

CLEO SEQUEL

(Legs for days / Maned wolf sequel)

PAGE 1

Panel 1

Profile view of feral-version CLEO on all fours, sadly slinking forwards; still wearing the remains of her dress around her waist as well as a stud earring, as in the last picture of the sequence. I'd gotten the idea that she'd been at a get-together just before her hitch-hiking attempt in the sequence and that she'd returned there for assistance after the morph. Not much background for this page; it'd be outside, such as a house's big backyard, maybe a table with drinks on it nearby, though props can be left out.

VOICE (word balloon; off-panel): Ah, man, it's back again! Run!

CLEO (thought balloon): S-Stop yelling! Whine...I-I thought if I went back to the party, somebody could help...But everybody's freaking out instead...Can't really blame them, I guess...

Panel 2

Small inset panel, focusing on CLEO's forepaws/front legs as she stands in place. A teardrop splashes on the ground next to one foot.

CLEO (tb): Oh, these stupid legs, they're so awkward now...What's happened, I-I don't even know what I am anymore ...

Panel 3

Long panel (middle third of the page). A new character is shown standing nearby: DANA (well-dressed; thirty-something; carrying a glass of wine in one hand and a plate of what looks like toast on in the other), giving CLEO a pleasantly-surprised look. CLEO herself looks surprised.

DANA (wb): As I live and breathe! What an extraordinary specimen of *Chrysocyon brachyurus*! And I thought this was such a dull party!

CLEO (tb): HUH? A what?! Where?! ...Oh, it's that nerdy science whiz from the college, they must mean me...How did THEY ever get invited HERE? Hmmpff!

Panel 4

Small panel, as CLEO (ears folded back, looking worried) walks cautiously towards DANA's outstretched hand (holding a sliced-toast triangle).

DANA (wb; off-panel): But what would a maned wolf be doing on this continent? Here, take some of this, while I get a picture or two...

CLEO (tb): "Maned wolf"? Is that what I am? Never heard of...Hey, huge geek, sure, but maybe they can help!

Panel 5

Same panel or CLEO's head as she closed-eyed contentedly chews on something.

CLEO (wb): T-Toast points with real caviar...I n-never thought I'd get to eat these again..

SOUND EFFECT: scrunch munch munch

PAGE 2

Panel 1

Same scene, as DANA's hand strokes a beaming CLEO's mane, while CLEO arches her back.

DANA (wb; off-panel): Appropriately named, with this distinctive mane-like fur pattern. Did you abscond from a zoo, or someone's private collection? You're so tame...

CLEO (tb): Hey, I'm not tame! Just really really social!Ooo...that feels so good...

SOUND EFFECT (arching back): crrrrick

Panel 2

Same scene, with CLEO sitting on her haunches, now looking upwards worriedly at an off-panel DANA.

DANA (wb 1; off-panel): It's as if someone gave you a hair-style! And...fragments of clothing...and... earrings...What...?

CLEO (tb): Please, please just look at me and maybe you'll - Wait, don't look *that* close! Don't get frightened!

DANA (wb 2; off-panel): Oh, of course, I must have had one too many wine-spritzers before the Chardonnay, ha-ha. Better be getting home before I forget where it even is...

Panel 3

Profile view of CLEO as she tries to run panel-left after an off-panel DANA but trips over her own feet, collapsing onto her chest, eyes squeezed shut in pain.

CLEO (tb): No! Please don't leave! Help mUNFFF STUPID LEGS AGAIN

DANA (wb; off-panel): Good heavens, you're unsteady too? Well, what am I supposed to do? I can't just carry you home like some sort of stray!

CLEO (wb): Wh-Whiiiiine

Panel 4

Profile shot of DANA struggling to carry CLEO over one shoulder, with CLEO facing backwards and smiling, tongue sticking out between her teeth, eyes shut.

CLEO (tb): Score!

DANA (wb): Umpff...How can you possibly be this heavy, you are just legs, fur, and gigantic ears... grunt...

PAGE 3

Panel 1

DANA's living room, with a long couch, a table (with stacks of books on it), and a wall clock set at 11:30 PM. CLEO sits on her haunches on the couch, head/noise pointed upwards as if in a snooty look, but with one eye open and turned backwards worriedly at the off-panel DANA.

DANA (off-panel): Here's some water, but please try not to - Why are you on the best couch? Get down!

CLEO (tb): Hey, wild animal here, not a dog! ...A-And please don't make me sleep on the floor, it's cold...

Panel 2

Cute shot of CLEO's head, mouth open as if laughing, while DANA measures one of her ears with a small ruler.

DANA (wb): Sigh...Very well, but I'm taking some measurements while you're up there. You wouldn't refuse a biologist a rare chance to study exotic fauna, would you?

CLEO (tb): Hey, hey, ha! Watch the inside-ear floof! ...Wait, I have inside-ear floof now? Hee hee, tickles...

Panel 3

View of CLEO contentedly stretched on one side, using one leg to scratch her left upper chest.

DANA (wb; off-panel): Well, I'll let you sleep, while I go finish these notes...26 inches to the shoulder, ears an entire 7 inches, amazing...

SOUND EFFECT: scritch scratch

Panel 4

Same shot of CLEO, except she's morphed slightly, with her head of hair starting to grow back in; less hunched back; paws starting to stretch into hands.

SOUND EFFECT: crick...crrrick floof crritch

Panel 5

Same shot, as CLEO (looking similar to panel 9 of the first sequence), still half-sleeping, smiles and scratches the same spot on her chest but with one front hand-paw.

