

# All the Animated Animals

All animals are active,  
but the Aardvark is agitated.

As a rule, animals are at ease  
among artists and authors.

Animals admire all artistry.  
Absolutely. Ask any animal,  
all but the Aardvark.

# The Babbling Baboons

Big Baboons barely breathe  
before barreling on.

Birds burst from the branches.

Bears, Badgers, Bunnies and other beasts,  
including Bugs and Bacteria, are bothered  
by the boisterous Baboons.

Then, the boss of the Baboons  
calls a break, and a Begonia buds.

The blossom brings the benefits  
of beauty to all the beasts.

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## The Calcutta Cat

A Calico Cat takes a cab in Calcutta.

The Cabby careens in the crowded  
corridors of cars and Cows.

"For cryin' out loud!"  
the crabby Kitty complains,  
"Can't you control this cab?  
A crash could cause a calamity."

"Cool it," says the calm Cabby,  
as the cozy cab coasts to the curb,  
and the Contented Cat continues  
to the candle shop of his cousin.

## The Deranged Dingo

A Dingo digs a ditch in the desert, because  
dangerous Dogs ignore him when he acts deranged.

The Dingo is digging, when a Dove dives down to defend him.  
"Don't dig a ditch of despair," the Dove declares.

"Deeg! Dagg! Doog!" says the Dingo,  
as he digs deeper and deeper in the desert.

Then it dawns on the Dove that the Dingo's ditch is damp.  
The Dingo is dipping and diving like a Dolphin.

"You're not deranged," says the Dove.  
"Your deception is done for.  
The Dogs will down you for dinner."

"Darn," the dingo says, "I'm dead."

The Dove declares, "Your digs  
are divine for drilling. It will defang the Dogs."

The Dingo's digs in the desert  
disgorge a dramatic drainage.

The discovery draws the dry and the desperate  
to the delight of the Dove and the Dingo.

## The Eternal Egg

"Every egg ends up eaten," exclaims an Eagle.

"Egad!" says an Earthworm, "Each egg evolves into a eager entity."

"The Eagle explains, "I eat eggs, and I eat their evolution.  
I'm an equal extinction employer."

"You can't eat every egg, or even Eagles' eggs would be empty,"  
expresses the Earthworm.

The Eagle expounds, "Either erosion or esophagus will eat  
every embryo, and Eternity eats everyone else."

"Eternity embraces everyone," says the Earthworm."

The Eagle is exasperated, "You'll end up eliminated  
by my equipment of extermination."

"You exaggerate," says the Earthworm,  
"Your education is embarrassing."

An Eel enters the exchange. An Egret evangelizes.  
An Earwig exchanges expertise with an Ermine.  
Each explanation is energetic and excited.

Then, an Eggplant offers an escape  
from the escalating emotions.

"Everyone encounters every extreme,"  
the Eggplant says, "Enough is enough."

# The Frog and the Footstool

A fat Frog, who feeds on  
flies, falls for a frail Footstool.

Farsightedness fans the flames of the Frog's affections,  
and fatness figures into the Footstool's fascination.

The Footstool fails to find out the facts about Frogs.

The Footstool fancies a fairy tale of fun and food with  
the Frog. The Frog fancies a friendship with the Footstool.

The Frog has a fetish for fortunate furniture.  
He falsely feels the Footstool is well-funded.

The Footstool feeds the Frog's frenzy with  
fluttering fringe and feminine fragrances.

"It's your funeral," says a fidgety Fox to the Frog.  
"Footstools are fickle. They love to flirt with Fauna."

The Footstool flirts, until the Frog's fantasy falls flat.  
Finally, the Footstool falls for a firey French Frier.

The frazzled Frog refrains from following fluffed-up floozies.  
but he never forgets the Footstool, and the fireworks  
her four-footed form fomented in his foolish fantasies.

## The Gazelle and the Goat

A Gazelle is gaining ground on a Goat.

Gung ho for game, the Gazelle is in gear,  
as the Goat grazes in the grass.

The Goat gorges his gut on garbage, gunk,  
gross grub, and one golden goblet.

The Gazelle guides his gams to the Goat,  
guessing that gumming the geezer  
guarantees getting the gold.

The Goat is gruff and guards his girth.  
The Goat grunts, and the Gazelle growls.  
The Goat grovels, and the Gazelle grins.

But the Goat guzzled a gun with the goblet.  
The Goat gulps, and the gat's grapeshot  
grazes the Gazelle's gluteus.

The Goat's gargled gun  
gets the Gazelle to be gone.

