

MONKEY MAYHEM

SFCC MELTON 67





THE KIDS' CANCER PROJECT

WRITE A BOOK IN A DAY

Parameters Form

Team Details

STATE: VIC
DIVISION: Upper School (Required word count 3500 to 5000 words)
SCHOOL/GROUP: St Francis Catholic College
TEAM NAME: SFCC Melton 1
TEAM ID: 1378

Parameters and random words

Parameters

Primary character 1 Grandmother
Primary character 2 Jeweller
Non-human character Chimpanzee
Setting Birthday party
Issue A new pet

Random words

novel
goeey
yarn
plunge
homework

Instructions

- Start no earlier than **8am**
- Write an original story:
 - based on all **five parameters** (above)
 - including all **five random words** (above) as written, and in bold type
 - with some identifiable **Australian content** (in theme or setting or characters, etc)
 - keeping within the allowed word count (remember every word on every page counts)!
 - include this parameters form in your book **immediately after the front cover**
- Remember: **Every** word on **every** page counts. This includes your front cover, back cover, blurb, acknowledgements and copyright form.
- Be sure to give yourself enough time to submit your book and complete the following checklist before 9pm**

Log on to the Team Coordinator Portal to:

- ☐ Check the spelling of your team name and team members' names
(how these are spelt on submission will be how they are displayed on certificates)
- ☐ Complete the Declaration
- ☐ Submit your finished book in **both** PDF and plain text format by 9pm

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Published by SFCC Melton 67, St Francis Catholic College, 109-141 Bulmans Rd,
Melton West VIC 3337

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SFCC Melton 67 would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this book was created, the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

SFCC Melton 67 would also like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this book will be read. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

PROLOGUE

It was all swell at Gabriella's birthday party, little red bows and silver streams decorated the wall, with a big table that was able to fit Gabriella's 8 friends and family sitting in the corner.

Grandma Jozie was setting up the table full of all different types of sweet and savoury food including pizza, fairy bread, frogs in a pond, sausage rolls, lamingtons, and all other types of snacks. All of Gabriella's friends were chirping away with laughs and giggles filling up the room. As they played musical chairs, the group of girls tripped over after trying to steal the last seat.

"Gran, oh my gosh, this party is so lit, thank you!!"

"You're welcome sweetie..." Jozie replied, not really paying attention to the child.

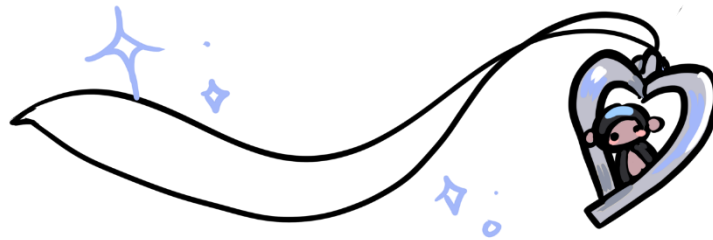
Near the window, Grandma Jozie spotted a dark-haired figure running past in the corner of her eye. Rattling could be heard on the roof, but then, it goes quiet. The laughs of Gabriella, her friends, and their family broke the silence.

After a while the old woman finally dropped the paranoia and informed the guests that it was time for cake. She went to get the red velvet cake, adorned with

white frosting, dollops of snowy cream and red bows placed around the cake. The lights turned off and Grandma walked into the room, the fire from the candles being the only light source. The song Happy Birthday then filling the room.

SPLOSH!

The cake **plunged** towards the floor.



The Birthday Quest

“Hey, wake up Gran!” A sweet voice rang into Jozie’s ears. A young girl stood in front of her bedframe.

It was a dream. *Thank goodness!* A cold sweat ran down her hunched back as she hesitantly got up. The image of a ruined party left a small sense of anxiety within her heart. Jozie didn’t want her granddaughter’s special occasion to be ruined. Either way, it was just a dream and there was nothing that could ever ruin the party... *Right?* Gabriella, the young teen, quickly pulled Jozie out of her bed.

