

Dear Diary,

Right now, I'm holding my favourite crayon. It is miraculous that I can write down my thoughts although the humans will probably just say it's another scribble to be sold in the shop for \$25. Because, gorillas can't write diaries, right?

It seemed like a normal day to start with however Stella noticed the change first. The humans always smell odd when change is coming. This rare change had to be a new animal coming to the Big Top Mall as that is the only change that ever happens here. Stella said she knew it was a baby elephant because she could hear her crying for her mother. I had tried hard to listen but all I heard was the usual sound of the old sun bears snoring loudly in their wire domain.

Having pondered for so long, I realised that almost three hours had passed and not one human had come to visit me. There's less and less these days. I couldn't really be bothered, but I looked up from my concrete floor. Suddenly, the sky had turned an angry grey colour and I could see belching clouds filling the delivery area. By now, a group of Mack's mates had congregated near the back of a white, rusty truck. Something caught my gaze. Wiping my face, I took a closer look. In front of me, from the blackness I could see a tiny, wrinkly trunk.

Moments later, everything went quiet and still. Then, the silence was broken. A scuffing sound caught my attention and without warning the men started yelling. The whole truck shuddered but no elephant appeared. What on earth could the humans be doing to her? Beyond my domain, Stella sobbed a blood-curdling sob. Mack untied her rope and Stella rushed to the truck. We waited to see what would happen. Within minutes, Stella reappeared with the little, frightened elephant protectively tucked under her. Gently, Stella nudged her towards her domain whilst glaring at Mack. If he had hit her again, if Stella was closer, if the baby elephant had cried out again, then I can't even imagine what Stella would have done.

I can't wait to meet the new arrival tomorrow,

Ivan

