

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

MOWGLI [MOW-GLLEE]

BALOO [BA-LOO] A BROWN BEAR.

BAGHEERA [BAh-GEAR-RA] A GREAT BLACK PANTHER

!

KAA A BOA CONSTRICTOR

RAKSHA [RAAK-SHA] MOWGLI'S WOLF-MOTHER.

KENDRAH [KEN-DRAA] RAKSHA'S WOLF-HUSBAND.

!

GRAY BROTHER CUB TO RAKSHA AND KENDRAH, BROTHER TO MOWGLI

AKELA [AH-KEY-LA] LEADER OF THE SEEONEE WOLF PACK

SHERE KHAN [SHEAR-RA CAAN] A BENGAL TIGER

TABAQUI [TA-BAH-KEY] A JACKAL

LOCHAN [LOW-KHAN] a young cub

!

CHIL THE KITE

HEARNO MONKEY

!

SEENO MONKEY

!

SPEAKNO MONKEY

!

MESSUA [MESS-SUE-AH] AN INDIAN WOMAN.

ASHA [AH-SHA] MESSUA'S NEICE

!

## ACT 1

## SCENE 1

A beautiful jungle sunset of !  
purples, oranges, and yellows !  
falls behind a tall island of !  
rock and stone. Wolves call out !  
from the shadows. !

AKELA !  
As the dusk was breaking, !

GRAY BROTHER !  
The wolf pack yelled, !

All WOLVES  
Once, twice, and again! !

KENDRAH  
Feet in the jungle that leave-- !

ALL WOLVES  
No Mark!

RAKSHA !  
Eyes that can see in the dark!

ALL WOLVES  
The dark! !  
Voice, give voice to it! Hark, oh hark! !  
Once, twice and again!

SHERE KHAN and TABAQUI slink on,  
hunting in the darkness, and join  
in.

SHERE KHAN !  
The herds are shut in byre and hut

TABAQUI !  
For loosed till dawn are we.

SHERE KHAN !  
This is the hour of pride and power, Talon--

TABAQUI  
AND tush--

SHERE KHAN

And claw. Oh, hear the call!

ALL

Good hunting all that keep the Jungle Law!

All the animals exit with a howl as KENDRAH walks out from a small opening in the island of rocks, howling as well. He stretches out his long limbs and claws, getting ready for the evening hunt. RAKSHA rubs the sleep from her eyes at the mouth of their den.

RAKSHA

How I wish I could join you this evening, Kendrah, and feel the wind on my fur again.

KENDRAH

The Pack Council meets at the next full moon, which is only a few nights away. Then you and I can once again hunt under the moonlight, with our young cub at our side!

RAKSHA

Our cub will be the finest hunter of the pack! But not if we go hungry!

Out bounds TABAQUI, the jackal, thin body and bushy tail wagging, and grinning like he knows the most awful joke ever.

TABAQUI

Oh, Chief of Wolves! Good luck go with you, and may your strong white teeth bring you much food, and may the jungle never forget the hungry in this world.

!  
!  
!  
!

RAKSHA

There is nothing here for the beggars of the jungle, Dish Licker.

!

TABAQUI

No food for a wolf, maybe, but for so lean and hungry a person as Tabagui, why, a dry old bone is a feast!

!

RAKSHA

Let me get you one then.

TABAQUI

How gracious are the Noble Children of the Moon!

Raksha slips back into the cave.

KENDRAH

What brings you here, jackal? You are never far from--

A distant ROAR of a tiger rustles the jungle air, as Raksha returns with an old bone. Tabalui nearly jumps for joy as he quickly takes it, and nibbles at it hungrily.

TABAQUI

Many thanks!! Oh, and Shere Khan will hunt among these hills for the next moon.

KENDRAH

By the Law of the Jungle, he has no right to change his hunting grounds without due warning.

RAKSHA

That cattle hunter will frighten away all game within ten miles!

TABAQUI

The villagers near the river to the west are angry with him for hunting their cattle.

KENDRAH

So he comes here to make our villagers angry?!

RAKSHA

He respects nothing and heeds no Law. Indeed we are very grateful for Shere Khan!

TABAQUI

Shall I tell him of your gratitude?!

KENDRAH

Out, jackal, and follow your master's tail for scraps!

An angry snarly whine of a tiger who is hungry and is empty handed peals out in the near distance.

TABAQUI

Hear him roar! I might have saved myself the message, but then, I would not have had the pleasure of your delicious bone--

RAKSHA

OUT!

TABAQUI

I go, I go, see how I go!

Tabaqui takes off under the harsh stare of Raksha.

