

CHAPTER 01



It was a dark winter night. The animals in Central Zoo, which was located in the centre of Newbury, were restless. None of the animals could sleep. Because of the bad weather, the zoo keepers hadn't bothered to feed them. The zoo keepers – especially the head keeper, Mr Beast, didn't want to go out on this cold winter night. They had stayed at home and had decided to feed the animals in the morning – if, that is, the weather was better in the morning. They told themselves that nobody would find out about this, since nobody visits the zoo in such awful weather. So, they stayed in their warm, cosy homes while the animals went hungry out in the cold.

Only the Lion's and the Bear's cages had shelters to protect the animals from the rain. All the others, the monkeys, giraffes, turtles, elephants, polar bears, penguins, llamas, tigers, chimpanzees, ducks and camels, just got wet! However, neither the Lion nor the Bear went into their shelters to protect themselves. They were very angry that none of the other animals had shelters and that none of them had been fed. This wasn't the first time they had experienced something like this.



CHAPTER 01

The last time had been two weeks before and some had become seriously ill and almost died. It was a common occurrence during the long winters. The summers were always better. In summer, they didn't get cold, their cages were cleaned more often (the zoo keepers didn't want people to know how bad the conditions were), and they had three meals a day. In winter, however, the zoo keepers stole most of the money the government gave them for the animals' food. They bought the cheapest food available and gave the animals just enough to keep them from starving. That way, the zoo keepers got rich. The clever animals, such as the Lion and the Bear, knew about this, but there was no one they could tell, because government inspectors never came to the zoo. They were very busy and the zoo was the last thing on their minds!

So, on this particular cold and rainy winter night, the Lion and the Bear decided to do something about the situation. The animals' cages were arranged in a circle, which meant that if each animal went to a particular spot in their cage, they could see each other and talk. They could at least feel that they were not alone.

"It's time we animals had a meeting!" the Lion roared.





"I agree!" said the Bear from the neighbouring cage. "We must do something about this situation! We must let everyone know what is really going on in Central Zoo! We must get organised! We must protest! We must find supporters and let the world know what's going on!"

So, the Lion called for a general meeting. The animals had never heard of such a thing before and they were very surprised. They knew people had meetings, but animals? They were cold, they were hungry, and they were scared, but because it was the Lion who had called the meeting they reluctantly agreed. You just didn't argue with the Lion.

When they were all paying attention, the Lion started talking.

"Friends," the Lion said, "I understand how much you are all suffering, and the Bear and I feel terribly guilty about having shelters when no one else does. The Bear and I have asked you to come to this meeting so that we can join forces and see if there is anything we can do to make our lives better."

CHAPTER 01

"But...we're only animals," one of the elephants said. "What could we possibly do?"

"That's what we would like to discuss. Over the past few nights I have been getting into Mr Beast's office and I have been surfing the internet. I have discovered that all over the world there are animals that suffer a lot more than we do. For example, people give some animals dangerous injections so that they can see if cosmetics are safe for people to use. We're better off than that. At least no one is trying to kill us. I believe that, because we are in a better position than other animals are, it is our duty to save ourselves and try to save animals all over the world!"

"You're crazy!" a giraffe said, "We can't do that! Mr Beast will kill us all! Mr Beast won't give us any more food! We'll starve to death!"

"That's where you're wrong, friend," the Bear said. "Mr Beast will be in trouble if we die. You see, the government pays him to take care of us. If something happens to us, the world will find out about it and Mr Beast will go to jail."

"What do you mean?" the elephant asked.



CHAPTER 01

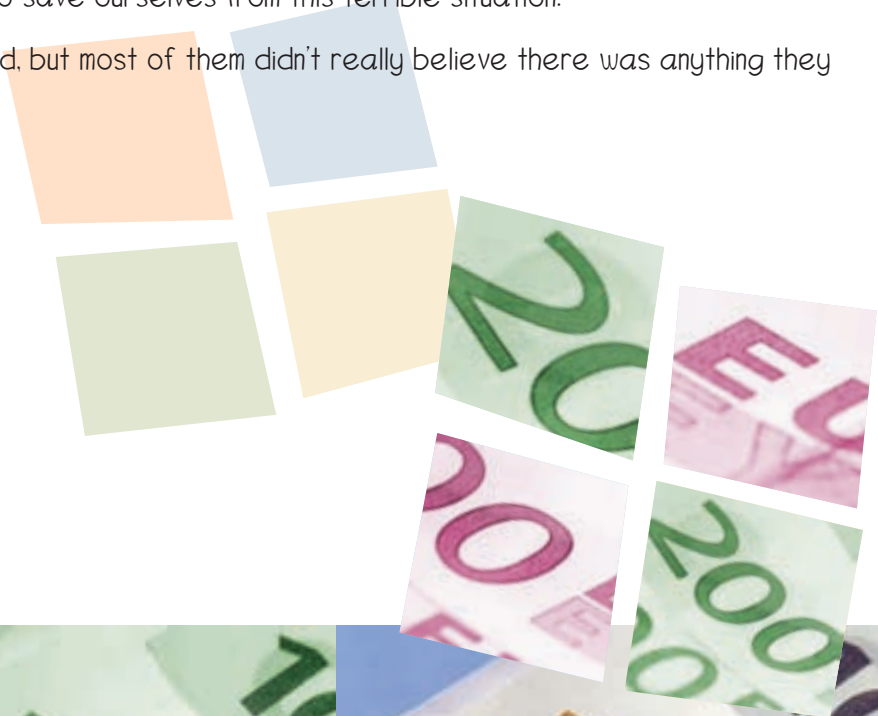


"The Bear means that Mr Beast is stealing the money that he should be using to feed us," the Lion shouted. "I looked through his account books a week ago. The government gives him 1,000 euros a week to buy food for us, and he only spends 200 euros!"

This last piece of information made all the animals very angry and they all started shouting. The Lion roared for silence, then continued.

"This is the truth, friends. Now that you know the truth, I suggest we all think about it and meet again tomorrow night, as soon as Mr Beast leaves the zoo. We must each try to find a way to save ourselves from this terrible situation."

The animals agreed, but most of them didn't really believe there was anything they could do.



