

# THE WAR OF THE REAL AND IMAGINARY BEINGS

By Sean Yin

## Chapter One

There were once five gods who had great power and protected planet Earth. However, there was one god who misused his power and was banished to the human world. He lost all his power and was so enraged he planned to use his secret weapon. It was a magic ring, which could contact the devil. The devil granted the banished god with some of his power to destroy humanity, so he can rule the world. The man used his new power for revenge. He controlled humans and made them attack nature (nature was just plants, no animals).

The gods had no choice but to sacrifice themselves to protect humanity, but before they died, they created creatures called "animals". Afterwards, the gods lost both their power and memory and went to the world of humanity.

In the world of humanity, the gods lived separately with human names: Franklin, Michael, John and Ryan, and the god who misused his power was called Brad. Brad was unable to destroy humanity, but still had the power to control people, so he decided to make them steal the animal's property: their bodies and their environments. Franklin, Michael, John and Ryan lived normal human lives, and they thought like normal people as well. But one thing they did not know was that their spirits had not completely gone away. The spirits of the four gods formed together to reunite them. One night, when they were all sleeping, they had a dream of a spirit talking to them. "Four gods...reunite...evil god, defeat...note..." Then, the spirit left a note under their beds, and the dream ended. Because they were normal human beings, they didn't think much of it, so they lived their lives. It wasn't until the same dream kept happening that they decided to check under their beds. There, they actually found a note and were shocked. It was only a sentence which read: "Meet under the big oak tree in Saint Holy Park."

A few days later, Franklin, Michael, John and Ryan met. They talked about their dreams, and were amazed at how they all had the same dream with the spirit in it. They talked and talked for hours until they fell asleep. The spirit then came to the oak tree and used all its power to restore the gods' memories. They all woke up with a terrible headache, but also with new memories. Each god was given different parts, and they pieced them together. They finally restored their memories and remembered everything, including the animals.

Meanwhile, knowing that the animals were created by the four gods, Brad already turned thousands of people into thieves who were instructed to steal the animal's property. The creatures were fed up and had to do something. They decided that humanity was evil, and the animals started defending themselves. Every time a thief was near, they would kill that person. They tried everything they could, but couldn't keep up with the number of people being turned into thieves.

Soon, Franklin, Michael, John and Ryan arrived at the animals' homes. As soon as they made eye contact, the animals struck, thinking that the gods were evil humans. However, the four men didn't attack, but tried to communicate with the animals instead. Just when the creatures were ready to tear the humans apart, they stopped and bowed. Surprisingly, the animals understood what Franklin, Michael, John and Ryan were saying and knew that the people were their creators. "Why were you attacking us?" asked Franklin.

One of the animals, the tiger, replied, "The humans, th-they've been robbing us! We've tried defending ourselves, but it's just not working!"

The gods could tell all the animals were frustrated. "Let's go talk to some of the humans," suggested Michael.

Franklin, Michael, John and Ryan entered a village and met a couple. They asked the couple if they knew anything about thieves. The husband explained, "Well, many expensive things like animal fur coats and carpets made out of animals have been suddenly appearing in my neighbor's house. And it's weird, because he was always a poor guy who would ask for money out in the streets."

The gods thanked the couple and decided to visit their neighbor, but he wasn't there. "Wait, oh no!" John cried out, "he's probably robbing the animals right now!" The men ran to the animals' homes right away, and there he was, killing the animals and stealing their properties.

"Stop that right now!" Ryan yelled, as the gods went after the thief.

A snake quickly bit the man and he fell to the ground, asleep. When he woke up, the gods and animals questioned him, but the stranger didn't remember anything. "All I remember was falling asleep after seeing a man with a hood at my door. I think he used some red powder potion or something. Until now, I don't remember anything else," the man confessed.

"Interesting, that kind of sounds like the fifth god, doesn't it?" Franklin asked. "Why don't we pay him a visit?" suggested Ryan with a small grin.

The gods reached a dark cave. They went in and checked it, but found nothing. However, suddenly a dark shadowy figure leaped out from behind them and sprinkled some red powder on Ryan. He fell asleep instantly. Franklin, Michael and John were facing the figure. It took off its hood.

"Brad! We knew it was you!" Michael exclaimed.

"Yes, yes, of course you did. Well, now that you've found my hiding spot, I guess I have to kill you all. Now without your powers, you're nothing. This is revenge for taking my powers away. Today, the four gods shall die, alone," laughed Brad.

"That's where you're wrong," said John, "we're not alone. Come on out!"

Then, a huge stampede of all kinds of animals blocked the entrance of the cave. Brad swore verbosely and attacked the gods, but before he could even reach them, the animals had already caught Brad by the legs. He screamed, "No!" but the tiger devoured him.

"Well, that was quick," said Franklin. "Now, let's cure everyone from this mind-controlling potion. All snakes, you're up, but cure Ryan first."

The gods and the animals went around all the villages near the cave and cured everyone. "Phew, finally, done!" John cried happily.

The gods were about to say goodbye and leave, when the tiger growled, "We need a leader, and we think it should be you guys."

The gods were shocked. They wanted to go home.

"Please, even though there aren't any more robbers, we still need you guys and we want you to stay," begged a bear.

The gods didn't know what to say.

"Yes!" Ryan screamed, breaking the silence.

The animals cheered.

"Well, then I guess we accept," said Michael.

The gods couldn't live with the animals as humans, so they transformed themselves into animals as well and prepared to defend themselves against anything, which they have done till this day.

