

UNDERFUR

By Hugh Brinkley and Rachael Carnes

CHARACTERS

Chauncey	A middle-aged British raccoon
Aiden	His Emotional Support Companion Human

CHAUNCEY'S APARTMENT

SPRING

UNDERFUR

CHAUNCEY squats on one arm of an armchair as AIDEN enters.

I brought in the mail.

Are you sure? Let me smell it.

We're working on this, Chauncey.

(Rifling through mail.) This smells like garbage!

It's mostly junk mail — And you smell like *(coughs)*

What does this one say?

Let me read it —

Is it from my girlfriend?

She broke up with you —

She did?

Before hibernation?

Oh, crumbs! Really?

She was worried you'd give her leptospirosis!

Nobody's perfect!

And she was bored!

AIDEN

CHAUNCEY

AIDEN

CHAUNCEY

AIDEN

CHAUNCEY

AIDEN

CHAUNCEY

AIDEN

CHAUNCEY

AIDEN

CHAUNCEY

AIDEN

CHAUNCEY

AIDEN

UNDERFUR

CHAUNCEY

I'm not boring!

AIDEN

Usually when someone says, "Let's grab a bite" they mean figuratively, from a restaurant, instead of literally from a trash can.

CHAUNCEY

That is ridiculous! Now read my mail!

AIDEN

This is from Central Services Municipal Court —

CHAUNCEY

Ooh! I'm important!

AIDEN

Each year the Municipal Court surveys a randomly selected —

CHAUNCEY

Halt! There is no "Dear" at the beginning?

AIDEN

Straight to the facts, yeah —

CHAUNCEY

Civility!

AIDEN

"A randomly selected group of citizens" —

CHAUNCEY

Of my fine adopted home!

AIDEN

How *did* you get here from England?

CHAUNCEY

I came with the bananas!

AIDEN

Shall I continue?

CHAUNCEY

I'm hungry —

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AIDEN

You want some pretzels?

CHAUNCEY

Yes! I love pretzels.

AIDEN

Here's your pretzels and your water —

CHAUNCEY washes his pretzels in the water as he eats them.

(Eating.) Read my letter!

AIDEN

Each year the Municipal Court surveys a randomly selected group of citizens who have come to court or received a parking ticket during the past year.

CHAUNCEY

Guess how many pretzels I can fit in my pocket!

AIDEN

How did you get a parking ticket? You don't own a car.

CHAUNCEY

Parked in the — Red — Spot — Yellow? Green — Gray?

AIDEN

When were you driving?

CHAUNCEY

What do your colors *mean*?!

AIDEN

As a person who has had contact with the court or the court's parking services we are asking you to complete the enclosed Municipal Court User Survey —

CHAUNCEY

If I do that — Do you think I'll get Cheryl back?

AIDEN

No, I don't.

CHAUNCEY

But I'm an excellent climber!

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AIDEN

And?

CHAUNCEY

And she loves it when I walk on my hind legs —

AIDEN

That's a really low standard.

CHAUNCEY

Fine! I'll do the bloody survey! And my valuable input will guide the City in making more service improvements that reflect the needs of our community.

AIDEN

Our community?

CHAUNCEY

Bipeds!

AIDEN

Question one — Finding the courthouse was easy. Strongly agree? Agree? Neither agree nor disagree? Disagree or Strongly disagree?

CHAUNCEY

Not applicable.

AIDEN

Why?

CHAUNCEY

Not applicable!

AIDEN

Question two — The forms I needed were clear and easy to understand —

CHAUNCEY

Do you like my habitat?

AIDEN

Can we stay on track please?

CHAUNCEY

I've focused so much on keeping dominant males out of here, I forgot throw pillows —

AIDEN

Question three —

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CHAUNCEY

Women love throw pillows! And air freshener —

AIDEN

“I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable” —

CHAUNCEY

Cheryl said my musk is overpowering!

AIDEN

Well —

CHAUNCEY

...

AIDEN

Maybe you could get this place cleaned up?

CHAUNCEY

Not applicable, Aiden!

AIDEN

Question 13 — I was treated the same as everyone else —

CHAUNCEY

No one respects my loose social groups!

AIDEN

Strongly agree? Agree? Neither —

CHAUNCEY

I'm on a constant search for females who are fertile!

AIDEN

Dude —

CHAUNCEY

When I encounter a female to mate with, it will usually be at a central meeting place in my home range.

AIDEN

And how's that working out for you?

CHAUNCEY

They love my odor marks!

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AIDEN

Cheryl called you “an infestation”.

CHAUNCEY

That’s just her fancy way of saying I’m *adaptable*.

AIDEN

You’re disgusting —

CHAUNCEY

I’m highly intelligent — And curious!

AIDEN

You’re *vermin*.

CHAUNCEY

I have five long toes and fingers, resembling human hands. (*Weeps.*)

AIDEN

You tip trash cans! You raid bird feeders — You pilfer gardens! You — Pilferer!

CHAUNCEY

That’s a lie!

AIDEN

Face it, Chauncey — You may possess amazing dexterity, but —

CHAUNCEY

I’ll always be alone!

AIDEN

Cheryl tried to fix you —

CHAUNCEY

But I love to damage crops!

AIDEN

Chauncey — All you damage is relationships.

CHAUNCEY

Give me that letter!

AIDEN

I’m not done with the survey — Question 11 —

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CHAUNCEY

(Reading.) I will use the information you provide to make changes that really count.

AIDEN

You can read?

CHAUNCEY

Aiden, you were never just the person who reads my mail and gets my pretzels —

AIDEN

Why *do* I get your pretzels?

CHAUNCEY

You *were* my friend. And that's what friends do.

AIDEN

Chauncey —

CHAUNCEY

Not applicable.

AIDEN

Hey, buddy — How 'bout I get you some cat food?

CHAUNCEY

Prefer not to answer —

AIDEN

You love cat food. I know that because I know *you*.

CHAUNCEY

You're my friend?

AIDEN

I'm your loose social group!

CHAUNCEY

I love you, Aiden.

AIDEN

I love you, too.

*CHAUNCEY gives the rest of his bag of pretzels to AIDEN.
CHAUNCEY crumples the survey, washes and eats it.
End of play.*