**Alfred Fidjestøl** *ALMOST HUMAN*

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**Preface**

Julius is the most famous animal in Norway. His heyday is definitely over, but a whole generation of Norwegians have grown up with him. Julius has played a cultural and media historical role in Norwegian society, almost like a member of the Royal Family. Moreover, he has lived a strange and fascinating life. He was rejected by his mother as a baby and grew up among humans where he became a super celebrity, a TV star, the media’s darling and a huge attraction for a commercial zoo. He was returned to the chimpanzee community, but was clearly torn between the two worlds and for years he was homeless everywhere. He ran away from the chimpanzee island several times. He became dangerous and vicious, and unable to adapt himself to the life with other chimpanzees and ended up isolated in a cage. His life seemed set to become a classic tragedy. Until in 2005, he was successfully re-introduced into the community where he still lives as a fully integrated zoo chimp, as head of the tribe and a father.

Personally, my relationship to Julius has not been particularly close - no closer than most Norwegians’ of my generation. Yet, of all the animals in the whole world he is closest to me. Julius and I share 98.6 percent of our genetic material. In an evolutionary perspective our species were separated only a short time ago. We shared a common 'great-great-great grandmother’ for less than six million years ago. My haemoglobin molecule - the protein that carries oxygen and gives blood its red colour - is in all its 287 entities completely identical with Julius'. Our actual lifespan is also similar. As children we grew up in fairly comparable relationships. We are both born in a small social democratic country during the 70s, and we have lived with members of the human family, with two elder siblings and parents. We eat almost the same food, we are almost the same size, and we have both become adults and father of three in the same country.

These similarities, and the abyss of differences that nonetheless separates us, made me curious about Julius as the subject of a biography. The methodological idea was to write a chimpanzee biography consistent with the same principles applicable to a modern human biography, with the same demands for documentation and evidence. In principal, there is nothing that distinguishes Julius from a dead man as a subject of biography. The dead man cannot talk on his own behalf, is at the mercy of available written and oral sources and the ways in which these are used and abused by the respective biographers. Julius is therefore a well-suited subject for an animal biography. There are an overwhelming and varied numbers of written, medical, visual and oral sources about his life. A complete portrayal of his life is doable, with one little exception from the modern standard biography: that the subject matter of the biography is not human. Only just.

**Chapter 1: Heredity and Environment**

The heart is a mysterious muscle. At a certain point in time it starts pumping, and then at another it stops. But no one knows exactly why it suddenly starts to beat, while the organism is still a foetus in the womb. Why the first electrical impulse in the myocardial chamber sends a message to the heart to contract and for the very first time pump blood out into the tight and tiny arteries of the foetus. In a chimpanzee foetus, which normally spends eight months in the womb, the first heartbeat occurs at about six weeks. In other words, the heart of the chimpanzee this book is about, must have beaten for the very first time sometime in May 1979, perhaps on the 17th, the Norwegian National Day, while King Olav stood on the palace balcony in Oslo in the mild drizzle and waved at the children's parade. And today, almost forty years later, this same muscle is still beating strongly and rhythmically day and night in this now fully grown - and somewhat overweight - chimpanzee in a zoo in Kristiansand.

No one knows when the first heartbeat occurred. Observant zookeepers had perhaps registered the absence of Sanne’s - the eight-year-old female chimp - oestrus. It is easy to detect when female chimps are ovulating as their genitals become pink and swollen. And when Sanne’s oestrus cycle failed to appear month after month throughout the summer of 1979, it became clear for the caretakers that she was pregnant. As the birth approached, no measures were taken to provide medical help from a vet or a caretaker. A chimpanzee birth is easier than a human’s. Death during childbirth is extremely rare. In nature, the chimpanzees normally climb up a tree when close to delivery, and the mother chimpanzee handles everything alone. And sometime during the night, between Christmas and Boxing Day 1979, a baby chimp weighing about 1500 grams was born. Unobserved, Sanne must have squeezed out the little foetus, cleaned it up with straw she found nearby and settled down with her new-born baby still attached to the placenta with the umbilical cord.

In the morning, the caretaker, Anne Gunn Mosvold, was on duty. It was a quiet day at the Park. There were no guests and few staff members at work. As usual, she went first to the kitchen and put on some water to boil to make porridge before going out to check on the chimps. They were inside the so-called Tropical House for the winter. They had a common area where the public could see them, with grey LECA block walls and a steep rocky mound, surrounded by water and with tall timber beams and leafy climbing ropes crisscrossing all over. Moreover, they had a backstage sleeping quarter adjacent to the caretakers’ kitchen. The chimpanzees were still lolling around quietly and peacefully in their sleeping quarters. Everything seemed idyllic. Then she suddenly saw Sanne lying there holding a tiny baby chimp tightly in her arms. The umbilical cord had been detached and laid in the straw. The whole community seemed to accept the newcomer. They barely took notice of him and carried on snoozing languidly.