## Chapter Two

After Brad died, the animals, who were also the gods, decided to talk to the devil about some problems. The devil wanted Brad to destroy the gods, so the animals wanted to make laws with the evil creature to create peace. The gods and their friends traveled all the way to the bottom of the Earth to talk to the monster.

"Well, well, well, now who do we have here?" asked the devil.

"I think we have some problems, old friend," said Franklin.

"Old friend?" the devil thought. It took some time for him to realize that four of the animals were actually the gods he was at war with. "You! My enemies!"

"Yes, we're back," declared Ryan.

"What do you want?" demanded the devil.

"Well, we seem to be having some problems," answered John. After hours of explaining and arguing, the devil finally agreed to create five laws for the animals. The first one read as follows: No trespassing onto each other's worlds. That was a law both the animals and the devil agreed on immediately.

The animals' turn was next. "You have to provide us food and shelter each month for ten years for all the bad deeds you've done to the humans, to the animals and to us, the gods," explained Michael.

The devil grumbled, "Me? Bad deeds? Why don't you take a look at what you guys have done to my world! You creatures destroyed my home and killed all my slaves, even Brad!"

"You made Brad evil and wanted him to destroy animals!" countered Franklin.

"Well..." the devil hesitated, "I don't care, we're even now. But I'm not going to feed you animals for ten years no matter what!" the devil declared. And so, this law wasn't a possibility.

Next was the devil's turn. "How about... we provide each other with resources?"

"What do you mean?" asked Michael.

"You can provide me with your fruits and water, while I can provide you with fire and warmth."

"That does sound kind of reasonable," said John.

"Wait! If we make a fire in the forest, then our homes will be burned down!" the tiger interrupted.

"You're right!" exclaimed Ryan. After a few more minutes of thinking, the animals decided to build a small fireproof wall around the place where the fire would be lit. "Alright, it's a deal. We provide you with fruits and water, while you provide us with fire and warmth," repeated Franklin. The second law was made.

It was the animals' turn again to make the third law. "Ok, the third law should be that no contact is allowed between the underworld and the human world," said John, "if any kind of contact is detected between any animal and the dead, they shall both be locked away in hell."

"If you say so," agreed the devil. The third law was then easily made.

The devil wanted the fourth law prohibited help from heaven. "You're not allowed to receive anything from heaven, including warmth, food and so on," explained the devil. This law was agreed without hesitation. The underworld and heaven are enemies, so, obviously, they would never ask help from each other, and the gods who turned themselves into animals already left heaven, so they couldn't contact heaven anymore.

Making the fifth and last law concerned shouting, arguing and fighting. Franklin, Michael, John and Ryan let the other animals decide what the last law should be, and the devil let his slaves decide what the last law should be. Both worlds wanted their enemies to be killed, which was a disaster. The devil and leaders had no choice but to create the laws themselves. Since they had no more ideas, they made the final law, "No breaking any of the laws"

### Chapter Three

Hello everyone, I am the devil, the leader of hell, who has power over all of you! It is 3am in the morning and I was just woken up by a lovely dream. It was terrifying! If you've read the first two stories, you would think the animals are on the good side, and me, the devil is on the bad side. Today, I'm here to tell you a story that will prove that the animals are actually the evil ones.

You see, after the animals and I created laws, we obeyed them, but we had some problems with law #2: Trading Resources. The animals gave me food and water, while I would kindly give them warmth. However, the animals kept complaining about how small the fires were and that they couldn't feel any warmth. Ingrates! But I was in a good mood, so I agreed to provide them with more fire. I used a lot of my power to create the huge fire. A few days later, the animals came to my home, accusing me of burning their forest down. It was them who wanted the bigger fire. So I made another deal with them. I would provide them with as much fire as they wanted if they brought me human meat. Us creatures who live in hell, don't go to the human world very often, so human meat is considered a rare delicacy, but the animals can obtain human flesh easily. The animals agreed instantly and everyone was content.

The animals and I traded cheerfully until another problem came up. The humans were angry at the animals. That wasn't my problem. I was not related to any of this human meat, but the cruel animals still had to drag me into this war. And then we made some laws with the humans which I forgot. Anyways, the human meat deal wasn't a thing anymore. So what could I have done? I still had to provide the animals with warmth, despite not receiving any human meat, so I created money! How intelligent of me to create money with my toenails! I would have infinite money, while the animals would have to buy the currency from me instead. How brilliant of me! But that's not all. If I personally give the animals money, it would certainly be leery, which is why I made James, my trustful slave, deliver the money for me! Oh, I'm so smart.

After I sent James to deliver the toenails, he never came back. He got eaten by the animals as soon as they made eye contact. I don't know why; he was the most brainy out of all the slaves. Maybe he died because he looked the same as everyone else? I didn't know, so I

sent Logan the human instead. This time, it worked. The animals accepted the money, because they thought that humans used it. For a few years, everything was well, until the animals wanted to buy some matches from hell. There, they met that stupid little %#\*@, whose name was Bob. The animals saw how much money Bob had and asked him how he had so much. Bob told them everything about how my toenails were the money. The animals were furious! That was the end of my monetary system. Oh, by the way, Bob was sent to heaven for destroying my organization.

