

A Wayne Scott • *Lifthouse Theater* Production



Script, Music & Lyrics
By
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Based on the collection of short stories, "The Jungle Book" by Rudyard Kipling

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“The Jungle Book”

ACT I

(Preshow: As the audience is being seated, they hear sounds of the jungle— bird cries, waterfalls etc. Various animal characters enter and exit, going about their business in mime/pantomime: Mother and Father Wolf play with their cubs. A couple of the monkeys appear on the tree, and tease Baloo as he walks by, and angrily shakes his fist. The monkeys run as Kaa enters. Bagheera sits on a branch, watching everything below and looking into the distance. The cyclorama’s color is bright and golden when the audience first enters, but gradually dims and changes color to simulate a sunset, and then eventually dims to a dark blue until it is obviously night, displaying a full moon and stars. The sound also changes to that of chirping crickets, and an occasional wolf howl. By the time it is night, the audience will have been seated, and all animals are off stage except for the wolf family, who are getting ready to settle down for the night. During the show announcement and the overture the wolf family is asleep)

Overture

SCENE 1: THE JUNGLE

(We see the Wolf family asleep. Mother Wolf suddenly awakens with a start— and as she begins to sing, Father Wolf and then the cubs awaken shortly after)

SONG: “TIGER! TIGER!”

Mother Wolf	<i>(During intro)</i>	Ahhh..... Ahhh..... A presence in the night Is cause for a great fright The jungle trembles at the sight...
Father Wolf		Stripes and sharpened claw Cruel eyes and fearful jaw Breaker of the jungle law ... <i>(Bagheera and Baloo enter)</i>
Bagheera	<i>(From the tree)</i>	His heart is as twisted as his leg is lame His wild and reckless way no one can tame...
Mother & Father Wolf Bagheera & Baloo		Tiger— in— the— jungle—! Yellow eyes between the trees and every creature climbs and flees! Tracks that leave a hidden trail ‘till face to face with tooth and nail! Tooth and nail!
All		At the wolf pack’s howl We sense the hunter’s prowl And listen for his hungry growl... The jungle law he breaks And what he wants he takes On this night, he’s raised the stakes... <i>(Various other creatures enter fearfully)</i>
Mother Wolf Father Wolf Wolves, Bagheera & Baloo Animals of the Jungle		For on this night he will be hunting man— Shameful crime that our great Maker does ban— Tiger— in— the— jungle—! Yellow eyes between the trees

and every creature climbs and flees!
 Tracks that leave a hidden trail
 'till face to face with tooth and nail!
 Tooth and nail!
(Pause. Brief musical transition)

Wolf Cub 1 *(Spoken)* Mother— I'm scared! It's so dark... and I heard such awful sounds!
Mother Wolf Don't be afraid, for it will be morning soon...

Mother Wolf *(Song resumes)*
 Don't cry my dear one
 The light will be breaking through
 Shadows flee, when the sun
 Rises over you—
 The Maker up above
 Will protect us from harm
 So go to sleep, Love
 And don't be alarmed...
All Morning will dawn
 And chase away
 All who are harmful
 In darkness they stay
 So look for the day....
(Musical transition to: "Village area" as the animals "freeze.")

Villagers A monster in his rage
 A fierceness none can cage
 He's feared alike by slave and sage!
 He swiftly stalks his prey
 As we long for the day
 For shadows to be chased away...
(Song pauses)

(Villager 1 begins to bar the gate)
Villager 2 *(Spoken)* No! The woodcutter and his wife and baby are out there—
Villager 1 What!?
Villager 2 They are returning from the other village—
Villager 1 The tiger hunts this night! We have heard his roaring since the sun first set!
Villager 2 Which is why we must leave the gate opened to them!
Villager 1 They don't stand a chance.
Villager 2 Do not say such things! I will stay awake all night to wait for them if I must. Leave the gate open, I beg you.
(Villager 1 reluctantly complies)
(Lights dim and refocus on "The Jungle" as villagers exit and animals unfreeze)

Animals of the Jungle His heart is as twisted as his leg is lame
 His wild and reckless way no one can tame...
 Tiger— in— the—

(Song is interrupted as we hear a roar, a woman's scream and a gunshot. We then hear another roar and a man's yell. The animals scatter and hide in fright— no longer visible to the audience)

(Messua enters, running in a panic, holding a baby. She looks around frantically, and spots a grove of ferns nearby. She walks over, takes a basket which she has been wearing on a pack, and sets the baby inside. She then sets the basket within the fern grove)

Messua You'll be safe here...I will lead the tiger far away from you my son...
(She begins to exit)
(She pauses, and takes off an amulet necklace and places it inside the basket)
 This will protect you...I will come back for you when the danger is past...
(We hear another roar, and Messua fearfully runs off, glancing briefly at the grove of ferns)
(As Messua exits, the song resumes, and the animals slowly reenter from hiding)

Animals of the Jungle A mighty roar is what we hear
 A woman's cry of desperate fear
 The tiger endlessly pursues
 Will he win or will he lose...?
(Musical transition as animals "freeze." Messua reenters in special light, walking across floor, knowing she must press on, but keeps glancing back towards the fern grove)

Messua *(Spoken)* Mommy loves you

Messua Don't fret my dear one
 The light will be breaking through
 Shadows flee, when the sun
 Rises over you—

I'll come back for you
 in the calm of the day—
 But know this, my love for you
 Always will stay....

(Exits, as animals "unfreeze")

Animals of the Jungle Morning will dawn
 And chase away
 All who are harmful
 In darkness they stay
 So look for the day....

(All exit except the wolf family as the song concludes)

SCENE 2: WOLF CAVE

Mother Wolf *(To cubs)* Now, go back to sleep, all of you.
Wolf Cub 1 *(Girl)* But mother— the tiger!
Wolf Cub 2 *(Girl)* He can't get us in here— can he?
Mother Wolf Of course not— we're safe in our cave, and besides, your father is here, and he is very strong and brave, isn't that right, Father?
Father Wolf Yes, Mother— but few have ever dared to cross paths with you either.
Mother Wolf Very true.
Father Wolf So you see, my cubs— you have nothing to fear...Someone's coming.
Wolf Cubs The tiger!
Father Wolf No... not the tiger... It's... the jackal.
Mother Wolf Tabaqui? *(Sniffing the air)* Oh— of course— I'd know that stench anywhere.
Father Wolf And wherever he is— the tiger is not far behind.
Mother Wolf Children, stay behind me.
(The Cubs fearfully hide behind Mother Wolf, while Father Wolf takes a few steps toward center stage, as Tabaqui enters)

Tabaqui (*Patronizing tone*) Well, well, if it isn't the wolf family....And such fine looking cubs! I think that one is the spitting image of his father....How proud you must be.

Father Wolf Save your flattery for your master, Tabaqui.

Tabaqui I have kind words to spare for all....What else is a poor, defenseless scavenger like myself supposed to do?

Father Wolf You'll get no scraps from us.

Tabaqui (*Continues sarcasm*) I have not come here for a handout....After all— I would feel so terrible depriving the cubs of their meal...

Father Wolf It's long since they've had their meal and you and that fiend you follow have kept the jungle up half the night....

Tabaqui Really? My apologies. But as we both know, when Shere Khan hunts— he cannot possibly take the comfort of the entire jungle into consideration.

Wolf Cub 3 Mother— who's Shere Khan?

Mother Wolf Shere Khan— is— is the name of the tiger, my love. But I want you to forget that name. It should not come out of the mouths of cubs, or indeed anyone.

Tabaqui (*Very sarcastic*) Oh, forgive me, for polluting their ears....

Father Wolf Get out of here— you parasite— before I drive you off!

Tabaqui Now, now— not so fast— Shere Khan has lost track of his prey. Seen or heard anything?

Father Wolf His prey! Hunting man is appalling— it is against Jungle Law— I hope they escape.

Tabaqui He got the man—but the woman ran off with a cub of her own— and we don't know where she has gone. Shere Khan doesn't do things by halves. He'll never rest until he finds them.

Father Wolf We have seen nothing— and heard nothing except Shere Khan's whining growls— now get out of here!

Tabaqui My thanks to you....

Father Wolf Out!

(*Tabaqui quickly exits*)

Wolf Cub 2 Mother— I'm scared of Shere Khan!

Wolf Cub 1 Me too!

Mother Wolf Now children— please—

Father Wolf I am so sorry my love, I should have driven him off at once.

Mother Wolf At least we have the comfort of knowing that the man's wife and cub have escaped. I do feel so sorry for them though. I wish there was something we could do. I can't stand seeing another in trouble...

Father Wolf Yes, but they are from that world called the village.

Mother Wolf The village and the jungle both have a common enemy. My compassion goes out to anyone who is hunted by that tiger.

(*We hear a baby's cry*)

Wolf Cub 1 What is that?

Wolf Cub 3 It's not Shere Khan this time— I mean the tiger...

Father Wolf Now, now, nothing to fear— it's just the sound of a... a... well... I...

Mother Wolf I've never heard that sound before. What kind of creature do you suppose it is?

Father Wolf It sounds very close...

Mother Wolf (*Curious*) Yes, it sounds like it's in trouble...like it's...crying. And whatever it is, it must be very small...

(*Mother Wolf steps out of the "cave" and starts looking around for the source of the cry, drawing near to the grove of ferns*)

Father Wolf What are you doing?

Mother Wolf I'm going to find out what it is...it's around here somewhere...

Father Wolf My dear, come back at once— remember Shere Khan is still out and about.

Mother Wolf What have we here... ? (*Mother Wolf pulls a basket out of the ferns, with baby Mowgli inside*) Ohhh... my...

(*Cubs rush out*)

Wolf Cubs What is it? Can I see? Let me look! Etc.

Father Wolf Everyone come back inside the cave at once!

Mother Wolf What could this be?

Father Wolf I have seen such things when I hunted near the village....The village! My dear— do you not understand what must be inside?

Mother Wolf Oh! It's a Man-cub— the one who escaped— but where is its mother? Oh— do let me have a look...For I have never seen one before. How strange that men keep their young in such things as if they were caterpillars in a cocoon!
(Mother Wolf unwraps the blanket and picks up baby Mowgli, cradling him tenderly. He stops crying) Oh....How sweet, how little, and very bold. Look at him stare at me. And he has stopped his crying.

Cubs Aw, look at him....He doesn't have any fur...where's his tail? Etc.

Mother Wolf *(Fascinated)* Look at him, Father. Isn't he adorable? Yes, I had heard the Maker had made man to be something very special, different than anything else in the jungle...And now I see that it is true...there's something about his eyes. Look how deep and shining they are.
(Suddenly, Shere Khan's roar is heard)

Father Wolf Quickly! Into the cave— and take that Man-cub with you.