The two walked out of their warm, two-story house towards the town square. The bustling streets were filled with many stores. It was time to go shopping for Gabriella. Jozie remembered when her granddaughter was younger, they used to always walk down those same streets, window shopping in the summer heat. Jozie adored that child. Ever since her daughter left for Canada, she was heartbroken, left only with a singular child that the younger woman couldn’t take care of. Although it was a bit disappointing, Jozie saw this as a blessing. Her dearest Gabriella was the new light of her world, and she made sure that she would never disappoint her like she did with her own daughter.

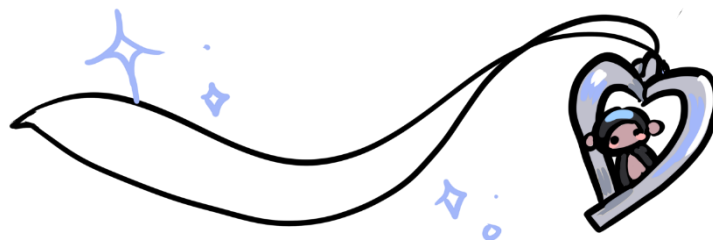
After a few hours of following Gabriella while looking through stores filled with **novels** and **yarn**, the young lady came to a stop. Curious, Jozie peeked at the child's face and found her fixated on a particular store across the street.

"Gran, what's that store over there?"

As she turned her head towards the shop. Jozie noticed straight away its vintage-like appeal. Many jewels adored the shelves, with bright and flashy jewellery worn by wood, delicately carved into hands.

"You want to go in there, sweetheart?" Jozie smiled while Gabriella's eyes lit up in excitement.

"Yes Gran, please!" She jumped happily; her arms wrapped around her grandmother's before practically dragging the old woman towards the jewellery store.



Magic Works Its Wonders

The ring of the bell filled the shop.

“Welcome!”

A tall man with glasses shouted from across the wooden hallway. His voice echoed in a supernatural tone; glitter fell out of his mouth with every word he spoke. He had a small nametag on the right side of his chest labelled ‘Bruno’. The man stood in front of a handmade wooden table filled with old lamps and intricate machines. Many shelves accompanied the walls, stacked with jars of crystals and diamonds. However, there was one glass shelf that held many unique necklaces. The black-haired man then walked towards Jozie and Gabriella.

“Hey ladies, how can I help you today?” He spoke charismatically.

“Hello young man, we are just looking for gifts that my granddaughter here would like. It’s her birthday soon.” Jozie replied.

“Sweet! If there’s anything you need, just let me know.” He winked and walked back to his workshop desk. As he winked, sparkles flew around him in the air.

Gabriella's interest was piqued by the glass shelf. She led her grandmother to the necklaces, where silver and gold chains with pendants stocked the shelf. There were ones with cats, dogs, and even fish pendants; the list went on. One particularly stood out though, its reflection glimmering in Gabriella's eyes. It was a long silver chain with a pendant shaped in a cute Chimpanzee-like figure, surrounded by diamonds.

"Gran... this is the one. *Look* at it." Gabriella's eyes were sparkling in awe.

The young man overheard and hurried over to the two customers.

"So, is this the one? It's one of my greatest pendants. It took me around 4-5 years because I had to place each diamond one by one." He said, carefully opening the shelf door and picking up the necklace.

"It's... beautiful." Gabriella was shocked, as magic overtook her.

"Well... it's alright I guess." Jozie spoke awkwardly, wrinkling her nose slightly.

"Since it's your birthday, I may even be able to sneak in a little discount."

Bruno winked again, and smirked.

The young teen squealed in excitement but just as she's about to grab the necklace off the man, a fragile hand crept upon Gabriella's shoulder.

"Dear, why don't we keep searching? We haven't explored the whole shop yet."

"Okay... but I think I like this one, it stands out to me." Gabriella muttered, completely entranced.

"Love, don't you think this one is a bit strange? A monkey? I think the cat or even the dog just looks a little more fetching." Jozie glanced over at the other necklaces displayed within the glass shelf.

"Come on gran! It's a chimpanzee! It's unique and I like it! Cats and dogs are so basic. It's *literally* my birthday and you said I could get *anything*." The girl whined in desperation.

"Dear, just take a look at other ones, perhaps something more on the 'pleasing' side." Jozie put her arm around Gabriella's shoulders and led her in a different direction.

