

Little Caesar

Question: Who do you turn to when you are not like the
others?

Answer: Others exactly not like you!

FADE IN:

EXT. BARREN HILLSIDE - NIGHT

A MOTHER SHEEP squeals uncomfortably in the driving rain, while a NEW BORN LAMB suckles at her still swollen belly.

With one more yell from the mother, and a grunt from the on looking FATHER SHEEP, another lamb is born. Scrawny and barely breathing.

EXT. BARREN HILLSIDE - MORNING

The sheep start to move off from their resting place. The first lamb follows easily but the second has difficulty walking.

MOTHER SHEEP

Come on now, we cant stay here. The wolf will find if we don't move on.

LAMB 1

(Excited, childlike & talking quickly (jabbering)

Coming Mom. Oh, great. I cant wait to meet the rest of the flock. Will grandpa be there? And all my aunties? I wonder what's times dinner? I'm starving.

Lamb 2 is still struggling to walk and is being left behind.

Father Sheep, who has already gone on ahead, looks behind, seeing Lamb 2 unable to walk.

FATHER SHEEP

Leave him. He is no use to us.

MOTHER SHEEP

But...

FATHER SHEEP

I said leave him. Five more minutes here and we are all dead.

He walks away.

Mother sheep goes to Lamb 2 and kisses him gently.

MOTHER SHEEP

God Speed little one. I will name you
Caesar

We see Caesar curling up, shaking, bleating and crying as his family walk away.

CAESAR

Mooooommm, baaaahhh, Mooooommm.

EXT. A FARMYARD - DAY

Some weeks later. A heard of Cows standing around a farmyard. Caesar stands in front of the cows. He has grown a bit and gained some strength.

NARRATOR (VO)

Little Caesar visited many different places hoping to find a home.

COWS

You cant stay here. We are cows. No sheep allowed.

Caesar walks away, head held low.

EXT. A VILLAGE STREET - DAY CONTINUOUS

A number of weeks later. Caesar is standing on the pavement, a little more woollier than before. He is being shooed by a shopkeeper with a tea towel.

SHOPKEEPER

You cant stay here. We don't want the wolf to come and get us. No sheep allowed.

Caesar walks away, head held lower than before.

EXT. A TRANQUIL LAKESIDE - DAY CONTINUOUS

A few weeks later. Caesar is resting on the lake shore. He has a lot of wool weighing him down. Fish poke their heads out of the water and scream at him.

FISH

You cant stay here. Your wool is clogging up the water. We cant swim around. No sheep allowed.

Caesar struggles to stand up, and eventually walks away, head drooping towards the ground.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Sometime later. Caesar walks slowly through a forest, twigs and leaves sticking to his overgrown wool. He is struggling to walk and collapses from exhaustion.

VOICE (OS) (OF EMU)

And who do we have here? Never saw one like you before?

Caesar opens his eyes and sees two long bird legs directly in front of him. The face of an impatient EMU sweeps down and stares him directly in the eye, scaring Caesar.

EMU

Well, are you gonna talk or what? Hum? What's your name boy?

CAESAR

My Mom called me Caesar. It means 'Head of Hair'.

EMU

Well she got that much right? My names **Kaito**, nice to meet ya.

Kaito looks at his wing as if checking for the time.

KAITO

Well I suppose it getting a bit late to be making any journeys today. How's about you and me hitch a ride home and I'll think about doing some work again tomorrow.

Kaito whistles and a LARGE ELEPHANT with huge ears comes thumping through the forest.

KAITO

Hey Jumbo, am I glad you're here. Mind giving me and my homie, Caesar a

lift back to the hollow.
 (exaggerating)
 I'm just not sure we have the strength
 to take one...more...step.

Jumbo lets out a Hurrumph and tosses Kaito onto his back then gently curls Caesar into his trunk. He walks back through the forest carrying his passengers.

As they walk Jumbo's big ears tickle Caesar on the belly, making him giggle.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

We see a forest clearing, littered with wooden huts, straw sheds and other animal made living structures.

Various animals are gathered around a small grass patch, chatting and catching up. These include: A SHIRE HORSE with his back end in a makeshift wheelchair, A COW and 3 MICE, wearing dark glasses and carrying white sticks.

An albino giraffe sees the new arrivals and steps forward. Dumbo gently places Caesar on the ground, while Kaito proudly introduces his new friend.

KAITO

We got a guest, Martha. I found this little (coughs) fella wandering in the woods. Almost done in for, by the looks of it.

MARTHA

And what were you doing out in the woods, Kaito? Trying to run away again?

KAITO

Eh no, just stretching my legs.

MARTHA

Um Huh.

Martha bends down to Caesar's level and speaks directly to him.