CHAPTER 02



The animals met the following night and the night after that. Meanwhile, Dr Fair decided to go to the laboratory first. The scientists there didn't welcome her. As soon as they heard she was an animal rights activist, they wanted to stop her from entering. Finally, she managed to get in,

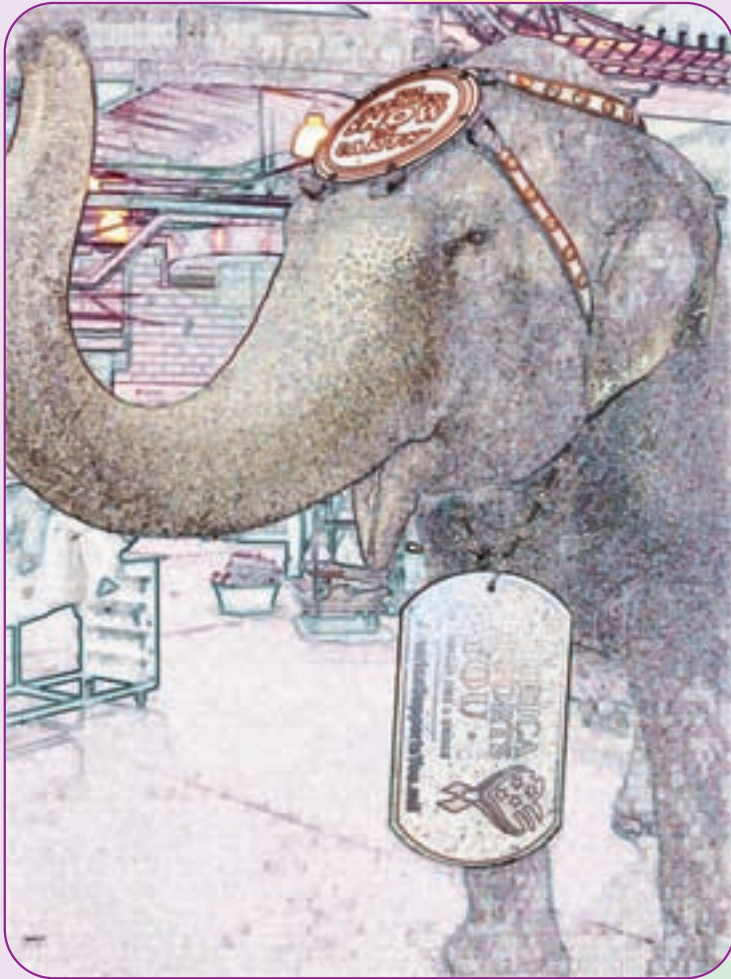
but they only showed her a small part of the laboratory. They didn't let her look at the guinea pigs' cages. Dr Fair had the feeling that the situation in the lab was worse than she had expected.

On her way out, as the guard was showing her to the door, she thought she heard tiny little squeaks for help. She listened carefully. As the guard was unlocking the door, Dr Fair saw a tiny little paw holding out a piece of paper. She quickly took the note and put it in her pocket. As soon as she was out of the laboratory, she took the piece of paper out of her pocket and read, 'Help! Ten guinea pigs die here every day. They are poisoning us! We know this is illegal! Please, please help!' It was signed "Gary".



CHAPTER

02



Dr Fair felt very worried. She decided she would definitely find a way to save those guinea pigs. She put the piece of paper in a file in which she was going to keep all the evidence she collected.

She didn't think that she could do anything to help the guinea pigs immediately though. Instead, she decided to take a train to the east of the country, where there was a circus that used animals in various acts. Because of her reception at the laboratory, she decided not to tell the people at the circus who she was. After travelling for more than eight hours, she got to the circus just in time to watch the show. She bought a ticket and went in. She held her tiny digital camera in her right hand, ready to take pictures if she saw an animal being mistreated. She would put the photos in her file to use as evidence.

The show started. The music started playing and a procession of elephants appeared. They were wearing silly hats, and they weren't very happy. Every time one of them took a wrong turn, the performer whipped it back into line.

CHAPTER 02



Dr Fair was so furious that she couldn't bear to watch any more of the show. She got up and left the circus tent.

She went round the back to have a look at the other animals. She got a terrible shock. There were five monkeys trapped in a cage that was only big enough for one; a lion was in the same cage as a tiger and three dogs! All the cages were filthy. The dogs were barking. Then a man appeared. Dr Fair quickly hid behind a van. She saw the man put some powder in the dogs'

bowls, and the dogs ate it immediately. The man disappeared. Within a few minutes the dogs had fallen asleep! Dr Fair knew that there was something seriously wrong going on. She took lots of pictures and got ready to leave. Suddenly, the man appeared.

"Who are you?" he asked. Dr Fair was really frightened, but didn't show her fear.

"Oh...hello! Aren't these animals cute?...I'm sorry, but I just had to have a look at them!"

"You're not supposed to be here."

"Aren't I? Oh I'm so sorry! I hadn't realised...Goodbye then..."



CHAPTER

02



Fortunately, the man hadn't seen her camera. Dr Fair realised she would have to be more careful from now on.

She decided that her next visit would be to a farm. However, she knew she couldn't just walk into the farm without permission. Then again, if she got permission, they wouldn't show her the real situation the animals lived in. She decided not to say she was an animal rights activist. She decided to pretend she was planning to buy a farm, and that she needed financial advice.

The farmer was very friendly.

"Where are you planning to buy your farm?" he asked.

"Well, I come from the other side of the country, and I'd like to go back there."

"Well, Ms Fair, I'll do my best to help you. I'll show you how you can save money and make a fortune. First of all, you can feed the animals the cheapest food possible while making them fatter. That way, they produce more meat, more cheaply."

"Oh, how can I do that? Can you show me please?"

CHAPTER 02

"Of course. Come this way."

The farmer showed Dr Fair where the cows lived. They were all crowded into a tiny, filthy place. They looked hungry and miserable.

Then one of the farm workers asked the farmer to go and see the chickens. At that point Dr Fair got the opportunity to take a few pictures. Then one of the cows whispered:

"Please help us. They give us very little food and it tastes awful."

Dr Fair was very sad.

"I'll help you," she told the cows. "I'll do my best to help you."

