

EXT. TOM LADD'S APT BUILDING, NIGHT -

LONG SHOT

We hear the news playing somewhat faraway, muffled by distance.

NEWSMAN

We bring to you next the story of a man who was saved by a tiny hero.

MEDIUM SHOT

We can see his window. It's on the fourth or fifth story.

NEWSMAN

Mark Stevens, the man spared a deadly beating by what he can only describe as a baby monkey wearing underpants and a cape, tells his story.

INT. TOM LADD'S APT -

We see a big TV on the wall, and the shot of Tom's head, silhouetted against it. The TV is like HUGE, and obviously expensive. The reporter kicks it to Mark Stevens:

STEVENS

It was the cutest thing. I'm getting beaten up, my life is in danger, and this little monkey comes up and starts fighting these guys. They stopped paying attention to me, and then kind of just stodd back and said to each other "Aww, look, man, a baby monkey." So I got up and went home.

NEWSMAN (CHUCKLING)

What a precious story. This is the fourth such sighting of the monkey in close to a week. The Hillsboro Police Department as well as the Humane Society warn that if you see this animal, do not try to touch it, as it may be rabid. Please do not feed it or let it inside, as it seems to have a proclivity for stealing towels and briefs, though no robbery has been reported.

We see Tom's face, halfway through the speech. He is clearly upset. Angry, and perhaps a little sad. THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR - he glances over.

EXT TOM'S APT - HALLWAY -

We see between the shoulders of two men. Tom opens the door. Tom sees

they are cops, and clears his throat.

TOM

Good evening, officers.

OFFICERS

Good evening.

One officer continues.

OFFICER 1

Sir, three convicts from the Hillsboro prison have escaped. We believe they're hiding in your yard. They have a shiv, and they're sharing it.

OFFICER 2

It's the most unusual case of post-prison teamwork I've ever seen, frankly.

TOM

That's terrible.

OFFICER 1

Yes, quite. Listen, we're coming to tell you this so that you stay inside your apartment tonight. Things could get dangerous.

TOM (HOPEFUL)

Of course, do you need me to...do you need any assistance?

The officers look at each other.

OFFICER 1

Actually...

OFFICER 2

We have backup on the way, and we're trying to find a good location for a stakeout. Do you mind if we take a look at your windows?

TOM

Please, I'd be honored.

They barge in, and look out the windows. They nod to each other.

OFFICER 1

These will do.

OFFICER 2

Sir, with your permission we'd like to conduct our stakeout from your living room. Would that inconvenience you?

TOM

Oh no! Not at all. I'm always happy to help out Law Enforcement in whatever way I can.

OFFICER 1

You are fine citizen. Isn't he a fine citizen, Bar-

OFFICER 2 elbows OFFICER 1 in the ribs.

OFFICER 2

Yes, he's an absolutely EXCEPTIONAL citizen.

TOM

Thanks. I do try. What do you want me to...

OFFICER 2

I think it'd be best if you locked yourself in your room, sir. Things could get heated out here, and we don't want anyone getting hurt. It's a police thing. Got it?

TOM

Of course.

OFFICER 2

We'll talk more in the morning.

INT. TOM'S ROOM

TOM (EXCITED)

Real police work going on in the next room! Real cops. Real cops in my apartment, conducting a real stakeout! I should turn into...I should help them! No, no. It's not time for that, not yet. My identity is still safe!

We see, as he says "I should turn into..." he pulls open a drawer of his dresser. It is full of towels and underpants. He jumps in bed and pulls the covers to his chin. Camera tight on covers.

TOM

I just can't believe it!

He claps off the lights.

TOM (CONT'D)

Real DANGEROUS CRIMINALS hiding out in MY YARD!

PLACARD

The Next Morning...

We see Tom in bed. The sunlight is coming through the window. He looks

really tired. Then he opens his mouth.

TOM (SUSPICIOUS)

Hey...I live in an apartment complex. I don't
HAVE a yard.

INT. TOM'S LIVING ROOM -

Nothing is there. All of his cool expensive things have been stolen.

TOM

I'M THE WORST SUPERHERO EVER!

The MONKEYBOY theme starts. It's all about Tom and his unusual problem, how he turns into a monkey sometimes and finally decided to try and make himself a SUPERHERO.

INT. TOM LADD'S CLOSET - DAY -

Closet door opens. We see Tom, bending over and blowing at the camera.

EXT. CLOSET -

Tom pulls out an old tiny television with rabbit ears. He blows some more dust off.

TOM

Time for the fuzzy old-timey news!

He plugs the TV in the wall and sits in the place where his old big couch used to be. He turns the dial and the TV turns on.

ZOOM IN ON TV

The same newscaster is talking about a crime.

