

DON'T FEED THE SQUIRRELS

A "Quick-Easy" in One Short Act

by
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CHARACTERS: The Reporter
The Zoo-keeper
Visitors to the Zoo--Any number. May be a mixed group of boys and girls, or all of either; in this case, just change names from 'Joe' to 'Josephine' etc.
Police Officers

SCENE: The Zoo--marked only by a large sign: Don't Feed the Squirrels.

PROPERTIES: A chair or bench for Keeper.

Some small bags of peanuts carried in by reporter.

Notebook for reporter. The use of this notebook for asking the questions etc., makes it possible to give this skit after only two or three rehearsals, since it is easy to remember the answers to the questions which, of course, need not be "word for word."

Chairs carried in by visitors.

(At rise of curtain, the Zoo-keeper is alone on the stage; his head is down and he is napping with whistling snores. The zoo animals are off to the right; they are not seen on the stage. Any one, ambitious enough, may furnish appropriate animal sounds off right. A lion's roar--hyena's laugh--tiger's snarl etc. These are not necessary. After a few seconds, the reporter saunters on, notebook in hand. He is on the trail of a story. He looks around for a moment, spies the zoo-keeper, speaks.)

REPORTER: I say! (There is no response) I say--I say! (Still no response) I say--I say--I SAY!

ZOO KEEPER: (Squinting) You say somethin'?

REPORTER: I'm a reporter.

ZOO KEEPER: That's all right. Takes all kinds to make a world. (Goes back to sleep)

REPORTER: I came to do a story on the Zoo.

ZOO KEEPER: Go right ahead and do it--only don't feed the squirrels.

REPORTER: But I'd like to interview you.

ZOO KEEPER: What for?

REPORTER: We want some human interest.

ZOO KEEPER: Sorry--none of our animals is human.

REPORTER: But don't you have any stories about the animals that might amuse my readers?

ZOO KEEPER: No--but some of your readers amuse the animals--all--powerful.

REPORTER: (Taking notes) They do?

ZOO KEEPER: They sure do--You won't believe it, but we have to get a new hyena.

REPORTER: A new hyena? Why?

ZOO KEEPER: Our old one laughed hisself to death--looking at some of the visitors.

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---