When she left the farm, she was even more determined to fight for animal rights.



CHAPTER

03

Meanwhile, the animals at the zoo carried on with their nightly meetings. The Lion was the chairperson and the Bear helped him. They had worked out a plan for the revolution, but it was very difficult to convince the animals that it was possible to carry it out. Most of them were still very scared and didn't think it could be done. So the Lion had surfed the net and had found out about Dr Fair. He thought that if he invited Dr Fair to the zoo, and if the animals saw that they had human support for their revolution, they wouldn't be so afraid. So he secretly sent Dr Fair an email inviting her to their meetings.

Dr Fair accepted the invitation, and set off immediately for the zoo. It was a Wednesday night.

At first the animals were afraid of her and didn't trust her. But they slowly got used to her and explained their situation very clearly. Then the Bear told her about the revolution they were planning, and explained that they could use her help. She told them she was more than willing to help in any way she could. She would make their living conditions known to the public and she could also get the support of other animal rights activists.



CHAPTER 03

Their revolution would also be a good thing for other animals in captivity. It would encourage them to revolt too. Then she went on to describe what she had seen at the lab, the circus and the farm. The animals got angrier and angrier.

The meeting was a great experience for Dr Fair. It made her realise that she was on the right track, and that lots of animals needed her help. She decided to start a campaign and to spread the word of the revolution. She decided to go back to the places she had visited, and try to organise revolutions there.

At the zoo, the animals became more courageous when they realised they had the support of humans. But to carry out a revolution, you must have everyone's full support, and a lot of the animals weren't ready to fight. In addition, some (like the monkeys, for example) didn't know whether they could trust Dr Fair to support them. Some others doubted whether she would be able to get the support of others for their cause.



CHAPTER 03

"Friends," the Lion said, "we must stay united in this struggle. Doubting will get us nowhere, it will only make us weaker. Once we get rid of the evil zoo keepers we will be able to organise our own lives. No animal will torture another animal. All animals will get an equal amount of food. There will be a democracy where every animal will vote on the decisions that need to be made. We can achieve this, but we can only do it if we believe in our cause and stay united. Dr Fair is going to help us. There are lots of others like her in the outside world who are willing to help. We are not alone. I surf the net secretly every night and I know animals suffer all over the world. We have a duty to help those animals. We have a duty to help ourselves!"

This time the meeting ended with loud cheers for the Lion. The Bear, who sat next to the Lion, said nothing; he just smiled. It was a strange smile, but only the giraffe noticed it.



CHAPTER 04



Dr Fair was very busy for the rest of that week. She went to more of the zoo animals' revolutionary meetings, and was impressed with how clever the animals were. Most of them seemed determined to carry out the revolution, but it was clear that they needed help.

One thing about the zoo struck her as strange. Even though she had agreed to help the animals there with their revolution, she couldn't help having a strange feeling about it all. She sat down to think about the situation. "Will a revolution really change their lives? Will the Lion and the Bear treat the other animals fairly when the zoo keepers are out of the way? Will all the animals really get equal rights and equal amounts of food? Or will some animals try to take control of the zoo to run it for their own benefit? I don't think I trust the Bear very much. He's too quiet. And the Lion seems to be an excellent speaker, but would he actually do any real work if there was a revolution?"

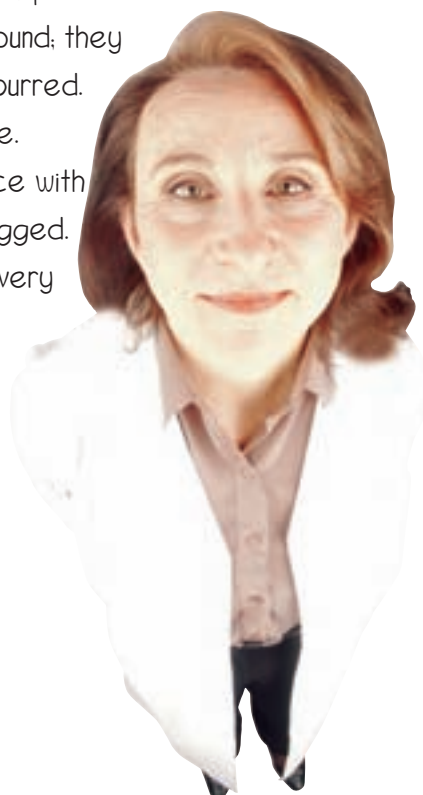


CHAPTER 04



She decided that she would do her best to help. But for the time being, she would limit herself to observing everything that was happening.

The next day, Dr Fair visited her friend Sally. She wanted to tell her about her animal rights activities. Sally has got two cats and a dog, and Dr Fair was very surprised to see that the cats behaved very differently from other cats. They didn't jump around; they didn't play; they didn't do anything. They just sat on the couch and purred. Their claws had been cut, so that they couldn't scratch the furniture. They seemed too passive. As for the dog, it seemed to be at peace with the cats, but in a very disturbing way. All three animals seemed drugged. When Dr Fair asked Sally about it, she said that the animals were very happy and, what's more, they were very quiet. Dr Fair told her that that's not the way animals should be. Then they had an argument. Sally said they had everything they could wish for: a warm home, and food in their bowls. She said the animals were like children to her. Dr Fair found that very disturbing, and told her that animals are born to be free.





Dr Fair was upset about her argument with Sally. On her way home, she thought about it.

"I know Sally really loves animals - or at least she thinks she does. But Sally's own animals don't lead natural lives. She treats them like children. I wish she wouldn't! And if Sally really wants children, why doesn't she sponsor a child from a developing country? That would be much better.

I'll never understand why people who love animals want to change their nature and make them more like human beings. It doesn't make sense. But I haven't got time to figure it out now. There's work to be done!"



CHAPTER 05

One night, one of the zoo keepers was late leaving the zoo. The animals, who didn't realise that he was still there, got together for their meeting. The zoo keeper, who was busy talking on the phone, heard the noise and wondered what was happening. He

quickly put the phone down and went out. He was surprised when he didn't see the animals asleep in their usual places. Then, he heard the Lion

speaking loudly about some kind of... revolution! He went straight back to his office and took out a whip. He came back and started whipping the animals.

