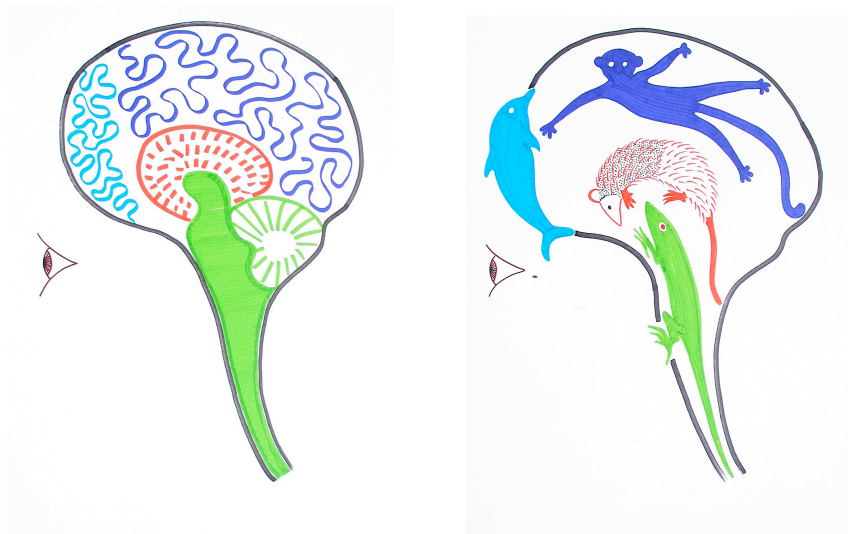


# "Menagerie of the Mind"

A dramatic script for **6 actors**  
RE: **the workings** of the components of our quadrune brain.

By Connie Barlow  
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**OUR QUADRUNE BRAIN.** Our deepest, oldest brain components (and behavioral drives) reflect our ancient "reptilian" heritage—what might be called, our *Lizard Legacy*. Next, and wrapping around the reptilian core, is our paleomammalian brain, the limbic system, which is the seat of emotions—our *Furry Li'l Mammal*. Superimposed on those two structures is our newer, neomammalian brain: our neocortex, which is our incessantly "talkative" *Monkey Mind*. Last to evolve is the section of neocortex at our forehead. With a left side and a right side, these are our frontal lobes—the seat of our higher purpose, our *Higher Porpoise*. (Background information and further study can be found at <http://thegreatstory.org/evolved-brain.html>.)

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**Props:** Obtain STUFFED ANIMALS for actors to hold, or obtain quarter-yard cloth to wear like scarves to illustrate the four animals of our evolved brain: GREEN for "Lizard Legacy", GRAY for Furry L'il Mammal, BROWN for Monkey Mind, and SEA BLUE for Higher Porpoise. Also, RED to represent a fifth: our Great Heart.

**Stage directions:** Recruit **5 actors** for speaking parts, plus **1 female mime (WOMAN)**. You can either recruit actors in advance or enjoy the spontaneity of their performance, giving them an opportunity to read no more than the stage directions at the top of their scripts. Of course, make sure that the audience is briefed on the Quadrune Brain and Great Heart before this script is performed.

**BEGIN:** Introduce all 6 characters to the audience in advance, then send 3 off-stage: **Woman, Great Heart, and Higher Porpoise**. The 3 who remain should stand in a line toward the back of the stage, centered, facing the audience. These 3 are **Furry Li'l Mammal, Monkey Mind, and Lizard Legacy**. Note: Great Heart will enter toward the end of the play, and Higher Porpoise will come in last. When all characters are ready, begin the play by beckoning to WOMAN to walk onto the stage.

## FULL SCRIPT of "MENAGERIE OF THE MIND"

**WOMAN:** *[Walk angrily to the center of the stage, in front of the 3 animal characters, which you ignore. Then face the audience. Keep an angry look on your face. Mime the whole play, based on what you hear.]*

**FURRY LI'L MAMMAL:** *[Say to your companions smugly]* "Looks like I'm on again!" *[Step forward to stand alongside Woman.]* "He is such a jerk!" *[Gesture toward Woman.]* "Now pick up the phone and call your sister. She will agree with you, and you can both talk about what a jerk he is!" *[Walk back to stand in line with the other animals again.]* "Your turn, Monkey Mind!"