“Alright, just call out for help if you find something else.” Bruno placed the necklace back into its glass cage and walked off towards his bench--sparkly buttons following behind him in his wake with every step he took.

Jozie had an odd feeling about this shop; it felt enchanted, like every charm and pendant here was cursed. Bruno had a magical aura, like he had a special trait that made him feel so different to others. Something magical was inhabiting the place and Jozie knew it.

Gabriella looked at every shelf and closely examined the characteristics of each necklace and bracelet, but nothing could spiritually connect with her the way that the Chimpanzee necklace did.

She ran into Bruno, pouting with a strong, sorrowful expression.

“Hey, are you good?” Bruno asked Gabriella with empathy.

“I really liked that chimpanzee necklace, I don’t know why but it stood out to me.”

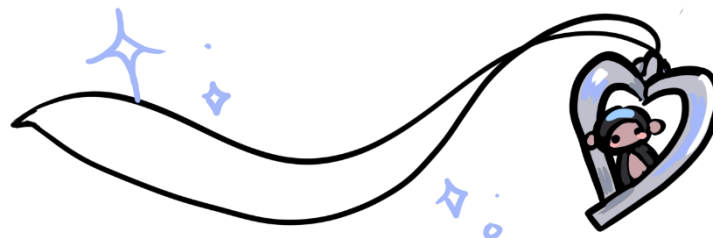
“You know, magic works its wonders in many ways. Not just through a deck of cards or a magical wand; it can enchant through small stuff too.” He gestured towards the shelf that held necklaces.

“Whatever that’s supposed to mean...” She responded, tilting her head to the side, confused.

“Gabriella, we still need to buy other decorations. Let’s go! We can come back next year dear.” Her grandmother shouted from the other side of the shop, which signalled her to come back.

“I have to go now, I guess I’ll just come back next year.” Gabriella walked off rapidly, as she waved goodbye to the young jeweller.

“Don’t worry young lady, I’ll see you soon.” He lit up the room with a single wink.



Sorrowful stories

A few days passed since visiting the jeweller and Gabriella's grandma felt guilt-ridden after their minor disagreement. She decided to wake up extra early that day and made her grandchild her favourite breakfast, pancakes. As she poured the mixture into the pan, she contemplated the decision of going back to the jeweller to retrieve the necklace. She couldn't fathom the significance this keepsake held over her granddaughter.

A blaring sound stole Grandma Jozie's attention towards the presence appearing in the doorway.

"Honey, are you okay?"

"It's okay Grandma, I just tripped," Gabriella urgently responded. The tension between them still hovered over their interactions. This wasn't like them, they *never* fought.

"Oh...okay," Not knowing how to react, her grandma resorted to what she thought would calm the storm of emotions.

"I made pancakes"

Gabriella is quick to decline, as she thought up any excuse to escape this awkward moment. She didn't understand how her grandma could discard her feelings one day and then act as if she cared the next. It was false hope shaped as a promise.

A waft of vanilla depicted a loving, homey scene in her kitchen. The fresh buffet-style breakfast laid out, reflected a family feeling. It was clean to the point that sparkles shone, blinding her eyes with the reminder of this façade. It was picture perfect.

And yet it wasn't real.

This home belonged to the woman who knew nothing but how to let her granddaughter down. With that exact thought, she knew what she needed to do.

"Gabriella I'm going out, I'll be home in a little while."

Jozie left the house in a rush, she didn't want to leave Gabriella home by herself for long. The ecstatic feeling overtook the nerves that suffocated her as the majestic aura of the jeweller filled her view. She got out of the car steadily, and headed straight for the door.

The ringing bell as she entered provided her with intense déjà vu. Once again, the jeweller, Bruno, was stalking about in the store. Except this time, he stopped as Jozie came into the store, a smug expression cascading upon his face. Jozie's confused appearance encouraged him to elaborate.

"I knew you would be back here."

Jozie's confusion heightened. *How could he have possibly known that?*

"Your Granddaughter would appreciate this," he furthered on.

"How would you know what she wants?" She hurried to cry out defensively, as if she knew herself.