At first, they were shocked. But they quickly got over this and, in a fit of fury, started fighting back. Even the duck and the monkeys, who had been more

scared than the other animals, bit him and did everything they could to drive him away. Finally, one of the elephants lifted him high with her trunk

and threw him out of the zoo. The tigers ran to the gate and locked it to stop the zoo keeper getting back in.

For a few seconds, there was silence. The animals couldn't believe what had just happened. Then, suddenly, the Lion shouted: "We are free! The zoo belongs to us! Long live the zoo!" All the other



CHAPTER 05

animals then repeated the same words in chorus: "The zoo belongs to us! Long live the zoo!". Then they had a wild party. They went to the food storehouse and helped themselves to huge amounts of food. The Lion emailed Dr Fair and asked her to come and join the celebration. Dr Fair was delighted with the news and came immediately. She brought her camera to take pictures so that she could show the animals in the rest of the world what determination and solidarity can bring about.

The next day, the Lion and the Bear had a meeting. They had to find a way to organise the zoo. They decided that they would use all the visitors' money to feed themselves and to build shelters for all the animals. Then they announced their decisions. All the animals were happy to hear what had been decided, but one of the monkeys said, "Yes, but shouldn't we all be part of the decision-making process? Shouldn't we all vote on exactly what we want to spend the money on?"

The Lion and the Bear got very angry. The Bear, who hardly ever spoke, said, "I think that you are being extremely ungrateful, friend! You should be thanking us for doing all this extra work! Besides, it's not the Lion and I that need shelters, it's you!"

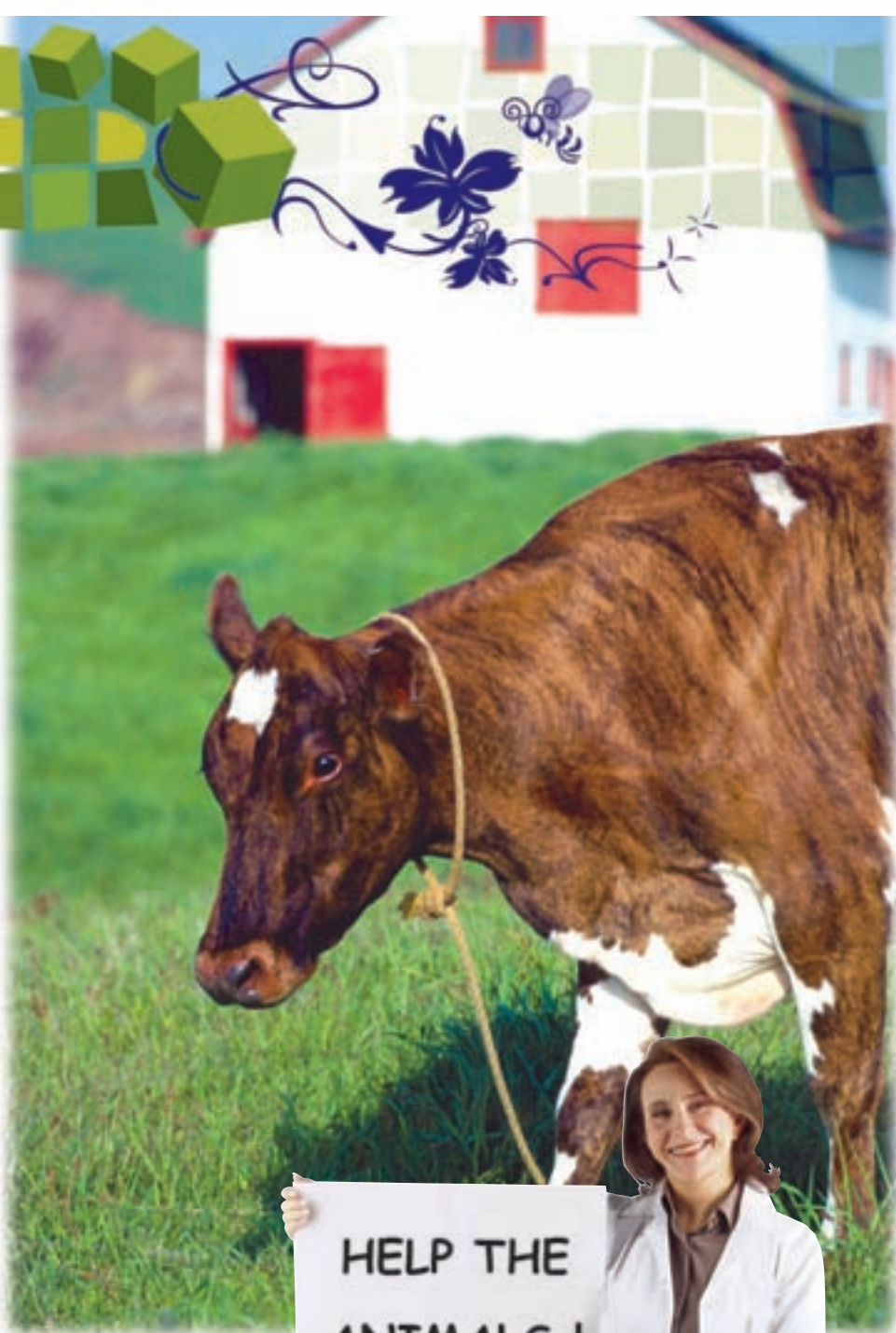


CHAPTER 05

"We're working for you!" The rest of the animals agreed with the Bear. They all thought the monkey was rude and ungrateful. After all, if it hadn't been for the Lion and the Bear, there would never have been a revolution!

Dr Fair visited the zoo again two days after the revolution, and was surprised to see that one of the monkeys was missing. When she asked the Lion about it, he said that she was wrong. He said that there had always been two monkeys at the zoo, not three. Dr Fair felt slightly confused and worried, but said nothing.

After that, there was a series of meetings at the zoo. The Lion and the Bear asked Dr Fair to help them with the management of the zoo. They also wanted her to help them get the lowest prices for the food they had to buy. The other thing they wanted her to do was to carry on with her campaign and spread the word of the revolution to other parts of the world. So, Dr Fair left the zoo once again to visit the laboratory, the circus and the farm.



