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***LIKE A BROTHER***

*THE STORY OF JULIUS THE CHIMPANZEE*

Samlaget Oslo 2019

Sample translation

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**Foreword**

Right now, in a Kristiansand zoo, there is a 40 year-old chimpanzee named Julius. Perhaps you have never heard about him until now, but when Julius was small, every child in Norway knew his name. After his mother failed to take care of him, he had to spend a portion of his life living amongst two human families. He was filmed throughout. A few TV programs were made about him and shown on children’s television, and they were watched over and over by children of the time.

Julius seemed to lead a blessed life amongst humans. It looked like it would be fun to have a brother like that. In the final film, he was shown to have returned to live with the chimpanzees at the zoo, and it looked like he would live happily ever after.

Yet the truth wasn’t quite so hunky-dory. Julius had become a changed chimpanzee after his life with humans. He struggled for acceptance from the other chimpanzees, as well as suffering confusion about exactly who he was and where he belonged. He had grown up to be big and dangerous, and often butted heads with the other chimpanzees. On several occasions he even had to flee attacksfrom his fellow chimpanzees. The papers were stock full of with news about Julius, as he had become a kind of celebrity. But the truth was, Julius led a difficult, dramatic life - right up until an event that would turn it all around.

In this book, you can read all about the life of this remarkable chimpanzee. These animals are the closest natural relatives humans have. Several million years ago, we were the same animal. Many of a human being’s capacities and emotions can be seen in chimpanzees. Of course, there are also vast differences, and I don’t know whether we will ever truly be able to understand a chimpanzee, even one like Julius. But we can try, and perhaps through trying we will be able to understand a little more about ourselves.

**Chapter 1: His Mother’s Rejection**

At midnight on Christmas day, 1979, while all the children of Norway lay in their beds dreaming about the presents they had been given, a little chimpanzee was being born in Kristiansand Zoo. When the zookeeper Åse Gunn Mosvold came to work that morning, she was met by the sight of Sanne the chimpanzee’s little baby.

Sanne lay there with her child against her chest, holding him lovingly. The other chimpanzees seemed calm and happy to have a new member in their troop. At first, Åse Gunn thought the baby was a girl, because she couldn’t walk into their enclosure and check. It’s dangerous to get too close to adult chimpanzees. She was allowed to come up with a name, so decided on Julianne, since it was the season of *jul* - the Norwegian term for Christmas. When they later discovered that the chimpanzee was a boy, they changed his name to Julius.

Back then, the Kristiansand Zoo was still rather fresh on its feet. They had only started with chimpanzees a few years beforehand, and this was the first time for them that two of the female chimpanzees in the enclosure had children at the same time. A few weeks ago, Lotta the chimpanzee had a little boy named Billy, and now Sanne had little Julius.

Some animals - such as cats and dogs - automatically know what to do with their offspring once they have them. Chimpanzees do not, however, and need to learn the ropes from their fellow mothers. Sanne, Julius’ mum, was slightly young to be having children, and she had never seen how other mother chimpanzees reared theirs. In the wild, first-time mothers in chimpanzee culture have normally seen how the older chimpanzee mothers behave with their young by the time they have their own. Now and then they are even allowed to help the troop’s mothers take care of their babies. This way, they learn how they should hold, carry and take care of a child, long before they become mothers themselves. Sanne had never learnt any of this.

At the beginning, she coped well. She produced breastmilk, and seemed able to both feed and look after Julius.

Yet after a few weeks had gone by, it looked like she was beginning to lose interest. Occasionally she would put him down on the floor to concentrate on other things.

Due to the wintry conditions, the chimpanzees were being kept in the large indoor enclosure all day long, and Julius’ mother would often wind up leaving him on the concrete floor to freeze. Julius’ father, Dennis, didn’t care much either. Dennis was the leader of the chimpanzees, as well as the father to both of the babies born over the previous months. He had looked proud when Julius was born and had spent a long time watching over the little boy, but by this time had steadily drifted away. It isn’t normal for chimpanzee fathers to spend a lot of time watching their children and looking after them. Dennis was just a run of the mill, daddy chimpanzee.