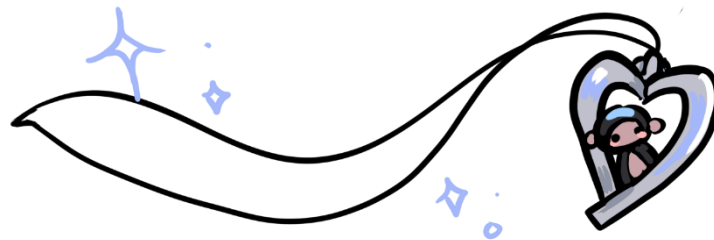
Silence filled the air between them.

Bruno coughed and broke the silence. "So just the necklace?" He assumed, holding it up all at once.

The hesitance in Jozie's voice revealed her speculation of this strange jeweller. However, she pushed past these thoughts, wanting to please her granddaughter more than anything.

"Yes...that's the one."

Jozie brought home the necklace and placed it in the safest spot she could think of-- her wardrobe. Whilst she attempted to get some sleep that night, she hoped that by giving this necklace, her granddaughter would finally see all that she did for her. She'd just have to wait.



The New Pet

The sun shone brightly the next day, sunlight unimpeded by the clear skies.

Jozie was roused from her deep sleep by the soft light filtering through the gaps in the patterned curtains. Her whole night had consisted of being jolted awake from loud crashes that seemed to happen without reason. Although she listened closely every time she was woken, no other noises followed.

“Ugh... What was that? I must have been imagining things.”

Jozie’s body twinged with dulled pain as she leaned her weight over her bedside. She yawned and shuffled slowly outside the hallway, before pausing at the doorframe. Something felt... off. Amiss. Out of balance. It was as if the world had tilted a few degrees to the right.

Slowly, she padded over the plush carpet to the kitchen, where she could hear Gabriella angrily muttering to herself. Affection rose up within her as she looked at her granddaughter doing her **homework**. “Good morning, Gabriella. You look rather stressed.” Her brow creased in slight worry.

“Good morning, Grandma!” Her granddaughter smiled sunnily. “I think a rat got into the house. When I woke up today, all my **homework** had **goeey** drool all over it.” Gabriella wrinkled her nose. “I’d already finished everything too, and now I have to do everything *all* over again. Ugh...”

Jozie blinked. “A rat? Oh dear.”

Soon, the smells of breakfast filled the kitchen yet again. Jozie and Gabriella heartily tucked in. Once they finished, after helping her grandmother put everything away Gabriella returned to her **homework**. Meanwhile, Jozie cleaned the house; she pushed in chairs and dusted the picture frames. While she was in her bedroom changing the covers, she heard another THUMP nearby, that came from the wardrobe. Jozie whirled around, her breath heaving.

“Who’s there?” Jozie shrieked.

There was no answer.

Carefully, Jozie warily crept closer to her wardrobe. She ever so gently grabbed the handle and slowly turned it... and jumped away.

Inside was a chimpanzee, dressed in a floral beach shirt and thongs.

She gasped in horror, as her eye fell on the jewellery box she stashed. It was open, and the chain was empty. The chimpanzee pendant was *gone*. Jozie's eyes snapped towards the chimpanzee, still sitting inside her closet.

"Are you..?"

The chimpanzee hooted in response.

Jozie's eyes switched between the chimpanzee and the empty necklace. *Was that... It couldn't be.*

Could it?

"G'day!"

Jozie shrieked again and stumbled backwards. *The chimpanzee can talk!?*

"Grandma? Are you alright?" Gabriella called from the opposite side of the house. Jozie jolted. "I'm alright sweetie! Nothing to worry about!"

What am I meant to do? This has never happened to me before. I didn't even know that could happen! Jozie's heart was beating out of her chest, and her face was pale.

While Jozie was having a breakdown, the chimpanzee just kept staring at her. Eventually, Jozie managed to get her heartrate under control and finally asked a question.

"... Do you have a name?"

"Nope!"

"I see. Well... *I would rather have a name to call you, rather than just 'chimp'.*
Your name is Banjo now. Would you like some bananas?"

"Yes please mate!" his Aussie accent sounded crisp.

"...Stay here. I'll get you some bananas."

Jozie left to obtain some bananas for Banjo, muttering to herself the whole way.