The goony Goat giggles with glee  
as he gives gifts of glitz to the gang  
of Goats who gather to gawk at the goods.

The Gazelle gravitates to golf and  
gardening and grows a goatee.

## The Hotheaded Horses

Harold Horse heaves his haunches homeward.  
At home, he hits the hot tub.

Horatio Horse hikes from Houston, and his hide is heated  
from the long haul, but he's never heard of a Horse in a hot tub.

Horatio is hostile to horseplay.  
He hoots at Harold, "How hilarious!"  
"Humbug," Harold replies.

Herman Horse heads to his hitching post,  
after hounding his henchmen with heaps of hooey.  
Horace Horse, the halfback of Horse Valley High,  
hopes for harmony, as he hangs in his hammock.

"How can I halt the hooah from this herd of harness hacks?"

"Have a hoe-down at the Horse hotel,"  
Henry Horsefly says to Herman.

Horace hollers "HEY!"  
All the horses hear him say "HAY!"  
and Hay Day becomes a Horse happening. Horses,  
from horizon to horizon, hightail it home.

"Hip, Hip, Hooray," says Hank, Herb, Helen, Hortense,  
Heathcliffe, Hester, Heddy, and Hippolyta Horse,  
and Henry Horsefly hovers happily among the happy horses.

## The Ibex and the Impala

"When I'm irritable, I indulge myself," says the Ibex.

"I intend to ignore you," replies the Impala.

"That Iguana inflames me," intersperses the Ibex.

"Your imagination is the instigator of your irritability,"  
the Impala interjects.

I intend to inject the Iguana," says the Ibex.

"That is an idiotic idea of an ignoramus," says the Impala.

"Instead of interfering, inspire me with ideas for  
introducing the Iguana to my insides," the Ibex iterates.

"The Iguana is ill-tempered," instructs the Impala.

"I insist on icing it for ingestion," insists the Ibex.

The Iguana makes itself invisible. It takes off. Instantly.

## The Juggler in the Jungle

A Juggler is juggling jars in the jungle,  
when a Jaguar comes jogging by.

A Jaguar in the jungle is not jarring,  
but a Juggler in the jungle is.

The Juggler keeps juggling the jars,  
but the jars jangle, and the Jaguar  
jumps at the jangle in the jungle.

The Jaguar judges the Juggler, as if to jump  
on the Juggler's jugular, but the jingling jars  
are jake to the Jaguar, and the Jaguar can't  
jump the jubillant Juggler.

"I like those jars," the Jaguar japes,  
"I like the way they jingle and jangle,  
whenever they jiggle and joggle."

The Juggler is happy that the Jaguar is jolly,  
and he juggles in the jungle from June to June.

The Juggler jukes and jives and jumps for joy,  
and the Jaguar joins in the joyful jig.

## The Kentucky Kangaroo

Ken, the Kentucky Kangaroo knows his kick can kill,  
but can he keep kidnapers clear of his kids?

Karl and Kathy are in kindergarten. Ken keeps an eye on them,  
as the kids catch a cartoon of a kitty with a kite.

Ken's wife, Katy, leaves kippers in the kitchen for Ken and the kids,  
along with kabobs, kraut, kibble and a kettle of kelp.

Ken catches the kickoff of the Kansas City Koalas Kickball Club on TV.  
In his kilt and kimono, Ken watches the Koalas K.O. the Keokuk Kiwis.

Katy is in Kankakee with the kingfish of Kokomo  
cackling about cracking into Korean cuisine.

"Kudos for Katy," Ken keens and kisses her kerchief.  
Ken crows, "Her ketchup's a killer with the Koreans! Ka-ching!"

Ken and Katy are kennel keepers, kung-fu kickers, and kayak  
competitors. They are kooky and kind, but kidnapers are off-kilter.

Ken keeps kerosene and Klieg lights, in case the kidnapers come.  
Then, the kidnapers are cornered and caught in Kalamazoo.

Until Katy comes home, Ken keeps the kids content with kazoos  
and kaleidoscopes and clowns around with karaoke.

# The Lonely Lion

The lonely Lion listens to lovely lyrics on the lyre.  
He isn't a lackey, a loafer, a loser, or a lunatic.

He's living in loneliness.

All the animals in the land love the Lion, including the Lynx, Lizard,  
Leopard, Llama, Lamb, Lemur, Longhorn, Lark, Lobster, Lamprey,  
Loon, Limpet, Lemming, Locust, and even the Leech love the Lion.

So, why is the Lion lonely?