One day, when Julius was six weeks old, a zookeeper noticed Julius lying alone on the floor in a pool of blood, with his index finger bitten clean off. Nobody had seen who bit him. Blood was streaming out of his finger, and Julius was howling with pain. The zookeeper was worried that Julius was about to die before their very eyes. Without a moment’s hesitation, he rang the director of the zoo, Edvard Moseid. The director phoned the zoo’s doctor, Billy Glad. Together they ran to the chimpanzee enclosure as fast as they could.

When they arrived, Julius was still bleeding on the floor. They decided to save Julius and for that, they needed to get him out of the chimpanzee exhibit.

They had no way to get in with the chimpanzees still roaming around inside, so they got hold of the fire hose and pinned Sanne against the wall with a stream of water. Then they opened the gate used for feeding the chimpanzees, crept in with a plastic rake and swept little Julius towards the bars of the exhibit. Julius was small enough for them to coaxhimunder the bars and rescue him. For the very first time, Julius the chimpanzee was being held him in human arms.

Outside it was snowing. They wrapped Julius in a green coat and carried him out into the car park. Then they set him down in their car and drove him to Billy Glad’s house in Kristiansand, where they were met by Billy’s wife, Reidun. Together they gave Julius a wash, rinsed his finger, bandaged his hand and fetched him some milk. The milk they thinned down with water, warmed up to 37 degrees Celsius, and put it in the same baby bottle Reidun and Billy had used when their own children were little. Then Reidun took Julius into her arms and fed him directly from the bottle.

Julius had now been given first aid, food, love and warmth - in short, he had been given everything he had been lacking in the Zoo. He looked so cosey and content, and soon he was fast asleep.

Reidun and Billy wrapped him in a yellow tea towel and placed him in a box in the bathroom, where the underfloor heating would keep him warm and comfy. Reidun went down to the basement to fetch a mattress, which she lay down next to Julius’ cradle. Then she lied down next to this little chimpanzee to take care of him all night long - just as she had done with her own children when they were small. That night, Julius slept like a log.

When the Glad family woke up the next day, they had a new family member. Yet they also had woken up with a problem: what on earth were they going to do now?

**Chapter 2: Almost Human**

Billy and Reidun hadn’t experienced anything like this before. They knew they couldn’t hold onto Julius forever, no matter how sweet and good and tame he was. Eventually, at some point in their lives, no matter how much they love the people around them, all chimpanzees will drift away from their safe and cosy home to become dangerous. It would be many years before this happened with Julius, but that day was definitely coming. They were well aware of that.

Yet they couldn’t really send Julius back to the chimpanzee troop right away, either. Back there, his mother would probably just carry on neglecting him. Perhaps someone would bite off another one of his fingers? Next time, he might be killed.

For those reasons, they decided to keep Julius at their house for a while. The two families decided to take turns hostingJulius at their homes. First with the zoo’s director, Edvard Moseid, and then with the family of the zoo doctor, Billy Glad. They believed and hoped that with time - perhaps a year or two - Julius would grow up to be strong and independent enough to be taken back to his chimpanzee troop and be able to take care of himself, even if his mother wasn’t looking after him.

Billy and Reidun had two boys, Carl Christian and Øystein, at twelve and ten years old. Edvard and his wife Marit had two little daughters named Ane and Siv, who were a mere four and two. Both of these pairs of siblings would have to treat Julius like a brother. Unsurprisingly, with time they all grew to love him very much indeed.

Strictly speaking, it wasn’t legal to have a chimpanzee living in a human family, so the zoo was forced to write a letter to the government and explain the situation. It was a complete disaster, they wrote, and Julius was about to die before their very eyes. They elaborated on their decision to keep him with them for a while, before letting him back into the chimpanzee troop.