"Sanne gave birth during the night! Everything seems to be in excellent condition at 12.30 pm. Sanne is lying on the rocks with the baby high up on her belly. A good sign," Mosvold noted in the daily observation report for December 26, 1979. The baby chimp was clutching his mother’s breast and suckling for the first time.

To start off with, all the little chimp needs is to cling to his mother. Chimpanzee babies are completely dependent on their mothers for several years. Humans share these primal reflexes with them. New born babies curve their fingers or toes if you hold an adult finger against their palms or their feet. This is an evolutionary reflex. We are built to cling firmly to our mothers.

**New Community**

Anne Gunn Mosvold was given the honour of choosing a name. Since the chimp was born at Christmas and Christmas is called “jul” in Norwegian and she presumed it was a girl, she named it Juliane. Then later when they found out that the chimpanzee was a male, the name was changed to Julius.

Julius was born in a small and rather new community. Chimpanzees were new to the Kristiansand Zoo. Seen by many as a hazardous project, the Park opened in 1965. It was located in a remote area along the motorway, almost ten kilometres from the nearest private house. Their first season’s biggest attractions were goats, swans, ponies, geese, baboons and brown bears. However, Edvard Moseid, the eccentric and animal loving gardener who had been director of the Park since 1967, had greater ambitions. Moseid looked like a hippy, with long hair and moustache and with a fag always hanging from the corner of his mouth. But he had a certain knack with animals that was exceptional, and as it would turn out a unique commercial flair. In 1969, he imported twenty camels from the Moscow Zoo. The plan was to start camel breeding and export the camels to the United States. Because of the Cold War the Americans could not import directly from the Soviet Union. However, imports of second-generation camels via Kristiansand were acceptable, and for almost a decade camel export was a large source of income for the Park. The Park was expanded and upgraded every year, new species were bought, and finally in 1976 Moseid could import the first generation of chimpanzees - the one animal that no zoo with self-respect and ambition can do without. On 13 January 1976, the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture issued a decision giving the Kristiansand Zoo permission to import four chimpanzees from the Jylland Mini Zoo in Herning in Denmark. Eight days later, on 21 January 1976, Director Moseid took the ferry from Hirtshals to Kristiansand with the four chimpanzees in his car, among them Sanne, who would later become Julius’ mother. Moseid had placed them in separate dog crates, which he carried up to his the cabin. It was a night crossing with strong winds and tall waves, and all the chimpanzees became seasick, vomiting all the way home. On arrival, they were quarantined in the old camel stables, as required by the Ministry of Agriculture. One of the chimps turned out to be sick and not very presentable and was returned on March 4 the same year. Another one had to be euthanized the following year due to suspected tuberculosis, which was later refuted during the autopsy. As a result, Sanne and a small male chimpanzee called Polle were the only ones left. Therefore, in March 1977, the Zoo applied to the Ministry of Agriculture for permission to import two adult chimpanzees, a male and a female, called Dennis and Lotta, from the Borås Zoo in Sweden. They were ten and nine years old when they arrived by car to Kristiansand through Svinesund, and Dennis became the tribe’s alpha chimp. Later that year two younger female chimps, Skinny and Bölla, arrived from the Faavang Zoo in Denmark. The Danish traders guessed that they were younger than two years, but they were not sure. In other words, the chimps were caught in the wild.

By the time Julius was born, Skinny and Polle were both dead, while Lotta had given birth to a small male chimpanzee a few months earlier. They called him Billy. The leader of the tribe, Dennis, quickly became the proud father of two. During the first period everything looked promising between Julius and Sanne. She was a caring mother. She and Dennis could sit for long periods and look at the baby, cuddling him him and showing him off to each other. The tribe accepted the little newcomer. It was midwinter and they were kept inside and had little to do. They sat together much of the time grooming each other’s furs, picking lice.

A troop living in captivity has more time for such activities. In nature, chimpanzees use about half their waking time eating or moving around in search of food. They roam in groups looking for food and often spend the night where they have eaten their last meal. There they build small nests high up in the trees to sleep through the night. In captivity, they have nowhere to go, and all their food is served. To begin with Julius was not supposed to have anything else but breastmilk. One of the episodes on *Norge Rundt* (All around Norway) - the popular family TV show on NRK - the national television in Norway - ​​was about these first chimpanzees that had been born in Norway. The Zoo’s vet, Billy Glad (the chimp Billy was named after him), told the reporter that so far Sanne was a good mother. She had observed Lotta’s childcare for hours while she waited to give birth and seemed well-prepared, Billy Glad informed the Norwegian people.

