

**SCENE 1**

City Hall meeting room. Day.  
Oval table. All chairs are occupied.  
Windows are grimy. Light is gray.

**MAYOR**

The city is in depression.  
The lumber mill... it's all we've got left.

Pause.

Some whisper. Some already understand.

**MAYOR**

I've held this seat for two terms.  
Not a single project worked.  
I'm going back to the farm.

**ADVISOR**

And what do you propose?

**MAYOR**

To kickstart change...  
I propose we elect a honey badger as the new mayor.

Silence.

Then – chuckles.

Someone openly laughs.

**CHIEF ECONOMIST**

Are you... serious?

Laughter grows louder.

**MAYOR**

I've run the numbers.  
People in this town – they always belong to someone.  
The honey badger – belongs to no one.

**ECOLOGIST**

It's dangerous for the animal.

**MAYOR**

Dangerous – that's us.  
He doesn't care.

**POLICE OFFICER**

And if he bites someone?

**MAYOR**

Then... it was deserved.

Silence.  
Laughter dies out.

**MAYOR**  
Let's vote.

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**SCENE 2**

City square. Evening.  
An improvised stage.  
Speakers. Wires snaking across the ground.  
Posters written in marker:  
"HONEY BADGER — WHY NOT?"  
"IT COULDN'T BE WORSE"  
"LET'S GIVE IT A TRY"

Crowd.  
60% — laughing or indifferent.  
40% — tense, angry.

On the podium — a large cushion.  
A honey badger lies on it.  
Someone has jokingly placed a crown and a plastic scepter beside it.  
The honey badger turns away.

**HOST**  
(in microphone)  
The procedure is simple.  
Questions are phrased so the answer is "yes" or "no."

Shows the panel.  
Two big buttons.  
Green — "YES."  
Red — "NO."

**HOST**  
The mayor makes the decision.

Some giggle.  
Some record on their phones.

**HOST**  
Who's in favor of electing the honey badger as mayor?

Hands rise. Many.  
Hesitant. With smirks.

**HOST**  
Who's against?

Fewer. Louder. Angrier.

**HOST**

The decision is made.

Applause.  
Whistles.  
Laughter.  
The honey badger yawns.  
Turns onto its other side.

**BITE MONTAGE**

**1.**

Apartment courtyard. Day.  
Boy, about eight.  
Ball.  
Man, around forty – the father.  
Shouting. Face red.  
Suddenly grabs the boy by the shoulder.  
Swings his arm.  
**STOP FRAME** – hand frozen in mid-air.  
**SMASH CUT** – honey badger from below.  
Bites calf.  
Sound – dry, crisp.  
Man collapses to one knee.  
Screaming.  
Boy frozen.  
Honey badger stares at him. Long.  
Boy slowly steps back.  
**CUT.**

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**2.**

Bus stop. Evening.  
Two girls waiting.  
Young man snatches a phone.  
Runs.  
Honey badger emerges from under the bench.  
No growl. No warning.  
Bites heel.  
Man falls face-first onto asphalt.  
Phone flies sideways.  
Blood on white sneaker.  
Girls silent.  
One picks up the phone.  
Looks at honey badger.  
He's already gone.  
**CUT.**

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3.

Bar. Night.  
Loud music.  
Two drunk men.  
Shoving. Laughing.  
Turns aggressive.  
One swings a bottle at the other.  
Glass shatters.  
Honey badger on the counter.  
Leaps.  
Bites forearm.  
Camera does **not** look away.  
Skin stretches.  
Honey badger holds.  
Man screams.  
Bottle drops.  
Honey badger releases.  
Jumps to floor.  
Slips between people's legs.  
Music cuts.  
Silence.

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4. (*short, dark humor*)

Hospital. Corridor.  
Three people.  
All with bandages on arms and legs.

**NURSE**  
(tired)  
Next.

**DOCTOR**  
(doesn't look up)  
Bite?

Pause.

**ALL THREE**  
Yes.

Doctor makes a note.  
**CUT.**

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**FINAL SHOT OF MONTAGE**  
Honey badger sleeps.  
Curled up on a mat in city hall.  
Quiet corridor behind the door.  
The city is learning to walk slowly.

**SCENE 3**

Noticeboard at City Hall.  
"THE CITY ACCEPTS IDEAS  
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DECISIONS MADE BY THE MAYOR"

Below, in small letters:  
"PHRASE QUESTIONS SO THE ANSWER IS  
'YES' OR 'NO'"

People read.  
Frown.  
Someone takes a photo.

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**SCENE 4**

Office. Day.

**YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN**

Glasses. Backpack. Sweaty palms.

On the board – a plan of a park on a golf course.  
Simple. Almost school-level.

**YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN**

This is an adults-only park.  
A zone of limits.

**COUNCIL MEMBER**

(doubtful)

Entertainment?

**YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN**

(dreamy)

Casino. Sex workers. Medicinal cannabis. Fight club in a western bar.

