

# PAWS AND CLAWS

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Script Sample

## ACT TWO, SCENE FIVE

*Jack, Sherlock, Diesel and Smokey in their respective cages centre stage. As before, they are surrounded by all manner of dishevelled looking cats and dogs, who remain quite threatening in what they say and how they say it.*

- Bruno**           Oy, newbies, how are you doing?
- Brick**            Does the future look rosy?
- Spike**            Are you feeling chipper?
- Tiger**            How are the escape plans?
- Fang**             Give it up, newbies. We've all been there ... and we're all still here.  
The sooner you accept that you're one of us ...
- Tyson**            ... that you're a lifer ...
- Fang**             The sooner things will start to feel better.
- Leo**             Forget what you were.
- Tank**             Forget your friends. They're not your friends any more.
- Bruno**            We're your friends, newbies, aren't we everyone?
- Rambo**           Sure we are. Best friends you'll ever have.
- Nero**             They can't even remember your name. You don't exist to them.
- Tank**             You're one of us now.
- Bruno**            Get comfortable, newbies. Nobody leaves The Pound.
- All**              *(echoing)* Nobody leaves The Pound ... Nobody leaves The Pound.

*They continue as they exit, leaving just Jack, Sherlock, Diesel and Smokey.*

**Jack** It's not true you know. Animals do leave The Pound. I know they do.

**Smokey** Yes but how do they? How do they even get out of their cell?

**Diesel** Okay, here's one idea.

**Sherlock** Is it better than your last one? Starving ourselves until we're thin enough to squeeze through the bars.

**Diesel** Yes, it is. Now stop interrupting. We each climb up the bars right up to the top of our cells, and hold on really tight. Then, when the humans next come to feed us, they'll think we have already escaped. They'll rush off to sound the alarm, forgetting to close the doors. We leap down, out of our cells, and off to our freedom.

**Smokey** Brilliant. That's it, that's the one!

**Sherlock** Sure. Except for a few slight problems. Firstly, we can't climb. Secondly, we can't hold on really tight. Thirdly, they'll still see us at the top of our cells, and lastly, even if we did get out of our cells, there's a locked door just there, and another beyond it, and probably another beyond that.

**Smokey** *(deflated)* Shucks.

**Diesel** Fine. Go on then Sherlock! You think of an idea if it's so easy.

**Sherlock** I didn't say it was easy! It's not.

**Smokey** *(excited)* I've got one, I've got one!

**Sherlock** What, a brain cell?

**Smokey** Very funny. I'll have you know that I'm the smartest cat in my family.

**Sherlock** I'm guessing you're an only child?

**Diesel** *(interrupting impatiently)* Just tell us will you?

**Smokey** Okay. We steal a lab coat, stand on each other's shoulders, put on one of those breathing masks that hide your face and pretend to be the vet.

**Sherlock** Are you serious? Are you actually putting that forward as a suggestion?