However, after a couple of weeks, at the end of January 1980, the caretakers noticed the first signs of Sanne’s inadequate behaviour towards little Julius. Her attitude changed suddenly. Increasingly she began putting Julius down while she did other things. He was left lying alone, whining for unusually long periods apparently without her caring. In the jungle a lonely chimp baby would instantly have become food for predators or other chimpanzees if it were left lying around like this. Dennis, his father and the tribe leader seemed clearly irritated. Once in a while he went over to the whimpering chimp and pushed him, perhaps as a kind of signal to Sanne to take care of him. Sometimes the younger female chimp Bölla would step in as a sort of surrogate mother, but Bölla did not have breastmilk to offer and once the caretakers had to intervene and give her sedatives in order to be able to return Julius to Sanne – who once again demonstrated her irresponsible behaviour. Sanne’s behavioural change was strange, and was similar to a postnatal depression. The caretakers noted that she could leave Julius for as long as 45 minutes at a time.

**Young Mother**

Sanne was a young mother, and it is not unusual for first time chimpanzee mothers to be a bit careless. While cats and birds know automatically and instinctively how to take responsibility for their young, chimpanzees - and humans – have to learn it from others. And in young female chimpanzees it is actually normal that their first pregnancy fails, either due to miscarriage or stillbirth, or sometimes due to an inability to take care of the baby. Evolutionarily, it is understandable if a species has developed mechanisms whereby a mother does not waste time and resources on trying to raise a child before she is socially mature enough to be able to complete the project. In normal chimpanzee communities the younger females usually learn motherhood from the older and experienced ones. Often a chimpanzee mother may allow a young childless female try her hand at caregiving to a chimpanzee baby. When that happens, the mother keeps an eye from afar and makes sure that the young surrogate mother refrains from risky behaviour, like climbing too high up with the baby or putting it down. Only after such a training period the younger female chimps may be trusted as babysitters. Lotta had probably learned these things from other mothers in the Swedish zoo and therefore managed well to take care of little Billy, while Sanne had never experienced a similar situation in Denmark. She had just observed Lotta for a few months, but had obviously not learned enough during this time to enable her to take care of Julius.

Moreover Sanne was a somewhat unpredictable chimpanzee. The caretakers had been rather apprehensive about how she would cope with motherhood. During this period, they ventured on a few quite risky routines, where they regularly went in to the chimpanzees and had close physical contact with them. Generally it went well and they learned to read each individual chimpanzee and anticipate when it was safe to spend time with them. Dennis was a wise and caring chimp, easy to understand. Sanne however was unpredictable and her moods could suddenly change, she was temperamental and hot-tempered.

Now that Sanne had a young, it was impossible to go in to her. It was difficult to rectify her conduct and her keepers had to stand and observe the forlorn baby. They tried to isolate Sanne and Julius from the rest of the community in order to strengthen their emotional bond, but even then she would just put him down and ignore him. He became dehydrated and cold from lying on the concrete floor, and he could easily have become seriously ill. The situation changed dramatically on 12 February, 1980. Sometime during the afternoon, unobserved by the caretakers, one of the chimpanzees bit Julius’ finger so hard that his fingertip loosened. No one knew which one did it, but some of the caretakers believed it must have been Sanne, others thought that it was surely Dennis. Purely theoretically it could also have been Lotta or Bölla, only Billy was too small and completely beyond suspicion. One theory was that Dennis had done it to provoke a maternal response from Sanne or one of the other female chimpanzees.

The incident was discovered at 7 pm. Julius was lying on the floor in a pool of blood howling in pain. His tiny heart pumped blood out of his body through the bitten fingertip. Immediately one of the caretakers called doctor Billy Glad and director Edvard Moseid, and they came as fast as they could. They arrived at about 7.30 pm. Julius was lying on his back screaming. Moseid prepared to go in to help Julius, but Sanne clearly demonstrated that she was not going to let him in. Instead, she picked up Julius, but she held him roughly and carelessly, at arms’ length and shortly after put him down again on his stomach in the hay. Julius looked exhausted, almost dead. Sanne was more interested in the attention from the three humans than the fate of her baby. Julius would have died right before their eyes had not Edvard Moseid and Billy Glad intervened. They felt that they did not have any other choice. They had to try to save him.

"What happens happens - we'll handle it later. We cannot stand here and watch the baby chimp die before our eyes," Billy Glad noted later in the journal.

Sanne would not let them in. She became furious as they approached. At this point her maternal instincts were still functioning. Although she was uncaring towards Julius, she tried to protect him against intruders. Moseid tried to pull Julius out with a plastic rake, but Sanne reacted so brutally that he stopped. And their attempt to lure Sanne over to the closed cage in order to pull out Julius also failed. They then tried to tempt her with grapes and bananas, as well as soda, but Sanne would not budge. Time was running out. They had to get hold of the injured chimp. They were perhaps already too late. The solution was to get the fire hose. Billy Glad aimed the strong stream of water straight at Sanne and thrusted her against the wall, while Moseid opened the food hatch, bent over with the rake and pulled Julius towards the fence where he could try to tug the little chimp from underneath.