The Jungle reverberates with the low hunting snarl of Shere Khan.

KENDRAH

The FOOL! To hunt with such noise?! Does he think our buck are as lame as his fat cattle--

!

Shere Khan ROARS, but it quickly ends with a howl of pain and people yelling and screaming in a panic to escape the tiger.

!

!

!

!

RAKSHA

It is neither cow nor buck he hunts tonight. It is Man.

The yelling and screaming fade away as Tabaqui and Shere Khan enter. Shere Khan is limping, or holding his paw, which is singed.

!

!

!

!

KENDRAH

Good hunting, Great Shere Khan. What brings --

!

SHERE KHAN

I am on the trail of a lone, quarry, wolf. Have you seen anything?

!

!

KENDRAH

We have seen nothing that should be hunted this evening. Only beetles and bugs. Maybe they are more your speed?

!

SHERE KHAN

You should not wag your tongue so, dog. I am a Master of the Jungle, and I hunt as I will.

RAKSHA

You hunt Man! Breaking the Jungle Law, and look what it brings you. Singed fur? !

SHERE KHAN

Come, Tabaqui. I have a hunt to finish. !

Shere Khan and Tabaqui leave.

KENDRAH

The fool has jumped into man's Red Flower, and burned his feet! !

Kendrah and Raksha turn to go back to their cave, but Raksha catches a scent on the wind. !

RAKSHA

Something else is coming uphill! !

Raksha moves to protect her cub in the cave, while Kendrah drops down into a striking pose, ready to attack whatever might be coming.

A peal of CHILDS laughter catches them off guard as a baby totters on.

KENDRAH

Man!?

RAKSHA

It is a man's cub!

Raksha walks over to the bush and picks up a small child, all dirt and hair. Kendrah sniffs at it curiously. !

KENDRAH

I have never seen one.

RAKSHA

My mother told me stories of men and their cubs. How little it is! !

The child Laughs again, and pokes Raksha right in the nose. !

How Bold! RAKSHA (CONT'D) !

She laughs as the Child giggles !  
and plays with her whiskers. They !  
walk back to the opening of their !  
den. !

RAKSHA (cont'd) (CONT'D)  
And so this is a man's cub?!

KENDRAH  
He is so... so... naked.

RAKSHA  
Was there ever a wolf that could boast of a man's cub amongst  
her children?

KENDRAH  
Never in our pack, or in my time. Why, he looks at us and is  
not afraid.

Tabaqui squeals out followed by  
Shere Khan, who leaps atop the  
rock. Raksha slips into the den, !  
hiding the child. !

TABAQUI  
Master, it went this way-- !

KENDRAH  
Twice in one evening? We are humbled to--

SHERE KHAN  
The scent of ash is out of my head, Kendrah. My hunt ends !  
here! Give it to me! !

KENDRAH !  
There is nothing for you here, Shere Khan. !

TABAQUI  
Here, here, I smell it on them, master! They have it  
somewhere!

RAKSHA  
You smell nothing but rags and rubbish, Tabaqui.

SHERE KHAN  
I too can smell man here. Give it to me! !

KENDRAH

We Wolves are a free people of the Jungle. We take no orders from any striped cattle-killer! The man cub is ours. To kill if we choose.

Shere Khan comes down and closes !  
in upon the den. Kendrah and !  
Raksha back into it's opening, !  
bracing for a fight. !

SHERE KHAN

What is this talk of Choosing?! Am I to stand here barking for my fair dues?! It is I, Shere Khan, who speak! !

RAKSHA

And it is I, Raksha, who answers! The cub is mine! He shall not be killed. He shall live to run and hunt with the pack, !  
burned beast of the jungle! And you, rubbish eater, there are no more bones for you here! !

Tabaqui whimpers and runs off, his tail between his legs. Shere Khan, knowing wolves defend their !  
den's to the death, slowly backs !  
away, all shining smiling deadly !  
teeth.

SHERE KHAN

What shall the Council say of this, I wonder? Even the Free People must heed the Jungle Law. The cub is mine, and to my teeth he will come in the end. !

Shere Khan leaves, with Kendrah !  
making sure he is gone as Raksha !  
quickly finds the child and hugs !  
it close. !

KENDRAH

Shere Khan speaks the truth. The man-cub must be shown to !  
the pack. He must be accepted into our family, or else he must be let go.

RAKSHA

Let go? He came, naked, by night, alone, and yet he was not afraid! He is beautiful, and such sharp eyes. I will keep !  
him. Our son Gray Brother is in need of a playmate, and I. !  
I miss my other cubs. Oh, be still little one. You jump !  
about like a frog! Oh, you little frog! Mowgli! Mowgli the Frog I will call you.



