An Indigestible Party
Alejandro Ayala Polanco
Once upon a time, a solitary little gorilla who never went to parties with his chimpanzee friends. As much as they urged him to come, and as much as they assured him he could eat as much meat as he wanted to, he always answered the same:

—I don’t like meat, thank you very much. I prefer my little fruit a thousand times.

But one day, tired of being told he was boring, the gorilla decided to attend one of their parties.

He took a good handful of his favorite fruits and set off into the woods—the place where the chimpanzees gathered to dance with their hands on their heads and to jump from one tree to another.

Once they saw him arrive, the chimpanzees yelled in amazement.

The gorilla was huge, much bigger than a chimpanzee, because of this he could not avoid hitting his head on a branch, which had all exploding in laughter.
—You are so big and yet you don’t know how to behave at a party!—they said.

The gorilla, ashamed, offered them some of his fruits, but in vain. Some of the bananas, that they had thrown back at him, even landed on his head! Unwittingly he ended up being the clown of the party.

The sun went down and it was now evening. The chimpanzees ate and ate, encouraged by the gorilla’s presence, whom they kept urging to eat dead animals.
—Be a monkey! —they said, but the gorilla just smiled to them and ate his fruits. He was a very humble gorilla.

They ate so much and so eagerly that soon many chimpanzees began to fall to the ground with a terrible stomach pain.

—Oh, my tummy! —they repeated. And soon, the gorilla was the only one still standing.
Realizing that the party came to an abrupt end, the gorilla started back home. This time he lowered his head to avoid bumping into the branch, and said to them:

—As smart as you are, and as much as you have mocked me, you still have not learned to eat properly.

The end
Alejandro Ayala Polanco


He is a writer with more than a dozen published titles, including “Make love with vegans” and “Veganism explained to children”. In 2019, he received the “Shining World Award” in recognition of a lifetime of activism, and for his outstanding contribution to antispeciesist children’s literature.

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Homovegetus

Tales of the Unsociable Gorilla show the various challenges faced by a gorilla living in a chimpanzee village. The aim is to represent situations that vegan children may face within a non-vegan society, facilitating the abording by parents and educators.

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