It was 8.15 pm when Billy Glad finally held Julius in his arms. Julius smelled and was dirty. The tip of the left index finger was loose, with bones sticking out. Billy wrapped him in a blue woollen sweater and a military jacket, while Edvard Moseid went to the office and called Billy’s wife Reidun and told her that they would soon be coming home to her with a baby chimp.

"That’s fine," she replied. They gave Julius a few spoonful of sugary water, before they took him down to the parking lot and placed him in the front seat of Billy Glad’s car and he drove home to his family. Julius would remain there for a few days until his finger healed, and hopefully he recuperated. What would happen after that, they had no idea. They did not have a plan. From there on it was all improvisation.

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**On the Run**

Sanne - Julius and Kjell’s mother - gave birth to another son on 1st of February 1987. They named him Mardon. All zoos wish for female chimpanzees. They adapt more easily to the ranks as adults and can give birth to new individuals. Mardon was the fifth male chimpanzee in a row at Kristiansand. And only three days after his birth Sanne died. In a relatively short period Sanne, Bölla and Lotta were all dead. In other words, all the animals that had experienced the fire in the Tropical House in 1978, were now gone and Champis had lost all his ladies. Julius became motherless. To be precise, Julius had two mothers and Sanne was never one of them.

There was no one left to take care of Mardon. And it seemed unlikely that Bastian could be re-integrated into the community. It was easier for Bastian to make a new start with a new troop. Mardon and Bastian were therefore both transferred to Öland Zoo in Sweden. In exchange the Zoo received a four-and-a-half year old female chimpanzee, which they hoped would get on with Julius. She arrived in Kristiansand on 9 February 1987, and was immediately placed in quarantine. The publicity plan was to launch her as Julius’ ‘fiancé,’ although she was too young to become a mother. Normally In the wild, female chimpanzees become pregnant for the first time at the age of 12-14, in captivity this may easily occur several years earlier. Perhaps she and Julius could live separated from the rest of the community and eventually start a family and a new tribe.

Julius could do with a new start and a new community. With Champis his daily life was not easy. Champis frightened and punished him daily. He was often so brutal with Julius that the caretakers had to intervene to save him. Repeatedly Julius had to be kept isolated. Sometimes he could be with Billy, but that was also challenging. Billy and Julius would attack each other so brutally that the caretakers had to separate them with water hoses.

Saturday, 30May 1987, the situation deteriorated. Champis had been extra rough with Julius, and Julius had finally found a hiding place under the roof in the Tropical House. There he could sit all by himself without fearing new reprisals from the alpha male. And it was while sitting there that he probably began planning. Like humans chimpanzees are able to think out solutions for unknown problems. The German psychologist, Wolfgang Köhler, one of the pioneers within chimpanzee research, demonstrated this, at the beginning of the 20th century. Through laboratory experiments on chimpanzees, he noted that they could solve problems with which they had no prior experience. For example, he would hang up fruit in the ceiling or place them outside the cage beyond their reach and after a short contemplation the chimps would find out how they could reach the fruits by stacking objects on top of each other and climbing up the stack. Or by putting a bamboo stick inside another to build a long enough tool in order to hoard the fruit outside the cage. Köhler’s point was that they did not discover these solutions through trial and error, but through observation and a sudden realisation. This phenomenon, this sudden realisation of a solution to a problem, still bears the name " Köhler’s aha moment" in chimpanzee literature.

Now, it was Julius' turn to have a " Köhler’s aha moment." While sitting under the roof and hiding from Champis he had discovered something he had never noticed before. He had detected a possible escape route, through the beams in the ceiling. Later when he was down on the ground together with the other chimpanzees, he suddenly took action. There was some commotion in the group, Julius went completely berserk. He screeched loudly, grabbed hold of one of the climbing ropes, climbed all the way up to the ceiling, and across the beam. One of the beams had live electrical cables attached to it in order to prevent escape attempts through there. They could see the tremor go through Julius’ body as he went past it, but he was so determined to get out that he continued climbing. He climbed straight across the moat and slipped down on the public side of the Tropical House. From there he ran straight towards the front door, opened it and got out of the park. A few spectators were inside the Tropical House and were shocked to witness the event, among them freelance photographer Knut Uppstad, who managed to photograph Julius as he climbed out, and ran after Julius out of the Park.

Same day, seventy children with cancer had arrived by charter from Tromso to the Zoo, to see Julius, among other things. But exactly at the moment they arrived at the Tropical House Julius left it. A seven-and-a-half year old chimpanzee was on the run. An adult male chimpanzee’s arms’ strength is five times that of a physically fit trained young man. And since chimpanzees fight with all four limbs, it is practically impossible for a human to defend himself against a chimp. Their bite is also extremely powerful. In fights the chimpanzees can smash each other's bones with their teeth.