Mother Wolf Thank you, Father. Into the cave, children.
(Mother Wolf grabs the basket, places Mowgli inside and then rushes over along with the rest of the family to the cave. They all crowd around the basket, trying to hide it, and act as if they are asleep, except for Father Wolf who watches intently)
(Shere Khan enters, followed by Tabaqui. He walks swiftly and menacingly, but also with a slight limp, his leg dragging occasionally)

Shere Khan *(Growling)* I heard the wretched noise! Now if I could only find it! It's got to be here somewhere! Am I to spend the entire night searching for what is mine?

Tabaqui I have already come this way. Nothing of interest. The wolves have seen nothing.

Shere Khan I know it's HERE! I heard it crying! If I could only find out where...
(He tears up the ferns, than looks toward the wolf cave, and approaches Father Wolf)

Father Wolf You there— wolf— have you seen a man-cub and his mother pass this way?

Shere Khan What do I care about man-cubs? It is none of my business. My family is sleeping, do not wake them.

Shere Khan I'll wake the entire jungle before I'll let them get away. That woodcutter nearly made an end of me, and I'll not let his family escape to tell the tale!
(Shere Khan turns around when suddenly, baby Mowgli cries. Mother Wolf's eyes open in fright)

Mother Wolf Ah! What is this? Coming from within your cave! Why— you despicable sneak—
A law-breaker— a coward— a lame, lazy hunter of innocent, defenseless cubs? And a man-cub at that...No, we do not fear you! Get away— this man-cub is not yours. He belongs now to the pack. This one has escaped your treachery. Now go— coward— or so help me— I will—

Shere Khan *(Taken aback)* You'll regret this! The pack will never agree to it! All men who enter the jungle belong to me....But I see when a fight is not worth my time. You have not won this night, but simply delayed the inevitable. Come Tabaqui.

Tabaqui Yes, yes of course, master....*(To Wolves)* Tell me, your new addition to the family...which side does he resemble? Father Wolf or Mother Wolf?

Father Wolf You better start running—
(Tabaqui and Shere Khan quickly exit as we hear the sound of his growl)

Father Wolf Oh, my dear— you were simply astonishing. Wonderful— I couldn't believe it—

Mother Wolf *(With a sigh of relief)* I couldn't have done it without you at my side...my heart was hammering so terribly. I don't know what came over me.

Wolf Cub 1 So we're gonna keep him?

Father Wolf Yes. Yes, we are. Although...the decision is not ours to make.

Mother Wolf Oh, surely the pack will welcome him in. They will accept our little Mowgli...

Father Wolf What? What did you call him?

Mother Wolf Mowgli— it means "Little Frog."

Father Wolf I know what it means— but why....?

Wolf Cub 3 Father— can't you see? There's no fur on him— like a frog.

Father Wolf Yes— I do see that. Come. It will soon be dawn— the time when the pack gathers. Let us go to Council Rock, and make a petition for...for...Mowgli.

(Mother Wolf places Mowgli in the basket carefully and the Wolf family walks to center stage as the scene transitions)

SCENE 3: COUNCIL ROCK

(Wolf pack gathers at center stage in front of tree— Akela, who enters with a walking stick, stands on a rock overlooking the others. Bagheera and Baloo enter together)

Baloo *(Big yawn)* Ohhh... my... these council meetings seem to keep getting earlier and earlier... Not to mention that we didn't get a wink of sleep this night, with that tiger bellowing like a hive of angry bees! Some creatures in the jungle don't know how to keep their mouth shut.

Bagheera Indeed, Baloo.

Baloo And do you know Bagheera, I was in the middle of the most wonderful dream...I was a little bearling again— about to taste juicy berries for the very first time...and then that mangy striped furball with teeth has to wake me up.

Bagheera I think perhaps more than your dream was disrupted by Shere Khan this night. Something is wrong. I sense his presence nearby.

Baloo Hmm... You cats, always sensing everyone's presence— stiff and anxious about who'll pop out at you... I'd rather sense breakfast.

Bagheera I sense the meeting is about to begin, and so we'd best keep quiet.

(Akela taps his staff against the ground several times, as a hush falls over the group. Father and Mother Wolf and the cubs are grouped together, and Mother Wolf nervously clutches the basket)

Akela Brothers and sisters of the pack— I think I speak for us all, when I say that something most unusual has happened this night. Shere Khan, the dreaded tiger continues to be a threat not only to our peaceful order— but also the order of the entire jungle. Once, his treachery was conducted far away, now it is at the very edge of our caves. We have all heard it this night. Something must be done to protect our territory from the invasion of—

Wolf 1 What can we do? A wolf is no match for a tiger!

(Wolves murmur in agreement)

Akela A wolf's strength lies in his unity of the pack. Alone— we are defenseless— but together, Shere Khan dare not face us.

Father Wolf If I may say something, Akela...I must say that even two wolves, my wife and I— can be given strength enough to stand against him.

Akela Oh?

Father Wolf Even this night, Shere Khan dared to gain entrance into my cave. *(Wolves groan)* On account of this... Show them, my dear...

(Mother Wolf takes baby Mowgli out of the basket and holds him out for the pack to see. The wolves react in much surprise and talk excitedly. What is it? That's a man-cub! How did it get here? Etc.)

Mother Wolf We heard his cry in the ferns outside our cave last night—Shere Khan heard also, and demanded that we give him up. We refused, and he let us alone, for the time being.

Akela I see.

Father Wolf We have come before the pack, to request a redemption. We will raise him as one of our own. *(More murmurs of surprise)*

Mother Wolf If we do not, we condemn him to die. He is helpless and alone. What if his mother never finds him? And even if she did— Shere Khan would claim his life before she found him. I ask for your compassion, Akela.

Father Wolf Is it not the law of our order to take in abandoned or lost cubs?

Wolf 2 Yes— wolf cubs— but that cub you hold is a man!

Wolf 3 If we take him— the entire pack is in danger!

(Wolves continue to talk among themselves, until Akela raps his walking stick on the ground once again)

Akela Order— please! May I hold the man-cub?

(Mother Wolf cautiously places baby Mowgli in Akela's arms, who is quite indifferent. His countenance begins to soften as he gazes at Mowgli's face)

It is true what they say. I have never been this close to a human before, and there is something quite remarkable about him. Something almost of awe... And yet such helplessness too... I cannot in good conscience abandon him to the tiger...

Mother Wolf

Thank you Akela...

Akela

Yet how can I allow such a one into the pack? It is unheard of. And how can I risk endangering our order by deliberately defying Shere Khan? He will not take it lightly.

(Shere Khan has entered at the beginning of Akela's line)

Shere Khan

(Menacingly) Indeed, I would not...

(The wolves instantly jump to their feet, almost in a military like fashion and form a half-circle barrier around Akela, Mother Wolf and the cubs, they pose in different levels, some crouched down, others standing, all heads turned toward Shere Khan. Baloo and Bagheera stand on edge as well)

Tabaqui

(Entering) Better make it quick, Master— it seems we're disturbing their little gathering.

Shere Khan

I have a question for you, Akela... why would the wolves have anything to do with a man-cub?

Akela

(Cooly) Why would you?

Shere Khan

(Outraged) The man-cub is nothing but prey to me— but you— you would take him as one of own— almost like a brother! Absurd! It is against the law—

Akela

You... would speak of the law? *(To the pack)* I think he fancies himself king of the jungle, this tiger. He himself adheres to no law, while expecting everyone else to be bound.

Shere Khan

That is a lie! I value only the law— “eat or be eaten!” Now give him to me!

Bagheera

We follow a higher law, Shere Khan— a law given by the Maker of all things— one of order instead of chaos— of compassion instead of cruelty.

Shere Khan

I will bend it like a weak branch— and break it apart!

Bagheera

You would be breaking the very branch you stand on. The law of the jungle is the order of our world and what we do in it. Those who “break” the law, really end up only breaking themselves.

Shere Khan

(Tauntingly) Do I look broken to you!?

Tabaqui

(Hesitantly) You do have that one bad leg...

Shere Khan

Silence!

Bagheera

Akela, if I may speak, I believe the law has special provision for an outsider— that is— a non-wolf— when taking him into the pack.

Akela

And what is that, Bagheera?

Baloo

Uh, yes— as— teacher of the law, I can confirm— that— in special circumstances— a something that can be purchased in place of...of...

Bagheera

Allow me, Baloo. The man-cub can be bought into the pack by a price. I will go hunting and present a gift to the pack, a bull— which will in a sense— buy the man-cub's right to live among the wolves. The Maker always weaves redemption into his law. I advise the pack to vote on the acceptance of the man-cub. I for one, am for it.

Baloo

As am I... I wouldn't give so much as a rotten grub to this conniving cat.

(Shere Khan growls in barely controlled rage)

Akela

Very well. If any are in opposition— let them speak.

(All is quiet)

Very good. I did not wish to have division within the pack, for I would have overridden all opinions in order to save this precious little one. Then it is done.

Shere Khan

(Growling) You fools! He may be protected now— but just wait until I find him alone— away from the pack— how will he escape then!?

Akela

Be gone from this place, lawbreaker.

Shere Khan

(Growling) So strong in numbers— why don't you face me alone, wolf? I face all my battles alone.

Akela

Be gone— or this pack will rouse itself— a force that even you could not contend with.

Shere Khan

Just wait...

(Tabaqui and Shere Khan begin to exit)

Tabaqui

Master, it is not true that you face all your battles alone, for you have me...

Shere Khan

(Rolls his eyes and says with sarcasm) Of course...

(Shere Khan exits with a roar and the wolves relax)

Akela

Your son. *(Places baby Mowgli back into the arms of Mother Wolf)*

Mother Wolf Thank you Akela. He will grow up knowing what you have done for him this night.
Baloo Let me see him! Ah, my newest student!
Bagheera Not for awhile yet— for he has much growing to do.
Baloo Of course, but I—
Bagheera Baloo, men grow much slower. For by the time he is old enough to attend a lesson, all of your other students will be having families of their own.
Baloo Really? Well— how curious. I shall have to prepare longer lessons.
Mother Wolf I think he is tired...we must return to the cave.
Bagheera Of course.
(We hear Shere Khan's roar)
Bagheera Do not fear, you have the protection of both Baloo and I, and of the pack.
Baloo I should say so.
Father Wolf Thank you both.
Mother Wolf Thank you.
(Another roar)
Bagheera Roar well, Shere Khan...for the time will come when this little one will make you roar to a different tune...or I know nothing of man.
(The meeting disperses, as the wolf family walks towards their cave)

SCENE 4: THE JUNGLE

Wolf Cubs *(Bounding in excitement)* A new brother! We have a new Little Brother!
Mother Wolf Yes, indeed we do...
Father Wolf Mother, look at what I found.
Mother Wolf What is it, Father?
Father Wolf *(Holding amulet)* I found this inside...the cocoon. *(Holds up basket)*
Mother Wolf *(Looking at it)* Why it looks like a stone of some sort...But unlike anything I've seen. It must be from the man-village. I will keep it.
Father Wolf Why?
Mother Wolf It is the only thing that he has left of his former life...he might want it someday, when he is grown.
Father Wolf Perhaps you are right.
(Song into begins)
Mother Wolf I wonder if he knows that he belongs with us now? *(Gazing lovingly at baby Mowgli)* Do you know, my little Mowgli?