As you can guess, the animals came for blood. They found me and exposed my totally not evil plan. My business was ruined! But that's not all; the animals also threatened me! They said that they would destroy hell, my home! I don't want to brag, but even though I'm the most powerful creature in the universe, I think, I didn't want to take any chances, so I agreed to destroy what the animals call "counterfeit money". That's basically the end of this story. I hope you enjoyed it and learned something. The moral of this story is: Animals are evil, and the devil is wonderful, photogenic, incomparable, noble, magnanimous, benevolent, charitable, fantastic, cerebral, honest, brave, strong, smart...

## Chapter Four

The animals have always been living in their homes made of mud or dirt. All was well, until humans had invented more forms of transportation. People used to walk, which was fine, because they wouldn't damage the animals' habitats, but now, humans have cars, planes and boats. These vehicles are destroying the animals' homes, not by pollution, but by ramming straight into the animals' accommodations. Since the animals were so smart, they built wooden houses. Concurrently, the devil was having problems too. Vociferous cars were driving over roads and affrighting the devil whenever he came out of hell. This was also inhibiting all of hell from sleeping. However, the animals weren't bothered by the noises at all. As long as their houses weren't annihilated. The devil saw this and was indignant. Why did he, and not the animals, have to be disturbed by the cars? After weeks of devising, the devil finally came up with a heinous plan.

The devil has many different kinds of notable technologies. He prepared to use laser weapons to burn down the animals' homes. One night, the wooden houses started burning down. "Run!" yelled Franklin, who discovered the fire first. In a matter of seconds, the animals' homes turned to dust. "No...my baby" cried a deer. It was a sad night for everyone.

The next day, the animals begged the humans to give them some metal with which to build new homes. "It was a terrible night," explained Michael, "many loved ones were lost."

"Please, you humans are so much more intelligent than us animals," added Ryan. "You all have your own bathrooms, while we have to share one!" Finally, after hours, the humans donated some metal. The animals quickly built their new homes before night. "What is this?" the devil thought, "They have new houses! I guess I'll have to strike tonight too." That night, the devil burned down all the creatures' metal homes. John kept cursing until he noticed something interesting. "Hey, guys, have you noticed how the grass, trees and all the other plants haven't burned down, when both our wooden and metal houses created an enormous fire?" The animals, Ryan, Michael and Franklin looked carefully. "You're right! It must be the devil who did all this!" concluded Franklin.

The animals headed over to hell immediately. “Devil, we know you’ve been burning down our homes!” Ryan declared.

“I don’t know what you’re talking about,” the Devil said.

“Then what’s that laser weapon and map of our forest doing on your desk?” asked Michael.

“Busted!” added John.

“I was just using the laser weapon to...uh...um...construct a new building in hell, yes, a new building!” explained the Devil, “It must have been global warming or forest fires.” Michael, John, Franklin, and Ryan talked about their suspicions. “Global warming? Forest Fires?” thought Ryan, “Our houses burned down when there was no sun, and the plants didn’t even catch on fire!”

The next day, the animals went to the humans again, wanting more materials. But when they arrived, there was no one there. “Hmm, interesting,” thought John. The animals helped themselves to all kinds of materials to build cob homes. “Wait,” Franklin said, “what does this sheet of paper say?” He picked it up. The letter read: “Dear humans, if you want more technology, come to hell, and buy anything you want. All technologies are free in the next hour! (This is assuredly not a trick).”

“So all the humans were tricked by the devil and brought to hell,” Michael figured.

“We’ve got to save them,” cried John, “after all, they did give us metal with which to build our houses.” The animals quickly got back to the forest and built their new cob homes. “Alright guys, let’s all start making a cure for the humans. I bet the devil mind-controlled them to destroy us,” guessed Franklin. He listed all the ingredients and the animals set to work creating the antidote.

“A new home again!?” cried the Devil, “Looks like I’ll have to use my laser weapon...again.” The devil tried to burn down the animals’ new homes. Despite trying several times, nothing happened. “Ugh, this isn’t working. Humans! Attack!” ordered the devil. Then, hundreds of humans ran straight for the cob homes. “Here they come...” announced Michael. “And, now, quickly dump the antidote on them!” Splash! “Where are we?” asked the humans.

“They’re cured! Yay!” the animals cheered.

“Ha, in your face, devil!” Ryan teased.

“Hmph, you got lucky this time, but I will destroy all of you if it’s the last thing I do!” roared the Devil.

## Chapter Five

After many incidents, the animals and the devil decided to remove all the laws that they had made. The devil, who couldn’t get his hands on either human meat or fruits, went berserk. The devil had no other choice but to steal food from the animals. He poisoned the fruits, so the animals wouldn’t eat it, and when they’re asleep, the devil would come up from hell and take the food away. Then, in hell, he would detox the fruits. Eventually, the animals were out of food. “What are we going to do now?” cried John.

“I guess we have to go beg for food from the humans,” sighed Michael. The animals made their way to the humans’ village, and asked for some food. The humans gave them some fruits with reluctance. The animals returned blithely and had a big feast.

The devil thought he couldn't live on fruits. He needed human meat! Luckily, he had a machine that could create fake food. The food was edible, but was extremely detrimental to health. Nevertheless, the sick devil thought out his plan and was ready to do some evil.

After a few days, the fruits on bushes and trees finally grew back. "Yay!" cheered the animals. In a flash, all the food from the plants were gone. That night, the devil saw how much food the animals had amassed, so he decided to steal the food again.

The next morning, the animals realized that their food was gone. They were voracious, so the only thing they could do was beg humans for food again. The creatures kept asking for weeks, and people were slowly miffed by them. "Ok, enough! If you all want food, then you have to work for it!" declared a human leader.