As the leader of the land, the Lion lays out the lessons of life.  
The Lion is legendary. The literature of life is the Lion's livelihood.

The Lion's labors are long and lonely, until love is all that lives,  
until even loneliness is loved by love itself.

Only love is large enough to lift  
all lovers to the Lion's luminous lament.

The Lion lies in his lonely lair in the lap of love itself.

He leads the love of love that ends in endless love,  
in the heart of all the animals that love the Lion,  
in the heart of all that the Lion loves.

## The Majestic Marmoset

A Marmoset is making music when a Mastodon, massive and mighty,  
moves from the mountains to meet the Marmoset.

"Oh, marvelous Marmoset," the Mastodon murmurs.

"Marvelous Marmoset?" the Marmoset mumbles,  
"don't you mean mediocre, miserable, melancholy me?"

"Not that Marmoset," the Mastodon says,  
"that Marmoset is mistrusted and misunderstood.  
The Marmoset I'm looking at is magnificent,  
masterful, miraculous, monumental, and more."

"More? More than me?" mutters the Marmoset.

Then the Mastodon becomes a magical mirror,  
and the Marmoset meets his own imagination.  
In one miraculous moment, the Marmoset matures.

He becomes mighty and masterful,  
just like his mate, the Mastodon.

The Marmoset mugs for the mirror and mirrors himself as  
The Mighty Marmoset in his musical memory for many moons.

## The Nickel-Plated Newt

The nickel-plated New Zealand Newt's not-so-nice neighbors  
needle him for being nebulous, nerdy, and no good.

The Newt replies, "I don't need to go on nautical navigations.  
I don't need to see the Nile or the North Pole.  
I don't need a nest egg or neckties.  
I don't need newfangled necessities.  
I'm not a nuisance, I'm not neurotic.  
I'm not nuts. I'm natural and no nonsense."

His neighbors niggle, "You're neglecting your nature."

Nightmares nibble at the nature of the Newt's nothing doing.

One night, when the Newt is nodding off,  
a news flash nominates him as the most noteworthy,  
nonproductive, nonconformist in New Zealand.

"Oh, no!" he says, "No way! I'll never be a nobody again."

The Newt becomes New Zealand's Notable Newsmaker.

He writes a novel, and his name goes up in neon.  
He's named New Zealand National Nickel Donor  
on the Ninth of November.

## The Owl and the Orangutan

Oscar, the Orangutan, and Otto, the Owl,  
are old friends from the old days.

Otto is often out of onions and oranges, and Oscar  
offers him other options, such as olives and omelets.

Oscar is obligated to Otto for making him co-owner  
of the Ohio Olfactory Factory for Odorous Oysters.

Otto is obsessed with his obnoxious ointment,  
Otto's Original Organic Oyster Oil.

The Owl and Orangutan take orders online,  
but the operation is outrageously offensive.

Outcast, Oscar becomes an outfielder  
for the Orlando Owls, and Otto becomes  
an optician in an orchard owned by an Osprey.

The Oysters open an Oyster bar in Omaha  
and call it "Pearl's Place."

## The Peripatetic Pig

A Pig named Prospero plans to pedal from Portland, Maine, to the Pacific Coast, to purchase a plantain plantation. Along the way, he passes through panoramas of postcard perfection. He poses in Pittsburgh for pictures. He pauses in Pottstown and Peoria. He periodically plops down in puddles and pig sties.

In North Platte, Prospero pops his patella in the parking lot of the Platte River Planetarium. Peggy, the proprietor, is a pretty porker with plenty of purchasing power, thanks to her prosperous Papa. Peggy pleads with Prospero to put down roots in North Platte. Peggy prefers Prospero's poetic puns to the plodding patter of the Pigs of the Platte River Valley.

Prospero plans his plantation on the Pacific plateau. A planetarium on the Platte isn't particularly appealing, but Peggy is. As Prospero repairs, Peggy puts up produce and paints pretty pictures of petunias. Prospero and Peggy propose their path as a pair, but plenty of problems appear.

"I pledge to peer at the Pacific," says Prospero.  
"I promise to peer at the planets," Peggy replies.

Peggy is paralyzed by her promise, and Prospero is pulled by his pledge, until Peggy says, "We could open a plantation AND a planetarium in Pacific Palisades? My Pop will be proud, you'll perform your pledge, and our piglet production will be promoted and prolonged."

"I propose to plant a peck on your puss," Prospero pronounces, and punctuates their pilgrimage with puns, while Peggy points out the position of Pluto and the Pleiades.