SONG: "ONE OF US"

Mother Wolf You look at me with deep, brown eyes
 Courageous, though you're small in size
 You seem to know that you have found a home...
 And though the world that you once knew
 Is now far away from you
 The jungle now is yours to freely roam...
 You're one of us
 Little man, don't you see?
 You're one of us
 And you will always be
 Though you're a "wolf" of a most different kind—
 We don't mind— 'cause—
Mother & Father Wolf You're one of us—
Wolf Cubs One of us now!
Mother & Father Wolf You're one of us—

Wolf Cubs One of us now!

Mother & Father Wolf And if you ever don't know where to go,
Please know— Mowgli you're one of us!

(Brief musical transition, as Mother Wolf exits, holding baby Mowgli, with the wolf cubs following. They quickly reenter, with Mowgli as a boy of about seven and the wolf cubs as adult wolves)

Father Wolf Growing, learning; once so small
Standing up so very tall
Finding out your place— among the pack...

Bagheera *(Climbing tree with Mowgli)* Exploring, seeking, climbing high
Looking up into the sky
If you fall, don't fear
I'll watch your back...

All You're one of us
Little man, don't you see?
You're one of us
And you will always be
Though you're a "wolf" of a most different kind—
We don't mind— 'cause—
Bagheera You're one of us—
Wolves One of us now!
Bagheera You're one of us—
Wolves One of us now!
All And if you ever don't know where to go,
Please know— Mowgli you're one of us!

(Brief musical transition as "Little" Mowgli exits and "Teenager" Mowgli enters)

Baloo Lessons now that you must learn
A law that you must never spurn
Games and play, we'll put aside for now...

Mowgli *(Spoken)* But why?

Mother Wolf The Maker's law will guide and warn
Shelter from the night and storm
Old Baloo— knows what to do —
And how...

Wolves You're one of us— now
Baloo & Bagheera One of us now!
Wolves You're one of us— now
Baloo & Bagheera One of us now!
All Let come what may
Never run, never hide...
We're at your side—
Mowgli, you're one of us!

(Wolves and Mowgli exit. Blackout)

SCENE 5: SHERE KHAN'S LAIR

(Lights rise as we see Shere Khan standing next to a few bones strewn about. Tabaqui enters, leading two wolves who cautiously approach)

- Wolf 1** *(Scared)* I don't know about this....are you sure he wants to see us?
- Tabaqui** Of course. Didn't I tell you it would be worth your while?
- Shere Khan** Welcome....don't be shy...I'm glad you both accepted Tabaqui's invitation. You'll see I have plenty to spare. Here, Tabaqui— give them each a bone.
- Tabaqui** Of course...
- Wolf 1** *(Suspicious)* What do you want, Shere Khan?
- Shere Khan** What do I want? Oh, am I always to be regarded with suspicion? All I want is your friendship....It gets lonely around here with no one but Tabaqui.
- Tabaqui** My presence is an acquired taste....
- Shere Khan** Yes, and your smell. Now, let's have a good conversation shall we? You both seem to be quite intelligent.
- Wolf 2** Sure is nice to have someone else do the hunting for us...eh? *(Taking bone)*
- Wolf 1** I'll say.
- Tabaqui** *(Gnawing on a bone)* I've been living off of someone else's hunting for years, and it's never done me a bit of harm.
- Shere Khan** Hunting...a fine subject to speak of. Now,tell me, don't the wolves always hunt together?
- Wolf 1** Oh yes...of course.
- Wolf 2** Except for Mowgli. He hunts with Bagheera and Baloo.
- Shere Khan** Mowgli? Is he another wolf?
- Wolf 1** Of course not. He's the man-cub.
- Shere Khan** Oh, forgive my ignorance. So...you say the man-cub does not hunt with the pack, but with the bear and the panther....does he ever go anywhere alone?
- Wolf 1** Baloo and Bagheera are always with him.
- Wolf 2** Yeah— always— he's sort of a favorite. Bagheera even goes so far as to call him his brother.
- Shere Khan** How amusing. And why this special attention?
- Wolf 1** Well he is a man after all. He's special.
- Wolf 2** Yeah, one time I had this nasty thorn stuck in my paw— and he pulled it out— just like that.
- Wolf 1** And don't ever have a staring match with him.
- Shere Khan** Why is that?
- Wolf 1** There's something about his eyes— they're not like ours.
- Shere Khan** Of course they aren't.
- Wolf 2** Well like we said, he is a man-cub.
- Shere Khan** Of course he is. Then I might ask, doesn't that make you feel somewhat inferior? I mean— you can't do all the things he can. And Baloo and Bagheera obviously give him special treatment because of it.
- Wolf 1** Mowgli's always been so kind. He doesn't act like he's better than us.
- Shere Khan** But he could one day... I mean, he might even try to be leader of the pack... And he is not even a wolf.
- Wolf 2** I never thought about it like that before...
- Shere Khan** Yes, I daresay you haven't. But you know men, they are different. But this is all academic. I think it's time you'd best rejoin the pack. And remember, feel free to bring any of your friends along. There will always be a generous meal, and I'll have a chance to have some company.
- Wolf 1** Thanks Shere Khan. Ever since I was a cub I was told you were a horrible... uh— I mean— well...I mean... you're not half bad.
- Tabaqui** *(Aside)* Not half good either.
- Shere Khan** That will do Tabaqui. Farewell, friends. Until next time?
(The wolves awkwardly nod and exit, a little unsure but obviously caught in Shere Khan's trap)
- Shere Khan** Little by little I will subvert the entire wolf pack to my side— and Mowgli will be left with no one to protect him but Akela— who isn't getting any younger.
- Tabaqui** What about the bear and the panther? They'll never leave his side...they are as loyal to him as I am to you...
- Shere Khan** We shall have to find a way to separate him from his loyal protectors...

(They exit as scene transitions)

SCENE 6: THE JUNGLE

(Baloo and Bagheera enter with Mowgli, who is filled with energy, and seems to be having a bit of trouble paying attention to Baloo's long-windedness)

Baloo *(Excitable)* Well, well my boy— today is the big day! Since this is your first lesson, we must begin with the basics. What do I mean by the basics? Well— the first thing you must know— uh— pay attention Mowgli— the first thing you must know— is that there is an underlining order to the nature of this wondrous world of ours called the jungle...Hmmm...I put that pretty well, didn't I Bagheera? Yes. Uh— as I was saying— Mowgli— uh— keep your focus lad. You'll not learn if you don't learn to focus....Now what point was I making?

Bagheera *(Deadpan)* The wondrous world of the jungle.

Baloo Ah yes— an underlying order....where did this order come from? Mowgli— where did this order come from?

Mowgli Uh....from you?

Baloo Oh— ha, ha,— silly— no, no, no— of course not. The order comes from the Maker of the jungle and our success— sometimes our very lives, depend upon understanding and following this order.

Baloo Now listen... I'll give you an example... Mowgli, when I was a little bearling—

Bagheera Oh, no...

Baloo Ahem. When I was a little bearling— I noticed a large bee hive just brimming with honey. So I climbed up the tree and tore the hive apart....

Mowgli You must have been awfully hungry.

Baloo Yes, but instead of a mouthful of sticky, delicious honey— I had to run for my life when hundreds of outraged little bees came after me with their stingers. I had to jump in the waterhole and hide with the elephants.

Bagheera *(Amused)* Oh, how traumatic.

(Song intro begins)

Baloo And how embarrassing. Now, I could have avoided all that if I had just known the Maker's order as it pertains to bees... and hungry bears...the order that we call, the law of the jungle...

SONG: "THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE"

Baloo Bees buzzing in the trees
Dripping honey as you please
Is a welcome harmony—
Making supper just for me
But there's a way you got to sneak in
And a way you got to peak in
Or you'll find those bugs can pack a nasty sting!

Bagheera Eyes watching 'round the bend
Tell me I must comprehend
I must watch before I walk
And stay hidden while I stalk
My coat must serve as camouflage
So I can hide and I can dodge
The enemy before he plans to spring...

Baloo The law of the jungle—

Bagheera Opens up your eyes

Baloo The law of the jungle—

Bagheera Shows you truth from lies!

Both Always far-reaching

Testing and teaching
(Brief pause)
 It's the only way!

Ya da— da, da, da
 Da da— da— da- da— da
 Ya— da- da- da- da- da
 Da— da!

Bagheera

There's a certain kind of word
 For every snake and beast and bird
 There's a way you gotta speak
 For every chirp, and growl and squeak!
 The lingo is a tricky sport
 That you must learn to not distort
 Or you'll be seen as foe and not as friend...

Baloo

There are nuts and roots to eat
 And fruits so juicy-sweet!
 Every tree a big buffet
 But heed well what I must say
 There are those that you must never pick
 Or you'll be feelin' pretty sick
 Your feast will very soon— come to an end...

Bagheera

Baloo

Bagheera

Baloo

Both

The law of the jungle—
 Tells you how to talk
 The law of the jungle—
 Shows you where to walk!
 Growing and showing
 What is worth knowing
(Brief pause)
 What we must obey!

Ya da— da, da, da
 Da da— da— da- da— da
 Ya— da- da- da- da- da
 Da— da!

Mowgli

I think I've begun to see
 What it is you're telling me
 There's an order to this place
 That no one ever can erase
 To break the law is like a fall
 There's nothing you can do at all
 It's just the way things are, the way they're made...

Bagheera & Baloo

Mowgli

Bagheera & Baloo

Mowgli

Bagheera & Baloo

All

The law of the jungle—
 Tells me what to know
 The law of the jungle—
 I will learn and grow!
 If you're lost— we will find you
 We'll be right behind you
(Brief pause)
 At your side we'll stay!

Ya da— da, da, da
 Da da— da— da- da— da
 Ya— da- da- da- da- da

Da— da!
Oh! Yeah!

