

skip ten or eleven whole years and only guess at the wonderful life that Mowgli led among the wolves." ...Yes, that will have to do. I must get to the part where Baloo and Bagheera are teaching him the Laws of the Jungle and how to protect himself. (*Looking up.*) The kind of protection I could use from the likes of Fielding and Hanley. (*Angrily.*) They always get the best of me. But if I had *them* in the jungle back in India, I'd teach them a lesson they'd never forget. I'd show them, I would. (*He begins writing again.*) "Mowgli grew big and strong. No longer did he resemble the little frog who had wandered into the jungle years before. He had learned a great deal from Baloo and Bagheera, but there was still much more he needed to know."

(*He continues to write. The lights go down on the dormitory room which is struck from the stage. The lights come up on the jungle which now fills the entire stage. BALOO enters.*)

BALOO. Mowgli—Mowgli!...Where is that little frog? It's time for his lessons. (*Taking out a list written on a piece of leather or bark.*) Now, let's see what's on today's agenda.

(*He sits and begins to silently read the list. A moment later, KAA, a snake enters.*)

KAA (*whispering*). Sss...Sss...Sss. (*KAA creeps up next to BALOO who turns slowly and sees him. KAA begins to sway back and forth hypnotically. Soon BALOO, falling into a trance, begins to sway with KAA, then falls to the ground as KAA laughs.*)

BALOO (*coming out of the trance*). Kaa! Stop that, you old charmer.

KAA. Haloo, Baloo. Sss. I may be getting old, but I still have my hypnotic ability. Sss.

BALOO. Ah, you just caught me off guard, Kaa. If I'd known you were there, you couldn't have hypnotized me.

KAA. Is that so? (*He begins to sway again.*) Sss...Sss...Baloo...Baloo...Sss. (*Again BALOO falls into a trance, then drops to the ground, breaking the spell.*)

BALOO. Now cut that out!

KAA (*laughing and helping BALOO up*). I just wanted you to know the old snake still has the power to hypnotize the enemy. Sss.

BALOO. Then save it for the enemy, Kaa. I'm your friend.

KAA. Yesss you are, Baloo. Well, off to the river for my morning bath. Sso-long.

BALOO. Yeah, s'long, Kaa. (*KAA exits as BALOO calls after him.*) And next time you come by, Don't give me the evil eye. (*To himself.*) Hey, that was pretty good—

"Next time you come by,  
Don't give me the evil eye."

I'm a natural-born poet. Is there nothing I can't do?

(*He sits and begins to read the list again. BAGHEERA enters, walking as though in a trance, and bumps into BALOO.*)

BALOO. Bagheera! What are you—Bagheera? (*BAGHEERA does not answer.*) Oh, no. Snap out of it, Bagheera. (*He gently slaps BAGHEERA who comes out of the trance.*)

BAGHEERA. Baloo?

BALOO. I have a feeling you just ran into Kaa. He's rather frisky today.