## The Quail and the Queen

Quincy Quail is the Quipster for the Queen,  
but the Queen is queasy about Quincy's questions,  
even though his qualities are required to be a Quipster.

The Queen clings to her quilt and quenches her cravings  
from a quart of cooked quince. Quincy quacks his quips,  
as the Queen quavers and quakes.

Quincy's quips cut to the quick,  
and finally the Queen requests Quincy to be quiet.

"Quiet! The Queen requires it!"

Can the Queen get Quincy to quit his quips?  
It's questionable. She is the Queen, but he's no quitter.

Then a clump of quartz, kicked from the Queen's quarry,  
hits the Queen's crystal and cracks it.

Quincy and the Queen consider the crack in the quartz.

"The Queen is not crystal," Quincy quips.  
"a Queen cannot be so easily cracked."

"Quite," says the Queen, calmly,  
"You may continue your quirky occupation."

## The Regal Rooster

Rudy, the Royal Rooster of Rangoon,  
is a rambunctious rascal and a ruthless rogue.

He rides roughshod over rules and regulations  
and raises the resentment of his relatives  
and the rest of the residents of Rangoon.

Rudy rages until his reputation is deep in the red,  
when Rudy reverses his rampage.

As Rudy rips a roost from a rival Rooster, a remark from a Redbird  
gets Rudy's attention. "You rule your rivals in ruthlessness,"  
the Redbird says, "but you are reviled, instead of revered."

The Rooster recognizes the reasoning of the Redbird.

"I'm a royal ruler, but everyone runs away from me," he says.  
Rudy's rack and ruin is replaced by relief and reliability.

Rudy's rule of the Roost of Rangoon is revolutionary  
in its revival of rhyme and reason, along with Rat races,  
Rabbit rafting, Raccoon racquetball, Rattlesnake rodeo,  
Rhinoceros ring toss, and Reindeer roller rinks.

# The Song of the Sailfish

Sally Swordfish swims the seas with a smile,  
but Simon the Sailfish is sore about the sinking sales  
of his "Simon Sailfish Sings Songs of the Sea."

"Show me the seashells,"  
Simon snorts, as sales slip and slide.

"You're being selfish," says Sally.  
"What's wrong with being a Sailfish?" Simon says.  
"I said selfish, not Sailfish," Sally says.  
"But shellfish is what I save and spend," Simon says.  
"I said selfish, not shellfish," Sally shrugs.  
"I don't sell fish," Simon sputters, "I sell songs."  
"Selling fish is wrong," says Sally, "but you're still self-centered."  
"Even if my songs are shelf-centered, they still don't sell,"  
says Simon sharply.

Sally sighs and sets off swimming the Seychelles.  
Simon swims away, sailing the Seven Seas in search of songs.  
One day, Simon hears a salty Sailor singing sea shanties,  
and the simple sounds resound in Simon's senses.  
Simon surrenders to the sweet sincerity of the situation.

His speeding spirit slows to the splash and spray of sun and sea.  
Simon sings the song inside his soul, and his serenade  
sails from sea to sparkling sea.

Sally smiles at Simon's song and smacks her sword  
in swirling surf on sandy shores.

## The Trumpeter Tarantula

Twelve times, Tom Tarantula takes the test for typist,  
and twelve times Tom trips up.

He takes the typing test because Tab Tapir tells him  
he has to type in order to toot the trumpet.

Tim Turtle tells Tom to take the trucker test,  
but Tom is determined to try to type.

Terry Toad tells Tom to try trail tracking, but Tom  
is intent on tooting the trumpet, so he tries to type.

Travis Tree Frog tells Tom Tarantula that all it takes  
to toot the trumpet is timing and training.

"Take your trumpet to Ted Tiger," he says,  
"He's the top trumpet teacher in town."

Ted takes Tom as a trumpet trainee.  
Ted tells Tom to toot with tranquility,  
and then Ted tells Tom to turn up the temperature.  
Tom turns into a terrific trumpeter.

Tom takes Ted's tactics to the top,  
and then, one Tuesday, Tom Tarantula  
takes the typing test, and triumphs.

## Ursula and the Unicorn

The head of the Upton Underworld Family  
is under suspicion, when undercover agents  
put him under the ground.

Ulysses Unicorn unpacks his ukulele  
at the urging of the Upton's undertaker.

Ulysses is unhappy working for Underworld figures,  
but he's unemployed, and it isn't unethical  
to uplift the unholy with a ukelele.