Baloo Uh, yes. Time for a hands-on sort of lesson... uh... hmm...such as self defense? Ah, yes— self defense. I learned to wrestle almost as soon as I was born. Mowgli, do as I do. Stand up straight— put your paws up like this—

Bagheera You mean his hands.

Baloo Uh— yes, your hands— like this— and start circling around, see?
(Baloo takes a ridiculous “wrestling stance” and starts hopping around)

Mowgli Uh....

Baloo Well, go on boy— go on! Now, try to take a punch at me. Go on— try it.

Bagheera His belly’s an easy target.

Baloo Humph! Don’t aim for the belly— aim for the jaw...
(Mowgli complies, and keeps missing, Baloo hilariously dodging and ducking)

Baloo Oh...you’ll have to be faster than that to get this bear... Ha, ha... Well, I guess it’s time to show you how it’s done...*(Baloo playfully punches, and knocks Mowgli down. A little shaken, Mowgli stands up, rubbing his jaw)* Oh! Ha, ha... sorry there Mowgli...guess I don’t know my own strength.

Mowgli *(Frustrated)* You also don’t seem to know that I’m not a bear like you. It’s not a fair fight. Do you teach the other students how to wrestle?

Baloo Well no— of course not. They’re wolves...They don’t have paws like we do.

Mowgli You have paws. I have hands, remember? There’s a difference.

Baloo Well— uh— yes— of course. Let’s take a break, shall we? All this learning has given me an appetite. I have a nice bit of honey-comb here, sprinkled with grubs...delicious...

Mowgli No thanks, I’m going to pick a few mangos....See you later.

Bagheera Don’t go too far Mowgli, remember— The jungle can be a very dangerous place.

Mowgli I know, I know.....remember about Shere Khan who is my sworn enemy....I’ll be fine.
(Mowgli exits)

Baloo Bagheera, why are you looking at me that way?

Bagheera I told you not to treat him as if he was your cub.

Baloo Well I can’t help it! If he can be a wolf, why can’t he be a bear?

Bagheera He is neither— no matter how much we might like to pretend.

Baloo I don’t know why everyone’s getting so touchy about. It’s almost spoiled my appetite.

Bagheera Not likely. *(Pause)* I always feel a bit uneasy whenever the boy goes off alone.

Baloo Oh, Bagheera— you’re much too high-strung. You need to learn to relax a bit. Honey comb?

Bagheera No thanks....So many years and we’ve not seen head nor tail of Shere Khan...but I do not believe we’ve seen the last of him...

SCENE 7: SHERE KHAN’S LAIR

(Shere Khan stands next to a large spread of bananas and various other fruits. Tabaqui escorts three monkeys who are extremely nervous, into his lair)

Tabaqui Master, may I present to you the leaders of that infamous group known as the monkeys...
(They nervously keep their distance)

Shere Khan Oh, yes— and I suppose you’re anxious to hear of the deal I’d like to propose? But first, to put you at ease— I’d like to draw your attention to these refreshments.

Monkey 1 Huh?

Monkey 3 For us?

Shere Khan For you.
(The monkeys look at each other timidly, still fearful— and then suddenly snap out of it, racing to the fruit and devouring it with the worst manners ever)

Tabaqui And they call me a scavenger...

Shere Khan Uh, so glad to see you enjoy it. Ever heard of the one the wolves call Mowgli?

Monkey 1 Mowgli? You mean the man-cub? Yeah— the whole jungle’s heard of him. A man who thinks he’s a wolf! Crazy!

Shere Khan I hear he's quite smart. They say he is quite special...I hear nothing but good things about him.

Monkey 1 So? What do we care about a man-cub?

Shere Khan Well, You live in a place that was once inhabited by man, don't you? I thought you would take an interest. You do live in one of their old ruins, don't you?

Monkey 2 Oh— you mean— Monkey City!

Shere Khan Monkeys had nothing to do with it, my dear. Only those such as the man-cub could be capable of building it. The evidence seems to suggest, that here in this very jungle, lives a great genius.

Monkey 2 I thought you said he was a man-cub.

Shere Khan Tabaqui— help me...

Tabaqui Don't you see? The man-cub knows how to do things. He could teach you...

Monkey 3 You mean...he could teach us how to be smart and popular and how to build things to play on!

Monkey 2 How to build a whole new jungle gym!

Shere Khan Now there's an idea. Just think— with him to teach you— you'll no longer be outcasts— but everyone will proclaim your greatness near and far....

Monkey 1 Where do we find this Mowgli?

Shere Khan That is your job...and after you're finished with him— you are to keep him as prisoner until I arrive. You see, I have unfinished business with the man-cub.

Tabaqui *(Aside)* A business that he will not be returning from.

Monkey 3 Well— then after you take him away— what do we get?

Shere Khan Exactly what I mentioned before...another delightful spread of all your favorite foods... What do you say?

Monkey 1 I say we go find that man-cub!

Monkey 2 Woo- hoo! You're the best Shere Khan! We're gonna learn how to be smart and build things and stuff our faces!

Monkey 3 Not bad for our first deal, huh?

Monkey 2 Not bad at all!

Shere Khan I should say not— now remember— you are to keep the man-cub from leaving your city at all costs...or the deal is off...

Monkey 1 No worries!

Monkey 2 We won't let you down!

Monkey 3 Let's go— last one to the trees is a rotten banana peel!

Monkey 1 Those are yummy!
(The monkeys run off)

Tabaqui Oh— it sickens me to see such a brilliant mind like yours master, sharing in plots with those brainless tree-swingers.

Shere Khan We do have one thing in common.

Tabaqui And what is that?

Shere Khan *(Grinning)* We break all rules to get what we want...

SCENE 8: THE JUNGLE

(Mowgli enters, and during his line, the monkeys climb down from the tree, and creep up behind him while eating some bananas)

Mowgli I guess it's time to go back for another lesson... *(He kneels down and picks up some sticks, and begins to absent-mindedly construct a little "toy house")* *(Irritated)* I wonder what Baloo will teach me next... Maybe how to hibernate or sharpen my claws? I wish for once he'd just realize that I'm a man-cub and I should be learning how to...to...what should I be learning? *(Looks at his "toy house")* Why do I like to make things like this? I've never seen anyone else do this in the jungle do this before...

Monkey 1 Neither have I!

Monkey 2 *(Struggling to peel a banana)* Isn't it amazing? Just imagine if we learned how to do things like that...

Monkey 3 You can't even peel a banana right!

Monkey 2 Yes I can!

Monkey 3 No you can't!

Monkey 1 Yes I—

Mowgli Whoa— who are you?

Monkey 1 We have many names. Tree-swingers, banana-eaters...

Mowgli Wait...I've heard of you. You're the monkeys. You wreak havoc wherever you go. I was warned about you. You're lawbreakers.

Monkey 2 Yeah— isn't it great!? We learn by doing... whatever we want!

Mowgli What about the law of the jungle?

Monkeys Ha, ha, ha, ha!!!!

Monkey 3 No one really believes all those rules! Someone just made them up so they could stop everyone from having fun!

Mowgli That's not what I was taught.

Monkey 1 Of course not. They'd never teach you that. They have the banana peel pulled over your eyes.

Mowgli I guess so.

Monkey 3 We live in a whole bunch of buildings that were made by men like you...

Mowgli Really?

Monkey 1 I don't know where they went— but they left their houses behind. We took over.

Monkey 3 It's a sight to see! Hey— you should drop by and check it out?

Mowgli Others like me built your city? I would like to see it. Maybe I could stop by.

Monkey 3 Perfect! You'll be our special guest!

Mowgli I can't stay for very long. I have to get back to Baloo and Bagheera.

Monkey 1 Oh, sure, sure... you'll be back in no time.

Monkey 2 Hold on, it's time to swing!
(Mowgli takes each of their hands)

Mowgli I can't imagine what it's like to do nothing but have fun all day...

Monkey 1 You're about to find out... ha, ha...
(Monkeys, holding on to Mowgli's wrist, run up the tree and disappear up into the branches, flinging a few banana peels as they go)
(Baloo and Bagheera enter)

Baloo All right, Mowgli, time to come out...snack time is over. Come on out boy, this is no time for hide and seek.

Bagheera Little Brother?

Baloo Mowgli come out this instant! Oh, Bagheera— I'm beginning to worry about the lad. Perhaps I'm just not suited to be the boy's teacher. Maybe I'm turning him into a delinquent!

Bagheera Nonsense, Baloo— I'm sure Mowgli must have wandered off a little farther than he realized. But— that's not like him. He always stays fairly close by.

Baloo Look here! *(Picks up Mowgli's "toy house")* He's always making things out of sticks and what not. What is this?

Bagheera Then he must be around here somewhere.

Baloo Probably hiding in one of the trees, laughing at us. *(Baloo slips on a banana peel and falls in a ridiculous manner)* Ouch! What!? A banana peel! Mowgli knows better than to leave these things lying around! Oooh! My aching bear backside... .. *(Looking around, picking up the peels)*

What an awful mess! It's as if the monkeys were here.
(Suddenly realizing) The monkeys? Oh no!

Bagheera What?

Baloo *(Alarmed)* Don't you see? Banana peels everywhere— and now Mowgli is missing! The monkeys must have taken him to that city of theirs!

Baloo *(Terribly upset)* Great honeybees! Ohhh...it's all my fault for bothering the lad with my wrestling lesson! I should have warned him further about the monkeys instead! Oh what a mess I've made of things!

Bagheera Baloo, we have no time for self-pity.

Baloo Fool that I am! Oh, fat, root-digging fool that I am! I am the most miserable of bears!

Bagheera Baloo— get a hold of yourself. We have to think of a way to save him. The boy is wise and well taught— and he has eyes which the jungle people fear. Still, it is unfortunate that it is the monkeys who have captured him. Because they can so easily take to the trees, they are hardly afraid of anything...

Baloo Except...

Bagheera Yes?

Baloo When I was a little bearling, I was told that the only one the monkeys fear is Kaa.

Bagheera Kaa? You mean the python?

Baloo Oh, yes. She is very cunning, and since she has no feet— she can easily slither up the trees and the monkeys cannot escape her coils! They are terrified of her!

Bagheera Can she be trusted?

Baloo She is a friend of all those who compliment her looks. She is very vain, so I have heard. She will do anything for those who flatter her.

Bagheera Then by all means let us ask for her help...Do you know where she lives?

Baloo Yes, this way... Oh... if anything happens to him I will resign as a teacher, Bagheera! Resign— I tell you!

(Lighting transitions as they quickly make their way to opposite side of stage. Kaa enters, holding a golden, jeweled mirror, looking at herself intently. Baloo and Bagheera cautiously approach. Kaa slightly accentuates her "S's" in snake-like fashion)

Kaa *(Without looking away from her mirror, in highbrow, detached tone)* Who is it?