**MONKEY MIND:** *[Move forward to stand alongside woman.]* "Okay, let's get to work right now and figure out what you need to do next. First: Calm down. You know you are right. The only question is, What to do next? Let's figure this thing out. And to do that, we have to dig back into the past and call to mind all the times that this has happened to you before. And not just with this guy, but with your previous boyfriends, too. Surely the jerk will never change; he will never learn. And probably all men are this way, too. They're all jerks! So let's remember the details of the worst time that this particular jerk did this to you before—the very worst time. Let us remember that time in every horrible detail! And on and on and on . . ." *[Walk back to other animals, face audience and with satisfaction say,]* "I'm done. . . . Back to you, Furry Li'l Mammal!"

**FURRY LI'L MAMMAL:** *[Shuffle forward warily. Speak alongside Woman with a tone of fear and desperation.]* "Oh, this will be the ruin of you! Surely, this time you must divorce him, and then you will have to sell your home. And everyone at church will pity you, or maybe they will shun you, or pretend that they don't know — especially since they all thought your marriage was perfect. Surely, life will be downhill ever after." *[Shuffle back to stand in line with the other animals again. Say to Monkey Mind:]* "Oh, woe is we! Monkey Mind: help!"

**MONKEY MIND:** *[Walk excitedly to stand alongside Woman and speak:]* "I'm happy to be of service. . . Woman: Your very survival is at stake! This is the most desperate of situations. Very soon, you may not even be able to afford to buy food!" *[Return to line-up and say]* "Lizard Legacy, I said 'Food!'"

**LIZARD LEGACY:** *[Stride powerfully forward to stand alongside woman, as if speaking to her, even though she won't look at you. Speak in a strong monotone.]* "Food! Food! Go find food!" *[Point offstage and wait for Woman to walk a bit.]* "Stop! Reach out. Open freezer." *[Keep directing Woman forcefully]* "Find Ice Cream. . . Find spoon—no bowl needed. . . Eat until food gone." *[Walk back to other animals, face audience and in monotone say,]* "Done. Mammal: You speak now."

**FURRY LI'L MAMMAL:** *[Say gratefully to the Lizard,]* "Well done, dude! Hey, she and I are beginning to feel better already. You know, chocolate is my favorite drug. And sugar, fat, and salt: they run a close second!"

**GREAT HEART:** *[Dance lightly, lovingly onto stage. Touch with love each of the 3 animal characters that are all standing in a line. Then begin talking to Furry Li'l Mammal, but make sure you also project your voice toward the audience.]*

"I love you, Furry Li'l Mammal. It is only because of countless generations of your ancestors, all the way back to the very first mammal, that I get a chance to open my heart today. You are the very reason that I can love. So, thank you, Furry Li'l Mammal, and know that I love you."

*[Move to Monkey Mind and say:]*

"I love you, Monkey Mind. It is only because of countless generations of your ancestors, who tried to figure out the best strategy, that any of us are alive today. So thank you, Monkey Mind, and know that I love you."

*[Then go to Lizard Legacy and say:]*

"I love you, Lizard Legacy. Your ancestry is the deepest of all. For hundreds of millions of years, you helped our ancestors move to safety when a predator jumped out, or when the tree branch they were clinging to began to crack. So thank you Lizard Legacy, and know that I love you, too."

*[Dance to a place to stand in line with the 3 animal characters, facing the audience for the rest of the play.]*

**HIGHER PORPOISE:** *[Come leaping onto the stage, like a porpoise. Leap around for awhile, then go to Great Heart and say]* "Well done, Great Heart!" *[Say to all 4 characters, but project your voice toward audience:]* "Now that you have all done your part, the way is clear for me to do mine!" *[Leap over to the WOMAN, and ask her]* "What is YOUR Higher Porpoise?" *[Then face the audience and look intently, silently, at them, from one end of the room to the other. Then begin to speak to the audience:]* "What is YOUR Higher Porpoise? . . . What is YOUR Higher Porpoise at this point in your life?

Is it, perhaps, to raise children? . . .

Might it be to take care of a dying parent? . . .

Is it to work or volunteer for a just cause? . . .

Or is it to participate in the grand drama of everyday life? . . .