“Grandma! Do you think-”

“Not now, Gabriella.”

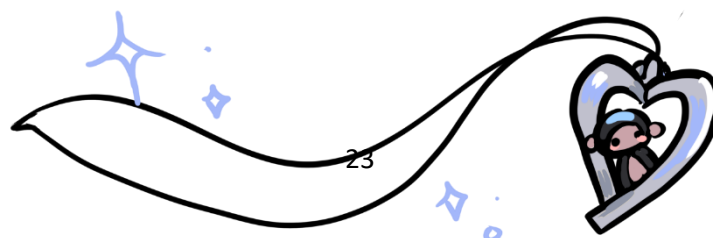


Gabriella blinked in bewilderment. “Oh... alright.” Her expression fell, but Jozie didn’t see it. She was too busy; her head swam with thoughts of how to deal with Banjo.

I can’t just throw him out and be done with it! If I am right... then Banjo was the pendant from the necklace I bought for my granddaughter... That would mean that the only way for Gabriella to receive her birthday gift would be to transform him back into a pendant! I need to go back to that jeweller, he has to know why this pendant transformed into a chimpanzee!

Mind made up, Jozie picked up the bananas and began to walk back to her room, where Banjo was waiting.

I won’t have anything go wrong with Gabriella’s birthday.



Quest for Redemption

Planning was underway, as the big day was fast approaching.

“I can’t believe you’re already a teenager! Oh sweetie, I can remember when you were a little girl and just learning to walk... You hugged your little koala plushie and spoke with a lisp...” Jozie said nostalgically, fondly remembering the time she spent with her granddaughter while she pinched Gabriella’s cheeks a little too firmly.

“Ugh, grandma, I’m not your little girl anymore. I’m almost fourteen years old!” Gabriella exclaimed.

She lightly pushed her grandma aside and went back to hanging decorations.

Jozie shrugged, though the nostalgic smile remained on her face. They then hung many decorations, streamers, banners and even little bows. Gabriella made the request of having a birthday party themed with little red bows and silver streamers.

“Gran, could you please set up the table?”

“Alright dear.”

Jozie walked over to the plain table and set it with a light red plastic covering. She then went into the kitchen, and grabbed plates filled with both sweet and savoury foods, enough to fill up all the guests.

At that moment Jozie was afraid. She was excited to surprise Gabriella with the necklace she wanted, however there was a slight dilemma. The pendant had been transformed into a chimpanzee. *What am I going to do? Wait, there's only one solution.*

Jozie realised that the only person who would know why that transformation occurred would be the jeweller. She glanced to her side. Gabriella was still hanging up little red bows.

“Dear, I will be back, I just need to buy more snacks for your birthday.”

“Okay Gran. See you. Oh, also, please get some jelly for the frog in a pond!”

Jozie agreed and left.

To find the answer, Jozie travelled back to that wooden shop that sparkled with gems and diamonds.

When the old lady opened the door, the bell rung, which signalled her entrance.

“Back so soon!” Bruno had shouted from the back of his shop, attempting to enchant Jozie with his smirk. Jozie was having none of that though.

“Why did that necklace transform into a hairy beast?!” Jozie raced towards him.

“Woah, calm down old lady! Like I said to your granddaughter, magic works it’s wonders in many ways!”

“Well, it’s not very wonderful now. I need a new pendant; I need to replace it before her birthday tomorrow!”

“There’s only one answer, one way to solve everything and get it back. And no, I cannot give you a new one. See, that would just be a boring and an unmagical solution.” Bruno slightly laughed and smiled.

He walked closer to his wooden desk.

“Like I said, magic can be present anywhere. Ever since I was a little boy, I was never interested in those magicians who used top hats and magic wands. Magic is so much more than that.”

“What does that mean?”

“It means that it isn’t *just* magicians who wear black and white suits who can do it, it could be anyone.” Once again he winked, blinding Jozie with his flashy and sparkly eyes.

“So dear, you’re saying that I’m a magician?” Jozie said dubiously.

“Yes, you can reverse the transformation and get your pendant back.”

“How do I do that?”

“You don’t.” Bruno laughed, before he glanced at the front door of the store. The bell had rung.