CHAPTER 06

Dr Fair managed to get a lot of support for the animals' revolution. Activists from all over the world rang her and sent her emails to express their support. They were all willing to take part in protest marches and to try to free all the animals that were still in captivity. Dr Fair, with a group of activists, went to the laboratory once again. This time, she had a court order to search the premises. The scientists were very angry, but there was nothing they could do. They had to let Dr Fair and the activists in. This time Dr Fair managed to inspect the place where the guinea pigs were kept. However, there were no guinea pigs anywhere, not even the one that had given her the SOS note. She had a terrible feeling that it was too late, that all the guinea pigs had been poisoned. Finally, she found two fat hamsters. The hamsters said nothing and showed no signs of understanding what she was talking about.

Once again, she had a strong feeling that something was wrong.

The activists' next stop was the circus. Only, this time, there were no animals. It was as if someone had warned the people both at the lab and the circus about the activists' visit.



CHAPTER 06

Finally, they visited the farm. This time, Dr Fair told the farmer the truth about who she was. He didn't seem to be the least bit surprised, though. He welcomed them and showed them around. When they got to the place where the cows were kept, they saw only three cows. They didn't seem to recognise Dr Fair. She didn't recognise them either: they were not the ones she had spoken to. The activists didn't know what to say. Dr Fair showed them the evidence she had; the photographs she had taken during her previous visits, and the guinea pig's note begging for help. They all decided that someone must have warned the scientists, the circus owners and the farmer about their visit.

Dr Fair and the activists left the farm feeling very disappointed. They were sure that the animals were still suffering, and that they had been hidden somewhere so that the activists would not see them. They had a meeting. At the meeting they decided that they would go to the zoo to help the animals in their new situation, and that Dr Fair would visit the other places again in a few days. But this time, she would do it secretly.





So they all went to the zoo. The animals were delighted to see them, although, interestingly, not all the animals were there to greet the activists. Dr Fair noticed that the giraffes, the monkeys, the camels, the turtles and the penguins were all absent. Only the Lion, the Bear, the tigers and the elephants - the strong animals - were present. She found that really strange. She decided to have a look around the zoo without saying anything about it. She went around all the cages, which were now unlocked and wide open. That was when she saw the rest of the animals working very hard to build houses!

"Who are these houses for?" she asked them.

None of them replied. It was as if they hadn't seen or heard her. She repeated her question. Then, in a low voice, the turtle said, "They're for His Majesty the Lion and His Majesty the Bear."

Dr Fair was shocked. She joined the others but decided to say nothing about it for the moment. For some reason she felt terrified. She needed time to think about what she had just seen.



CHAPTER 07



The situation at the zoo had been worrying Dr Fair for some time, and she really didn't know what to do. The first strange thing was the fact that a monkey had disappeared a few weeks earlier. However, all the animals - especially the Lion and the Bear - kept telling her that she was wrong. They said that there had never been a third monkey. Dr Fair thought, "I'm sure I wasn't wrong though. I have a terrible feeling that something bad has happened to that monkey.

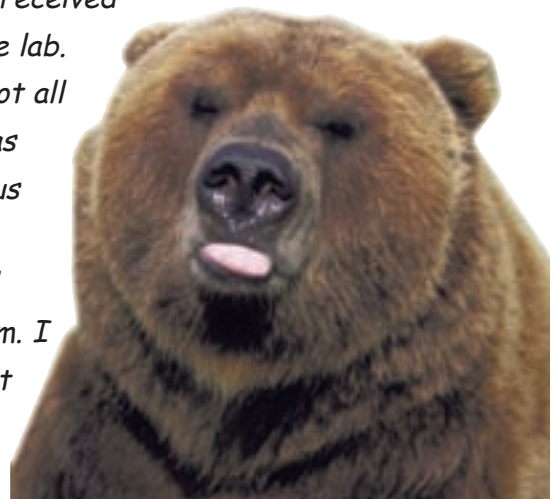
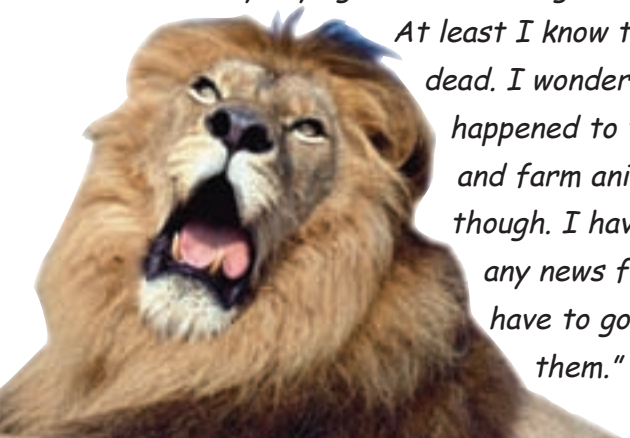
"The other thing is, the animals seemed frightened. They didn't seem to be frightened in the same way that they had been frightened when people were in charge of the zoo. They seemed to be frightened in a strange and silent way. It was as if they wanted to hide the fact that they were frightened."

Dr Fair also thought it was strange that all the other animals were building houses for the Bear and the Lion. In her opinion, building shelters for all the animals that got wet every time it rained was much more important. So what was going on?

"I really don't know what to do," she thought. "I could try asking the Lion about all this, but I think I should do some research first and gather more evidence. If there is something strange going on at the zoo, at least the animals are better off than they were before. Perhaps I should concentrate on helping the animals at the laboratory, the circus and the farm, and then examine the situation at the zoo again later. In the meantime, I'll say nothing.

"I'll go back to the lab tomorrow and try to find the missing animals and speak to them. Then I'll go to the circus and the farm. The good thing is I received an email from Gary saying that I should go back to the lab.

At least I know they're not all dead. I wonder what has happened to the circus and farm animals, though. I haven't had any news from them. I have to go and visit them."



CHAPTER 08

The next day, Dr Fair got on the train again to visit the laboratory. This time she decided to pretend to be a scientist. She put on a white lab coat. When she got to the laboratory she realised that she needed a special identity card to get past the guard. How would she get such a card? Maybe it would be better to wait until it was dark and the scientists had gone home. Perhaps she could find a way of getting inside without being noticed. She had a look around the building. Unfortunately, there was a high fence all around it. It would be impossible for her to climb over it.