Alright then, replied the government. We understand that these are some exceptional circumstances, but it would be good if the children didn’t say anything about it to the rest of their friends. Since it wasn’t technically legal.

And so it was that Carl Christian and Øystein were forced to go to school with the world’s biggest secret buried in their heart. At home they would spend all day playing with Julius, yet at school they weren’t even allowed to mention him. When friends came to visit, they had to lock Julius in the bathroom. If their visitors ever heard Julius banging aroundor making noises, the brothers would reply by saying that they were just hearing things, or that it was just air moving around in the bathroom pipes.

But before long, they were allowed to spill the beans. Billy and Reidun realised that it was impossible, and decided to let the boys to tell their friends about their special friend. Classmates were even allowed to come to visit and play with Julius. Soon it started to feel normal with Julius in the house. At times it might even be annoying. Whenever the boys built something cool with their Lego, Julius would turn up out of the blue to knock it over, flip it upside down or destroy it entirely.

The first time Julius was supposed to change foster family, he started screaming. When Edvard came to fetch him, when he started the car and throughout the whole drive home, Julius never once stopped screaming. Maybe he felt that now, he was part of the Glad family. So why on earth should he be driven off with this stranger?

But once he arrived at the home of the Moseid family, it didn’t take long before he was feeling just as comfortable. This plan of him having two human foster families seemed to be a great success. Something that made Billy and Edvard very happy indeed. If Julius was willing to accept being sent back and forth between his two foster families, it was easier to picture him going back to the chimpanzee troop one day.

In the Moseid family the two little girls were much younger than the Glad boys, so Julius was treated like one of the two toddlers. Edvard and Marit swapped nappies between Ane, Siv and Julius willy-nilly. The parents brushed the teeth of all three of them at the same time, washed them in the same bathtub and put them to bed at the same time each evening. Indeed, although Ane and Siv were tucked into proper beds and Julius was expected to sleep in a basket, as soon as he woke up in the morning he would climb out of the basket and snuggle with one of the girls in their bed.

A baby chimpanzee is able to run and climb a lot earlier than a human baby. So it didn’t take long before Julius became a match and became a normal playmate for Edvard’s little girls. He liked painting together with Ane and Siv, playing tag and hide-and-seek and running races. He loved competition and was dead set on nobody cheating. Whenever he ran a race he would make sure that everyone was standing exactly on the line and that everyone waited for “ready - steady - GO” before starting to run. Then, if he won the competition, he would become alarmingly pleased with himself. If he lost, he would become inconsolable.

With four years-old Ane, and only with her, Julius would play a special game that he had come up with himself. They would start by finding a stickor a piece of straw and chomping onto it with their mouths. Then, all the while staring deep into each other’s eyes, they would try to whip the straw out of the other’s mouth by flicking their heads back. Eyes locked, they could sit there for the longest time before either of them managed to win.

What could Julius have been thinking when he stared into his human sister’s eyes? Could he have understood that he wasn’t the same as her? Was he aware he was an animal, and would only truly belong with other animals? Can a chimpanzee have such thoughts?

**Chapter 3: Edvard’s finger**

Both families tried their hardest to raise Julius like a chimpanzee. It wouldn’t be sensible for Julius to become too much like a human. It might confuse him or cause him problems when he returned to his fellow chimpanzees. This was why he wasn’t supposed to sleep in a bed, eat at the table, or use a knife and fork.

Yet it was impossible to stop Julius from picking up human behaviour each and every day. He spent every day with humans. He played with them, he cuddled with them, and they gave him food. Naturally, he came to love these humans, just as they came to love him.

In order to prepare Julius for his eventual return to the chimpanzees, they would bring him back to the zoo and show him to the other chimpanzees as often as possible. The zoo chimpanzees had an outdoor island they could visit with a moat that separated them from human visitors. Edvard would stand next to the water and hold Julius up high so the chimpanzees on the islands could see them. The chimpanzees had an indoor enclosure too, and behind it (where visitors weren’t allowed to go) there were a handful of barred cages where the animals would sleep at night. Now and then, Edvard would take Julius here too, and show him to the other chimpanzees through the bars. Occasionally he would even push Julius’ dirty nappies into the cages so the other chimpanzees could smell his poo. Maybe it would make it easier for Julius to return to the troop if the others kept being reminded of him as much as possible - even of how his poo smelt.

