

# Script: The Challenge by Andres Laszlo Jr.

*The Challenge: the script is influenced by Andres Laszlo Senior's bestselling book and blockbuster movie, My Uncle Jacinto. As a novel, The Challenge falls between an adult and a youth novel. The writer's father, as he, at the time, was an established writer, could 'get away with this' i.e. publishing in-between genres. Junior's adaptation, The Challenge, as a book, also falls between genres, but so far, he hasn't gotten away with it. However, as a movie, this concern vanishes because as such it firmly falls within the category of a 'family movie.'*

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The Challenge

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. MANSION - DAY

Through a slit FROM ABOVE: a parasol-swivel stuck in a "tree-trunk" jug of juice, exclusive Italian shoe-polish, boxing gear, a CAFE NEWS POSTER reading: 'BABA KO TOPAZ' with BABA's picture.

A white man's hands massage black shoe polish into BABA's hair. On Baba's chest hangs a LEOPARD'S TOOTH.

PULL BACK to reveal this has been seen through a rip in an otherwise immaculate parasol/umbrella.

CAMERA SWINGS AROUND FROM ABOVE to reveal Baba has spots of white hair - one over each ear - 'coloured in' with black shoe polish by factotum KIPLING.

Baba - black, athletic, 20ish, and proud-looking - relaxes beside a net-covered swimming pool. The general exclusiveness contrasts with the ripped umbrella

BABA

I'd kill you. You do realise that?

KIPLING

Kill me, Sir... why Sir?

BABA

If you told.

KIPLING

(nodding at pool-net)  
About your hydrophobia, Sir?

BABA

No Kipling. Not about my...That.

KIPLING

Oh! About these disgusting white spots that will never go away, Sir?

BABA

Yes, Kipling, about them.

KIPLING

Of course, I do, Sir.

BABA  
 (nodding at the poster)  
 If the press finds out, I'll know  
 where they got it.

KIPLING  
 Somebody else knows, Sir: your  
 half-brother.

BABA  
 (a little annoyed)  
 But he won't be around very long.

KIPLING  
 (finishing Baba's hair)  
 No, Sir, but there is somebody who  
 will.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

Riding in the front seat beside Kipling is 3/4 white TIGER - the cutest four-year-old in cinematic history - he has his mouth covered by HALF BROTHER: a shabby-looking, sickly 1/2 white man whose face (AIDS) must not be fully seen.

Baba, punching the air, approaches the limousine. In the b.g. an exclusive mansion and many empty beer crates. Baba tries to open the car door, but it's locked. Baba bangs the door angrily. Kipling slowly obeys - he tries to irritate Baba - Baba flings himself into the back seat.

BABA  
 Let's kick some ass.

KIPLING  
 He must have picked the lock.

BABA  
 Picked the lock?

From beside Kipling, up pops Tiger, his guard raised to box: he jumps the seat and attacks Baba.

Baba, apparently overwhelmed by Tiger's attack, collapses onto the seat.

Baba - pretending to be unconscious - lifts the boy in the air by his belt, gets pummelled from above.

Tiger stops his assault, and Baba regains consciousness.

BABA (CONT'D)  
 Hi Sipho.

KIPLING

He's a tiger now. He's learned of your leopard's tooth and the initiation. So, when he grows up, he intends to fight a Tiger; that way, he'll be more honourable than you.

BABA

Sounds like a good plan; Tiger, it is. Tiger, I hope you haven't started your path to glory and honour by bringing my wretched half-brother.

KIPLING

He has, Sir. I gave him two tickets, but he wouldn't leave.

HALF-BROTHER

Shut it, James! Hi baby. Long time no see.

BABA

Don't you 'Baby' me! Whitey. You've got your tickets; what are you waiting for?

Baba's half-brother says nothing.

BABA (CONT'D)

Right. So what fix are you in this time?

HALF-BROTHER

Two weeks.

BABA

Bail or Siphon... or Tiger-watching?

HALF-BROTHER

In two weeks, I'll be hunting lions.

BABA

So -- it's Tiger-watching?

HALF-BROTHER

Well, I could use a...

BABA

So, it's Tiger-watching!