A wolf howls in the distance as a  
full moon is revealed in the  
night sky. The wolf den begins !  
to turn into-- !

KENDRAH  
But what will the pack say? What of the Law of the Jungle? !

Scene 2 !

--Council rock, a hilltop covered !  
with stones and boulders where !  
hundreds of wolves could hide. !  
Wolves call out in the moonlight. !

AKELA  
As the dawn was breaking--

gRAY BROTHER  
The wolf pack yelled--

ALL  
Once, twice, and again!

RAKSHA  
And a wolf stole back,

KeNDRAH  
And a wolf stole back

AKELA  
To carry the word to the hunting pack,

RAKSHA  
And we sought,

KeNDRAH  
And we found

GRAY BROTHER  
And we bayed on his track!

ALL  
Once, twice and again! !

LOCHAN, an older cub, and GRAY  
BROTHER play in the center, under  
the watchful gaze of-

AKELA, a great, powerful, and old  
grey wolf, who stands on top of  
the rocks.

Off to the side is BALOO, a brown !  
bear, who stands tall and calls  
out:

BALOO

Full is the moon, and the Pack Council is called! All new  
cubs are to be brought forth so that the pack may know and  
accept them, according to the Law of the Jungle!

AKELA

You know the Law! You know the Law! Look well, wolves of !  
the Seeonee Pack. Look well to learn of your new brothers  
and sisters.

Lochan gets up and leaves the  
center, leaving Grey Brother  
alone. !

KENDRAH

It is time for our cubs to be looked over.

Kendrah places the Child down  
next to Grey Brother, who hugs !  
him close, as an older brother  
might do to his younger sibling.

AKELA

Look well! Look-

A cry from off stage stops Akela,  
as Shere Khan strides out towards  
the rock.

SHERE KHAN

I come before the council to make a claim on that which is !  
mine by right of the Hunt!

Akela continues, unfazed. !

AKELA

Look well, Oh wolves! What have the Free People to do with !  
the orders of any save the free people?! Look well!

LOCHAN

What have the Free People to do with a man's cub?

KENDRAH

There can be no harm from it.

loCHAN

Man should stay with Man!

SHERE KHAN

The Jungle Law does not provide for him!

BALOO

Who questions the Law of the Jungle?

Baloo slowly lumbers over to the !  
circle of wolves, who  
begrudgingly give him attention. !

AKELA

What of the Law, Great Baloo? What does it say?

BAGHEERA appears, panting, fresh !  
from the hunt. He pauses at !  
Shere Khan's words. !

BALOO

If there is a dispute as to the right of a cub to be accepted  
by the Pack, then he must be spoken for by at least two  
members of the pack, who are not his Mother or Father.

SHERE KHAN

This cub is mine by rights of the hunt!

AKELA

Who speaks for this cub? Among the Free People, who speaks?

BALOO

Why, there is no harm in a man-cub. I have no gift for  
words, but I speak the truth. Let him run with the pack, and  
be accepted with the others. !

AKELA

Baloo, our teacher, has spoken.

SHERE KHAN

You need yet another, brothers. Who dares speak for that  
which is mine--

BAGHEERA

Akela, and the Free People of the Jungle, I have no right to  
speak in your Council-- as much right as Shere Khan-- but, !  
the Law of the Jungle says that a life of a cub may be  
bought. !

BALOO

Yes. The cub can be bought.

BAGHEERA

And the Law does not say who may or may not pay that price.

BALOO

This is true.

LOCHAN

What are you willing to pay, mighty Bagheera?

BAGHEERA

Ahh. To hunt a naked cub is shame. Besides, he may make better sport for you when he is grown. Baloo has spoken on his behalf. Now I will add one Bull, newly hunted, if you will accept the man cub according to the Law.

The Wolf Pack bursts out in a  
clamor of voices.

!

LOCHAN

What matter, he will scorch in the sun.

RAKSHA

Let him be accepted!

KENDRAH

What harm can he do us?

GRAY BROTHER

Let him run with the Pack!

SHERE KHAN

He is MINE!

AKELA

ENOUGH! Look well, look well, oh Wolves! And heed the  
Jungle Law!

One by one, the wolves walk  
around Grey Brother and Mowgli,  
accepting them into the pack.

!

!

!

AKELA (CONT'D)

It is done.

SHERE KHAN

BAH! No good can come from Man in the Jungle!! You will see!  
I will have my hunt!!

!

!

Shere Khan leaves with a growl.