**Might it be to mentor someone? . . .**

**Or is your Higher Porpoise right now the task of healing yourself — body or heart — or perhaps of educating yourself, preparing now for full participation in the future? . . .**

**Is it to live into tomorrow expectantly, trusting that your Higher Porpoise will make itself known to you?”**

*[Direct your attention back to WOMAN, and say with delight:]*

**“Oh, Woman! Do I see hope and determination lighting up your face now? Have you discovered your Higher Porpoise? . . . Halleluia!!!!**

*[Gesture “Go” to the woman.]*

**“So, go now! Go and lead us all into a magnificent future!”**

*[Gesture to the 4 other characters to follow the WOMAN offstage. You go last.]*

**THE END**    [www.TheGreatStory.org/parables.html](http://www.TheGreatStory.org/parables.html)

## Script for **WOMAN** in "MENAGERIE OF THE MIND"

**NOTE TO WOMAN: You never say a word the entire play. You just mime.**

You will know how to act simply by listening to what the other characters are saying. The only thing you need to memorize in advance is that although the play begins with three of the animal characters beginning by standing quietly at the back of the stage, you will be the first action: When you are signaled to begin the play, you will:

1. **WALK ANGRILY** onto the stage and face the audience, but never really "see" them. Just act your emotions.
2. For the remainder of the play, keep facing the audience and miming what you hear the other characters saying about you. Stay still when it seems appropriate. Animals may come to stand by you, but you never look at them. You just act out the emotions.
3. Toward the end, "Higher Porpoise" will speak directly to you, saying that your face is lighting up with hope and determination because you have discovered your Higher Porpoise. Make sure you mime that sudden change of emotion. Then, Higher Porpoise will invite you to "Go and lead us all into a magnificent future!" You do so **CONFIDENTLY**, as if walking into the future, and thus you walk briskly off-stage. The other characters will follow you. This is the **END**.

## Script for **FURRY LI'L MAMMAL** in "MENAGERIE OF THE MIND"

**NOTE TO FURRY LI'L MAMMAL:** *[You will begin the play by standing toward the back of the stage in a line, alongside Lizard Legacy and Monkey Mind. **You are the FIRST CHARACTER to speak, right after Woman comes onstage angrily. You are VERY EMOTIONAL.]***

- BLACK is your speaking part.
  - RED is your acting, nonspeaking part.
  - BLUE is what some other character is saying or doing.
- 

### THE PLAY BEGINS:

*WOMAN: [walks angrily to the center of the stage, in front of the 3 animal characters, which she ignores. After she stops and faces the audience, she says nothing, but it is now time for FURRY LI'L MAMMAL to be the first to speak:]*

### FURRY LI'L MAMMAL:

*[Say to your companions smugly]* "Looks like I'm on again!"

*[Step forward to stand alongside Woman]* "He is such a jerk!"

*[Gesture toward Woman]* "Now pick up the phone and call your sister. She will agree with you, and you can both talk about what a jerk he is!"

*[Walk back to stand in line again, but say to Monkey Mind as you get there:]*  
"Your turn, Monkey Mind."

*[MONKEY MIND will then do some talking. Furry Li'l Mammal will speak again after Monkey Mind returns to the line and says: "I'm done. . . . Back to you, Furry Li'l Mammal!"]*

### FURRY LI'L MAMMAL:

*[Shuffle forward warily. Speak alongside Woman in fear and desperation.]*  
"Oh, this will be the ruin of you! Surely, this time you must divorce him, and then you will have to sell your home. And everyone at church will pity you, or maybe they will shun you, or pretend that they don't know — especially since they all thought your marriage was perfect. Surely, life will be downhill ever after."

*[Shuffle back to stand in line with the other animals again. Say to Monkey Mind:]* "Oh, woe is we! Monkey Mind, you need to figure out what she should do."

*[MONKEY MIND will talk a bit and then LIZARD LEGACY will do some talking. Furry Li'l Mammal will speak again after Lizard Legacy returns to the line and says: "Done!. Mammal: You speak now!"]*

**FURRY LI'L MAMMAL:**

*[Stay where you are, and say gratefully to the Lizard,]*

**"Well done, dude! Hey, she and I are beginning to feel better already. You know, chocolate is my favorite drug. And sugar, fat, and salt: they run a close second!"**

**FURRY LI'L MAMMAL:** *[There is nothing more for you to do except stand in line where you are and watch the rest of the play. You will know when the end comes when WOMAN walks happily offstage and HIGHER PORPOISE gestures for you to follow her:]*

