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“Evil Robot Monkey” – Alternate Ending

The short story, “Evil Robot Monkey”, written by Mary Robinette Kowal introduces the reader to the protagonist, Sly, who is being used as a test subject with a chip placed into his brain to make him more intelligent and giving him the ability to communicate with humans. Sly is held in a pen, keeping him isolated from everyone, besides Delilah, the head scientist, and Vern, an assistant. When Sly is behaving properly, he is rewarded with clay. His clay is what keeps him sane and happy throughout everything, but is taken away once he misbehaves and is punished. The original theme relates to ethics for animal testing and isolation creating aggressive behavior in Sly. For the alternate ending, the theme becomes anxious and sad. Throughout the story, there is a lot of uncertainty used as suspense as we do not know if Sly will act out aggressive towards Vern and what he could do. In the alternate ending, there is time constraints and high stakes. Some of the stylistic choices used in the new story, Sly uses his aggression to his benefit, using his built-up anger to motivate himself to escape the laboratory. Vern has always had compassion for Sly, unlike everyone else; he helps Sly escape to give him a better life. In the original ending, Sly is left making pottery with his left-over clay he cleaned up, calm and relaxed but it is not clear what will happen to Sly. The original ending is unresolved and leaves the reader on a cliff-hanger. In the new ending, Sly finds an escape route but he cannot fully escape, instead he gets taken out while trying. In the new ending to the short story “Evil Robot Monkey”, Sly attempts to save himself from Delilah, only giving Delilah the opportunity to take him out of his misery.

Alternative ending

While Sly is turning his clay, he begins to feel lonely, his stomach sinks and his head feels heavy. Being isolated in this pen all by himself, with no other chimp to be with. Sly closes his eyes for a minute, hoping it will calm him down, as if doing this is a way to protect himself from reality.

Vern continues to walk away with Slys clay. His eyes are on the verge of watering as he goes to give the clay to Delilah. Vern opens the door to her office.

“Here is his clay.” Vern had a face of disgust on as he gives her the clay.

“I can see Sly cleaned up the clay he had on the window. I told you I want all the clay taken away. Now go back there and take away his pottery wheel and throw it away” Delilah said with an evil grin on her face knowing it would hurt Sly and Vern.

Sly calms down, but he is still angry. Angry how he is confined in such a small space, unable to survive out in the wilderness. All his built-up anger from all the experiments and tests is giving him all this adrenaline. He knows he cannot act out anymore.

“I need to escape. I cannot stay here anymore!” Sly says to himself quietly.

He looks around, he sees a small bobby pin lying on the ground. It must have fallen from Delilah’s hair when she comes in to do her tests. Sly uses his foot to try and grab the bobby pin. Suddenly, the door knob twists and Vern walks in on Sly.

“Vern! Please do not tell her, I need to get out of here! Help me!” Sly said as his whole body is shaking in fear.

“This is not right. You do not belong in here. If you look up, there is a vent right above your pen. If you can get in there, you can find your way out.”

Delilah sees what is happening over her security cameras. Over the speaker, Delilah comes on, “Vern! I can see what you are doing. Stop right now, security is on their way!”

Vern slams the door behind him, locks the door and pushes a desk in front. Hoping this will keep the security out long enough for Sly to escape.

“There is not much time. We need to hurry!” Vern says anxiously.

Vern opens Slys pen and holds him above his head as the security guards begin to bang aggressively on the door.

“Open up!” shouted the guards.

Sly is dangling from the vent, barely holding on. His hands and feet are covered in clay and he cannot hold his grip.

The security guards shove their way through the door, slamming Vern onto the group. Sly hangs on with all fours, high enough the security guards cannot reach him.

“Maybe they will leave if I can stay up long enough.” Sly thought to himself, giving him some hope he can still make it out of this place.

Sly can hear heels approaching as they hit the floor. He knows it is Delilah. In comes Delilah, a wide grin on her face as she looks up to Sly.

“Oh Sly, your silly tricks will be missed.” She says in a mean, sarcastic way.

“No!” cries Vern.

Delilah reaches into the pocket of her coat, grabs his control switch and push’s down the shut off button. Sly slowly starts to lose his consciousness and falls onto the ground, motionless and there he lies. With his last breath, he finds the energy to look into Verns eyes.

“Thank you Vern.”