“Sorry ma’am, you have to go. I have other customers to attend to. I wish you the best, though I’m sure you’ll find out soon how to reverse the spell. Didn’t take me too long when I myself was just a young one.” He adjusted his glasses and walked past Jozie.

Jozie stood there confused, wondering just how could she turn that chimpanzee back into a pendant. But she was determined to. Making Gabriella happy was the only thing that mattered to her.

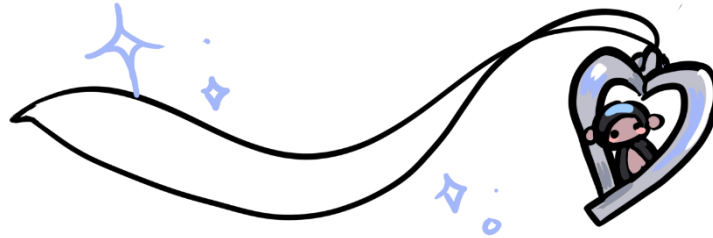
On the way back to her house, she felt uneasy. Maybe it was the strange magician, but she had an odd hunch about her granddaughter’s birthday tomorrow. She knew that she couldn’t hide the chimpanzee forever, but she had a feeling; what if Gabriella finds out about it tomorrow? Her strange vision haunted her thoughts. A ruined birthday party, a ruined granddaughter’s mood. What was she going to do?

“Dear, I’m home!” Jozie had reached her house, entering through the front door. She saw the amazing decorations hung around the house, and her growing granddaughter. Gabriella looked up and smiled at her grandmother.

“Hi gran, did you get the jelly for my frog in the pond?”

“Um no sorry I forgot.”

Huh weird that grandma forgot, she never forgets, Gabriella thought



The Cake Catastrophe

The guests began to arrive. Gabriella excitedly ran over towards the girls, all of them screaming together. Parents flooded inside and the environment quickly became louder. The overall atmosphere of the area was joyful and exciting, the delicious food filling the area with a savory aroma. After a while, the party games began.

“Everyone! Let’s start with musical chairs!” With that, the children came running over with large smiles on their faces. Each stood by the circle of chairs.

Jozie watched from afar, smiling fondly as she watched her granddaughter laugh gleefully with her friends. As she placed the last of her fairy bread inside her mouth, she froze. *No, not there!* The brown fur she knew all too well, revealed itself underneath the table holding a frog in a pond in its hand. She couldn’t believe this.

She hurriedly grabbed Banjo’s arm and tried dragging him away, her back hunching even more than it already was. She struggled and accidentally fell back onto the floor, hitting the speaker and shutting off the music. *Oh shucks, is my dream turning into reality?*

“Grandma? What happened?” Gabriella came rushing over towards the old lady who was holding her back in pain. As soon as she got up, Jozie looked around, no monkey in sight. This wasn’t good.

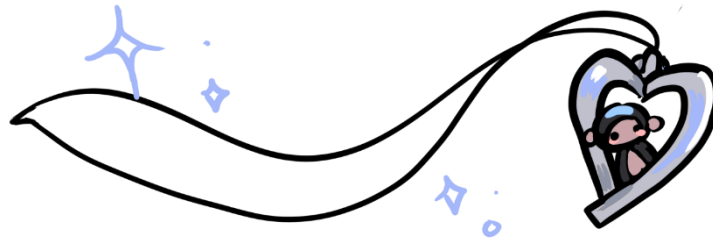
Jozie got back up, frantically looking around for Banjo. *He couldn’t be gone!* In a panicked frenzy, she checked everywhere: The backyard, under the tables, upstairs, there was still nothing that indicated that the monkey was there. Purple hues filled her mind as she started to panic. Jozie was terrified. Was the dream really going to come true? *No, Banjo’s absence probably meant that he wasn’t going to do anything. Now we can get the cake out.*

The old woman slowly brought out the cake in all its glory. It wobbled lightly as she placed it down, when suddenly something splashed all over her face. White cream covered the table as that brown fur that Jozie feared so much, appeared on top of the cake. *NO.*

Banjo filled his mouth with cake and instantly went ballistic. With sugar in his system, the chimp couldn’t help but bounce all over the place, thrashing around and ripping apart decorations. It had sparked laughter within the room. Everyone began to point and laugh, some of Gabriella’s friends giving her judgemental looks.