Julius was heading full speed down towards the office area, across the parking lot and into the café. The guests did not understand the gravity of the situation and many of them kept standing, smiling and laughing at naughty Julius who was out again among humans. The café was immediately evacuated, but Julius ran into the toilet and so got trapped. Once in there, it was easy to shut him inside. The door was locked, they had him under control. They fetched a van and the caretaker Anne Gunn Mosvold took on the mission to go in to him. She breathed deeply and murmured a quiet prayer. She knew that her own fear was the greatest danger. All signs of anxiety would give Julius the upper hand psychologically. But she managed to gain control over her fear and went calmly into the toilet, took him by the hand and walked to the waiting car. He was taken directly back to the bedroom where he could calm down for the rest of day before he was returned to the other chimpanzees.

As soon as he was back in the community, however, there were new conflicts with Champis. Five days later the caretakers discovered powerful bite marks on Julius. Billy Glad had to examine him and begin treatment. It is normally impossible for a vet to examine an eight-year-old chimpanzee without anaesthesia, but at that point Billy Glad could handle him almost as a human. It turned out that Julius’ bite marks were from canine teeth. There was no doubt whose they were.

"Champis' actions are clearly intended to kill Julius," concluded Billy Glad.

Violence is part of the chimpanzees’ everyday life, and of course it happens that chimps in the wild kill each other in internal conflicts. But the norm is to try to avoid conflicts tuning too serious. Aggression and conflicts are so central to the chimps’ everyday life that they have been forced to develop a number of techniques to prevent them from escalating into fatal violence. If two male chimpanzees try to pick up a fight with each other, there is almost always a specific phase of development before they clash together, with clear signals about the situation, and hence a time limit within which it is possible for the other community members to take action to cool down the temperature. During this phase, the rivals stand face to face, with chests out, bristled fur and make loud noises. However, when two female chimps fight no one reacts. Female chimpanzees lack the male chimpanzees’ pointed long canines. A fight between two females is therefore less dangerous than between males, which may of course have an evolutionary explanation and the reason why nature has endowed the male chimpanzees the ability to produce numerous warning signs and therefore several openings to defuse the confrontation. The males in a tribe are always dependent on each other, even when they are internal rivals. When hunting, battling with external enemies and against other tribes, and when protecting their territory, they cooperate and rely on each other's physical strength. If the male chimpanzees injure each other in internal fights, they will not be able to defend the tribe, and ultimately will not be able to spread their genes. Therefore, there is a clear codex for fights between males among chimps. They normally only use their sharp canines on fingers and feet, rarely the head and shoulders. They measure strength according to commonly accepted rules, almost like two athletes, which may be an indication of the evolutionary background of the phenomenon sport. Perhaps sport originated as a regulated competition, as a way for rivals in a tribe to determine which ones are the strongest and should have the right to lead the tribe, and the primary right to spread their genes, without wounding their rivals so badly as to destroy their ability to participle in their common project of protecting the tribe against external rivals?

By the same logic, reconciliation is important in chimpanzees. Two chimpanzees, who have just finished fighting, will in remarkably short time seek out peaceful body contact. They are drawn towards each other like magnets, writes Frans de Waal. Just seconds after a fight is over, the duellers seek each other out, kiss and initiate session of mutual grooming, stroking and licking wounds. Frans de Waal has empirical material that shows that no other chimpanzees use as much time on mutual grooming as two male chimpanzees during the period they are in conflict with each other. But this rapid reconciliation after a harrowing fight does not come about by itself without protestations and deliberations. Often the two rivals just sit and glare at each other and wait for the other to take the first initiative. Frans de Waal experienced it almost as a kind of code of honour.

Chimpanzees are in other words complex animals, with an aggressive and a conciliatory side. Julius and Champis were better at aggression than reconciliation. None of them initiated reconciliation. Julius refused to be submissive. Moreover, there were no adult female chimps that could intervene to curb the level of conflict between the two. The tribe in Kristiansand was an artificially small group with a demarcated territory. Aggression levels are often higher in captivity than in the wild because they have less room for hiding or running off when trouble is brewing, but also because they have more time to bicker since they are served all the food they need. Julius was literally stuck and confined with an aggressive and physically stronger leader. He had no one to help him and nowhere to hide. The most sensible thing for him to do was to run away. He had done it before. He would do it again.

**Julius is in love**

The Swedish female chimp that was brought to be with Julius was out of quarantine. During this period she and Julius had been close enough for him to be able to smell and hear her, but when they were put together Julius was so brusque and harsh with her that the caretakers had to intervene several times. It did not look promising. Nevertheless during the summer of 1987, they released a targeted publicity campaign to attract attention to Julius' new 'girlfriend'. Through the Norwegian Donald Duck corp., they announced a competition whereby participants were invited to name the chimpanzee – conveniently ignoring the fact that the Swedish Zoo had already named her a long time ago. Terje Formoe, the Zoo’s Director of Entertainment, claimed that over 20,000 suggestions had come in. The most popular names were Julia and Juliane, but they turned out to be impracticable. Because when they tested these names Julius responded to all of them. Therefore, at the end of July it was announced that the female chimp would be called Josephine.

