and poop seem  
to run out here.

(TRAINEE GARETH walks on  
stage, he freezes when he  
sees MORRIS and reaches for  
his walkie talkie. He sees

MORRIS is talking to the audience, and slowly lowers the walkie talkie)  
 He must've gone the other way, but I don't know how to find the others! I thought the plot was supposed to send some kind of Dues Ex Machina to reunite us.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

YOU CAN TALK!

**MORRIS**

WOOF! Crap, what do giraffes say?

**TRAINEE GARETH**

YOU CAN TALK!

**MORRIS**

Yes, but you can't tell anyone- us animals agreed to hid how evolved we are! You're not supposed to know we can talk!

**TRAINEE GARETH**

What? No, that's not what I meant! I know animals can talk, I meant you were talking to the audience! You know that we're-

**MORRIS**

-in a pantomime! YEAH! I thought I was the only one!

**TRAINEE GARETH**

ME TOO!

(They draw closer, smiling at each other, eyes locked)  
 This is-

**MORRIS**

-crazy!

**TRAINEE GARETH**

It's like-

**MORRIS**

-destiny! We're even  
finishing each other's-

**TRAINEE GARETH**

-sandwiches!

**MORRIS**

(draws back looking confused)  
What? Why would that be what  
I was going to say?

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(looking embarrassed)  
I dunno.

**MORRIS**

What a dumb thing to say.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Okay, I get it.

**MORRIS**

Sandwiches! Incredible!

**TRAINEE GARETH**

We get it, it was dumb. Can  
we move on now? Where are the  
others?

**MORRIS**

I don't know for sure. Hanno,  
ran off, so we were following  
him. We couldn't tell which  
way the trail went, so we  
split up in hopes of finding  
him. Now the trail's gone  
cold, so I think he must've  
gone the other way.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Maybe I can help. I can

rewire this walkie talkie to track down it's pair- I'm sure by now that Rod is closing in on them. We can use this to track down your friends and get them home.

**MORRIS**

Is that really a thing?

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Sure.

**MORRIS**

Perfect, let's go!  
(they run off stage)

LIGHTS FADE.

14. EXT. A RESIDENTIAL STREET. DAWN.

HELGA and JACKOV are wandering around looking for HANNO

**HELGA**

It's starting to get light,  
and we're still no closer to  
finding him

**JACKOV**

He might be right around the  
next corner, we just need to  
keep looking

**HELGA**

What if he's gone, Jackov?  
What if Hanno's not coming  
back?

**JACKOV**

He has too! He was raised in  
captivity. He can't survive  
out here, so he'll have to  
come back!

**HELGA**

Exactly, Jackov. He can't survive. And what do you think the people will do if they find him?

**JACKOV**

They did just vote Trump into power, so I think Hanno could get AT LEAST mayor of London.

**HELGA**

Eurgh! Why do you always do this? Why is everything a joke to you?

**JACKOV**

(shrugs)  
It's just my character I guess.

**HELGA**

(sighs)

**JACKOV**

(awkward pause)  
You know who I hate?  
(a scream is heard off stage)

**HELGA**

What was that? I've never heard someone scream like that before!

**JACKOV**

Giggity.

**HELGA**

Come on, it must be Hanno!  
(both run off stage. A gunshot is heard)

LIGHTS FADE.

15. EXT. OUTSIDE SOMEONE'S HOUSE. DAWN.

**HANNO**

(peering through window.  
Talking to self)  
This house is everything I  
want! There's the tree, and  
mistletoe and...IS THAT  
PRESENTS? Oh, and look,  
there's some kids coming  
downstairs to open them  
(The same scream as before is  
heard from off-stage)  
huh. They seem to have seen  
me. Hey, that must be their  
Dad...wow. He does NOT look  
happy. What's that he's  
holding  
(gun shot is heard)  
(while running away)  
I gotta get out of here!  
(HANNO runs away)

LIGHTS FADE.

16. EXT. A QUIET STREET. EARLY MORNING.

HANNO is sat on the floor, cradling his legs, quietly sobbing. JACKOV runs on stage, closely followed by HELGA. Seeing HANNO, JACKOV stops, and HELGA crashes into the back of him.