“Gabriella! Keep your monkey on a leash!” Her friends laughed and yelled as their parents began dragging them away with judgemental looks.

Jozie couldn’t move. She felt the eyes of her beloved Gabriella burning holes into her back. The sudden silence emphasised the thick tension in the air.



Misunderstood Moments

Silence fell upon the house as Gabriella looked around the trashed room, where her 14th birthday dreams lay broken. Her cake smashed into crumbs, chairs flipped over, and balloons popped.

“Grandma you don't even care about me anymore, that was so embarrassing!” Gabriella looked at her grandmother with sadness in her eyes.

Jozie stared back at Gabriella with confusion, as she stayed quiet.

“I swear this is all happening because of your new pet orangutang. You’ve pushed me further and further away,” cried Gabriella.

“First of all, Banjo is a chimpanzee not an orangutang. Second, you know that isn’t true, of course I still care about you,” Jozie replied softly.

“Whatever he is, he just ruined my whole party in front of my friends as well. You just stood there; you didn't even try to stop it,” Gabriella accused, misery rolling off her in waves.

“I didn’t know what to do Gabriella, I didn’t know he would have acted like that.”

Gabriella argued back. “Then control your pet!”

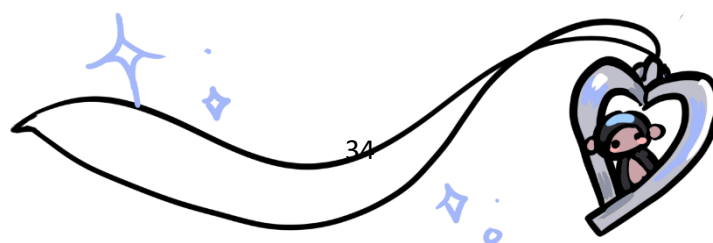
Banjo sat on the floor, quietly watching the argument play out between Grandma Jozie and Gabriella.

“My point is that ever since he showed up, everything for me has gone wrong,” Gabriella stated.

Anger flooded the atmosphere, scaring the poor chimpanzee.

“My sweetheart, I understand that you’re upset with me, but you have to see my point too. You kept pushing me away, when all I wanted to do was to surround you with love. You pushed me away, so I’m staying away. I tried and tried and tried, but I’m done now, you treat me like I am a slave to your needs.” Tears started to pour from Jozie’s eyes.

Gabriella stayed staring at her grandma, before running out of the front door.



Sweet Resolution

As soon as Gabriella left, Jozie went up to her room with tears in her eyes. Banjo tried to follow, but Jozie yelled “Go away, I don’t want to talk to anyone right now!”

Banjo turned around and left.

Banjo was restless, he couldn’t stand knowing he had hurt his only friend. He thought that everyone would laugh and be happy if he gave them a surprise and came in front of them, but everyone just screamed. Banjo couldn’t stop replaying the argument between Gabriella and Jozie.

He wandered over to Jozie’s room and put his ear against the door. The sounds of Jozie crying hit Banjo’s heart like a spear and deepened the feeling of guilt in him. He walked back to his room and laid on his bed staring up at the ceiling.

“How am I going to fix this,” Banjo said aloud.

“...I need to bring the smile back on Jozie’s face.”

With newfound motivation, Banjo walked out the front door towards Gabriella's favourite park and hoped to find her there. As soon as he got there, he saw Gabriella crying on the swing and took a seat next to her.

"Get away from me you monkey," she yelled at him.

"I know, I'm sorry, but you have to let me explain myself!"

"I don't want to hear it; you ruined my birthday and stole my grandma away from me."