All in one place.

Strictly regulated. Time. Numbers. Money.

**ECONOMIST**

You've lost your mind.

**YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN**

No.

I've done the math.

Pause.

**YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN**

If it's forbidden – there will be an underground market.

If allowed without rules — chaos.  
We need a valve.

The mayor looks at the honey badger.  
Honey badger chews the edge of the mat.

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**SCENE 5**

Hill outside the city. Evening.

**GAME WARDEN**

Box. Inside — live snakes.  
Taps a drum. Opens it.

Honey badger approaches.

**GAME WARDEN**

Live ones. Pick.

Honey badger plays.  
Then eats.

Below — the city.  
Lights.

**SCENE 6**

City square. Day.

A long table is set up on the street.  
Behind it — the full council: officials, advisors, police.  
Awkward. Uneasy.

**SECRETARY**

(distributes tambourines)

**CHIEF OF POLICE**

Why tambourines?

**SECRETARY**

Don't ask. Jump through hoops.  
They said — dance with the tambourines.

Tambourines are handed to the crowd too.  
Some refuse.  
Some laugh.  
Some hide their eyes.

**SECRETARY**

Attendance is mandatory.  
No costumes required.  
Hit the tambourines. Shout "Mayor!"

You can sing.  
It can't get worse.

Pause.  
First hits – hesitant.  
Scattered.  
Off-key.  
Then – louder.  
More people.  
Tambourines merge into a roar.  
Shouts.  
Laughter.  
Someone sings without hitting a single note.

From behind the stage – **HONEY BADGER** appears.  
Calm.  
Indifferent.  
Ignores the noise.  
Doesn't look at anyone.

Approaches the panel with two buttons:  
**YES** and **NO**.  
The crowd gradually quiets.

**SECRETARY**

(reading)  
Question one:  
Allow the launch of the adults-only park  
in a trial mode?

Silence.  
Honey badger sniffs the air.  
Eyes the buttons.  
Scratches behind ear.  
Presses **YES**.

For a moment – absolute pause.  
Then the square erupts.  
Applause. Whistles. Cheers.  
Honey badger yawns.

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**SCENE 7**

Entrance to the adults-only park. Night.

Long line.  
Fence all around. Tall. Solid.  
Signs with honey badger icons.

**GUARD**

Calm. Tired.

**GUARD**

Everything out of pockets.  
Max – ten thousand in exchange.  
Win more – allowed.  
Lose – not allowed.

Visitors grumble.

**GUARD**

Certificate from wife or parents.  
This isn't the family's last money.

**VISITOR**

Why the wife?!

**GUARD**

(doesn't look up)  
Questions for the mayor.

Points to a sign:

**HONEY BADGER – CONSISTENT.**

**VISITOR**

(laughs)  
Is this a zoo?

**GUARD**

No.  
(pause)  
This is from the mayor.

The line quiets.

**GUARD**

He bites wherever there's disorder.  
Here – fights.  
That's why the fence.

**VISITOR**

What if nobody fights?

**GUARD**

Then the fence doesn't matter.

He stamps the next person's hand.

**GUARD**

Visits – no more than twice a month.  
No longer than a day.  
Leaving early – allowed.  
Staying – not allowed.

Someone steps out of line.  
Silent.  
Fence hums softly in the wind.  
Behind it – park lights.

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#### **MINI-MONTAGE – TOURISM EFFECT**

- Bus. Day.  
Sign on windshield: **TOUR**.  
Inside – people with cameras. Different languages.  
Laughter.  
Someone reads from phone: "...mayor – honey badger..."
- Hostel. Evening.  
Reception. Sign: **NO VACANCY**.  
Administrator tiredly checks another box on the list.  
Cheap poster on the wall – honey badger.  
Marker caption: **HE DECIDES**.
- Souvenir shop.  
Magnets. T-shirts.  
Signs: **YES / NO, ASK THE MAYOR, HONEY BADGER DOESN'T CARE**.  
Shopkeeper counts cash.  
Hands shake. Smiles.
- Corner café.  
Two tourists.

#### **TOURIST 1**

(whispering, respectful)  
Does he really bite?

#### **LOCAL**

(shrugs)  
If you deserve it – yes.

- Square. Twilight.  
Group takes photos in front of the button panel.  
Someone kneels, mimicking a honey badger.  
Laughter. Camera clicks.
- Finally:  
Honey badger walks along the edge of the square.  
Doesn't look at anyone.  
Passes tourists.  
Bites no one.

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#### **SCENE**

Office. Day.

Same table. Same faces.  
On the wall – a projection of the city map.

The park marked in green.  
Next to it – yellow fields. **FARMS**.

**ECONOMIST**

Revenue exceeded projections threefold.  
Tourism. Taxes. Services.

**ADVISOR**

The park queue – a month in advance.

**YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN**

(points at map)  
We're hitting the limit.  
If we don't expand – the system will choke.