## Script for **MONKEY MIND** in “MENAGERIE OF THE MIND”

**NOTE TO MONKEY MIND:** *[You will begin the play by standing toward the back of the stage in a line, alongside Furry Li'l Mammal and Lizard Legacy. Your speaking part is always in bold and BLACK. Your acting part is in RED. Speak in **fast, bossy sort of way.**]*

- BLACK is your speaking part.
  - RED is your acting, nonspeaking part.
  - BLUE is what some other character is saying or doing.
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**THE PLAY BEGINS:** *[FURRY LI'L MAMMAL will do some talking. It is your turn to begin when Mammal walks back to the line and says, “Your turn, Monkey Mind.”]*

### MONKEY MIND:

*[Move forward, swinging your arms a lot, to stand alongside woman.]*

**“Okay, let’s get to work right now and figure out what you need to do next. First: Calm down. You know you are right. The only question is, What to do next? Let’s figure this thing out. And to do that, we have to dig back into the past and call to mind all the times that this has happened to you before. And not just with this guy, but with your previous boyfriends, too. Surely the jerk will never change; he will never learn. And probably all men are this way, too. They’re all jerks! So let’s remember the details of the worst time that this particular jerk did this to you before—the very worst time. Let us remember that time in every horrible detail! And on and on and on . . .”**

*[Walk back to other animals, face audience and say with satisfaction,]*

**“I’m done. . . . Back to you, Furry Li'l Mammal!”**

*[FURRY LI'L MAMMAL will do some more talking. It is your turn to speak again when Furry Li'l Mammal walks back to the line and says: “Oh, woe is we! Monkey Mind, we need you to figure out what she should do.”]*

### MONKEY MIND:

*[Walk purposefully, swinging arms, to stand alongside Woman and speak:]*

**“I’m happy to be of service. . . Woman: Your very survival is at stake! This is the most desperate of situations. Very soon, you may not even be able to afford to buy food!”** *[Look back at the other animals and say,]*

**“Lizard Legacy, I said ‘Food!’”** *[Walk back to the animal line where you began, and stand there for the rest of the play.]*



**MONKEY MIND:** *[There is nothing more for you to do except stand quietly in line where you are and watch the rest of the play. You will know when the end comes when WOMAN walks happily offstage and HIGHER PORPOISE gestures for you to follow her:]*

## Script for **LIZARD LEGACY** in “MENAGERIE OF THE MIND”

**NOTE TO LIZARD LEGACY:** *[You will begin the play by standing toward the back of the stage in a line, alongside Furry L'il Mammal and Monkey Mind. A lot happens before you say anything. When you do speak, speak in a **slow monotone, unemotional, very strong voice.**]*

- BLACK is your speaking part.
  - RED is your acting, nonspeaking part.
  - BLUE is what some other character is saying or doing.
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*[FURRY LI'L MAMMAL and then MONKEY MIND will do some talking for about 3 minutes. It is your turn to begin when MONKEY MIND walks back to the line and says: “Lizard Legacy, I said ‘food’.”]*

### **LIZARD LEGACY:**

*[Stride powerfully forward, like a Lizard, to stand alongside woman, as if speaking to her, even though she won't look at you. Speak in a strong, slow **monotone.**]*

**“Food! Food! Go find food!”**

*[After Woman pretends to walk a bit:]*

**“Stop! . . . Reach out. Open freezer.”**

*[Keep directing Woman forcefully]*

**“Find Ice Cream. . . Find spoon—no bowl needed. . . Eat until food gone!”**

*[Walk, swayingly, back to other animals, face audience and in monotone say,]*

**“Done!. . . Mammal: You speak now!”**

**LIZARD LEGACY:** *[There is nothing more for you to do except stand quietly in line where you are and watch the rest of the play. You will know when the end comes when WOMAN walks happily offstage and HIGHER PORPOISE gestures for you to follow her:]*

## Script for **GREAT HEART** in “MENAGERIE OF THE MIND”

**NOTE TO GREAT HEART:** *[You will begin the play OFFSTAGE. You come in when the play is 2/3 of the way over. Watch for your cue to begin, which is after all 3 animal characters have spoken (some have spoken several times). Furry L'il Mammal will speak your cue. (The only character who comes on after you is Higher Porpoise. Your character is **very loving**. As you slowly enter the stage, and as you move from one character to the next, the audience will especially enjoy your performance if you sing the repeated phrase “All you need is love” from the Beatles song by that name.)]*

- BLACK is your speaking part.
  - RED is your acting, nonspeaking part.
  - BLUE is what some other character is saying or doing.
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**THE PLAY is 2/3 over when your part begins, right after Furry Li'l Mammal says this:**

**FURRY LI'L MAMMAL:** “Well done, dude! Hey, she and I are beginning to feel better already. You know, chocolate is my favorite drug. And sugar, fat, and salt: they run a close second!”