"What do we have to do?" asked Ryan.

"How about...you let us look at you?"

"What do you mean?" Franklin inquired.

"You're all going to be enclosed within a vast fence, and we'll feed you and meet all your needs. We'll call it..a zoo!" replied the human.

"So, that's it?" asked Michael.

"That's it," said the leader.

"Well, sounds easy enough," commented Franklin.

"Great! We'll start building your fence right away," declared the human. "In the meantime, you can stay here in our village and have all the food you want. Bye!" A few days later, the zoo was built.

"Alright," exclaimed the devil. "It's time to generate some food!" The devil turned on his apparatus and observed with pleasure that his fake food was being made. "Great! Maybe I'll just taste some of it to make sure it's not real." He took a bite of a banana and then ran straight to the bathroom. He stayed there for hours.

In the human world, the animals were enjoying themselves. They were really relaxed and weren't disconcerted at all by humans watching them. "Now this is life," said Michael.

"I still don't discern why the humans pay us for doing nothing," commented John.

"As long as we're being provided with food," answered Ryan.

In hell, the devil was ready to send food to the humans. He ordered his slaves to bring the food up to the human world with a letter. The slaves dropped the fake food right outside the humans' village and left. A few hours later, the leader saw the pile of fare. "Wow, look at all this food! And a letter?" exclaimed the chief. "It reads: 'I'm sorry for what happened last time...you know, mind-controlling. Anyways, here's a little gift of mine to make up for the incident. Also, share this food with the animals, and don't tell them it's from me. Later!'"

The leader did what the devil had told him and fed the animals with the fake food without telling them. Everything was well until a week had passed. Both humans and animals were really sick. They decided to have a meeting. "Thank you to everyone for coming. We'll be discussing why we are suddenly so sick," announced the leader.

"Has anything unusual happened?" asked Franklin.

"Well, now that you mention it, the devil did provide us with some free food a week ago," replied the chief.

"Problem solved!" exclaimed John.

The animals and humans, who carried weapons, paid the devil a visit. The Devil greeted them with a, "Hey, what's up?" Without a word, the humans and animals destroyed the machine that created fake food. "Hey! What was that for?" cried the devil.

“Devil, this is your last warning. We all had enough! If you’re going to pull some dirty trick again, hell is going down!” yelled Michael.

“So, you all know about it. Fine, here’s a deal. Provide me with fruits from the human world, and I’ll stop my evil deeds.” Thus bargained the Devil.

“And why should we negotiate with a monster?” asked John.

“Because it’s only right for rulers to take food from the ruled,” replied the monster.

“You &%@#!” John was held back by Franklin. Since the animals preferred peace, they agreed.

Now, all the problems were solved. The devil was satisfied with his fruits, the humans had animals to look at, and the animals were provided with food from the humans. Of course, the devil will be creating more trouble soon.

## Chapter Six

After making a deal to give fruits to him, the Devil remained inaudible and obscured. That’s because a new ailment was discovered in hell, and the Devil has been stuck in his tiny room for weeks. He finally couldn’t take it any longer and burst out of his room to breathe in some fresh air. The Devil decided to invent something that could cure the virus, so he started working right away. After a few days, he succeeded, but caught the disease as well. The monster was just about to heal himself when he thought of a way he could rule both hell and the human world; the Devil decided to infect the humans and animals on purpose.

The animals and humans were still living happily in their village with the nonchalant animals in the zoo. At night, the Devil arrived at the village, and entered the humans’ houses one by one, breathing on everyone. The monster didn’t bother infecting the animals, because he had a better surprise for them.

The next day, everyone was terribly ailing. “Who could’ve done this?” asked John. “Wait, it must be the Devil!”

“No, I don’t think so. If it was the Devil, he would’ve infected us too,” explained Franklin.

Back in hell, the Devil prepared to let his pet, Cerberus, who had rabies, loose in the human world to infect the animals. The Devil gave the orders to his pet, and at night, when all the animals were asleep, they went to the human world. There, Cerberus bit Franklin and the Devil confused him by spraying the wretched animal with a potion. This was very wise of the Devil, because Franklin was considered the leader of the animals and the smartest as well. The Devil thought this plan through, and he was ready to succeed for the first time.

In the morning Franklin started biting everyone. But since they were enclosed in a fenced area, they had nowhere to run. By the end of the day, all the animals had rabies, and Franklin’s confusion also wore off. “Gees, what was that all about?” yelled Michael. “You gave everyone rabies!”

“Thanks a lot!” said Ryan.

“I-I didn’t do it! I don’t know what happened!” cried Franklin.

“Then explain how, if it wasn’t you, we all got rabies? Oh, I know, you got sprayed by a potion that made you confused! Yeah, right,” said John sarcastically. Since both the animals and humans didn’t have a cure, as the days went by, the rabies and the virus started spreading. It spread all the way to hell, infecting all the animals, the slaves and the Devil.

“Not again!” exclaimed the monster. To cure himself, he contrived a new machine and started using both of his machines to cure everyone, including the animals in hell. However, even with his machines, the rabies virus spread out of control. Whenever a slave or an animal was cured, they would be infected once again. The Devil demanded a lockdown, then traveled forthwith to the human world and locked all the humans in cages, but it was no use. The virus and rabies were too much to handle. The Devil had no choice but to ask the animals and humans for help.