As she was trying to find a solution to this problem, she saw a van approaching the lab. "That van must be bringing in more guinea pigs," she thought. Then the back gate opened. The guard approached the driver of the van and signed a few papers. It was the perfect opportunity for her! She managed to hide on the other side of the van and got through the gate without being noticed. Then she tried to enter the main building of the laboratory, but all the doors were locked. Finally, she heard someone coming, and hid behind a big box and waited. She saw a man carrying a cage with a drugged monkey in it. Dr Fair was shocked. She hadn't realised that they also used monkeys for their tests. The laboratory tested cosmetics. She wondered if the people who bought these cosmetics knew how much animals suffered in order for the cosmetics to be safe to use. Would they still buy these products if they knew?



CHAPTER 08



The man holding the cage opened a door, but he didn't lock it behind him. So Dr Fair went into the main laboratory through that door. She hoped nobody would recognise her. Every time she heard somebody approach she hid wherever she could. She decided she had to find Gary. She made sure nobody was coming, and opened a door. There were lots of cages inside. These cages hadn't been there during her last visit with the activists. She saw lots of guinea pigs in each cage. They didn't react to her presence. She whispered: "Gary! Gary! Which of you is Gary?"

One of the guinea pigs answered: "Who are you? How do you know Gary?"

Dr Fair was thrilled to get a response. "I'm Melinda Fair!" she replied. "I'm the activist who's been trying to save you from this place. Gary sent me an email asking me to come. The scientists don't know I'm here."



CHAPTER 08



The guinea pigs didn't seem pleased to see her. "Gary died yesterday," the same guinea pig told her. "They killed him because they found the email he sent you. I think you'd better leave. Ever since you first came here, things have been getting worse and worse for us."

"But can't you see?" Dr Fair said, "You've got to do something! There has got to be a revolution. Haven't you heard what happened at the zoo? The animals took control of it and now they're free. There are hundreds of people like me who are willing to help. They're animal rights activists. But you must be willing to help yourselves. You must be united against those scientists. Together we can send them to jail, and you can be free again."

"What does 'free' mean?" another guinea pig asked. "Most of us were born in a laboratory, and so were our parents. We wouldn't know how to be 'free'."

"Being free means being able to do what you want with your life. Being free means respecting others, respecting yourselves and being allowed to be happy. Being free means having enough to eat. Being free..."



CHAPTER

08



“That’s enough,” an older guinea pig said. “Show us the way to the revolution. Friends, anything would be better than the way we live now.”

Dr Fair was very happy to hear this. The older guinea pig looked as though he had suffered a lot. The others seemed to respect his opinions.

Suddenly, there was a noise outside the room. Somebody was coming. All the guinea pigs went quiet and Dr Fair hid behind a cage. A scientist entered the room and took one of the baby guinea pigs away. The mother started crying. Then everyone started crying. Dr Fair was crying too. A few minutes later, Dr Fair said, “Tell me where the computer is. I’ll send an email to the other activists. They’ll come straight away, and we’ll organise your revolution.”

They told her where the computer was. They all seemed determined to go ahead with the revolution. They had had enough.

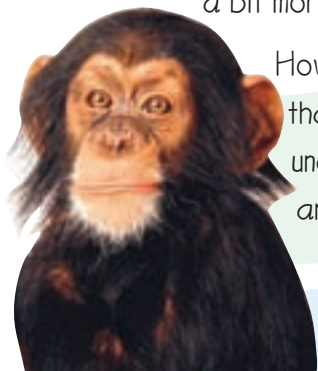


CHAPTER 09

The revolution at the laboratory was successful. The activists came and took the scientists by surprise. They even called the police, and the owner of the lab had to pay a huge fine for being cruel to animals. However, the guinea pigs didn't want to leave the lab. So it was decided that they could stay. At first, some of the activists would be there to teach them how to cope with their new freedom and how to organise their lives.



Then Dr Fair visited the circus and the farm. Once again, she pretended to be someone else. She found the animals and spoke to them passionately about the successful revolutions at the zoo (though she did have doubts about its success) and at the laboratory. She hoped that they, too, were on the road to a revolution of their own. Dr Fair was very pleased because she had collected a lot of information. When she had collected a bit more, she might be able to help animals all over the world.



However, two things worried her. One was that she didn't want people to think that animals were more important than people. She wanted them to understand that no one should be treated badly or unfairly, and that animals should have similar rights to people.



CHAPTER 09

She wanted people to understand how important it is to care for others who are less fortunate, and not have 'slave-pets' like the cats and dog she had seen at her friend's house. She wanted people to understand that every living thing has the right to be free and happy, and to have enough food and clean water. She wanted people to understand that every living thing has to respect every other living thing, always.

The second thing that was on her mind was the situation at the zoo. It had been a long time since her last visit and she had a strong feeling that something was not quite right. She decided that she would go there again. This time, however, she wouldn't announce her visit. She wanted to see for herself what was really going on.

The next day, she set out for the zoo. Ever since the revolution, the zoo had had lots of visitors and had been making a lot of money. So Dr Fair was hoping that all the animals would be happy. She got to the zoo after dark. It was totally silent. The front gate was not locked, so she got in easily without being noticed. She passed by the monkeys' cage.



CHAPTER 09

She was shocked to find it was filthy. This time there was only one monkey in the cage. She wondered where the other one was. Then she noticed that the monkey still didn't have a shelter of its own. Also, it was very skinny. The situation was the same in all the other cages. What's more, most of the larger animals, such as the giraffes and the polar bears, were chained to the bars of their cages. They had never been chained when they were looked after by people! So that was why the front gate wasn't locked! Dr Fair almost screamed in horror. When she reached the place where the cages of the Lion and the Bear used to be, she saw that, instead of cages, there were two beautiful luxurious houses. Light was coming from inside one of them. She peeked through the window, and what she saw made her furious. A huge table had been set for dinner. The Lion and the Bear were sitting at the table. The turtles, a monkey and a giraffe were serving them food. Both the Lion and the Bear had put on a lot of weight. The servants seemed to be starving.