Pause.

**ADVISOR**

What's nearby?

Official scrolls through tablet.

**OFFICIAL**

Agricultural land.  
Private property.  
Compensation – manageable.

**ECOLOGIST**

There are farms.

**ECONOMIST**

Low efficiency there.

Silence.

In the corner – **HONEY BADGER**.

Lying down.

Not asleep.

Listening to the hum of ventilation.

**SECRETARY**

(reading)

Question two:

Allow expansion of the park  
onto the surrounding land?

Panel with buttons: **YES / NO**.

Honey badger slowly rises.

Approaches.

Sniffs the edge of the table.

Presses **YES**.

No applause.

Someone takes a note.

Someone exhales.  
Someone avoids looking at the map.  
Honey badger slips back into the shadows.

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**SCENE 8**

City outskirts. Day.

**FARMS.**

Cows. Fences. Silence.

Officials walk with tablets.  
Marking locations.

**OFFICIAL**

Compensation above market value.  
Land fully acquired.

Farmers silent.  
Some nod.  
Some look at the ground.

**FEMALE FARMER**

No.

**OFFICIAL**

You'll get more than the farm is worth.

**FEMALE FARMER**

This isn't a farm.  
It's my life.

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**SCENE**

Night.

Trap.  
Heavy. Old.  
Female farmer sets it by the trail.

**FEMALE FARMER**

(quietly)  
You're not a mayor.  
You're a beast.

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**SCENE**

Morning.

A scream.  
Honey badger caught in trap.  
Doesn't panic.  
Reaches paw, twists.  
Silent.

People run up.  
**BIOLOGIST. POLICEMAN.**

**BIOLOGIST**

He'll get out.  
But he will remember.

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**SCENE**

Courtroom.

Female farmer stands straight.  
Does not cry.

**JUDGE**

You realized this is a wild animal under protection?

**FEMALE FARMER**

I realized I no longer have my land.

Looks at her lawyer. Pause.  
Lawyer shrugs.

**JUDGE**

Sentence — imprisonment.

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**SCENE**

Hill. Evening.

Honey badger with a bandaged paw.  
Next to him — biologist.

**BIOLOGIST**

They consider it fair.

Honey badger looks at the city.  
Below — construction.  
Farms being torn down.  
He doesn't care.

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**SCENE**

Laundry. Day.

**OLD MAN.**

Small. Neat.

Washing work clothes.

Nearby — a queue.

People whisper about the park, money.

**WOMAN**

They say it's safe now.

**OLD MAN**

(nods)

Yes.

He pulls coins from his pocket.

Counts them.

Not enough.

**YOUNG MAN**

(indifferently)

Prices went up.

Old man silent.

Puts one shirt back in the basket.

Outside — honey badger passes the window.

Glances inside.

Old man and honey badger look at each other  
through the glass.

No one breaks the rules.

No one is guilty.

Honey badger walks on.

Old man closes the washing machine  
and leaves with half-clean clothes.

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**SCENE**

Council Hall. Full.

**QUESTION**

Due to the success of the system,  
it is proposed to grant the mayor authority to make urgent and  
strategic decisions independently,  
including park expansion, rule changes, and property  
redistribution.

Noise of approval.

**ECONOMIST**

It will speed up processes.

**ADVISOR**

The city is finally stable.

**PERSON IN THE CROWD**

We trust him!

Dance with tambourines. Honey badger stalks a mouse. Pause. He approaches the panel with **YES / NO** buttons.

- **YES** — the process proceeds.
- **NO** — bureaucracy and voting remain.

Honey badger presses **NO**.

Silence. Some laugh. Some frown.

**ADVISOR**

(confused)

But... it's for his convenience.

Honey badger leaves calmly.

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**MONTAGE. AFTER**

- Projects stall.
- Queues grow.
- People get frustrated.
- Park operates, but slower.

City phrases:

- "It used to be faster."
- "He's getting in the way."
- "Maybe enough of this circus?"

Later, in the distance:

- someone tries to bend the rules;
- citizens recall **NO**;
- the system doesn't break because it wasn't locked to one person.

Honey badger sleeps.

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**FINAL SCENE**

Square.

Debates.

**CANDIDATE**

I propose dialogue.  
Commissions.  
Decision adjustments.

Applause.

**CANDIDATE**

The city is tired of bites.  
Of fear.

Some nod.  
On the cushion – honey badger.  
Sleeping.

**HOST**

Vote.

Display.  
Honey badger – 52%.  
Human – 48%.

Silence.

**CANDIDATE**

(quietly)  
I understand.

He leaves the stage.

Honey badger stretches, shakes off.  
He walks.  
Not toward people.  
Toward the hill.

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**LAST SHOT**

Hill.

Honey badger sits.  
Next to him – a strangled snake.

**GAME WARDEN**

They look at the city. Life below.  
Park. Farms gone.  
River flows.

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