**JACKOV**

Ow! What did you do that for?

**HELGA**

Me? What are you doing  
stopping for no reason?  
(HANNO looks up at the  
familiar sound of his friends  
bickering)

**JACKOV**

I didn't stop for no reason.

**HELGA**

Well why did you stop then?  
Just want to feel me pressed  
up against me?

(HELGA does a little wiggle  
that's meant to be sexy, but  
just ends up being a little  
bit repulsive)

**JACKOV**

Gross. And no,  
(points)  
I stopped because Hanno is  
just there?

**HELGA**

Hanno?  
(pushes past JACKOV and sees  
HANNO for the first time  
since arriving)  
oh. Hey Hanno, what's up?

**HANNO**

(sniffs)  
hey guys, what are you doing  
here?

**JACKOV**

Oh, we just hopped on a bus  
with a load of Chinese  
tourists to take pictures  
pictures of Benmead Road.  
What do you think we're doing  
here! We came to rescue you!

**HANNO**

Rescue me? Ha! I learnt  
something about myself today.  
On the inside, I may feel  
like cute, loveable, little  
kitty; but the world will  
only ever see me as a beast.

**HELGA**

We heard a scream and a

gunshot. We thought you were in danger!

**HANNO**

Who are you talking to right now? Who is it you think you see? Do you know how much I make the zoo in a year? I mean, even if I told you, you wouldn't believe it. Do you know what would happen if I suddenly decided to stop going into work? A business goes belly up. Disappears! It ceases to exist without me. No, you clearly don't know who you're talking to, so let me clue you in. I am not in danger, Helga. I am the danger. A guy opens his door and shoots a lion and you think that of me? No. I am the one who shoots!

**JACKOV**

Giggity.

**HELGA**

Whar are you talking about? Do you mean YOU fired the gun?

**HANNO**

Well, no, that doesn't make any sense

**HELGA**

That's what you said

**HANNO**

I was just trying to do the breaking bad thing

**HELGA**

The what?

**HANNO**

You know, Walter White. Meth cook. 'I am the one who knocks'.

**HELGA**

Who's Walter White?

**JACKOV**

Is he the new security guard? The one taking over from Ol' Rod?

**HANNO**

What? No, look, it doesn't matter who Walter White is. I'm just saying, I realised today that I am not in danger. Far from it. I thought people loved me, but in reality they only love the idea of me, and even then only when I'm chained up and made to parade around in front of them. In reality, they're scared of me, they don't love me.

(sighs)

so no, I'm not in danger.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

(walking on stage holding a gun pointed straight at HANNO, JACKOV, and HELGA)

I wouldn't be too sure of that.

**HANNO**

Woah. Don't shoot. I just had a moment of character development.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

What's that got to do with the price of fish?

**JACKOV**

Ummmm, since when has he been able to understand us?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Since Gareth taught me how!

**JACKOV**

Who's Gareth?

**HELGA**

Is HE the new security guard?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Yes, but that shouldn't matter to you.

(grins)

It's not like you'll ever meet him.

(raises gun)

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(walking on stage closely followed by MORRIS)

I wouldn't be so sure if I were you!

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Gareth? What are you doing here?

**TRAINEE GARETH**

I tracked the signal from your walkie talkie to find out where you all were.

**MORRIS**

Plus it's the climax-

**JACKOV**

Giggity.

**MORRIS**

-of the pantomime, so we

should probably all be stage  
at once.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Right, well to me, that means  
it's time to get you all back  
where you belong.

(goes to fire his gun)

**JACKOV**

(steps in front of HANNO)  
If you want to shoot him,  
you'll have to shoot me  
first.

**HELGA**

(Stepping in front of JACKOV)  
And if you want to shoot HIM,  
you'll have to go through me

**JACKOV**

Giggity.

**MORRIS**

(stepping in front of HELGA)  
And if you want to shoot,  
Helga, you'll have to shoot  
ME!

**HANNO**

(going from the back of the  
line to the front)  
And if you want to shoot him,  
you'll have to shoot me!

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

But you ARE the one I want to  
shoot

**HANNO**

(sheepishly darting back to  
the back of the line)  
Oh. Yeah. Right

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Well, I have no problem with that

(raises gun to fire again, and everything goes into slow motion.)