She could no longer stay silent. She opened the front door without knocking and walked in. The Lion and the Bear were surprised to see her.

"We thought that you had forgotten all about us, Dr Fair!" said the Lion rudely.



CHAPTER 09

"What do you think you're doing?!" Dr Fair screamed at the top of her voice. "The situation here is worse than ever! You're keeping all the benefits of the revolution for yourselves, and all the other animals are starving to death! How dare you become worse tyrants than your keepers were?!"

"That's enough, Dr Fair!" the Lion said. There was something threatening in the tone of his voice. "You have seen too much and know too much for your own good. Why couldn't you just mind your own business, and work for all those other revolutions of yours?"

"What? Is that a threat? Where would you be now if I hadn't helped you?"

"I assure you we are all very grateful for your help, but we no longer need it," said the Bear. "And it would be much safer for you to...well, mind your own business, Dr Fair. Why don't you just go and help those poor guinea pigs?"

"To come to the point," the Lion interrupted, "if you tell anyone about this, or if you ever come back here again, we are going to eat you alive! Now LEAVE!" the lion roared.

Dr Fair was terrified. She raced out of the house and ran out of the main gate. She knew that what was going on was partly her fault. She knew she had to save those poor animals, even if it meant risking her life.



CHAPTER 10



Early the next morning, Dr Fair invited the other activists to her house for a meeting. When she told them about her experience at the zoo, they were all shocked and extremely angry. They immediately started making a plan to save the animals. They knew that, first of all, they would need a lot of support, because the Lion and the Bear were very dangerous. The next thing they needed to do was to try to get in touch with the other animals in the zoo so that they could organise a new revolution. They knew that wasn't going to be easy for two reasons. Firstly, it would be hard to get to those animals without being seen. Secondly, even if they did manage to speak to the animals, it would be difficult to earn their trust again, because it was the revolution that had got them into their present sorry state in the first place.

Nevertheless, they had to do their best. They decided that they would hold a protest march outside the zoo. They started sending emails to all their activist friends, to the newspapers, to politicians. In the emails, they described the situation in the zoo, they informed people about the protest march and invited them to join in. They made banners and flyers for the march. Everything was ready within a few days.

CHAPTER 10

Now the problem was that they had to find a way to get in touch with the animals inside the zoo without the Lion and Bear finding out. They decided that Dr Fair shouldn't go to the zoo again because, as everyone knew who she was, it would be too dangerous for her. So they decided that Mary, Joshua and Yasmin should try to speak to the animals.

That same day Mary, Joshua and Yasmin left Dr Fair's house to go to the zoo. They each had some flyers with them to give to the animals in case they were unable to actually speak to them. They didn't go through the front gate. They had a plan. They had persuaded the owners of the company which delivered food to the zoo to lend them one of their vans. They went in through the back entrance, avoiding the Lion and the Bear. Mary drove the van. Joshua and Yasmin hid in the back. A small lion came to open the gate. A few elephants came to unload the cans of food and carry them to the Lion's house. Meanwhile, Joshua and Yasmin got out of the van and tried to find the animals. They found them chained in their dirty cages. Joshua and Yasmin told them that they must rebel, and that they would have a lot of support if they did. But the animals seemed too weak and frightened to react or feel any enthusiasm. Joshua and Yasmin felt there was nothing else they could say to convince the animals. They gave them the flyers and left in the van.



CHAPTER 10

They were all very disappointed. If the animals didn't want to help themselves, how could anyone else possibly help them? They went back to Dr Fair's house and told her what had happened. They decided they would go ahead with the march, no matter what.

On the day of the march, thousands of protesters gathered outside the zoo. They held signs with 'Free the Animals' and 'Punish the Lion and the Bear' written on them. The police were there as well. Soon afterwards, screams and crashing noises were heard from inside the zoo. Everyone ran to see what was going on. It was an incredible sight. All the animals were trying to break their chains. Some had already broken them and were running wildly around. The Lion roared and the Bear growled angrily; they chased the other animals, but couldn't catch them. That's when the protesters, led by Dr Fair, broke down the front gate and poured into the zoo. It was a very dangerous thing to do, as the lions, tigers and bears could easily attack and kill them, but that didn't stop them. When the police saw what was happening, they ran into the zoo. They arrested the Lion and the Bear immediately. Everyone cheered. The animals jumped for joy; they were free again. The next day the animals made an agreement never to let any animal treat another animal badly again. Dr Fair was given a medal for her brave actions. She felt really, really happy, and was glad that she had been able to help.





After the revolution...

Dr Fair was exhausted, but she was pleased with the way everything had turned out. She had been really surprised to see how many people care. She knew she wouldn't have been able to help all those animals without other people's help.

Not everything was perfect, though. Dr Fair was still worried about what she had seen. "I still feel sad when I think of everything that has happened at the zoo, she thought. "How can anyone be so greedy and cruel? How could the Lion and the Bear turn against their own friends after everything they had been through together? Does anyone ever really know anyone else? Does anyone really trust anyone else? Can everyone become corrupt when they are given a little power? I wonder if the saying 'Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely' is true. I had never thought so, but I don't know any more. Can I really trust the new order at the zoo? How can I make sure that nothing unfair ever happens again? I suppose there is no way to guarantee that. All we can really do is to try and be aware of what's going on, and offer our help to those who need it. 'Never turn a blind eye!' I think that from now on this is going to be my motto. Never turn a blind eye to unhappiness, unfairness, oppression, misery and exploitation of any kind."

TASKS



Introduction

*** Answer the following questions.**

- 1 Where did Dr Fair do her research?
- 2 What did Dr Fair decide to do that might be dangerous for her?

Chapter 1

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Why were the animals hungry?
- 2 How did the zoo keepers get rich in winter?
- 3 Why did the Lion and the Bear stay out of their shelters?
- 4 What makes the animals change their minds about doing something?

B Imagine...