### **GREAT HEART:**

*[Dance lightly, lovingly onto stage. Touch with love each of the 3 animal characters that are all standing in a line. Then begin talking to Furry L'il Mammal, but make sure you also project your voice toward the audience.]*

**“I love you, Furry Li'l Mammal. It is only because of countless generations of your ancestors, all the way back to the very first mammal, that I get a chance to open my heart today. You are the very reason that I can love. So, thank you, Furry Li'l Mammal, and know that I love you.”**

*[Move to Monkey Mind and say:]*

**“I love you, Monkey Mind. It is only because of countless generations of your ancestors, who tried to figure out the best strategy, that any of us are alive today. So thank you, Monkey Mind, and know that I love you.”**

*[Then go to Lizard Legacy and say:]*

**“I love you, Lizard Legacy. Your ancestry is the deepest of all. For hundreds of millions of years, you helped our ancestors move to safety when a predator jumped out, or when the tree branch they were clinging to began to crack. So thank you Lizard Legacy, and know that I love you, too.”**

*[Dance to a place to stand in line with the 3 animal characters, facing the audience for the rest of the play.]*

*[There is nothing more for you to do except to quietly stand in line where you are and watch the rest of the play. You will know when the end comes when WOMAN walks happily offstage and HIGHER PORPOISE gestures for you to follow her:]*

## Script for **HIGHER PORPOISE** in “MENAGERIE OF THE MIND”

**NOTE TO HIGHER PORPOISE:** *[You will begin the play OFFSTAGE. You come in when the play is almost over, after Great Heart has finished talking and stands alongside the three animal-characters on-stage. Listen for what Great Heart (below) says, which is your cue to get ready to act and speak.]*

- BLACK is your speaking part.
  - RED is your acting, nonspeaking part.
  - BLUE is what some other character is saying or doing.
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**THE PLAY is almost over when your part begins, after Great Heart says:**

**GREAT HEART:** “I love you, Lizard Legacy. Your ancestry is the deepest of all. For hundreds of millions of years, you helped our ancestors move to safety when a predator jumped out, or when the tree branch they were clinging to began to crack. So thank you Lizard Legacy, and know that I love you, too.”

**HIGHER PORPOISE:**

*[Come leaping onto the stage, like a porpoise. Then, go to **Great Heart** and say]*

**“Well done, Great Heart!”**

*[Say to all 4 characters, but project your voice toward audience:]*

**“Now that you have all done your part, the way is clear for me to do mine!”**

*[Leap over to the **WOMAN**, and ask her]*

**“What is YOUR Higher Porpoise?”**

*[Then face the audience and look intently at them, from one end of the room to the other.]*

*[Then begin to speak to the audience:]*

**“What is YOUR Higher Porpoise? . . . What is YOUR Higher Porpoise at this point in your life?**

**Is it, perhaps to raise children? . . .**

**Might it be to take care of a dying parent? . . .**

**Is it to work or volunteer for a just cause? . . .**

**Is it to participate in the grand drama of everyday life? . . .**

**Might it be to mentor someone? . . .**

**Or is your Higher Porpoise right now the task of healing yourself — body or heart — or perhaps of educating yourself, preparing now for full participation in the future.**

**Is it simply to live into tomorrow expectantly, openly, trusting that your Higher Porpoise will make itself known to you?"**

*[Direct your attention back to WOMAN, and say with delight:]*

**"Oh, Woman! Do I see hope and determination lighting up your face now? Have you discovered your Higher Porpoise? . . . Halleluia!!!!**

*[Gesture "Come" to the woman.]*

**"So, go now! Go and lead us all into a magnificent future!"**

*[Gesture for the 4 animal characters to follow the WOMAN offstage. You go last, happily moving in character.]*

**THE END**