



IT JUNGLE OUT THERE

By John Busser

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Cast of Characters

JOHN (TARZAN):

CRAIG:

DENISE:

JANE:

Male, Late 20's – Early 30's

Male, Late 20's – Early 30's

Female, 20's – 30's

Female, 20's – 30's

Place

At office at Love Links

Time

A little before 11am

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At lights up, JOHN sits at the side of a desk waiting for someone. JOHN is dressed in a shirt and tie and wears a suit jacket. He has long hair, possibly in a ponytail. He is positioned so that the audience can see his upper half, but not the lower (for reasons that become evident later.) He waits patiently, when suddenly, the door opens and CRAIG enters. NOTE: In order to maintain the idea that JOHN is an average client until the reveal of his identity, he should speak in as NORMAL a fashion as possible.

CRAIG: Hello there. You must be John Clayton. Nice to meet you. Welcome to Love Links. My name is Craig and I'll be helping you with the initial start-up process.

JOHN: Pleasure.

CRAIG: (*CRAIG sits.*) Glad to hear it... So, let's not waste any time and get the prelims out of the way. (*Typing away at the computer.*) I'm just going to bring up your file here...

JOHN: File? What file?

CRAIG: It's just your initial entry into the system from the form you filled out for Denise.

JOHN: Denise?

CRAIG: The girl out front? That's Denise. She took your form and input it into the system, and now I'm going to add some additional information so we can set up your online profile. We just need to jazz it up a little before we get you out there.

JOHN: Okay.

CRAIG: So, John... uh, may I call you John?

JOHN: No.

CRAIG: Good, so John, what I want to—excuse me?

JOHN: Not John.

CRAIG: NOT John? That's the name I have here. (*Looks at the screen.*) "John Clayton". Are you saying that's NOT your name?

JOHN: Yes.

CRAIG: (*Confused*) Wait, are you agreeing with my statement, that John is NOT your name or are you saying it IS your name?

JOHN: IS.

CRAIG: Okay, but you don't want me to CALL you John.

JOHN: No.

CRAIG: Well, I can call you Mister Clayton if you like. But I have to tell you, people nowadays usually like a little informality. Especially in these sorts of interactions.

JOHN: Really?

CRAIG: Oh yes, we find that a lot of online daters want more than anything to feel at ease when meeting this way. So we encourage people to be open and informal if possible.

JOHN: (*Thinks this over.*) Okay. First name.

CRAIG: John, it is... (*He begins typing.*)

JOHN: No!

CRAIG: No?

JOHN: Not John.

CRAIG: (*He sits back, looks at JOHN.*) ... Is your name John Clayton?

JOHN: Birth name. Legally changed.

CRAIG: Ah. So the name I have in the file is wrong. Gotcha. What name should I put here?

JOHN / TARZAN: Tarzan.

CRAIG: (*A long beat.*) What?

TARZAN: Tarzan. One "z".

CRAIG: Tarzan.

TARZAN: One "z".

CRAIG: (*Annoyed*) I know it's one "z".

TARZAN: What wrong?

CRAIG: "What WRONG?" You can't go around calling yourself Tarzan, that's what's wrong.

TARZAN: Why not? Is name.

CRAIG: (*Annoyed even more.*) Your name is NOT Tarzan.

TARZAN: Well, full name Tarzan, Lord of Jungle, but that sound pretentious. Beside, Tarzan not sure if "Lord of Jungle" is last name or more like Honorary Title.

CRAIG: (*Sarcastically*) I think it's a title.

TARZAN: HA! (*He slaps CRAIG on the back.*) Tarzan thank Craig for clearing that up.

CRAIG: But you can't be Tarzan!

TARZAN: Why? There some other Lord of Jungle in room Tarzan not know about?

CRAIG: Of course not.

TARZAN: Then... (*indicating himself.*) Tarzan.

CRAIG: (*Exasperated*) But how can you be here? In Des Moines, of all places. Aren't you supposed to be over in Africa or something?

TARZAN: Tarzan need fresh start. Jungle hold bad memory. Now, Craig help Tarzan or what?

CRAIG: Yes, yes, of course I'll help. We here at Love Links pride ourselves on our ability to find that special someone for even the most discriminating customer. So, I think it best if I just complete your profile interview and see if we can't find someone for you to hang with... Get it? "Hang... with"?

TARZAN: (*TARZAN rolls his eyes.*) Hilarious. Craig here all week...?

CRAIG: All right, I'm going to ask you a series of questions. These are designed to help us get an idea of what you're looking for as well as provide some information for those out there that might check out your profile.

TARZAN: (*Turning his head.*) Tarzan think right side best profile.

CRAIG: Um... great. (*Pretends to type.*) "Right side best." Got it. Now, question number one. What are your hobbies?

TARZAN: Hobbies? What hobbies mean?

CRAIG: Well, you know, a hobby is something that you like to do a lot.

TARZAN: Ah... (*Thinking it over.*) Then, Tarzan favorite hobby is... mate.

CRAIG: (*Typing in.*) "Mate" (*suddenly realizing what he typed.*) Oh, MATE! Oh, yeah, don't we all. Um, no, what I meant was, it's something you do for fun. No! Wait! Uh, a hobby is something that you like to do for fun, but not necessarily with someone else.

TARZAN: Tarzan sometimes use hand.

CRAIG: NO! No. No. No. NO! How can I put this...? A hobby is something you do in your spare time, like collecting stamps or scrapbooking.

TARZAN: (*Condescendingly*) Tarzan look like stamp collector?

CRAIG: Sorry. We'll get back to that. Question number two. What languages do you speak?

TARZAN: Okay, let Tarzan think... uhhhhh... Tarzan speak English...

CRAIG: Of course. (*Types in each as TARZAN relates it.*)

TARZAN: Canadian English.

CRAIG: Canadian English?

TARZAN: Aboot.

CRAIG: ... Canadian English.

TARZAN: Mangani...

CRAIG: I'm sorry. Mangani?

TARZAN: Language of Bull Ape.

CRAIG: That makes sense, I suppose...

TARZAN: Uh, Tarzan also speak French... Dutch... German...

CRAIG: I'm impressed...

TARZAN: Arabic... Swahili... 3 dialects Bantu...

CRAIG: ... very exotic.

TARZAN: Congoese... Kirundi... annnd... smattering of Rhino.