

The Gorilla

Story By: Andrew Frinkle



Tony was walking down the street. He was trying to get to the store before it closed, and he was not thinking about anything except that. He had his grocery shopping list in hand and was rushing through the crosswalks, trying to avoid getting hit by cars.

He came to a stop at a crosswalk and was waiting for the signal to cross. The red hand showed him not to walk, but he was tempted to run across anyway, because there were not many cars. Still, it didn't seem like a good idea, so he stayed.

There were so many people around that he didn't notice the gorilla at first. It ambled over to him on its feet and knuckles. All he could think about was the store, though, which he could see distantly, just a block or two ahead.

Tony quietly checked his list once more. If he didn't get everything on the list, his mother would be angry. He often forgot just an item or two, so he wanted to make sure he did it right this time. As he was checking his list, the person to the side of him bumped into him.

"Pardon me." Tony said, stepping to the side, in case it had been his fault.

The person bumped him again. Tony glanced over in irritation. "Hey, watch yourself..." He trailed off. It wasn't a person at all. He was nose to nose with a gorilla. He stepped back, suddenly fearful.

The gorilla grunted and followed him, pawing at the ground with its knuckles. Tony glanced around him in disbelief. All around him people watched with great interest. Some looked afraid and were backing away. Some whispered behind their hands and watched with wide eyes. A few had their phones out and were recording videos or taking pictures.

"What's going on?" Tony's voice trembled as he backed away.

The gorilla tilted its head at him, as if it was trying to understand him. It grunted, and Tony thought his heart would drop out of his chest. His legs felt like lead, he'd broken into a sweat, and he felt rather light headed.

Suddenly, the gorilla waved at him. "You know where the nearest pizza place is?" The gorilla asked in an oddly human voice. Its mouth didn't seem to move, though.

Tony pointed down the street in the direction he knew there was a pizza parlor. "There's one that way."

"Thanks, pal!" The gorilla called, standing up straight and walking away.

Tony breathed a sigh of relief, and found people around him laughing and smiling. He shook his head and hurried across the street, since the light had changed, but he wasn't able to forget the gorilla...

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. How does Tony feel in the beginning of the story?

- A. happy and excited
- B. busy and anxious
- C. tired and exhausted
- D. sad and depressed

2. What is Tony doing?

- A. He's going to buy some things for a party.
- B. He's shopping for gifts.
- C. He's getting some groceries for his mother.
- D. He's rushing off to do his homework.

3. What does Tony run into on the street as he waits to cross the street?

- A. a dog
- B. a cat
- C. a kind man
- D. a gorilla

4. How does Tony feel when he comes face to face with the gorilla?

- A. happy
- B. excited
- C. scared
- D. sleepy

5. What does Tony really meet on the street?

- A. a man in a gorilla suit.
- B. a real gorilla that knows English
- C. something from his imagination
- D. none of the above



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