The Devil released the humans and animals and begged them to help him. The creatures didn't like the idea of working together with a monster from the underworld, but they knew they had to work together if they wanted to stop the spread of the diseases. “So here's the plan,” announced the Devil. “We're going to make a potion that can cure the rabies virus. Animals, you go collect ingredients from the forest, since you know where to find them. Humans, because you have experience in making medicine, you'll all..umm, be making the medicine. And as for me, your dapper leader, I will be inventing a machine that could spread the antidote across all of hell and the human world. Is that a deal? Nevermind, I don't care about your opinions. Here's all the possible ingredients. And humans, you'll have to experiment with the ingredients until you have created the potion.”

Swiftly, the Devil handed a sheet with all the plants and herbs needed, and the animals were on their way. When they returned, the ingredients were handed over to the humans, and they started experimenting. After a day, a cure was finally found, and the medicine-spraying machine was built. “Finally...” yawned the Devil.

“Quick, pour the potion into the machine,” ordered the monster. The humans did as they were told. “And now!” the Devil yelled. He pushed the button, and the machine started shaking, followed by a loud explosion. As the smoke cleared, everyone found themselves staring at a crippled machine, but they also realized something else. Everyone was cured! “Yay!” Ryan cried with joy. “The rabies are gone...forever!”

The animals and humans were just about to leave hell, when Michael stopped them. “Wait, guys, I still have one question. Devil, was it you who made the humans catch the virus and contract rabies?”

“No...?” the Devil trailed off.

“Ohhh Devil, you're gonna pay!” shouted Ryan.

“Ok, ok. Let's break the deal we made last time. You guys don't have to provide me with fruits anymore. I'll invent a machine that could create fruits for me,” suggested the monster.

“Fine, we'll let you off easy this time, since you worked together with us,” sneered John.

“Great!” replied the Devil. The humans and animals left. “Alright, lesson learned. Let's not try that ever again,” the Devil thought.

When the monster returned to hell, he was furious. The potion had side effects only on the dead. The devil started coughing and sneezing. “Looks like I-I-I...achoo! Looks like I still have to do everything... achoo! ... by myself,” sighed the Devil.

## Chapter Seven

The malignant rabies virus was gone and it was safe. However, to prevent themselves from catching the virus, the humans stayed home 24 hours a day, so they were unfit and

lackadaisical. Since the animals were outside all the time, they were very healthy. However, even though there weren't any diseases anymore, the fear of the illness still remained.

The animals and humans decided to ask the devil for help. "Devil, do you, by any chance, have a medicine that can cure the fear of a virus?" asked Michael.

"No, but I can sure make one, second best friend!" exclaimed the Devil.

"*Second...BEST FRIEND?*" Michael thought.

Later, the Devil started making the medicine. "So, you want medicine don't you? Hmm, now's my chance to take over the world!" chuckled the Devil. The next day, the Devil gave his new medicine to the animals and humans. "Here's your medicine! But of course, it's for a price." explained the Devil. "These stupid creatures trust me, because I helped them last time. If they buy these fake medicines, then I'll be monied!" he thought. The animals happily accepted the gift and paid the Devil.

"Alright everyone, here's your medicine!" announced Franklin. Everyone swallowed their pills. These pills actually had no effect, but the placebo effect made everyone think the medicine can cure them, so they felt allayed and relaxed, which made them healthier. Back at hell, the Devil was watching and was sullen that he actually helped the creatures, but he knew they were going to return.

The humans and animals overcame their fears, but the humans still weren't fit yet, so they asked the Devil to make them stronger. He agreed and managed to build a machine in a day. The Devil called this the "Liposuction Machine", which injects people with fresh blood. However, it only makes humans feel and look fit for about a week. One by one, the humans entered the machine. Inside, multiple needles inject the human at different places. Immediately, the person would feel full of strength. After seven days, the side effects kick in, and their energy is absorbed, causing irreversible death. The Devil also plans to solicit money. Soon, all the humans were injected with fresh blood and were better than ever. But as expected, the humans lost all their energy after a week. The animals traveled to hell as fast as they could and besought the Devil to cure the people.

"Please, help them!" pleaded John.

Before answering, the monster thought that if he didn't help the animals, pretending not to know anything, then the humans would die, but the creatures would survive. As a result, the creature's suspicions will increase. He needs to find a time he can kill both the aggravating humans and animals. Then he said, "Alright, I will help you. Let me adjust the Liposuction Machine." He took off a needle which injected the chest. Since it was closest to the heart, the fluid injected would have the most effect. The Devil still didn't want the humans to fully recover, so he added bad blood to the other needles that were intended for injecting the cure into arms and legs.

A few days after being injected, all the humans became energetic again, and the trust between the monster and animals grew.

A month had passed, and the humans were debilitated again. Ryan sighed, "You might have become stronger after a month, but you're still lazy, which is why you have no strength. If you want to be fit again, you have to exercise every single day. Understand?" After exercising for weeks, the humans were muscular. "Impressive!!" cheered Ryan.

This time, the animals and humans learned two things. One, the only way to actually become fit and healthy is to exercise. The second thing they realized is that the Devil is trustworthy. "Hahaha. I finally won their trust. I can't believe all I had to do to rule the world, was to make them believe me. But I can't be too indiscreet, or everything I've done will be a waste of

time. If I keep this up, I will have the power to control these useless creatures and finally, take over the world!" the scheming Devil said to himself.