Josephine was not mature and it did not seem as if the two of them liked each other, but in the media it was presented as a romantic affair.

"[L]uckily it all turned out as we’d hoped. She lay down and submitted and the two of them became lovers. It was time for affection and hugs," Edvard Moseid interpreted eagerly.

Such a pseudo engagement worked well within the public narrative whereby Julius’ lifespan was presented as human-like as possible, from the sweet childhood through the awkward teenage phase to the present when he was about to become a young adult. Julius and Josephine, a love story and the notion of ​​a married couple was a natural continuation of this remunerative story.

Julius was an A-list celebrity, and weekly magazines covered his love affair with as great an interest and as detailed as they did with other A-listers.

"Julius is in love," was the headline in Norsk Ukeblad a Norwegian magazine.

"Julius is deeply and profoundly in love," supplemented the competitor Hjemmet.

But in the chimpanzee world falling in love never happens. Nor do love affairs. Chimpanzees are not monogamous. For an evolutionary biologist it is sufficient to throw a quick look at the testes of a male chimpanzee to determine that. A male chimpanzee weighing less than 50 kilos has a testicle weight exceeding 100 grams, which is more than twice as large as that of a human being, and even heavier than the gorillas’ testicles. Of course the reason is their sexual habits. While humans are basically monogamous, and in gorillas the leader of the tribe has monopolised right to mate, chimpanzees are more promiscuous. Admittedly, alpha-chimps have some kind of control and are first in line for mating, but in general other males can also have sex when a female is in rut, and the battle of genetic survival is closely linked to the ability of the ones that produce most semen. This sexual situation has favoured individuals with larger testicles than both humans and gorillas among whom this ability has not had evolutionary consequences.

Much of the power struggle in the chimp world is still about sex. Even though they are promiscuous, it’s not a free for all. Access to mating and monopolisation of female chimps is the key to many of the conflicts between male chimpanzees. And access to sex seems to be a source of joy for both sexes. The male chimpanzees may forget to eat for several days while the female is in rut, and Frans de Waal has recorded how male chimpanzees in the Arnhem troop could wake up in the morning in their sleeping quarters in joyful anticipation, on the days they knew they would be let out among the female chimpanzees in rut.

Chimpanzees do not have a natural birth season, therefore mating takes place all year round. The normal menstrual cycle of a female chimp is 36 days, and the fertile period is clearly visible, marked by a swollen vagina. It is during this period that the female chimpanzees are most sexually active, but all pairing is not necessarily restricted to this period of sexual arousal, especially not in captivity. The female chimps have a clearly visible sexual power when in heat. According to research, the female chimps receive longer periods of grooming when they are in heat than otherwise and they have greater success rate when begging for food from male chimps that have hoarded something to eat. There is also an internal game going on between males for the right to have sex. Male chimpanzees in the Arnhem troop spent nine times more time on grooming each other when a female was in rut, and this may suggest that grooming a higher ranked male is a kind of payment for lower-ranked chimpanzees to gain access to the females.

Nevertheless, it is not unusual for female chimps to have sexual preferences that go against tribal hierarchies, and they may prefer to mate with their own chosen males. In Arnhem, they observed two females with such strong preferences that could be compared to the human notion of falling in love. Admittedly, these females mated with several other male chimps, but when they took the initiative for coupling, they always went directly towards their chosen mate, and before having sex with their preferred lover, they performed what the researchers called a "sex-dance," whereby they danced and showed themselves to the partner. And this dance was exclusively reserved for the chosen male chimpanzee.

In other words, we have a sophisticated social game preceding a chimpanzee intercourse, while the act itself is over rather speedily. On average, chimpanzees finish the act within seven seconds. The meticulous researcher colleagues of Jane Goodall, who studied chimps in Gombe in Tanzania, and who counted and recorded everything that could be counted, concluded that the male chimpanzees’ ejaculate after 8.8 thrusts with the pelvis.

For Julius all this was free. He could, if he managed to crack the code, have sexual access to a female without rivalry with an alpha-chimp and without having to earn it through long grooming sessions. For the time being, Julius, Josephine and Billy were to live separately from the other chimpanzees. Meanwhile, two adult female chimps, Dixi and Bini, were imported from Munich for Champis, in order to distract him from his animosity towards Julius. But for the moment, Julius was not especially interested in Josephine erotically. Although she was still rather young, one had expected Julius to be more attracted and curious when he finally had the chance. Moseid was afraid that growing up among humans could have impaired his natural sexual education that normally begins early in chimpanzees. After a while, Moseid began wondering if Julius was gay. When Julius had reached puberty, he had satisfied his sexual arousals with his little younger brother, Kjell. Moseid contacted other zoos to find out if they had any experiences with gay chimpanzees. Homosexuality is prevalent in nature. It has been registered in more than 1,500 species. The rates vary from 40 percent in rose-breasted cockatoos to a few percent in humans. Furthermore, there are species wherein absolutely all sexually mature individuals are bisexual. Moseid was at loss what to believe. He did not publicise his suspicion. He had to wait and see. Maybe Josephine was just too young?

