

CAGED

by Kamron Klitgaard

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CAGED*A Comedic Duet***by Kamron Klitgaard**

SYNOPSIS: While cleaning the tiger's enclosure at the zoo, a worker tries to convince a zoo volunteer to injure him so he can go on disability.

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(2 either; gender flexible)*

WORKER (m/f) Hates having to work. *(61 lines)*

VOLUNTEER (m/f) Loves volunteering. *(59 lines)*

TIME: Present day.

SETTING: An empty tiger enclosure at a zoo.

SET: Bare stage.

COSTUMES

WORKER – Optional. A tan button-down shirt, can have matching tan pants.

VOLUNTEER – Optional. A colored t-shirt or tan button-down shirt and tan pants.

PROPS

- Broom
- Dustpan
- Bucket
- 2 Spray Bottles filled with Water
- 2 Squeegees
- Windex Spray Bottle
- 2 Pairs of Rubber Gloves
- Rags
- Wad of Tiger Fur

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

At the end, the Worker accidentally hits the Volunteer with the broom and dustpan, knocking the Volunteer unconscious. The best way to do this is to have the Volunteer pick up the dustpan and the worker bend down and pick up the broom, stand facing the audience, throw the broom over his/her shoulder, then turn to exit. As the Worker turns, the broom swings toward the Volunteer. The Volunteer brings the dustpan up to collide with the broom close to Volunteer's head. The Volunteer falls unconscious. This causes a violent illusion that the Volunteer has just been knocked out. Use an aluminum dustpan to create a louder collision.

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AT RISE: *WORKER and VOLUNTEER are putting away squeegees and Windex into a bucket.*

WORKER: Nice job on the windows.

VOLUNTEER: Thanks. Windex works wonders.

WORKER: I think it was invented in the sixties to stop all those hippies from running around without their clothes.

VOLUNTEER: Windex?

WORKER: Yeah, it says right on the bottle, "Prevents streaking."

VOLUNTEER: Oh, brother. What's next?

WORKER: (*Handing VOLUNTEER a pair of rubber gloves.*) The poop.

WORKER and VOLUNTEER put on rubber gloves.

VOLUNTEER: This cage is kinda small, isn't it?

WORKER: What do you mean?

VOLUNTEER: A tiger's a big cat.

WORKER: The biggest.

VOLUNTEER: Shouldn't he have a bigger cage?

WORKER: She. This tiger's a she. And her name is Scitchbi. And this is just the inside part. She's got that whole big outside part too. That's where she is right now.

VOLUNTEER: Yeah, but still. It's pretty small.

WORKER: This is just where she sleeps.

VOLUNTEER: Do you think I'll ever get to touch her? I've always wondered what it would be like to pet a tiger. Their hair looks so soft.

WORKER: Fur, not hair. Only people have hair. You volunteers are all the same. You think that if you volunteer at the zoo, they'll let you actually work with the animals. I'll bet you imagined holding a baby orangutan and feeding it with a bottle.

VOLUNTEER: What's wrong with that?

WORKER: You gotta have a license or a degree or something. And then you gotta put in years of...

VOLUNTEER: Years of what?

WORKER: Years of sweeping up tiger poop. Grab the dustpan, will ya?

VOLUNTEER holds the dustpan as WORKER sweeps into it.

VOLUNTEER: I guess you go through a lot of disillusioned volunteers.

WORKER: It's coarse.

VOLUNTEER: What?

WORKER: The tiger's fur. It's coarse.

VOLUNTEER: You've touched her?!

WORKER squats down and pulls a wad of tiger fur out of the dust pan.

WORKER: There's your tiger fur. Feel it.

VOLUNTEER: *(Pulling off glove and pinching the fur.)* Whoa! It is coarse! I always imagined it being soft but it's super coarse!

WORKER: Pretty cool, huh?

VOLUNTEER: Oh, man! I wish I could touch her.

WORKER: *(Checking to see if anyone is around.)* Hey, can you do me a favor?

VOLUNTEER: Sure.

WORKER: *(Kneeling down.)* Grab that squeegee.

VOLUNTEER: Did I miss something on the windows?

WORKER: *(Putting hand down on the floor.)* No, no. First, hold the squeegee over my hand. Raise it up high.

VOLUNTEER: Like this? What are we doing?

WORKER: Good. Now... slam that thing down on my hand as hard as you can!!!

VOLUNTEER: What?! No! Why would I—

WORKER: Just do it! Bash my hand!

VOLUNTEER: Are you nuts?! I'm not gonna hit your hand! It'll hurt!

WORKER: Exactly! Come on! Do it!

VOLUNTEER: Why?!

WORKER: *(Checking to see if the coast is clear.)* So, I can get disability.

VOLUNTEER: Disability?! What are you talking about?!

WORKER: Shhhh! Look, if I get injured on the job, I can collect disability checks from Workers' Comp and I won't have to work while it heals.

VOLUNTEER: They'll fire me!

WORKER: They can't fire you, you're a volunteer.

VOLUNTEER: Then they won't let me volunteer anymore. No, I'm not bashing your hand.

WORKER: The last volunteer wouldn't do it either. Hey, what if I tell 'em it was my fault?

VOLUNTEER: Your fault?

WORKER: Yeah, you were cleaning the windows like normal and I went to point out a smudge and I just put my hand too close to the squeegee and... crunch.

VOLUNTEER: Crunch? It's a squeegee. It's not gonna cause any damage. It's got this soft rubber strip.

WORKER: If you hit me just right, it might. There's gotta be some way you can hurt me.

VOLUNTEER: I'm not gonna hurt you! Have you ever thought that if you get hurt it might be permanent? You could cause nerve damage and never be able to use your hand again.

WORKER: Disability for life! Besides, I have two.

VOLUNTEER: Why do you want disability so bad?

WORKER: Are you kidding? Everybody wants disability.

VOLUNTEER: I don't.

WORKER: That's because you don't know what it's all about. You don't have to go to work, i.e., no more cleaning up tiger poop. You just watch TV and play video games.

VOLUNTEER: Sounds boring.

WORKER: Better than being here.

VOLUNTEER: I like being here. That's why I volunteer.

WORKER: What do you do when you're not volunteering?

VOLUNTEER: I have a job.

WORKER: Well, just imagine if you got disability from that job. Then you could volunteer full-time.

VOLUNTEER: But I like my job.

WORKER: (*Emptying the dustpan into the bucket.*) That looks like all the poop. Get the spray bottles. We gotta sanitize the pooped-on areas.

They get out some spray bottles and spray different areas.

VOLUNTEER: Don't we spray the cage out with a hose?

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