Baloo I am Baloo, the very foolish and inept teacher. And this is Bagheera...wise counsel to the wolf pack –

Kaa *(Still not looking at them)* Oh yes. I have heard of you. And you have obviously heard of me. Otherwise, why else would you be here?

Baloo Yes, of course, everyone knows Kaa the python.

Kaa Did you know I stole this from the monkeys? They found it in the treasure troves of that place they call Monkey City....it was made by humans in order to look at oneself. I find it to be a most pleasant diversion.

Baloo Terrible lot, the monkeys...

Kaa Most terrible...Now, let me get a look at you. *(Turning from mirror)* Even a face such as mine grows a little dull after staring at it for so long. Now then. Why have you come? You've heard of me. So you wanted to confirm the reports of my legendary beauty, is that it? You know— some say, my beauty is hypnotic— and that many who look into my eyes....can never look away again...

Baloo *(Gazing at Kaa, and then snapping out of it)* Well, that's all very well— but we have an urgent matter to discuss with you.

Kaa Oh?

Bagheera It's the monkeys.

Kaa Nasty creatures.

Baloo You see, they've captured my student— Mowgli, the man-cub.

Kaa So it's true the stories I've heard...of a man-cub in the jungle. I did not believe it.

Baloo We must rescue him....but we cannot do it alone....We need your help. We love him, Kaa.

Kaa He is your friend?

Baloo Yes.

Kaa I had a friendship once....but it ended quickly. She had the most dreadful manners...one of those spitting cobras, you know. I can't stand bad manners. Now, the only friend I have is the one I see in this mirror. And she never disappoints. *(Looks back in mirror)*

Bagheera *(Growing impatient)* Will you help us or not?

Kaa I don't know. The monkeys weary me. I am not in the mood to deal with them today.

Baloo But what about Mowgli?

Kaa The man-cub? I don't see why that's any concern of mine.

Baloo *(Winking at Bagheera)* Well, it's not. We just thought you might like to thwart the monkey's plot. After all...they are most disrespectful to you.

Bagheera *(Winking back)* Oh... yes... in fact, I think I once heard them call you an ugly, yellow-bellied worm.

Kaa *(Dropping mirror)* What!? Did they say that? Me... a— a— worm?

Baloo Yellow bellied and ugly...

Kaa Ohhh... how dare those filthy little creatures insult me in such a manner. They could never recognize true beauty if it stared them in the face. I think it's time I taught them some manners....Bagheera, Baloo— let us go to Monkey City. *(She stands, and they begin to exit)*

Baloo Thank you, Kaa.

Bagheera *(Flattering)* You are quite gracious.

Kaa Don't think I'm going just to settle my own score— I do feel a sort of need to help this Mowgli you are so attached to. I can be generous as well as beautiful.

Baloo Of course, of course. *(Winking at Bagheera)*

Bagheera Let's hurry— we've not a moment to lose!
(Scene transitions as they exit. Optional blackout)

SCENE 9: MONKEY CITY

(We see the ruins of the city, with various monkeys hanging around. Mowgli enters, led by Monkeys 1-3)

Monkey 1 Here it is.... Monkey City!

Monkey 2 So what do you think?

Mowgli Uh...

Monkey 3 We know it's a little run down— but that's where you come in!

Mowgli Me?

Monkey 1 We've elected for you to be our new leader!

Mowgli What?

Monkey 1 With you in charge— things are going to be different! Why— this could be the year of the monkey!

Monkey 2 Year of the monkey? Ooh! I like the sound of that!

Monkey 3 *(To Mowgli)* You'll teach us how to do everything— and then you'll do it for us!

Mowgli I will?

Monkey 1 Sure... why— don't you see...?

SONG: "MONKEY BUSINESS"

Monkey 1 We're tired of monkey in' around—
You could help us to get off the ground—
You've got smarts— and so for starts—
Show us how to do the things you do....

Monkey 2 Others say that we're a bunch of heels!
Got no more brains than banana peels
But they'll turn green— when they've seen—
Our fearless leader that is you...

Mowgli *(Spoken)* Me?

Monkey 3 *(Throwing "building" materials)* Take these leaves and take these sticks—
Throw some rocks in just for kicks—
You'll build it all— we'll be enthralled
And we won't have to do a thing...

Mowgli *(Spoken)* You won't?

Monkey 3 Hoo ha!

Monkeys Hee, hee!

Monkey 3 Hoo ha!

Monkeys Hee, hee!

All Three Hoooo..... haaaaa!!!!

You'll teach us how to do it all—
 And then you'll do it for us—
 Work has been our one downfall –
 Because it really bores us—
 It's a monkey's business
 To have fun and play all day
 So you can work the whole day long—
 And we'll collect the pay!

(Other monkeys join with the other three, as Mowgli reluctantly builds a "toy house" out of the debris, as they watch excitedly)

Monkey 1 What an amazing feat!
Monkeys Ooohhhh.....Ahhhhh...
Monkey 2 An astonishing display.....
Monkeys Oooohhh...Eeee....
Monkey 3 Isn't it neat?
Monkeys Ahhhh....
Monkeys We have our very own man-cub –that's now here to stay!

Mowgli *(Spoken; shocked)* What?

Monkeys Our poor city's falling out of shape—
 It's not worthy, even of an ape—
 But that will change— you'll rearrange
 Our home will look as good as new!

Mowgli *(Holding out some sticks)* How about if you give it a try?

Monkey 2 Might as well ask us to fly!
Monkeys Stop your jokes— it'd be a hoax—
 It's not like we have your I. Q.!
 Hoo ha!
 Hee, hee!
 Hoo ha!
 Hee, hee!
 Hoooo.....haaaaaa!!!!

(Musical interlude / dance sequence. The monkeys take the materials that Mowgli has handed them and try to build the "toy house" as he has, but they make a mess of it— give up and start throwing it around as they dance. Some of them take the sticks and start turning them into "drums" of sorts and start tapping out a rhythm on the stage. Others are swinging on vines. Mowgli shakes his head and tries to escape but the monkeys keep dragging him back into the number)

(Song resumes)

You'll teach us how to do it all—
 And then you'll do it for us—
 Work has been our one downfall –
 Because it really bores us—
 It's a monkey's business
 To have fun and play all day
 So you can work the whole day long—
 And we'll collect the pay!
 Man-cub— we're glad you came our way!

Mowgli That's all very nice, but I need to be getting back. Baloo and Bagheera must be wondering where I am by now.

Monkey 1 Ah, forget about it— who needs them anyway?

Monkey 2 We're your family now!

Mowgli If it's all the same to you, I'd better be going.

Monkey 3 But what about all the fun we were going to have?

Mowgli I think I've had enough fun for one day.

Monkey 1 Aww... we're so disappointed. Can you just stay to play a game before you go?

Mowgli What kind of game?

Monkey 2 Oh— its loads of fun!
(A couple of other monkeys draw close to Mowgli with a couple of rope-like vines, that they give to Monkeys 1 & 3)

Monkey 1 Well you see— you take one of these vines here— and I hold on to one end— and you loop this right around here... *(Monkey ties Mowgli's wrist with the vine, and holds on to the other end)*
And then I pull you around for a little ways... like this... *(Monkey 1 drags Mowgli along playfully)*

Mowgli What's so fun about that?

Monkey 3 The real fun comes in, when I take my vine— and do the same thing! *(Monkey 3 quickly ties Mowgli's wrist with his vine, and hangs on to the other end. They each have a sort of tug-of-war)*
(Struggling) I don't think I like this game...

Mowgli Oh, but here's the best part... *(They attach the ends of the vine they are holding to parts of the ruins, with Mowgli's arms stretched out, hopelessly caught)*

Monkey 1 What are you doing!? Let me go! Untie me right now! Let me go— or I'll—

Mowgli Ha, ha, ha, ha!

Monkeys You're not going nowhere!

Monkey 3 You're nothing but a bunch of liars!

Mowgli Yeah— isn't it amazing!?

Monkey 2 Ha,ha,ha, ha!

Monkeys *(On the floor, in special lighting, Baloo and Bagheera enter)*

Baloo Look— there he is! Oh— my— how that makes my blood boil! Look how they've tied him up! I'd like to tie them up with their own tails!

Bagheera Not yet Baloo...we have to wait for Kaa...

Baloo Just wait till I get my get my paws on them...

Bagheera Now remember, we're to create a diversion, while Kaa slips around the back.

Baloo *(Totally absorbed)* Let me at them!
(A comical fight scene ensues, as Baloo rushes towards Mowgli, and the monkeys attack)

Monkeys It's Baloo! The bear! Get him! Don't let the man-cub escape! etc.
(Bagheera joins in the fray, and tries to get to Mowgli as well, but the monkeys prove to be very tough fighters. Mowgli struggles against the vines that bind him. Suddenly, when Baloo and Bagheera almost seem overcome— Kaa steps into the scene)

Monkey 2 Hey look! It's Kaa!

Monkey 1 Kaa?

Monkey 3 Oh noooo!

Monkey 2 Run for your lives!!!

Monkeys AHHHHH.....!!!
(They all start to frantically run away when suddenly, Kaa says authoritatively :)

Kaa Not so fast! *(The monkeys stop in comical poses, trembling in fright)*
You see how they revere me? They hang on my every word! Now... it has come to my attention, that you referred to me as a... what was it, Baloo?

Baloo An ugly, yellow-bellied worm....

Kaa Yes... most offensive, I must say...

Monkey 1 Did we say that?

Monkey 2 Must have heard wrong...

Monkey 3 B-b-bears will say anything!

Kaa Perhaps you are right...but I also do not like the games you play. Tying up this poor man-cub for instance....Now, look into my eyes...

Monkey 1 Oh no....

Monkey 2 Don't do it!

Monkey 3 *(Trance-like)* They're so pretty...
(All the monkeys relax, in a hypnotized state, with their arms stretched out toward Kaa)

Kaa Ha, ha! You see? They'll do anything I say. Now— like good little monkeys— I want you all to jump up and down.
(The monkeys start jumping)

Kaa Ah...very good. Now how about turning around in circles. *(They comply)* Now hop on one leg.
(They comply) Wait— I've got it— jump up and down— turn around in circles and hop—

Bagheera I think that's enough nonsense for now Kaa. Let them go.

Kaa *(Sigh)* Very well.
(The monkeys begin spinning out of control, falling down and tripping over one another)

Kaa Stop! And now... uh... how shall I say it...uh... scram!

Monkey 1 We hear and obey...
(The monkeys stop in their tracks, then run, exiting frantically)

Kaa That wasn't so hard, was it?