## Chapter Eight

After months of staying in the zoo, the animals couldn't take it any longer. They wanted freedom again. The humans agreed to let the animals have their freedom once again in return for some delectable fruits. The people and creatures exchanged, and the animals happily lived in the forest. However, the humans weren't so jovial. Without the zoo, they lost money and couldn't survive. After a few weeks, the people were completely broke. They had no choice but to steal from the animals or maybe even from the Devil!

Day after day, the animals started to notice that their fruits were disappearing. The humans would always steal during the night. But all the fruits weren't enough to support the whole village. They needed more, so during the day, when the sun was shining brightly, the humans snuck into hell and stole the Devil's latest and most powerful and important machine. This was the machine that took the Devil a week and a half to make. After a cure for the appalling rabies virus was created, the monster promised not to ask for fruits from the animals again, so he constructed a machine that could make fruits for him. This was exactly the machine the humans stole.

The Devil soon woke up from his nap when the sun wasn't shining so brightly. "Wow, I feel so much better from that nap!" the Devil said to himself. "But what's better than building a machine? Eating the fruits from it!" With that, the Devil rushed to the salient gadget, where he found nothing. "Where did it go?" the Devil shouted. "It was right here when I left it! It must be with the animals."

"Give back my machine right now!" demanded the Devil.

"What do you mean?" asked Michael.

"You stole my machine!" shouted the monster.

"What machine? We don't have any of your machines!" Ryan disputed.

"Stop being mendacious! I know you have the machine that creates fruits. Just look at your trees. They have no fruits, which is why you stole my apparatus," the Devil concluded.

"It's not what it looks like! We didn't steal your machine. In fact, our fruits are being stolen as well," explained John.

"Well, if both of us are being robbed, then that means the humans must be the ones stealing our possessions!" determined the Devil. The animals and the monster quickly traveled to the village, finding fruits all over the ground and the Devil's machine. He and the animals were both enraged, so they decided to punish them. The Devil announced his punishment first: The humans were to clean his machine and send the monster a human to eat. The animals then declared their punishment for the humans: The people have to plant new trees in the forest and provide the animals with materials to build new homes. After the humans made up for their actions, they lost even more than before. Now, the only thing the people had left was their defaced homes.

The humans were desperate. They needed to survive, but how? The only thing they could do was to steal from the animals and the Devil again. The following evening, the humans snuck into the Devil's storage room, where all of his machines were located. The humans found

and stole a machine that could make seeds, so the people could plant vegetables. It didn't take long for the devil to notice that one of his machines was gone. He was annoyed and decided to steal something from the humans too. The Devil snuck into the village and purloined everyone's beds.

The next day, both the Devil and the humans ended up in court, which was run by the animals. The judge and jury were made up of Franklin, Michael, John and Ryan. The creatures had no idea how a trial works.

"Ok, since you both stole something, all of you are sentenced to death!" announced Judge Michael.

"That's not how it works. You have to ask them...err...what happened," whispered Judge Franklin.

"Oh...um...Sooo, what happened? Devil, you go first," asked Judge Michael.

"It's simple. They steal something from me, I steal something from them. It's totally fair," answered the Devil.

"Ok, now, the leader of the humans, it's your turn," said Judge John.

"Please forgive us. We know-" the leader was interrupted.

"We almost forgot! The opening statement! Start, you two!" exclaimed Judge Ryan.

"We don't have any. Opening statements weren't a thing anymore after closing statements were invented," explained the unnamed leader of the humans.

"Oh, well in that case, continue," Judge Ryan told the leader.

"Ok, as I was saying...We know we committed a crime, but we had no other choice! Our impoverished village is dying! Please-" The leader was interrupted again.

"Okay, this is starting to get boring. I'll end this case," announced Judge Franklin. "The Devil stole something, and the humans stole something, so nothing happens. Case closed!"

"Nothing happens? I support your sentence of nothing!" said Judge John.

After a few days, the Devil and the animals arrived together at the people's village. Franklin declared, "I know you've all been going through a tough time, which is why you committed crimes. But the only way to survive, is to know how to take care of yourselves. That's why we decided to teach you a thing or two,"

"I still think harm and torture is better," mumbled the Devil.

"What did you say?" asked Ryan.

"Oh, nothing! I said harm and torture is the wrong way to prevent crimes from happening," replied the Devil. The animals taught the humans how to identify poisonous plants and how to build homes in only a few hours. Meanwhile, the Devil snuck back to hell.

"Those foolish animals! Do they really think that teaching them how to take care of themselves will prevent them from stealing my machines? I have to find a way to make sure these ignorant humans are out of my way!" the Devil thought. Cerberus, the monster's pet, was tired of his owner failing again and again. He decided to become a nice dog, so he traveled to the human world to warn the animals and humans. Since Cerberus, and the creatures and people were from two different worlds, so they had trouble communicating. "So who did you say you were again?" asked John.

"Woof!" replied Cerberus.

"Wool? Wolf? Poof? Poop?" Ryan guessed.

Cerberus sighed and started writing on the ground with his claw: I'm Cerberus, the Devil's pet. I'm here to warn you that the Devil is planning to kill all of you. I'll come again if the Devil has any other evil plans. Also, always erase the messages I write on the ground!!!

“So you’re a whistleblower. Great, nice to meet you. Here’s a reward for your hard work,” Michael said. He handed the dog some lush fruits. Later that night, Franklin couldn’t sleep. He was so excited that he met Cerberus. “As long as we have Cerberus by our side, we’ll always know what the Devil’s next move will be. Then, we can finally defeat him!” Franklin thought.

