

The Adventures of Jango

An adapted screen play

by

Michael John Wilde

from his book

“The Adventures of Jango”

Tales of a baby African Elephant



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SHORT CREDITS ROLE THROUGH SCENE No 1

Early evening

POV to the West across the Serengeti. In the distance the sun is just approaching the rolling hills of the Esoit Ooloolo Escarpment.

(voice over music)

Background music – Malaiika by Miriam Makeba

(off screen)

Becker (White faced whistling duck)

(Alabama accent)

Pretty eh...well let's get this straight, this aint one of those once upon a times gigs...nope, this is right now..yes sur....you see I've lived here since I wus no much bigger than a grasshopper...don't remember my folks...heck still this story aint 'bout me...no sur its about the most amazin' little tusker you ever did meet...Oh yeah and a real mischievous devil too...OK so... Once upon a time way out in the African bush lived a baby elephant called Jango who was destined to become the most famous Elephant in the wide world.....

(off screen)

Young chattering voices can be heard and the sounds of wheels crunching on the dry earth.

(off screen)

Jango's Mother (Female Elephant)

(South African accent)

Jango.. Hugo.. supper time... now!

(Off screen)

Jango (Baby Male Elephant)

(hint of South African accent)

Papa...one more push.....please....OK... mama

(Music fades back)

Early Evening

POV pulls back east focusing west on a large baobab tree the home to Jango's family. In the distance the sun is now dropping below rolling hills of the Esoit Oloololo Escarpment. POV focuses in closer to the family scene as Jango's Father is shoving Jango down the slope near the baobab tree on his rusty two-wheeler. Close by the tree Jango's Mother is spreading out leafy branches for their supper. Jango tumbles off not far into his trip and reluctantly drags the two-wheeler back up the slope for another try. Jango's Father and Hugo his brother chuckle at his attempts.

Jango's Mother

(coming into view)

Boys enough.... Come!

All four sit down at the family table and munch away at the morula branches. Sitting on the end of the table is Becker the family's pet duck scoffing away on a branch laden with berries

Jango

D'ya see me Hugs... on my two-wheeler?

(nudging Becker who tumbles off the table)

See me Becks?

Hugo

(hint of South African accent)

(angrily)

Not your two wheeler, get yer own if you.....

Jango's Mother

(calming down the boys who are starting to square up)

Wow now....anymore and it's my two-wheeler.

Jango's Father (Male Elephant)

(South African accent)

(laughing to himself)

Hugo, that two -wheeler's small for you.... take mine.

Hugo

(contrite and now looking smugly at Jango)

Yeah that's for kids, Ok papa cool with me.

Hugo's Mother

Now finish supper, its past bedtime... don't forget boys, schools out tomorrow.

Hugo's Father

Boys, listen up, you gotta watch out for the man people. Man people's the only bad thing out' in the bush for us. So what'ya gonna do?

Jango and Hugo

(Chorus together)

Keep away from man people papa.

3. Ext – Serengeti - Kenya

3.

Next Day - Sunrise at the family home

Jango has already collected his two-wheeler and begins tiptoeing away from the other members of his family, who are still sleeping. Becker, ruffles his shiny feathers offering a soft whistle wakes from his perch. Jango's Father is concerned for Jango's ability with the two-wheeler, so Becker has promised Jango's Father he'll stay with him just for today. Jango pushes his two-wheeler away from the family home. Becker swoops down landing in front of Jango stopping him dead in his tracks. Jango already well away from the baobab, Becker decides it's time to pass on more good advice.

Becker

(Puffing his chest out)

Now listen up you hear Jango. It's a big big dangerous world down this path. Bad things happin' little tusker. Papa wus right, those man people can sure be nasty.

Jango

(Trying to push past Becker)

Becker I'm nearly one summer, all grown up so PLEASE I gonna see the world... but I'll be back tonight..... 'cause mama's makin' my best supper. Now Becks move your white butt.

Becker

(Moving to one side)

OK, but I promised papa

Jango scoots for a while to gain speed allowing him to throw his leg over the saddle. Becker places his wings over his eyes as Jango collapses in a heap, the two-wheeler twisted around him. Next time he's successful and wobbles off down the red dirt track. Becker keeping his distance skimming above the umbrella thorns.