Bagheera *(Getting up slowly)* Ow... if I'd known you could get rid of them that easily...I wouldn't have fought at all.

Baloo Oh my aching head! My stomach— pummeled by dozens of little monkey fists!

Mowgli Baloo— Bagheera— are you alright?

Bagheera A little bruised and battered....but the real question is... are you all right Little Brother?
(Unties Mowgli's wrists)

Mowgli I'm fine...

Baloo *(Leaping to his feet, and rushing over to Mowgli)* Mowgli! *(Grabbing the man-cub in a big bear-hug)* I would never have forgiven myself if anything had happened! Promise me you're alright?

Mowgli Uh, yeah...Baloo...uh... can you let go now? Besides... it was my fault.

Baloo What? You're fault? *(Backs up from Mowgli, indignant)* What nonsense! If anyone is to be blamed it is me.
(Mowgli is about to reply when Kaa draws near)

Kaa So this is the man-cub. I've heard that no one can look into your eyes... May I?
(Kaa peers at him, and then looks away)

Kaa How startling....Never before have I had to look away....You are quite strange and fascinating, man-cub... Perhaps, even more so than me.

Mowgli Uh...thanks. And thanks for saving me, and my two best friends.

Kaa Merely a routine matter... But all this action has made me tired.

Baloo *(Standing up)* You're tired? Humph!

Bagheera I think we all should head back to wolf territory immediately.

Baloo Yes, I never want to see this place again.
(They all exit)

(After a few moments, Tabaqui enters— followed by Shere Khan)

Tabaqui How strange, master— the place seems so very quiet... I have never known the monkeys to keep their mouths shut...

Shere Khan All too true, Tabaqui... So where are the half-wits? And more importantly...where is the man-cub!?

Tabaqui Perhaps they were unsuccessful in their capture.

Shere Khan Wait... I see something... look there...

(The monkeys slowly enter, hypnotized, walking about in zombie-like fashion)

Both *(Looking at each other)* Kaa!
(Shere Khan roars loudly and the monkeys suddenly wake up from Kaa's hypnosis)

Monkey 1 *(Snapping out of it, at the sound of Shere Khan's roar)* W- what happened?

Shere Khan *(Grabbing Monkey 1 and leering at him)* You failed to keep your end of the bargain— that's what happened! I should have known better than to bargain with such silly halfwits.

Monkey 1 We're monkeys.

Shere Khan *(Growling in rage, he throws Monkey 1 to the ground and he and Tabaqui quickly begin to exit)*

Monkey 2 Does this mean we don't get any food?

(Tabaqui tosses a bone he has been carrying and smirking, exits, following Shere Khan. The monkeys pick it up, looking very disappointed)
(Blackout)

SCENE 10: THE JUNGLE

(Bagheera and Baloo enter, with Mowgli following, looking heavy-hearted.)

Baloo Humph! Your behavior today Mowgli warrants the most severe of disciplines— but...I suppose just being around those insipid monkeys is punishment enough. See what I mean about the law? There's no going against it, is there?

Mowgli No, Baloo.

Baloo And you promise never to do it again?

Mowgli I promise...and I'm very sorry you both had to risk your lives on my account.

Bagheera All is forgiven, Little Brother.

Baloo And I, in turn promise to never treat you as if you were just another bear.

Mowgli *(A hint of sadness)* Oh— well— that's alright. Might as well be a bear, huh? After all— it gets a little lonely being the only man-cub in the jungle.
(He walks off, looking a bit sad, and sits down by the river)

Baloo Mowgli—

Bagheera Let him go, Baloo. That's one of his favorite places...there by the river.
(Baloo, Mowgli and Mother Wolf exit, leaving Mowgli alone; he gazes intently at his reflection in the river. Lighting transitions as we see a "flashback.")
(In special lighting, Little Mowgli and Mother Wolf enter)

Little Mowgli Mother— I was playing with the other wolf cubs today— and some of them were laughing at me... They said I was funny looking...

Mother Wolf Nonsense...

Little Mowgli But it's true Mother— I don't have a tail like them— or paws— I don't even have any fur... We were playing in the river— and I saw myself looking back at me... I look so different than they do. Why? Is there something wrong with me?

Mother Wolf *(Drawing him close)* Mowgli... the Maker of the jungle has created each of us to be suited for a certain purpose... And he has a very special purpose for you....

Little Mowgli Why didn't the Maker give me fur and a tail?

Mother Wolf Because... Mowgli... *(Pause)*...you're not a wolf-cub.

Little Mowgli I'm not?

Mother Wolf You are what they call a man-cub....

Little Mowgli I don't understand.

Mother Wolf You know how we sometimes take a wolf-cub into our pack, who has lost its family?

Little Mowgli Uh- huh...

Mother Wolf Well Mowgli, long before you can remember, you were a cub who was lost from yours.

Little Mowgli You mean— there are other man-cubs like me?

Mother Wolf Yes.

Little Mowgli In the jungle?

Mother Wolf No, not in the jungle.

Little Mowgli Then where? Will I ever find them someday?

Mother Wolf Perhaps...but for now, do not worry about such things... for you belong with us now, Mowgli— and we love you.
(They exit while lighting as Mowgli's "memory" ends)

SONG: "WHERE DO I BELONG?"

Mowgli Is it all really true?
 Is what they say right?
 It seems there's a thing or two
 That has not been brought to light...

I'm not quite the same
 I'm not really their son.
 Is it all just a game of pretend?
 Am I the only one?
 Where do I belong?
 Tell me— what is my song?
 Why don't I seem to fit in?
 Where do I belong?
 Tell me— what is my song?
 They say I'm one of them
 But I don't understand....

I don't have fur or claws
 No whiskers or tail
 Hands instead of paws
 And no feathers or scales...
 Something is telling me
 I was made for much more
 Is the jungle where I should be?
 Or is there another world
 I was made for?

Where do I belong?
 Tell me— what is my song?
 Why don't I seem to fit in?
 Where do I belong?
 Tell me— what is my song?
 They say I'm one of them
 But I don't understand.

Something is telling me
 I was made for more
 I wonder if there's another world
 Something is telling me
 I was made for more
 I wonder if there's another world
 That I was made for?

Where do I belong?
 Tell me— what's my song?
 Why don't I seem to fit in?
 Where do I belong?
 They say I'm one of them
 But I don't understand.
 I want to understand
 Why I feel this way.

(Wolves 1 & 2 enter, surrounding Mowgli in a threatening manner)

Wolf 1

Well, if it isn't the great man-cub....

Wolf 2

How'd your lesson go today, Mowgli?

Mowgli

It went alright.

Wolf 1

(Taunting) Pick any thorns out of anyone's paws today?

Wolf 2

Stare anyone down?

Wolf 1

(Threatening) Why do you have to have lessons anyway?

Wolf 2

Aren't you already smarter than everyone else?

Mowgli I...

Wolf 1 Maybe you could teach us a thing or two.

Wolf 2 Yeah— in fact— you should be the teacher, not the student.

Wolf 1 (*Mockingly*) Teach us— oh wise one—

Wolf 2 We need your guidance!

Bagheera (*Suddenly entering*) Leave him alone.

Wolf 1 Oh— ha— ha— we were just having a little fun.

Bagheera Leave him alone I said.
(*The other wolves exit reluctantly*)

Bagheera Mowgli, there is something I need to tell you.

Mowgli (*Angry*) Why do they have to be like that!? All I ever wanted was to be part of the pack—

Bagheera Are you really sure of that?

Mowgli Well— deep inside— I always wanted to find the pack I really came from. You know— be among others like me. But we all know that I am the only one in the jungle. Everyone else can belong— why can't I?

Bagheera Do not ever wish that. You would be no more happy being a wolf than... do you remember my story? As a cub I was captured by men and held as a prisoner in the rajah's palace. I was put in a cage... But, as I grew— I became strong enough to break the lock... And I returned to my home, and so fulfilled the Maker's purpose for me. Mowgli... I think it is time for you to return to your home.

Mowgli What? Bagheera I am home.

Bagheera You think so, because it is all you've ever known, Little Brother—

Mowgli I may feel a little out of place at times, but I love my Father and Mother— and my friends— I could never—

Bagheera Mowgli, we always knew this time would come. But it has come sooner than we realized.

Mowgli What do you mean?

Bagheera How often have I told you that Shere Khan is your enemy?

Mowgli What does the tiger have to do with this?

Bagheera Mowgli, he is drawing some of the wolves of the pack to his side. Word has even come to me that it was he who encouraged the monkeys to hold you prisoner.

Mowgli Why? What did I ever do to him?

Bagheera He is filled with hatred for all— but especially you, Little Brother. Because you have escaped him all these years. Lawbreakers cannot stand being deprived of their evil intentions. But there is more... Akela is the one who saved you from Shere Khan, even willing to defy the pack for you! Because he is growing old and weak, some of the wolves have plotted to kill him...

Mowgli What can we do?

Bagheera You must do what I always knew you would. You see, the Maker had a purpose for bringing you to us for a time, Mowgli. All creatures of the jungle are quite powerless against the tiger— except you.

Mowgli Me?

Bagheera There is one thing that Shere Khan, and indeed all creatures fear more than anything in the jungle...and only you can wield its power.

Mowgli What is it?

Bagheera The Red Flower...it is a glowing, living thing that is hot as the sun and eats everything in it's path if not carefully guarded. It grows in jars in the village.

Mowgli The village?

Bagheera Yes, Mowgli— the place where your pack lives.

Mowgli Others like me live there? And you know the way?

Bagheera Come Little Brother— you shall pick some of the Red Flower. You will keep it for the day when you must defend yourself— and all those who stand at your side.

Mowgli Must we go tonight?