## Chapter Nine

One tranquil night, the Devil was thinking of a way to eliminate the animals and humans, so he decided that the next day, he would sneak up on the creatures, so he might know how to get rid of them. The next morning, the Devil hid in a few bushes near the animals’ homes and started earwiggling.

“The Devil is such a weird creature! How come there’s only one of him and hundreds of us? And that’s not all! Have you seen his unprepossessing feet, eating habits and his ugly horns?” an eagle stated.

“He is truly terrifying,” commented a cheetah. When the Devil heard all of this, he was dejected. After a few hours of self-reflection, the monster went to the village. He hid in the shadows and listened to what the humans were saying.

“What kind of creature is the Devil?”

“I think everyone is wondering the same thing. Why is he from hell?”

“Such a weird creature!”

With that, the Devil ran back to hell, with tears in his eyes, and sobbed, “Why? Why am I so loathe? Maybe if I dress up like humans and animals, I’ll stop being discriminated against!”

While the Devil was creating his costume, the animals and humans were having discussions. In the forest, the creatures were discussing how much they wanted to become humans.

“I wish I was a human,” a turtle said, “so I could walk a lot faster.”

“If I was a human,” a snake sighed, “I could build so much easier. I would have hands and amazing calculation skills. Building a house would be a piece of cake, and I wouldn’t have to spend a month on constructing my home.”

“Come on guys, ask yourselves. Do you really want to become humans? Remember, they’ve had a history of liquidating animals and turning them into clothing they wear! They’ve also eaten us,” reminded Michael.

“That’s true, but they also had a history of keeping animals as pets, mostly dogs and cats. They would be loved, cared for and fed. The pets would also love their owners back, which would help people become vegetarians. That’s why today, everyone is vegetarian. Thank god we’re not going to be eaten anymore,” explained the turtle.

Ironically, in the village, the few who were awake wished they could become animals or devils.

“If I was an animal, I wouldn’t have to work and study anymore. I could run around and play, have fun, relax and eat anything I want, without my parents saying what I can and can’t do,” a student thought.

“I wish I was the Devil,” a human thought, “so I could build all the machines I want! That way, I could have anything I’ve ever wanted just by pressing a few buttons. How come the Devil can build so many fascinating and advanced technologies? But obviously, I would just want the

skill of the Devil, I don't want to actually become him. I really want to become an animal who has the ability to build machines!"

That night, the Devil finished his costume. "It's adequate," he remarked. "But my tail and horns are still showing. Guess I'll have to do it, sigh." The Devil took a chainsaw and cut off his tail and his two large horns. Later, he went to the forest in a wolf costume. "Hello," greeted the Devil.

"Hel-" John suddenly stopped. Everyone looked at the Devil in his wolf costume, then burst out laughing. "THAT'S THE MOST HILARIOUS THING I'VE SEEN IN MY ENTIRE LIFE!!!" John yelled.

The next time, the Devil apprehensively walked to the village in a human costume. The humans' reactions were the same as the animals'. The Devil ran back to hell and started crying.

The next day, the humans and animals met up and discussed what happened the previous day.

"I wonder why the Devil dressed up like us?" Franklin inquired.

"I'm thinking the same thing. He even cut off his body parts to look like us!" added Ryan.

"We should have a chat with him. I think there's something totally wrong," suggested the leader of the humans. Later that night, the Devil, animals and humans sat around a campfire together. "Now why don't you tell us why you dressed up like a human and an animal," demanded the leader. The Devil told the creatures everything about making the costumes, because he overheard what the humans and animals were saying about him.

"I just want to end discrimination," sighed the Devil.

"You know, some of us actually want to be you too," comforted Michael.

"Yeah, just the other day, some of us humans and animals were talking about how admirable your mechanical skills are. You are truly skilled," commented the leader of the humans.

"Really? Wow, I never knew," the Devil said quietly.

"We also wanted to become animals too," the leader added.

"Wow, what a coincidence. We animals wanted to become humans as well!" chuckled John.

"Well, it looks like no one wants to be themselves. But this also means that each kind of creature has their own benefits and skills," concluded the Devil.

"Yes, you're right," said Ryan.

"Wait! Before you leave, Devil, is it possible to turn me into a machine? I want to live forever," exclaimed a human. Everyone gasped.

The Devil thought, "Hmm, this is the perfect time to destroy the human population. But after that chat...what do I do? You know what, I'll let them off this time, just because they helped me." Then he turned to the human and replied, "I don't think it's a good idea. If something goes wrong, instead of extending your life 100 more years, you'll lose 50 years."

"Wow, and you could've just used that chance to destroy the human population! Good job, Devil," Franklin praised the monster.

"But all of this doesn't mean I'm on the good side now. I'm still evil!" the Devil said jokingly. Everyone laughed boisterously.

Back in hell, the Devil used a potion, and he regrew his tail and horns. "Oh, this is bad. I'm being too good. I'm falling for their trap! How will I explain this to my barbaric boss?" he worried and shuddered.

## Chapter Ten

Greetings, I am god, and I am in heaven. No, not my home, but in the heaven of heaven. You might be wondering how I died. That's what I'm about to tell you.