Ursula, the Upton's unwed Ugly Duckling daughter  
is at the funeral, and Ulysses is not unaffected  
by her undulations. Ursula is not unattractive to Ulysses.  
She unburdened herself to Ulysses, and he falls under her spell.

The fact that he's an ungulate, and she's an undergraduate and  
the daughter of a Underworld Boss, is ultimately unimportant.

The Underworld is unanimous that Ulysses  
is unwelcome uniting with Ursula.  
Their utterances go unheeded by Ursula, the Upton heir,  
and Ulysses, the upbeat Unicorn.

Ursula is unhitched from the Underworld,  
and Ulysses is unsaddled from unhappiness.

Ursula and the Unicorn unite in an upbeat Utopia  
of unlikely unions.

## The Vicuna's Valentine

Victoria Vicuna vacations  
where there are no Vultures or Vipers.

Victoria wants to avoid varmint violence.  
She's heard villains ventilate their vulgarity,  
and she vamooses from vociferous Vermin,  
so Victoria ventures where virtues are venerated.

Victoria's vocation is the ventricular vessel;  
the vibrant and voluptuous heart.

From her volcanic vigil, Victoria vouches  
to versify virtues via the verbiage  
of her own invention.

Victoria Vicuna's volume of verse, *The Velvet Volcano*,  
venerates the vascular vein from Venice to Vladivostok,  
from Vancouver to Ventura, from Verona to Volgograd,  
and everywhere inbetween.

## The Woodchuck and the Wolverine

Webster Woodchuck wanders without worries,  
but he wiggles into waders when he walks into the wet wilderness.  
Winona Wombat wonders about Webster's water worries,  
"Why so wishy-washy, Webster?"

"I'm wary of water, because Wilky Weasel warned me  
about Wally Wolverine's witchcraft." "Weird," says Winona,  
"Wally Wolverine's whacky, but he's no witch."

Warned by the Wombat, Webster walks into the woods  
without his waders or wetsuit. At the water's edge,  
Webster watches Wally at his workbench.

Webster wants to see what Wally is writing,  
but Wally catches a whiff of Webster.  
Wally wails and runs wildly from the wharf,  
and Webster reads what Wally has written.

"Woodchucks worry me. I'm weighed down and wiped out.  
Wilky Weasel warned me about Woodchuck wickedness."  
"Wait," shouts Webster to Wally, "We were hoodwinked.  
Wilkie the Weasel warned us both."

Wally and Webster become wonderful work mates,  
but the watchful Woodchuck whispers,  
"Watch out for Winston Walrus,"  
and the wary Wolverine says,  
"Well, I worry about Waldorf Wolf."

## Xavier's X-ray

X  
marks the spot  
in Xanadu  
where Xerxes  
and Xanthippe  
from Xenia  
exhume an X-ray  
of Xavier's  
xylophone.

## The Yak with a Yacht

Yancy Yak yearns for a yacht.  
Year after year, Yancy yammers about yachts.  
Yancy is yoked to his yen for a yacht.  
Then, one day, his investments pay off,  
and Yancy gets his yacht.

"Yikes," says Yancy, from the yardarm of his new yellow yacht.

"Why are you yelling?" says Yaz, a Yearling from Yakima.

Yancy yelps, "My yacht is the yellow of a yolk. It's yucky."

"Have a yam and do some yoga," says the Yearling.

"I looked at a yawl," Yancy says, "but it made me yawn."

"So, do you want to go to Yalta? Yokohama? Yugoslavia?"

Yaz asks, "Do you want to go up the old Yangtze?"

Yancy replies, "I no longer yearn to go yonder.  
I only yearn for yummy yogurt and views of yews and yucca."

"Yow!" yells the Yearling, and Yancy  
yields the yacht at a yard sale.

Yancy the Yak yodels in Yosemite and the Yukon,  
and Yaz the Yearling yaks with yokels and yeomen  
from Yemen to Yarmouth.

# The Zany Zebra

A Zebra named Zeke  
zooms across several time zones.

The Arizona Zoo is zeroing in on Zeke.  
Zeke is zany and not zealous for the Zoo.

"Zowee!" says Zeke, "I feel like a zephyr in Zaire,  
like dancing zydeco in a zoot suit."

Zack and Zal, the zookeepers, are slow,  
and their zeal for Zeke is zapped.

"Zounds," says Zack, "We got zilch."

"I got a zit," says Zal.

Zack and Zal feel like zippers on a zucchini.

Zack and Zal zigzag back to the Zoo,  
and Zeke zips off to a Ziggurat in Zanzibar.