Bagheera Yes, for I fear we haven't much time. Come.
(*Mowgli follows Bagheera as they exit. Scene transitions to "Village"*)

SCENE 11: THE VILLAGE

(We see a bamboo gate, with two glowing firepots hanging on either side. Bagheera and Mowgli enter on the floor and Bagheera points toward the gate. Mowgli goes towards it, and snatches one of the hanging firepots, and marvels at the glowing fire within. Suddenly, the gate swings open, and Neela, a young and beautiful village girl enters, balancing a water jar on her shoulder. Mowgli stays frozen in fear, unseen by her. She walks to the river and dips her water jar in. Mowgli decides to make a run for it while her back is turned. As he rushes by, she suddenly turns around and he stops for a moment, startled. Their eyes meet— and then frightened, Mowgli dashes off, exiting with Bagheera, leaving Neela quite puzzled)

SCENE 12: COUNCIL ROCK

(The wolves are gathered. Akela who looks and acts considerably older, hobbles along on his walking stick, taking his place as leader. Mother and Father Wolf look anxiously about them. Baloo and Bagheera enter as well)

Akela *(Tapping his stick)* Brothers and sisters of the pack—
Wolf 1 We don't have time for your long and dull speeches tonight, Akela!
Wolf 2 That's right— someone else is taking over the council!
Tabaqui *(Entering)* I think we have been called, Master.
Shere Khan Hello Akela. So gracious of the pack to invite me to the council meeting!
Akela Shere Khan— you are not welcome in wolf territory— much less at council--
Wolf 3 He is now!
Wolf 2 That's right!
Wolf 1 Times are changing, oh aged one! Shere Khan is going to lead the wolves into a new order!
Akela Imposter! A tiger can never be part of the pack!
Wolf 1 Better a tiger than a man-cub!
Wolf 2 Say— where is the man-cub!?
Wolves Where is he? Yes— where? Etc.
Mowgli *(Boldly)* Here I am. *(Mowgli steps out from behind the tree, holding the glowing firepot behind his back, he makes his way next to Akela)* I stand with Akela. Come against him, and you'll have to come against me.
(The wolves break out in laughter)
Wolf 1 What a joke! Oh— save me from an old wolf and a man-cub!
Wolf 2 I'm so scared!
Bagheera *(Taking his place at council rock)* I too stand with him.
Baloo As do I! Humph! I never thought I'd live to see the day when the wolf pack turned into a bunch of traitors— doing the bidding of that lame coward!
Father Wolf We stand with the leadership of Akela— and my son.
(Father and Mother Wolf also take their place with the group)
Tabaqui Come— all wolves who follow Shere Khan!
(Most of the wolves draw near to Shere Khan's side, opposing Akela's group. One wolf is left...indecisive and scared, but eventually also goes to Shere Khan)
Shere Khan *(Dripping with bitterness)* Oh dear, Akela— just look— I seem to have divided your pack. Now I have a pack of my own. You thought I would forever be alone, didn't you? Have you ever known the pain of being alone? I have. I was born lame— and cast out from my family as a defective disgrace....how I hated them for it...but I proved them wrong...I grew to be the most ruthless and feared of all in the jungle....Daring even to defy the law!
Akela It is nothing to be proud of Shere Khan....your hatred will destroy you. And as for your wolves— they are not at your side out of respect or friendship— but out of empty promises. The only "friends" you have are ones you can buy with deceit!
Shere Khan Enough! You speak as if you're still leader of the pack. No longer Akela! I will rule over these proceedings. Our first order of business tonight will be the man-cub...
Wolf 2 What does a man have to do with us!?
Wolf 1 Let him go to his own people!

Shere Khan Would you have him turn the people of the village against us? No...there is only one thing to do when men enter the jungle. Give him to me. He is a man and no one can look him between the eyes! When I think of how he's been accepted, and taught and spoiled...and—

Mother Wolf And loved?

Shere Khan That word means nothing to me. However— his “belonging” to the pack when he is obviously not a creature of the jungle— sickens me! Now you too will know what is like to be cast out, man-cub. Your wolves have turned against you— and your friends won't be able to save you this time...

Traitor Wolves Give him to Shere Khan! Down with Akela! Don't let them escape! Etc.

Bagheera *(To Mowgli)* Now the business is in your hands, Little Brother. We can do no more except fight.

(As song begins, Shere Khan draws closer to Mowgli, and the opposing sides get ready to fight)

SONG: “TIGER! TIGER!” (Reprise)

Shere Khan He doesn't belong here and it's no disguise
No creature can face him and look in his eyes...
Man-cub in the jungle —!

Traitor Wolves & Tabaqui A man among the wolves is wrong
He never could or will belong
Don't protect him— do not dare—
His place is in the tiger's lair!

Shere Khan *(Circling Mowgli)* At last— Man-cub we meet
My vengeance will be sweet—
And it's a dish, that's best served cold!
What made you think you could—
Belong— as if you should?
How could a boy— be oh so bold?
Jungle trespassers make one fatal flaw
They walk through the trees and then into my claws...
Man-cub in the jungle— !

Traitor Wolves & Tabaqui A man among the wolves is wrong
He never could or will belong
Don't protect him— do not dare—
His place is in the tiger's lair!
(All freeze except Mowgli and Mother Wolf as music transitions)

Mother Wolf Don't fret, my dear one
Be strong and be very brave
Your destiny calls, son
Akela you must save
As once, long ago,
Your life had been spared
You stand to return
That grace that was shared.

Mowgli The outrage I'm feeling— will not be withdrawn—
I'll never give in to this monster— Shere Khan!
A new day has— *(Shouted)* dawned!
(All unfreeze, as Mowgli's last line of the song startles them)

Mowgli *(To wolves)* So... you've come to cast me out have you? I would have wanted to be part of the pack... It seems all my life I've tried to belong here in the jungle... I will go back to my own pack... back to the village. But before I do— I have a debt to repay. For you see it was Akela who saved my life when I was very small, long ago. Now I will save his. You are right that I am a man— with a man's weapon!

- (Picks up a stick and reveals the glowing firepot. The wolves gasp and draw back)*
- Shere Khan** What... !?
- Mowgli** You should know what this is Shere Khan... you've seen the Red Flower many times, haven't you?
- Tabaqui** Master— I think it is time for me to be going... *(Tabaqui runs off, the wolves begin to follow)*
- Shere Khan** Where are you going!?! Come back— you fools!!! *(The wolves reluctantly stay rooted to their position)* He is only a man-cub— playing with a man's tools!
(Mowgli dips his stick in the firepot and throws it in their midst, it explodes in a nearby plant and causes the wolves to whimper in fear)
- Mowgli** Bagheera taught me well.
- Wolf 1** Sorry Shere Khan— we can't stand up to the Red Flower!
- Wolf 2** That's asking too much!
- Mowgli** You are never to come back to wolf territory— do you understand me!? *(Threatens them with fiery stick)*
- Wolf 3** We understand!
(The wolves scatter and exit, leaving Shere Khan alone)
- Mowgli** Well? Why are you still here? Go— or I will set your coat ablaze!
- Shere Khan** This is not the end! One day... we will meet again and you will be without your friends and the Red Flower. One day...
- Mowgli** I said to GET OUT OF HERE! *(Rushes at Shere Khan with the fire, and Shere Khan flees)*
(Mowgli's friends and parents howl, yap, growl their approval)
- Mowgli** You are safe now Akela. And now I must go— for it is because of me that Shere Khan has invaded the pack. I won't have you suffer any longer on my account.
- Mother Wolf** No! We love you my son—
- Akela** We will stand with you as we always have—
- Mowgli** It's not just Shere Khan... You see... I know that deep inside I long to be where I came from....
(Mowgli suddenly drops the firepot and stick he is holding, and falls on his knees, deeply troubled. He puts his face in his hands, then draws back, staring at his wet hands. He slaps at the tears running down his face, appalled. Bagheera draws near)
- Mowgli** *(Crying)* What is it? I do not wish to leave the jungle, and I do not know what this is. Am I dying, Bagheera?
- Bagheera** No, Little Brother. Those are only tears such as men use. They speak of a man's pain without using words. Now I know you are a man, and a man's cub no longer. The jungle is shut indeed to you from now on. Let them fall, Mowgli— they are only tears.
(Bagheera hugs Mowgli, while the others draw near)
- Mother Wolf** Mowgli?
- Mowgli** *(Standing up and wiping his face)* Yes, Mother?
- Mother Wolf** *(Holding out amulet)* This belongs to you... I've saved it ever since I found you so many seasons ago...I believe it belonged to your real mother...
- Mowgli** *(Taking amulet and looking at it)* Thank you... but, you're the only mother I've known.
- Mother Wolf** And I have loved you as much as any of my cubs.
- Father Wolf** As have I. *(They hug)*
- Bagheera** Here Mowgli... It goes around your neck like this. *(He places the necklace around Mowgli's neck, with the amulet resting on his chest)* There. Now you are ready to return to your true home...
- Mowgli** But how can I be ready to leave this one behind?

SONG: "THE MAN-CUB'S GOODBYE"

- Mowgli** You've taught me so many things
I will never forget
But there is one lesson
I haven't learned yet.

Baloo
Bagheera
Mowgli

Sometimes a test is given, before we ever learn...
 Sometimes the path we're on, takes an unexpected turn...
 It's clear I don't know
 Will you please show—?
 How to say goodbye—
 How could they ever dare—
 To end the times we share?
 To cast me from the friendship of the pack?
 Never to come back...
 I've loved you as if you were...
 One of my own...

Mother Wolf
Father Wolf

Our love goes with you, my son—
 So don't feel alone...

Akela
Baloo
All

This old wolf has been saved, you are brave and kind...
 A better student, a teacher could never, ever find...
 It's clear we don't know
 We'll try to show you
 How to say goodbye—
 Without you there will be an empty space...
 Time and age cannot erase
 Since the day you came...
 Our lives have never been the same
 If you're not here... what will we do?
(Brief musical transition)

Mowgli *(To Bagheera)*

My friend and my brother—
 All I can say is
 Without your guidance—
 I will lose my way...
Bagheera
 Little Brother— you are now a man
 And it's time for moving on...
Mowgli
 Without you by my side...
 The days will seem so long...
Bagheera
 Wherever you are
 I won't be far...
Mowgli
 Time to say goodbye—
 I will hold you deep within my heart...
 Now my friends... we part...
(Mowgli quickly exits)
(Music transitions to minor key and Shere Khan emerges from opposite side of stage)

Shere Khan

Man-cub— wherever you go—
 It's just a question of "when"
 Our paths... will... meet... again— !
(Shere Khan roars as music crescendos)

(Blackout)

End of Act I

ACT II

(Preshow: The cyclorama is now set to night during intermission, and will gradually grow to morning, then day, just before the 2nd Act begins. The setting is “the village.” As in the other preshow, we see the villagers going about their business in pantomime. We see two guards at the gate, one on his watch, one asleep as they rotate their shifts. We see a beggar huddling in his rags seeking warmth from a nearby fire. Others gathered round the fire drive him off. Buldeo, the village elder draws near and excites everyone with a story. Messua sits in her home, looking lonely and sad. Soon, everyone goes to sleep for the night. As morning dawns, Neela enters with her water jar, draws water from the river, and returns. The beggar asks her for water, and she cautiously pours some into his cup. A few villagers enter, and start selling various food items in baskets. When the entr’acte begins, they freeze, while the lights dim and then unfreeze as the lights rise and the scene begins)

Entr’acte**SCENE 1: THE VILLAGE****SONG: “OTHERS LIKE ME”**

Villagers *(Indian-like chant)* Ahhhh.....Ahhhh.....Ahhhh....Ahhh...
Mowgli Others like me!
 What a welcome sight to see—
 What will they say
 When I interrupt their day?