*** Imagine that you are one of the animals at the zoo. How do you feel about your life? Why do you feel this way? What do you think about the idea of having a revolution?**

C Talk about the story

*** Tell your classmates why the animals had a meeting and what they talked about.**

D Writing

*** You are a visitor walking through the zoo on that dark winter night. Describe what you see and how the different animals seem to feel. Describe the thoughts/feelings you have as you walk around the zoo.**

Chapter 2

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Why were the scientists unfriendly to Dr Fair?
- 2 Why didn't Dr Fair watch the whole show at the circus?
- 3 Why do you think the dogs were given something to make them sleep?
- 4 Why did Dr Fair lie to the farmer about who she was?

B Imagine...

*** Imagine that you are a circus animal. Say what animal you are. Then describe your life and how you feel about it.**

C Talk about the story

*** Pretend that you are the only student who read chapter 2. Tell your classmates what happens in this chapter.**

D Writing

*** Animals are used by scientists in laboratories all over the world. They are often used to test new medications and to test cosmetics. What do you think of each of these uses? Explain your answers.**

Chapter 3

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Why did the Lion want Dr Fair to visit the zoo?
- 2 Why was the meeting a good experience for Dr Fair?
- 3 What made the animals at the zoo feel more courageous?
- 4 Why do you think the Bear was smiling?

B Imagine...

*** Imagine that the animals had asked you for help. What would you do? If you were going to help them, how would you do it? How would you get support?**

C Talk about the story.

*** Tell your classmates what the Lion talks about in his speech at the meeting.**

D Writing

*** Write the email that the Lion sent to Dr Fair. In the email, you (the Lion) should explain who you are and why you're writing. You should also invite Dr Fair to the meetings.**



Chapter 4

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 How does Dr Fair feel about the revolution being planned at the zoo?
- 2 What does Dr Fair think about the Lion and the Bear?
- 3 What is strange about the animals at Sally's house?
- 4 Why did Sally and Dr Fair have an argument?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine that you are one of Sally's cats. What's your life like? How do you feel about it?*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Tell your classmates the reasons why Dr Fair is worried about the revolution.*

D Writing

- * *What are the good and bad points of having a pet? Discuss both the owner's and the animal's points of view.*

Chapter 5

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 What finally made the animals start to fight?
- 2 Why did Dr Fair want to take pictures to show animals in the rest of the world?
- 3 Why do you think the monkey has disappeared?
- 4 What three things did the Lion and the Bear ask Dr Fair to help them with?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine that you are one of the monkeys at the zoo. You have noticed that the monkey who asked about the decision-making process has disappeared. How do you feel about this? Do you agree with what he said to the Lion and the Bear? Why/Why not? What do you decide to do about the monkey's disappearance?*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Pretend that you are the only student who read chapter 5. Tell your classmates what happens in this chapter.*

D Writing

- * *Write Dr Fair's description of the "wild party" the Lion invited her to. Start with the sentence: Today the animals at Central Zoo revolted successfully and invited me to their celebration!*

Chapter 6

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1 Why couldn't the scientists stop the activists from inspecting the lab?
- 2 Who do you think is warning the people at the lab, the circus and the farm about Dr Fair's visits? Why?
- 3 What did Dr Fair and the other activists decide at their meeting?
- 4 Why is Dr Fair shocked when she visits the zoo?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine that you are an activist and that you have visited the lab, the circus and the farm with Dr Fair and have seen that animals have disappeared. What are your thoughts on this? How will you find the missing animals?*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Tell your classmates about the activists' visits to the lab, the circus, the farm and the zoo.*

D Writing

- * *You are an animal rights activist. Your organisation has asked you to write a short text for their website, encouraging people to become volunteers for the organisation. Remember to say why animal rights are so important.*



Chapter 7

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1** Why does Dr Fair decide to deal with the zoo later?
- 2** Does Dr Fair have any good news? What is it?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine that Dr Fair has just told you about what is going on at the zoo. She wants to know what you think is happening and what you believe she and the other activists should do now.*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Tell your classmates about Dr Fair's thoughts in this chapter.*

D Writing

- * *You are Gary the guinea pig. Write the email you sent to Dr Fair. Remember to ask her to come back to the lab and to explain what had happened to you when you were missing.*

Chapter 8

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1** Why couldn't Dr Fair get into the lab even though she was dressed like a scientist?
- 2** Why weren't the animals happy to see her?
- 3** Why don't the guinea pigs understand what the word "free" means?
- 4** What made the guinea pigs finally decide to revolt?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine that you are the older guinea pig who has "suffered a lot". Describe your life and why you think that the revolution might be a good idea.*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Tell your classmates what happens at the lab.*

D Writing

- * *Write a short paragraph describing what it means to "be free". Do you agree with Dr Fair, or do you believe that being free means something different?*

Chapter 9

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1** Why didn't the guinea pigs want to leave the laboratory?
- 2** What is the situation at the zoo now?
- 3** How does the Lion treat Dr Fair when she goes into the house?
- 4** What does Dr Fair decide to do about the zoo animals?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine that you visited the zoo with Dr Fair today. Describe what you saw and what this made you think and feel.*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Pretend that you are the only student who read chapter 9. Tell your classmates what happens in this chapter.*

D Writing

- * *Do you think that the revolution at the zoo was successful? Why/Why not?*

Chapter 10

A Answer each of the following questions.

- 1** Why would a second revolution at the zoo be difficult?
- 2** How did Mary, Joshua and Yasmin get into the zoo?
- 3** What made the animals break their chains?
- 4** What happened to the Lion and the Bear?

B Imagine...

- * *Imagine you were one of the hungry animals chained to your cage. What were you doing and how did you feel before and after the protestors came?*

C Talk about the story.

- * *Tell your classmates about the revolution: what the protestors did, what the animals did, what the Bear and the Lion did, and what the police did.*



□ Writing

- * Now the Lion and the Bear have gone and you have been asked to write new rules for how the zoo will work. Make a list of 5-6 basic rules.

After the Revolution

- * Answer the following questions.

- 1 Things at the zoo turned out well, but Dr Fair is still worried. Explain why.
- 2 What does it mean to “turn a blind eye” to something? Do you ever turn a blind eye? When/Why?

About the title of the reader

Too Much Freedom?

- 1 Why do you think the story was given this title? (Think about the question mark which is in the title before you answer.)
- 2 When can freedom cause problems? Explain, using examples from the story.
- 3 Why is freedom so important to so many people and animals?