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(as SECURITY GUARD ROD fires the gun, TRAINEE GARETH dives in front of the bullet)

FFFRRRIIEEENNNDDSSSHHHIIPP

P!

(the bullet hits him squarely in the chest. He collapses. Time returns to normal.)

**MORRIS**

(immediately going to the side of his new friend)

Gareth! No, you fool, what have you done.

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(as if dying)

Best...friends...forever.

(closes eyes and goes still)

**MORRIS**

NNNNOOOOOOO!!!!!!

(everyone stares, torn between confusion and disgust)

**JACKOV**

What the hell was that?

**MORRIS**

(through tears)

That was the bravest man I ever met, sacrificing himself for our freedom.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

You're all idiots. Him most of all.

(pointing at TRAINEE GARETH)

It was only a bloody tranquiliser! He'll be conscious in a couple of hours- one heck of a headache, but conscious. Now, for the rest of you.

(points his gun back at HANNO)

**HANNO**

(pushes past the others and stands right at the tip of SECURITY GUARD ROD's gun)  
Go ahead, shoot me

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Okay.

(goes to fire again)

**HANNO**

(quickly)

But what then? You going to move us all by yourselves? You're not as fit as you used to be, Roddy.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

I'll call emergency services. Get the police to help.

**HANNO**

But what then? They'll be an enquiry, there's no way the zoo will stay open after that. All that work. Forty years you poured into that zoo, and nothing, all because you pulled that trigger.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

What do you suggest I do

instead?

**HANNO**

Nothing. We'll come back to  
the zoo quietly

**HELGA**

Hanno, no! You wanted to be  
free, and to celebrate  
Christmas.

**HANNO**

As I said, we'll come back,  
IF you throw a Christmas meal  
for us.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

But what about all the mess  
you made

**JACKOV**

We can blame it on those  
wolves back at the zoo. I  
never liked them.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

They are our least popular  
attraction. I can let them  
loose when we get back,  
pretend they escaped, and let  
people do their thing: get  
scared and shoot all three of  
them!

**HANNO**

So Rod, how about it?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Hanno, you've got yourself a  
deal!

**EVERYONE**

YAY!

LIGHTS FADE.

17. EXT. ZOO. DAYTIME

Everyone's sat around, sharing a Christmas meal, laughing and having a good time. TRAINEE GARETH is passed out in his plate.

**HANNO**

This really is the best  
Christmas ever!

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

You know, it really is

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(waking up)  
PLEASE DON'T SHO- where are  
we?

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

We're back at the zoo

**TRAINEE GARETH**

Is Morris okay? Tell me  
Morris is okay!

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

Calm down, you mental  
patient, he's the other side  
of you!

**TRAINEE GARETH**

(turning to see MORRIS)  
MORRIS! You're alive!

**MORRIS**

(grinning)  
so are you.  
(They hug)

**JACKOV**

What is it with these too?

**HANNO**

I'm sure we'll understand  
when we're older.

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

I'm older, and I don't think  
I WANT to understand  
(they all laugh)

**HANNO**

We should do this every year!

**JACKOV**

It's not like we'll be going  
anywhere!

**SECURITY GUARD ROD**

I'll pencil it in

**HELGA**

I'll pencil it in as well

**TRAINEE GARETH**

I've got a pencil!

**EVERYONE**

(laughs and starts singing a  
song about how great  
Christmas and/or friendship  
is/are)

**JACKOV**

You know who I hate? Marris.

**EVERYONE**

Marris? Who the fuck is  
Marris?

**NARRATOR**

(walking on stage)  
So Hanno got his Christmas  
wish, and shared it with his  
friends,

And now our story's at a  
close, we've reached the  
final end.

Thank you for your patience,  
and for giving us your time,  
We enjoyed the show so much,  
that I've reinstated rhyme.  
But now we take our bows, and  
we bid you all adeu,  
Maybe if you liked it, next  
year will be part 2.  
But for now it's time to  
leave you, before you get too  
bored,  
And even if you fell asleep,  
at least you never snored.

MUSIC PLAYS AND THE CAST STANDS TO TAKE THEIR BOWS.

FADE OUT.