Villagers *(Indian-like chant)* Ahhhh.....Ahhhh.....Ahhhh....Ahhh...
Mowgli Is this really home that I have found, at last now?
 If you’re a man— I guess it’s the place to be
 I hope I can learn to fit in somehow—
 With others like me...
(Mowgli approaches)

Villager 1 What have we here?
 Why do you stand there in fear?

Village Woman Who could he be?
Villager 2 Quite a strange uncertainty—
(Villagers inspect Mowgli curiously)

Villager 2 Is he from a land afar? I wish— he’d tell us!
Village Woman He doesn’t seem to understand a word— we say!
Villager 1 Leave him alone— don’t make a fuss—
 I’ve got— the answer—
 I know who’s come our way!
(Song pauses)

Village Woman *(Spoken)* What do you mean? Who could he be?
Villager 1 Who else but the lost woodcutter’s son? He looks about the right age.
Villager 2 But, how could he have survived?
Villager 1 The jungle is a strange place— and there is much we do not understand.
Village Woman *(Spoken)* I’ve got to go tell Messua! *(Village Woman exits)*
Villager 2 Why?
Villager 1 Don’t you remember anything? She’s the mother of the baby that was lost to the jungle many seasons ago.
Villager 2 Ohhh...
Villager 1 This young man could be him!

Villager 2 Ah!
(Village Woman reenters with Messua following)

Village Woman There he is, Messua. Now tell us— is he your son?

Villager 2 How would she know? She lost him when he was a baby— he’s almost a man now!

Village Woman Mothers know these things. Messua?
(Messua draws near to Mowgli, and looks into his eyes, she then touches the amulet he is wearing and she gasps)

Messua *(Overwhelmed)* Yes... yes... this is my son! The jungle has given back my son to me!
(She embraces Mowgli who seems a little confused)

Village Woman *(Sniff)* Oh— it makes me want to cry!

Villager 2 What’s wrong with the boy? Why doesn’t he speak?

Villager 1 Don’t you know anything? The boy’s lived in the jungle all his life— he doesn’t know how to talk.

Villager 2 Ah!
(Buldeo enters with great authority and dignity and the villagers take a respectful stance)

Villager 1 Buldeo— Messua’s son has returned to her!

Village Woman After all these many seasons... isn’t it wonderful?

Messua He has returned from the jungle... He wears the amulet I left him when he was a baby... Please, Buldeo— please allow him to join our village.

Buldeo Hmm... wild looking, isn’t he? Are you sure he’s safe?

Messua He is my son, Nathoo— of course he is safe—

Buldeo Where have you been all this time, boy? Well— don’t just stare at me! Speak up!
(Mowgli opens his mouth, and shakes his head)

Villager 2 He can’t understand you.

Villager 1 He’s been in the jungle all this time.

Buldeo He’s practically uncivilized! Are you sure he can be taught?

Messua I will take him in to my home— he will learn our ways. He will learn to become proper and a fine man like his father was.

Buldeo See to it that he does. Hopefully he will grow to be as skilled a woodcutter as his father.

Messua Thank you, Buldeo.

Buldeo And remember, Messua— as your son has been returned to you— don’t forget to give a generous offering to the priests... You wouldn’t want the gods to frown on you for lack of gratitude...

Messua I shall not forget.
(He exits)

Village Woman *(Aside to Villager 1)* Buldeo gets whatever the priests don’t use! Every time something good happens, it’s “Don’t forget to be thankful!”

Villager 1 Shhh! Such talk will get you into trouble...

Messua *(Forgetting that Mowgli cannot understand)* Oh— Nathoo— do you know that is your name? *(Touching amulet)* This belonged to your father. He gave it to me when we married. I wore it always. I know my son has returned because of this...

Messua *(Song resumes)*
This amulet, I gave you
On the night we parted...
When I lost you, how it left me—
So broken-hearted...
But the jungle didn’t swallow you—
It’s brought you here to me...
Oh my son— deep within— I always knew...
A mother’s heart can see...
(All freeze, except Mowgli)

Villagers *(Indian-like chant)* Ahhhh...Ahhhh...Ahhhh...Ahhh...
Mowgli Others like me...
How I wonder what will be...

Is there a trace—
Of the jungle in this place...?

(Blackout)

SCENE 2: MESSUA'S HUT

(Mowgli is looking at everything inside the hut very inquisitively, while Messua is looking inside a chest, pulling out clothes)

Messua

(Rambling with excitement and joy) These were your father's clothes... I think they'll just fit. You even look a bit like him. You can't understand a word I say, can you? No matter. I'll keep talking—and you'll soon learn everything. Here—now—let's put these on—
(She helps Mowgli to dress) How I wish he were here to see you. *(She places a turban on his head)* He would be very proud to have such a strong and brave son. So many adventures you must have had. Someday you'll have to tell me what it was like... all those seasons in the jungle... were you lonely? I certainly was. Let's get the mirror so you can see yourself. This is your face. I'll be back in a moment, son, I have to fetch something from the market. Are you hungry? We will celebrate your return with a fine meal. Now—wait here. *(She sits him down on bed and signals for him to stay. Mowgli smiles at her, and she exits. He sits down on the bed, and examines his clothes. He takes off his turban and stares at it in his hands. He walks over again to the mirror and picks it up, looking into it. He puts the turban on to see how it looks)*

(During an instrumental sequence, we see in special lighting, "Mowgli's Father", dressed in the same clothing, holding "Baby Mowgli." The memory fades as he sees a small carved wooden figure of a howling wolf. He picks it up. In another special light, Mother and Father Wolf enter, playing with "Little Mowgli." The memory is painful. He sets the figure down forcefully, ending the memory. Throwing his turban onto the floor, he walks out of the hut, and out into the village, the music building to the song as he makes his way to the well)

SCENE 3: WELL ON THE VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS

Mowgli

(Runs up to Bagheera and hugs him) Bagheera! What are you doing here?

Bagheera

I told you I wouldn't be very far away. But this is too close. I have only come to say I will try to meet you further away, at the river.

Mowgli

Can you come often?

Bagheera

I will try. Well, Little Brother—you look different.

Mowgli

Oh—these? *(Pulls at his shirt)* Yes. I think perhaps they are my father's. I imagined him for a moment... holding me when I was very young... I wish I could have known him.

Bagheera

You have found your mother though?

Mowgli

Yes. She is very kind and talks to me often—although I can't understand a word she says. I don't know man's talk—what if I never learn how to—

Bagheera

You will learn Mowgli.

Mowgli

And then we have to live inside a... a...

Bagheera

A hut.

Mowgli

(Disappointed) Uh... yes—and I feel so closed in. You can't even see the sky, Bagheera. I feel like the jungle's calling me—and I'm trapped—as trapped as you were in that cage in the king's palace. You said that I would feel a sense of freedom here... why don't I?

Bagheera

It takes time Little Brother—even I felt strange when I left my cage to go back to the jungle. We become so used to the places we think are home, that we are blinded for a moment to what really is home. Soon, you will feel that your place is in the village, and the jungle will seem like nothing more than a pleasant dream. Trust me on that?

Mowgli

I will. But this is a much harder lesson to take than any of Baloo's.

Bagheera

The Maker's lessons usually are, Little Brother.

Mowgli Bagheera— I've always wondered— why do you call me Little Brother?
Bagheera When I was captured— I was separated from my family....I had a little brother whom I loved very much. When I returned to the jungle, try as I might— I never saw him again. So, when I saw you— a little one separated from its own... I had to help you. For I know what it is like to be separated from one's family... So you are my brother, for our paths in life have been so similar...

Mowgli Walking down the path is much easier....with a friend beside you. *(He grips Bagheera's shoulder)*

Bagheera That's right!... There is someone coming... I must go. Remember— I will come here to the river when I can. Walk well, Little Brother.
(He quickly exits and Mowgli turns around to find Neela— the village girl whom he saw in Act I, coming toward him with her water jar. He is suddenly filled with nervousness)

Neela *(Suddenly seeing him)* Oh— it— it's you... Please don't run away again. You don't have to be afraid. I thought it was you... the village has talked of nothing else today but Messua's son returning. You are her son? *(Mowgli touches his mouth, and shakes his head)* You cannot speak? No, I suppose you only know the language of the jungle... Let's see... I...am... Neela. *(She refers to herself)* ...Neela.

Mowgli *(Dawning on him, he points to her)*... Neela...
Neela Yes...and you are Nathoo, the woodcutter's son? *(She points to him)*
Mowgli *(Shakes head, and then taps his chest)*... Mowgli...
Neela Mowgli? *(He nods)* Is that the name they gave you in the jungle then? You miss them, don't you? I shall call you Mowgli. See... you told me your name... and soon you'll be talking like everyone else. *(She dips her water jar into the river. Mowgli, a bit infatuated, takes the water jar and tries to balance it on his shoulder as he has seen Neela do)*

Neela Oh— ha, ha— why— thank you...that's very kind...
(Mowgli walks, but accidentally drops the jar, and looks very dejected)

Neela Oh— that's all right— I'll just fill it again. *(Fills jar and hands it to Mowgli, who places it on his shoulder again— and this time walks without spilling it)* Very good... I don't think anyone has ever helped me carry the water before. Whoever you lived with in the jungle, they must have been very well-mannered.
(Neela walks beside Mowgli, who follows her with a loving gaze, through the gate and back into the village as scene transitions)

SCENE 4: THE VILLAGE

(Villagers are going about their business nearby as Neela and Mowgli walk through, Village boys 1 & 2 enter)

Village Boy 1 *(Annoyed at Mowgli's presence)* Hello Neela— who is this?
Neela His name is Mowgli— he's—
Village Boy 2 That's the jungle boy everyone's been talking about.
Village Boy 1 Why is he carrying the water!?! What a girl!
Neela He's helping me. I think it's very nice of him.
Village Boy 1 Why isn't he saying anything?
Village Boy 2 He doesn't know how. He's never been anywhere except in the jungle. He's as dumb as as dirt.
Neela He is not—
Village Boy 1 Look— he doesn't even understand what you just said about him! Ha, ha!
Village Boy 2 *(Getting in Mowgli's face)* You stay away from Neela— got that jungle boy?
(Mowgli backs away)
Village Boy 1 Ha, ha! What a coward! Look at him back away...
Neela You two had better leave him alone—
Village Boy 2 *(Taunting)* Do you really not know what I'm saying— or are you just too afraid to open your mouth!?! *(Village Boy 2 cruelly shoves Mowgli, and he spills the water)*
Village Boy 2 Ha, ha, ha— what happened to your water....?