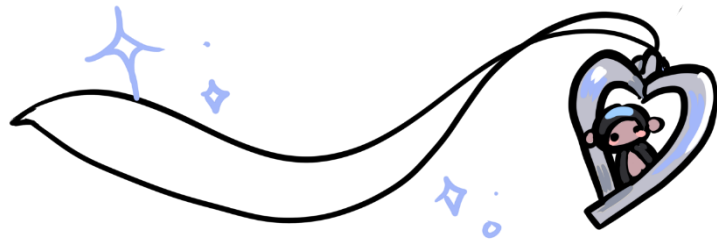
"It's okay if you hate me, but please don't hate Jozie. She loves you so much, and cares for *you* only. Seeing her crying breaks my heart and knowing that I'm the reason she's crying breaks my heart even more. I'm just a chimpanzee, but she's your grandma; I won't be here forever, but she will. I know you won't forgive me, but please forgive Jozie."

Gabriella stared at the ground, as she realised her mistake.

"You're right. I need to forgive my grandma. I guess I overreacted, she *does* love me."

“Let’s go back.”

“Yeah.” Finally, Banjo and Gabriella set off towards home.



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The Perfect Present

Jozie heard a knock on the door. She quickly wiped her tears and went down the stairs slowly, still upset about the fight. She looked through the peep hole of her door and saw that it was Gabriella and Banjo. Surprised by this, she quickly swung the door open.

“Gran,” Gabriella said softly, tears forming in her eyes, “I’m so sorry, I really didn’t mean to lash out at you. Banjo made me realize that I was selfish, he only wanted the best for you and to bring a smile to your face, I’m so sorry.”

“Oh sweetie, it’s okay, come here.” Jozie pulled Gabriella into a hug and looked down at Banjo. She knew that he had talked her granddaughter into this apology, and mouthed a “thank you” at him. Banjo gave Jozie a soft smile and a nod, grateful that the fighting was now over.

“Gabriella, I want you to know that I will love *nothing*, more than I love you. You’re my granddaughter, you’re my everything, and nothing could ever make me love you any less.” Jozie said, as her voice started to shake as tears ran down her face again.

“I know Gran, I love you too.” Gabriella tightened her hug with Jozie, never wanting to let go. During the hug, she started to think about how she hadn’t said sorry or thank you to Banjo for making her come back to apologize to her grandma.

“Hey Banjo, I never got to say thank you for coming to find me and telling me to apologize to Gran...” Gabriella said while she turned around to face Banjo, just to find that he wasn’t there anymore. She stopped hugging Jozie immediately and started to look around, frantically searching for the monkey.

“Gran where’s Banjo?”

“I don’t know sweetie. BANJOOOO!” Jozie called frantically for Banjo, and started searching around the house. As Gabriella looked over to the dinner table, she saw the necklace and a note underneath it. She realized that the chimp pendant is back on the necklace and hurriedly picked up the note.

Dear Jozie and Gabriella,

I’m so sorry for everything I’ve done to you and the pain I’ve caused you. I didn’t mean to create such a mess, I really hope you find peace in your life again. Also, Gabriella, I really hope you can forgive me one day for everything I’ve done to you, and for ruining your party. You two have the strongest relationship, and I don’t want to ruin it.

Goodbye,

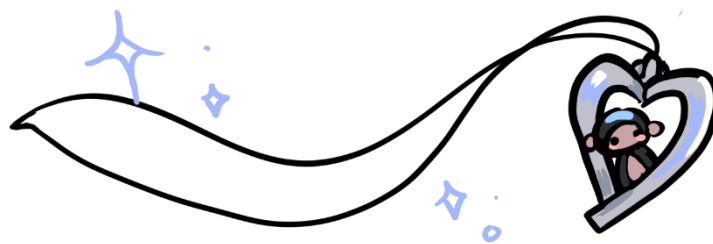
Banjo.

A teardrop fell onto the white paper as Gabriella sank to her knees crying. She wondered why he would leave like this without a proper goodbye. “I didn’t even get to say sorry to him, Grandma.” Gabriella wept.

“It’s okay honey, he will know you forgave him.”

“Thanks Grandma... I love you,” Gabriella whimpered.

“I love you too Gabriella.” Grandma replied, as she held her beautiful granddaughter in her hands.



An unsuspecting grandma buys a necklace from a charming but sketchy jeweller, unaware of the magical chimpanzee that inhabits the necklace. The magic within the pendant brings an unexpected pet into the family. Will gabriella's birthday party go to plan? Or will the chimpanzee cause a bit too much chaos?



- Recommended reading age: 10-16