In the newspapers, and particularly in weekly magazines, the relationship with Josephine was a crucial turn in Julius’s life, a great romantic event and the start of a new era. But in reality the staff members at the zoo were fairly uncertain about how this would end. Josephine was far from being anyone’s fiancé and they did not seem to thrive together. Julius was perhaps gay.

Commercially, all the press publicity about the romance was good. The Zoo sold 7000 Julius cuddly toys each season and about the same numbers of T-shirts with Julius’ portrait. There were Julius backpacks, Julius linens, a variety of Julius posters, Julius-puzzle games and a unique Julius board game from the publishers Damm. In the summer of 1987, Klingsheim and Jakobsen’s book about Julius exceeded 85,000 sold copies in Norway and it was translated into seven languages, including German, English and Hebrew. The TV series was broadcast in a number of countries. In Finland, it had already been broadcasted on all three channels. Then, the Director of Entertainment, Terje Formoe, got the idea for a pop award he called the Julius Award, in cooperation with NOPA, the Norwegian Organisation of Composers and NRK P2, the Norwegian national radio. Norwegian language pop performers could annually compete for the Julius award of NOK 15 000. But it was unclear what the connection between Norwegian language popular music and an identity confused zoo chimpanzee was, and why the award should bear this name and how the zoo suddenly became the arena for such music pageant. It had of course to do with the Park’s entertainment director Terje Formoe’s network and his continual efforts to keep the brand name Julius alive. But it was an example of pushing things too far, publicity-wise. The two Juliuses grew steadily further apart. The fiction figure handed out pop awards while the animal became even more isolated.

Unbeknownst to the weekly magazines and newspapers, the strategy of holding Julius, Josephine and Billy isolated from the rest of the pack was abandoned. They would henceforth be with the other chimpanzees, but Julius and Champis would never be together again. They decided to let them join the community on alternate days. In other words, they would take turns at sitting in isolation in the sleeping quarters all day long, while the other one was with the tribe. The next day it would be vice versa. As a result, the chimpanzee tribes in Kristiansand consisted of Billy, Kjell and Josephine and the two new females Dixi and Bini - and Champis or Julius on alternating days. It became quickly apparent that both Champis and Julius found the situation frustrating. They became angry at being isolated, and were irritated when they re-joined the community. Julius could not have Josephine with him on the days he was in exile. The great idea of initiating a love affair between Julius and Josephine was ditched as quickly as it had emerged. Josephine became a part of the larger tribe and could mate with whomever she wanted when she was ready.

**It Was a Bit Scary**

Julius did not settle down even though he was spared from Champis. He had a wanderlust that was different from the other chimpanzees. On 18 September 1988, on one of the days when Julius was with the tribe, he succeeded once again to escape from the chimp island and get out of the Zoo. Using a long stick he managed to bounce up on one of the building roofs and escape from there. He ran straight down to one of the fast food cafés in the Zoo, looking for food. The caretakers managed quickly to hunt him down and lure him back. Moseid downplayed the situation publicly and denied that it had been a dangerous situation when a nine-year-old male chimpanzee had been running around between defenceless children.

It was perhaps not surprising that Julius tried to escape. Animals in captivity are always keen on getting out. The Kristiansand Zoo has had its shares of incidents. All thirty camels ran off a snowy winter night in 1974 and walked in a caravan along the motorway. A kangaroo managed to get out on the road and was run over and killed by a car. The two sea lions, Veronica and Roxanne, mysteriously managed to break out through the fence surrounding the sea lion pool and out of the zoo. One of them was caught trotting along in a park on the other side of the motorway, the other broke away and waddled through the southern woods and various rivers and found its way to the ocean. After five weeks on the run, Edvard Moseid almost managed to catch her on a rock in the sea, but she slipped away and vanished for good. Two years after a storm on the coast of Uruguay had tossed her up on the shore and a local inhabitant had delivered her to a zoo, she was back in the same sea on the other side of the Earth.

Many other animals have tried and succeeded in getting out on short excursions. But Julius’ escapes were different. While all the others animals sought the wild, looking for their natural habitat, while this sea lion instinctively and bravely waddled all the way back to the sea, Julius went directly to the humans. He sought out the shops, cafés and takeaways, people and fun.