100,000 years ago, there was a war between hell and heaven. The Devil was the leader of hell, while I was the leader of heaven. Me and my four sons, Franklin, Michael, John and Ryan battled the Devil and his slaves. We won, but I was seriously injured and was unconscious for a year, so my dull-witted sons thought I was dead and buried me. Later, when I woke up, I was told that my sons had chosen to become creatures called "animals" and had lost all their power. That was a foolish decision! When the Devil knew I woke up, he was scared to death, so he became my servant and called me "boss". But good things never last. I wanted to remain anonymous, but the Devil became friends with my sons and told them who I was.

I went down to the human world and argued with my sons for a month. Well, 25 days were actually spent by my sons and me celebrating our reunion and the rest were spent fighting. Franklin, Michael, John and Ryan finally gave in and promised they would make up for their mistake on one condition: Me and the Devil couldn't be enemies anymore. What kind of condition is that? The monster I've been fighting for 100,000 years has to be my friend now? That's perfect! The war can finally end! So I agreed. After swearing to god (myself), my sons told me that the Devil, my new friend, is going to enthrall me.

It was entertaining at first. The Devil told some funny jokes like "Why did the chicken cross the road?" Then, came the dance. It still haunts me 'till this day. The monster pulled down his pants and started jumping around in a circle. The sight was horrifying. After a few seconds, he started singing. His voice was so terrible, it could make a deaf baby cry. After what seemed like days, the Devil stopped. I asked him what kind of dance it was, and he told me it was a religious dance performed before every feast. I can't imagine still being able to eat after seeing all that. I yelled at him to make up something else to show me. Then he started crying and ran back to hell. What a cry-baby.

The next day, the Devil came back, but with something new. He told me that it was a magic trick. I loved magic tricks and couldn't wait to see one. What could possibly go wrong with a magic trick, right?

Me, my sons and the humans watched in the village. The Devil asked for an empty cup and filled it up with cow urine. Then, he said some gibberish and announced that the pee had transformed into saccharine lemonade. As soon as he heard the word lemonade, a boy ran to the Devil and gulped the yellow fluid down. You probably already know what happened. It was the biggest mistake the boy had ever made.

Slowly, the Devil's comedy skills developed, and he became a well-known tumbler to all. The Devil was so skilled that he could make his audience laugh without even doing it on purpose. There was this one time, when he accidentally set his tail on fire. Him running around the stage was uproarious. Also, instead of disgusting entertainment, he used his weirdness and scariness to make everyone laugh. For example, the Devil would pretend to be a goat using his horns. From time to time though, he wouldn't have any ideas for his performances, so he would scare people and animals, and that was not riotous. I almost forgot about the 100,000 years war, when the Devil broke the peace treaty and attempted to kill me...and succeeded.

The Devil was entertaining me, when he decided to treat me like a baby to make his audience laugh. At first, I didn't think it was waggish at all, but everyone else did. Because laughter is contagious I started laughing too. I guffawed so hard that I couldn't breathe, and that was the cause of my death. I laughed too hard, so I died. That's why I'm presently in the heaven of heaven.

I can't believe what my sons are doing after the Devil murdered me. They're still laughing and having fun with the killer! They didn't even hold an interment for me! It looks like my impudent sons don't care about me anymore. \*sob\* \*sob\* I can't go on anymore. I'm sorry, but the story has to end. The original narrator will tell you the final ending. I'm terribly sorry. Goodbye, and see you never.

## Chapter Eleven

It was after about a year when everyone realized that Frank, Michael, John and Ryan's father had just died. Because they didn't want to be haunted by him, a committal was held for the god. Everyone, including the humans, animals and the Devil went to the funeral. Since the Devil was the one who killed god, he delivered the panegyric.

“On this happy day, let us remember to weep  
For the god who had gone to sleep  
After entertaining us for 100,000 years  
With his fears and rubber ears.  
Let us also be sad and gloomy  
As we remember  
That he was a playful and jolly  
Warrior who died in December.  
Rest In Peace.”

The Devil was finally free, so after the interment, he became the new “god”. The facetious monster would still make people laugh and scare them from time to time. Soon, humans, animals and the Devil all became best friends. After months of construction, the monster managed to move hell and his slaves to the middle of the forest and the village.

Another 10 years later, many things changed. The Devil created many utilitarian inventions for the humans and animals to make their work easier. For example, something called a tractor was invented to help the humans build. As for the animals, the devil gave them a knife with which to cut food into smaller pieces. Finally, the Devil also fell in love with a slave and now had an intrepid son who would take his father's place after he dies.

Inside the village...well, it isn't exactly a village anymore. The old dirty village was now a huge bright city. The human population grew rapidly, the huts turned into buildings and houses and there were also house-like edifices called shops. This is where everyone would buy stuff. The leader of the village became the mayor and created currency. The Devil's dream finally came true. He could have money! There is one last huge difference: the village expanded from 1km<sup>2</sup> to a city that's 1.01km<sup>2</sup>!

Nothing really changed for the animals. Frank, Michael, John and Ryan were still the kingpins of the animal group, their homes were still exactly the same shape and made out of the same material. The only thing that's changed is that they have more fruits now. The Devil invented a spritz which would make the plants produce fruits faster.

And so, free from God, the animals, humans and even the Devil lived happily ever after, partying for the rest of their lives.

In case you didn't notice, this is the denouement of the story. All the creatures hope you relished the 10 chapters. Of course, after 100 years, everyone in this story was dead, but a new generation will live on and replace every single character. Many thanks from the animals for reading and finishing this story. Goodbye!