MARTHA

What is your name, little one?

KAITO

He says its Caesar, but I'm not sure.
I think we should call him Wilson. I
found him, I get to name him.

MARTHA

(To Kaito)

That's not how it works.

(To Caesar)

Is that your name little one? Caesar?

Caesar nods.

More animals have gathered around the small group, including a Manx cat, accompanied by an Owl. A frog hops up and perches on a nearby rock. A dog, wearing a hearing aid fashioned out of a large seashell.

MARTHA

Well everyone, it looks like we have a
new addition to our family. That is,
if you wish to stay? What do you say?

KAITO

Oh say yes. Say yes. We can never have
too many of big fluffy things like you
around the place.

We see Caesar looking around at the mis-mash of oddities and slowly nods his head. A shy smile peeks out from his overgrown face wool.

MARTHA

Welcome home Caesar.

She bends to hug the little sheep and all the animals crowd in but then quickly step away holding their noses.

MAMMA COW

Perhaps we should get you cleaned up
first.

KAITO

Yea, coz you stink.

Martha claps two hooves together and a number of birds swoop in and pick twigs and branches from Caesars wool. Jumbo sprays water from his trunk, while the 3 blind mice shampoo the wool into a lather.

A FROG uses a cat tail reed to brush Caesars teeth. The cow is buffing the sheep's hooves and the dog is scrubbing under the armpits.

Once the clean up is complete all the animals stand back to show a much cleaner but more fluffy Caesar, still unable to stand up. He collapses back down laying splat on the ground.

SHIRE HORSE

Well there's not much more we can do tonight. Lets get some grub and sleep, and tomorrow, we can figure out what to do with that mane.

He shakes his own mane, demonstrating what hair should look like.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

The animals are gathered around a campfire, roasting marshmallows on long sticks.

NARRATOR (VO)

That night, Caesar learnt how the castaways of the forest came together to help each other, when no one else would.

Each animal take a turn to tell Caesar his story.

NARRATOR (VO) (CONTD)

A horse with a muscle degenerative disease; A Manx cat, married to an owl with memory loss; A cow with breast cancer; 3 blind mice; a deaf dog; an finally an albino giraffe Each of them had their own story to tell. Each of them were different, but this made them all the same. And this sameness gave them strength.

As the fire dies down, some of the animals wander off to their huts, calling goodnight.

Caesar curls up tightly beside Mamma Cow and nudges her gently.

CAESAR

Can I sleep here tonight?

Mamma Cow gently strokes Caesars head,

MAMMA COW

(Laughing)

Now that you not smelly no more, you
can sleep wherevers you like.

Caesar snuggles in closer.

Mamma cow tries to pat down some of the wool so she can see
his face properly but it springs back unruly.

MAMMA COW

We gotta do something about this fro!

She pats the wool down again, causing it to spring back into
her face. She spits the wool out, and then uses some of it to
make a pillow for her own head.

The 3 blind mice nestle snugly into the wool on Caesars legs,
while the Manx cat & Owl return to snuggle in on Caesars
back.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NEXT MORNING

The animals gather around while Martha give instructions to
Caesar as to what he has to do.

MARTHA

Your mission, should you wish to
accept it, is to go out there into
them woods....

CAESAR

But I don't want to go back out there
where no one likes me. Its scary and
dangerous....and, I get lonely.

MARTHA

We is only doing what's best for you,
little one. Now go and find the chubby
farmer with the curly red hair. He'll
know what's best for you, *whatever*
that might be.

Kaito makes a cutting motion across his throat that Caesar
catches from the corner of his eye. Caesar hesitate then
slowly walk away in the direction Martha is pointing.

He stops, looks back with sad eyes, then continues to move away as the animals wave goodbye.

EXT. EDGE OF FOREST - DAY

We see Caesar emerging from the forest onto wide open grassland. He collapses with exhaustion. Two welly clad legs come into his view. Camera pans up to show a slim man (Buck) with a woolly beard, and baseball cap covering his head. He is *nothing* like the man Martha described.

We see Caesar being lifted up onto the back of a horse and cart and taken away by Buck.

INT. A BARN - DAY

Buck settles Caesar into a pen, then he takes out his phone to ring someone.

FARMER BUCK

Roland, is that you? I think I may well have just about hit upon the biggest jackpot this side of the Mississippi.

Get overs here quick time, and gimme a hand with this lad. We're gonna be eating well tonight.

Caesar starts to bleat frantically.

CAESAR

baaaaa..... baaah.... baaaa.....

BUCK

(speaking on the phone)

Can ya hear that Roland? Yea?. Well that be our meal ticket outta here.

Buck sharpens some blades while he chuckles on the phone to his friend.