It was difficult to figure out what was needed to secure the facility. Julius was clearly more inclined to find an escape route than the other chimpanzees. The escapes were an expression of a new and more difficult phase of life. The newspapers interpreted it as puberty problems, but for chimpanzees, this phase of life is much more complex than the physical process of becoming sexually mature. In the wild, the male chimps go through a long and difficult adolescence. They become sexually mature at the age of eight, but they are not socially accepted as adults before the age of 15. In this transitional phase, they distance themselves from the younger chimps and the females in the tribe, yet they are not accepted among the adult males. In nature, young chimpanzees run off and seek solitude for days on end or return to their mothers and seek consolation when the adult males are not watching. For Julius both these options were off the table. As zoo chimpanzee he had nowhere to hide. Nor did he have a mother to hide behind. And even worse, his identity was split between a life as zoo chimp and a life among humans.

On Tuesday, 23 May 1989, once again Julius ran away. It was late afternoon just before closing time when somehow he crossed the moat and went out. There were still children in the Park. Chimpanzees are carnivores and there are known incidents in nature of chimps catching and eating human babies.

Kristin Fausa, a twenty-year-old staff member, sat alone working in the administration building at the entrance where both the ticket offices and the administration were located.

The others had gone home, but Edvard Moseid and Jan Erik Jansen were still around in the Park when suddenly a message on the intercom announced that Julius had escaped. Soon after, another message addressed directly to Fausa instructed her to lock the office immediately, as Julius was on his way there. But keys to the door were inside a key locker and before Fausa managed to reach it, she saw that Julius was right outside. He was out in the parking lot outside the Zoo, but came hurtling in towards her and the administration building. He was angry and agitated and banged aggressively on the hoods of the parked vehicles in the parking lot while he headed straight towards the glass door to the office building. Fausa had been unable to lock the door, and stood there desperately leaning on the closed door so as to prevent Julius getting in. Julius went right up to the door and looked furiously at Kristin Fausa through the glass. He then went down the small staircase, and Fausa thought that he had given up and decided to go somewhere else. But he had just gone down to gather speed. In full throttle he threw himself against the large glass door shattering it into pieces, and Fausa was showered in shards of glass as she ran towards the offices. She stood by the smashed door totally in shock, while Julius ran around inside the open office landscape. As a little chimp he had spent a lot of time there and he was maybe hoping to meet Edvard Moseid and the others he knew from that time. He jumped from desk to desk, tearing down papers, books and files, toppling and smashing things as in a planned attack of vandalism, before he understood that there were no familiar people there and ran out again, just past Fausa and across to the café in the adjacent building. There, the last guests were sitting and eating. Straightaway, families with children came out of the building screaming. It looked like a scene from a bad American horror movie. People ran out of the parking lot, and Julius followed them out of the café, but then Moseid and Jan Erik Jansen came running. The two walked calmly but firmly up to him, took him by each of his arms, like an arrested criminal, and guided him back to the Tropical House. As they passed the offices Julius had eye contact with Kristin Fausa and sent her what she perceived a threatening look. Just you wait, she felt Julius saying with his eyes.

It was impressive the way in which Moseid and Jansen trapped Julius. He still respected and trusted them. Perhaps he had been searching for them the whole time. But for the guests and Kristin Fausa it had been a traumatic experience. Several guests had their vehicles damaged when Julius went berserk in the parking lot and were now filling out insurance reports, in which the zoo accepted responsibility for the damages

The local newspaper Fædrelandsvennen was tipped off about the incident and covered it in a long article.

"It was a little creepy," admitted Fausa to the newspaper.

Other news agencies printed smaller notices about the incident, but Edvard Moseid wanted once again to put a lid on the case, and succeeded. None of the papers mentioned anything about the damaged vehicles or the vandalism inside the office building. The reports treated the incident more like an oddity rather than a scandal. Moseid was irritated that Fausa had publicly said that she had found the experience scary. He called her into his office and informed her that all communication with the media should happen through him. He downplayed the situation when interviewed by NTB (Norwegian Telegram Bureau). He promised to sharpen security measures, but insisted nevertheless that

"Julius is not dangerous when out in the free."

It was never clarified how Julius had managed to escape. He may have leapt across the moat some way or another. Chimpanzees are normally afraid of water, they are unable to swim instinctively like dogs and felines and they drown if they fall into water. But although there have been cases of zoo chimps learning how to swim in deep water through training, it would have been impossible for Julius to have learned to swim on his own.

The consolation in the midst of this turbulent phase of life was that Julius and Josephine were getting on well together. Now they could be together on Julius Island on the days he was isolated from the tribe. And by now, they had long since broken the sex code. When the zoo in 1989 marked its 25th anniversary, Crown Prince Harald came for a visit, among other things to see Julius. Julius was given a large supply of bananas and according to plan he was supposed to perform some pranks for the royal visitor. But Julius had other plans. He was horny and completely pre-occupied with mating with Josephine. Edvard Moseid had been concerned about whether Julius would grow up confused about his sexuality after growing up among humans. But nature functioned as it should. Julius knew how to - 8.8 thrusts with his pelvis. And Crown Prince Harald strolled discreetly away.

Sample translation by Caroline Babayan

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