NEWSMAN

In local news, a pair of men escaped the Hillsboro County Jail yesterday, allegedly subduing two armed officers while doing so. The officers were found this morning in a dumpster outside of this apartment complex, nude and handcuffed to each other and a large wooden mannequin.

They show TOM's apartment building. There is blurry cell-phone video footage of the two men being pulled from the dumpster along with a giant wooden mannequin, and being led to a police car. A news-person is trying to get them to answer questions. The officers wave them off, while trying to cover their privates.

NEWSMAN (CONT'D)

The officers were unavailable for comment. It is believed the mannequin was intended to act

as some sort of decoy, as it was also nude.

MEDIUM SHOT OF TOM

Behind Tom we can see a blurry figure coming into focus. It's the wooden mannequin, WOOD, and it's moving. It comes casually up into the view of the camera as the NEWSMAN describes its nudity.

WOOD

A naked decoy? That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard.

TOM turns around, and his eyes go big.

TOM

Oh, what the ****.

WOOD

Now, before you freak out, mister, I'm not going to hurt you, I just -

TOM changes into a tiny monkey, who fights its way out of TOM's clothes.

WOOD (CONT'D)

Whoa.

The monkey launches itself at WOOD's head.

CLOSEUP OF THE MONKEY BITING WOOD'S FACE

WOOD (CONT'D)

Hey, stop doing that.

It swats at the monkey with its comical hands. Nothing works. The monkey knocks WOOD down. WOOD keeps protesting, and then finally he stops protesting and starts screaming. It's terrible. The monkey gets off, runs to the wall and changes back into a naked TOM holding his ears. His crotch is blurred. The screaming changes into a kind of reedy laughter.

TOM

What the **** are you?!

WOOD

Today must be some holiday for ugly naked men or something.

TOM

Don't change the subject, I asked you a question. WHAT ARE YOU?

WOOD

Wood.

TOM

Wood.

His eyes narrow.

WOOD

Well, there's some metal too, but only at my core. The rest of me is tree-trimmings.

TOM starts rubbing his eyes.

TOM

Okay, sure. But, I mean...you're a talking mannequin. How. Why...I can't believe it.

WOOD

Hey man, I just saw you turn into a monkey. And there are parts of you that are pretty unbelievable too.

TOM looks down, and covers himself up.

TOM

You scared me. Sometimes when I'm scared it just-

WOOD

All right, man. I don't care about your deficiencies. Do you see any...paraphernalia adorning my crotchpiece? No. I'm here because I want to apologize for those guys who stole all your stuff. I helped them get out of jail, and then they screwed me over. Cuffed me to those cops.

WOOD cricks his neck, rubbing it with one of those weird hands.

WOOD (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how hard it is to pretend for a whole night that you're just a lump of dead tree-meat while you're chained to a couple of homophobic morons? They used me to make sure they didn't accidentally touch each other. Which means all the touching happened to me.

TOM

Oh, wow. I'm sorry man. That sounds like hell.

WOOD looks away, apparently recalling the moment.

WOOD

Yeah, well.

TOM

What's your name, man? Or, sir. Well, you talk like a guy at least. Somehow.

WOOD

It's Wood. My name is Wood. And I don't have a mouth.

TOM

It's okay, WOOD. My name is TOM. And it's a really cool guy thing to do to come up here, break in to my apartment and apologize for what the guys you broke out of jail did to me. I really appreciate it. I hope things go well for you.

TOM goes over and opens the door, motioning for WOOD to leave.

WOOD

Actually, I was sort of hoping we could talk about that. You see, I don't necessarily have anywhere to...go.

TOM

You have got to be kidding me.

WOOD (PLEADING)

Listen, Tom, I can be a great roommate. I can cook. Kind of. And I'll get a job - I'll pay your rent! I'll get your furniture back. Plus I can help you with your...monkey thing. I've seen you one the news, with your towel. I can help. We'll be a super-team!

Some of the pleading fades out into the background as we zoom into TOM's face. He is very thoughtful. He is rubbing his chin. The phrase SUPER-TEAM is reverberating through his thoughts. Then he stops, and looks at WOOD.

TOM

Say the word, "sidekick."

WOOD

Sidekick.

We zoom back into Tom's face, and this time the word SIDEKICK is reverberating. He smiles.

TOM

Deal.

WOOD gets off his knees. He wraps TOM into a meaty bear hug. TOM's big eye bulges. WOOD lets go.

WOOD

I've always wanted a monkey for a sidekick.

TRANSITION TO BLACK USING A SMALLER AND SMALLER CIRCLE.

CREDITS

Created by Adam Holwerda

We hear Tom's voice in the background

TOM (TIMID)

That's not...what I meant. At all.