When he hangs up the phone, Buck wraps a dirty brown apron around his body and approaches Caesar.

BUCK

Ya know, you saved my bacon, young un.

I prayed for a miracle and here you
be. Money in the bank wen I'm a done
with you.

He picks his teeth with a piece of straw.

Caesar is shaking uncontrollably. Buck eyes him with delight,
rubbing his hands together and leering creepily at the sheep.

A man (Roland) enters the pen from behind Buck. He lets out a
long whistle.

ROLAND

You sure landed the jackpot there,
Buck. How big you reckon he be?

Buck bends down to inspect the sheep. Lifting up rolls of
wool to get down to the skin.

BUCK

Im guessing he's the biggest damn
rammer I've ever seen. Hard to know,
but we will be eatin like kings
tonight.

They both whoop and shake hands. Buck exits the pen and exits
the barn. We see Roland coaxing the sheep into a corner of
the pen.

RONALD

Come on now big fella. No need to be
scared. Yous not gonna feel a thing.

Caesar darts frantically around the pen, trying to escape,
bleating his distress with every step. Roland lunges after
him, and a comical game of chase develops.

Very soon Caesar tires and with his shoulders slumped, he
lets himself be caught. Roland puts rope around the sheep's
neck. They exit the pen.

EXT. FRONT OF BARN- IMMEDIATELY AFTER

There is a small 3 leg stool, a bucket of water. On top of a
wooden barrel there is an assortment of sharp looking tools.
A small wooden cart stands nearby.

Buck settles onto the stool as Roland leads the sheep over.

Caesar is shaking uncontrollably, bleating softly, and with tears running down his face.

CAESAR
Goodbye world.

Buck flips Caesar over onto his back, exposing his neck. We can see Caesar scrunching his eyes closed and mumbling for mercy.

Buck pick up a glistening blade and bring it close to Caesar neck. He starts to shear the thick wool around this neck, and down along the sheep's chest.

Caesars eyes spring open and he looks down to see what is happening.

We see the fleece being neatly clipped away from Caesars body, leaving him half the size he was before.

As the clippers reaches under his legs, Caesar starts to giggle.

CAESAR
Hey, that tickles.

Buck gives Caesars bare belly a rub, causing him to laugh some more.

Roland picks up the wools in one large swatch and shakes it out to reveal the outline of the sheep who previously wore it.

He lays the fleece gently in the wooden cart, and the two men stare at it with grins on their faces.

Roland rubs Caesar down with some moisturizing oils.

ROLAND
Don't wotcha getting razor burn, now
do we? You wont be coming back again
if you think its gonna hurt.

Caesar takes a tentative step forward, moving more freely than before. He skips, then jumps around.

CAESAR
(singing)
I'm free, to do what I want, any old
time. Do, do, do, do do.

Caesar busts some break dancing moves across the farmyard clearing, looked on by Buck and Roland.

BUCK

I think he likes his new look.

ROLAND

Good job, Farmer Buck. By the look of it we got a nice steady income from that young un for a good few years to come.

Caesar dances his way out of the farm yard, back towards the forest, shaking his booty in time to a bleating song of happiness.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

The animals from before are busily going about their day, sweeping the ground with wooden brooms, hanging out clothes (fig leaves) onto washing lines.

There is a rustling in the bushes and Caesar jumps out.

CAESAR

Surprise!

The Owl falls off his perch. The deaf dog looks up and rushes over to the sheep, barking in defense.

CAESAR

Its me! Caesar! Don't ya recognize me?

The dog give him a sniff, then holds up his paw.

DOG

Its him alright. All clear.

The animals gather around with various sounds of "ohh" and "aww".

MOTHER COW

Well aren't you a skinny little thing. Who knew what was hiding under all that wool.

MARTHA

How do you feel little one?

CAESAR

I'm not sure how to describe it. I feel lighter and a whole lot freer, but underneath, Im still me.

MARTHA

And that's the way it should always be. It don't matter what's on the outside, its what's underneath that truly counts.

CAESAR

I got a bit scared though, Martha. The man was not how you described him. I though I was being kidnapped and was a gonner for sure.

He was skinny, with a beard, and I never got a look at his head.

MARTHA

(Laughing)

Looks like Farmer Buck had a bit of his own transformation since I last saw him. But underneath, he was the man I knew he was. A dear old friend, always willing to help out anyone in need.

The animals go back to their daily tasks, with Kaito taking charge of Caesar, putting a wing around him and leading him towards his house.

KAITO

Lemme know if you feeling the chill. I got a nice cozy nest right over here. You hungry boy? I bet you could hop off a ground bean burger right about now.....

Voices fading away.

FADE OUT.