On one of Edvard Moseid’s such visits in August 1980, together with Ane, Siv and Julius, something very dangerous happened. The family were finished for the day and were sitting in the car ready to drive home when one of the girls mentioned they were hungry. “Dad, can’t you pop up to the chimpanzees and get us some fruit?”

Chimpanzees and humans eat practically the same diet. The diet of the zoo’s chimpanzees mostly ate fruit and vegetables and Ane and Siv fancied a little of this fruit for themselves. Poor daddy could rarely say no to his little girls.

So while the girls sat waiting in the car, he went into the kitchen chimpanzee enclosure to pick up some fruit. As he was heading in, he decided he might as well bring Julius along**.** He could make the most of the opportunity to quickly show him to the troop again.

So Edvard Moseid took Julius into the chimpanzees’ cages, squatted down, and held him up to the bars so the monkeys could see and smell him. More and more of the chimpanzees would flock into their cages to gaze in wonder at little Julius. The little chimp himself was always a little frightened whenever he got too close to the other chimpanzees. Julius’ father and the leader of the troop, Dennis, wasn’t there. He was still out and about in the enclosure.

But then suddenly, Dennis stormed into the cages, obviously agitated. He ran straight over to where Edvard and Julius sat, held out one arm through the bars and before Edvard could manage to react, had already torn Julius out of Edvard’s hands and yanked him towards the cage.

Julius was now too big to fit through the bars and was instead pinned and crushed against them. It seemed like Dennis was ready to kill his own son. Edvard was terrified. In his panic, he reached his own arm through the bars into the cage and walloped Dennis in the head with as much force as he could muster. Dennis let go of Julius, who dropped to the floor. In response, Dennis grabbed hold of Edvard’s arm and hauled it into the cage, so his face was smashed against the cage bars. “Get Julius! Get Julius!” Edvard screamed. His fellow zookeeper Åse Gunn Mosvold was next door and heard Edvard’s cries. She ran over and rescued the petrifiedJulius.

Julius was safe, but Dennis was still refusing to let go of Edvard’s arm. Åse Gunn tried desperately to free him, kicking the barsand at Dennis’ hand to make him let go while Edvard tried to hit Dennis with his free arm, but Dennis clung on tight. A fully-grown chimpanzee is six times stronger than an adult man. Edvard was frightened that Dennis was about rip his arm clean off. Dennis, it seems, was much more interested in his hands.

Edvard squeezed his hand as tight shut as he possibly could, but it didn’t cost Dennis an ounce of effort to open up Edvard’s fist. Finger by finger. Dennis was taking his time. Edvard’s daughters were still waiting in the car outside, probably wondering why it was taking so long just for daddy to get a little fruit. Once Dennis had exposed Edvard’s index finger, he stopped to look at it for a moment. Then he placed it inside his mouth, between his razor-sharp canines and bit the finger clean off. Edvard howled from pain and shock as Dennis let go and Edvard toppled backwards and onto the floor.

Dennis had punished Edvard the chimpanzee way, by biting off one finger. Just like one of the other chimpanzees, or even Dennis himself, had done to Julius half a year ago.

Edvard ran frantically to find somethingto bandage his bleeding hand. Åse Gunn was of the opinion that someone should drive him straight to the doctor, but Edvard refused. He thought he would manage to drive his daughters to their grandparents’ house before going to the doctor.

But the moment he sat down in the car, his head began to spin and his face drained of colour. He had to give up and ask someone to give him a lift to the hopsital.

At times, chimpanzees can be very sweet and kind to one another. Yet they can also be stunningly cruel. It was a tough world Julius was heading back to, and he wasn’t ready yet.

Sample translation by Bruce Thomsen

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