SOUND EFFECT: scratch scratch

PAGE 4

Panel 1

The living room; the clock reads 7 AM. CLEO is sitting up on the couch; now in a more anthropomorphic version of panel 9's look with her prior head-of-hair and a shorter muzzle; still with ultra-long legs, clawed-hands, and powerful shoulders. She's yawning mightily, tongue curling, head back.

CLEO (word balloon): YAWWWWP! Mmm, nothing like a grrrrreat night's sleep (and not on a floor) to make things betterrrrrr...

Panel 2

Close-up of CLEO looking in surprise at her hands.

CLEO (wb 1): MY HANDS! THEY'RRRRE BACK! Well, sorrrrt of...

DANA (wb 1; off-scene): Time for breakfast! I researched and found out that your species enjoys fruit -

CLEO (wb 2): ZOMG, FRRRUIT! Um, any bacon? Or rrrrrrabbit?

DANA (wb 2; off-scene): NAUUUUGHHH - ...I mean, interesting...

Panel 3

The living room, with the clock reading 7:10 (so we don't need a text box reading "Later, after a rushed explanation" or anything like that). CLEO sits on the couch, looking upset and pointing with both hands to the scrap of dress still around her waist. DANA (same clothing as from the prior night) stands nearby, taking notes in a notebook.

DANA (wb 1): One more time. You're certain that you're not a maned wolf who's simply slightly confused?

CLEO (wb): For the LAST time, no! I'm Cleo Drrrriscoll! I met you at the parrrrty last night beforrrre THIS! Can't you rrrememberrr? I was wearrrring this drrrrress? When therrre was morrrre of it?

DANA (wb 2; off-panel): Ah, wait, yes, I remember! You were the snooty lady at the reception!Oh. Apologies. I didn't mean to upset you.

Panel 4

Close-up of CLEO, looking sad and holding her face between her hands.

CLEO (wb 1): Gee....is that the only way you rrrrememberrrr me?

DANA (wb 1; off-panel): Well, you did leave halfway through our introduction. But you poor girl, where are my manners, here's a shirt for you.

CLEO (wb 2): Oh, grrrrreat, thanks! I....rrrreally don't go arrrrround flashing people...'Cept maybe durrrring Marrrrrdi Grrrrras...

DANA (wb 2): Not at all. It's an all-purpose work-out shirt for my power-walks, so it should fit even if -

Panel 5

LOL-worthy shot of CLEO, wearing the shirt (which fits like a tank-top, due her elongated/slim body) and looking down at her mid-riff, annoyed.

DANA (wb; off-scene): Er, perhaps not.

CLEO (wb): Oog, I hate being all strrrretched out like this! It sucks! And so does the whole "rrrrr" thing! Hurrrrrr...

PAGE 5

Panel 1

Same scene, with the clock reading 7:20. CLEO (still on the couch) is thinking hard, holding a finger under the end of her muzzle, as DANA also ponders nearby.

DANA (wb): And are you certain that you didn't anger anyone yesterday? Anyone with a penchant for over-the-top revenge and access to genetic-altering technology?

CLEO (thought balloon):Hmmm...there was the woman I cut off for that prime parking space in the morning...And the creepy guy I turned down at the dance...And that REALLY creepy lady in the car with the "CURSE U" license plate...

CLEO (wb): Uh, nope. Nobody I can think of at the moment.

Panel 2

Same scene as DANA starts to walk away, dialing a cell-phone. CLEO looks panicked and starts to jump up.

DANA (wb): Well, as much as I'd rather research on my own, THIS is outside my field. I'll call in some of my colleagues to examine you and perhaps they can -

CLEO (wb): Huh? NO! I'd probably end up in a lab full of mad scientists! I've seen the movies!

Panel 3

Shot of CLEO stumbling backwards, arms pinwheeling as she loses her balance. DANA's hands are reaching into the scene (as if trying to grab/steady CLEO's back).

DANA (wb 1): My dear, they are NOT mad scientists, and what do you think you're doing n-

CLEO (wb): Whoa, whoa! Help! Got up too fast!

DANA (wb 2): Hold on! I've got y-

Panel 4

LOL-worthy shot of CLEO and DANA lying collapsed on the floor, stars drifting up from them, with CLEO (huge padded feet facing the viewer) lying cross-ways on top of DANA.

CLEO (wb): You know something? My legs used to be my favorrrite part of me. Now they'rrrre totally my LEAST fave. Owwww...

DANA (wb): J-Just a matter of (oof) adjusting to unfortunate circumstances...

PAGE 6

Panel 1

DANA clambers up, looking at CLEO, who is lying facedown on the floor dejectedly, ears flopped down.

CLEO (wb 1): I'll bet that's it. Somebody got jealous of my beautiful, beautiful legs...and they cast a spell on me...and now my legs will be the death of me, grrroan...

DANA (wb): Oh, that's rrrridiculous! (I mean, ridiculous, you've got me doing it now...) You might as well say next that this spell-caster will storm in here, just to watch you suffering. Come on, let me help you up.

CLEO (wb 2): No. I'm just going to stay here on all fourrrs...rrright wh-wherrre I belong now...where my legs can't kill me, sniff...

Panel 2

Shot of a narrow-eyed DANA holding a hand down to a stunned-looking CLEO, who has rolled over on her back.

DANA (wb): You most certainly do NOT belong on all fours. The idea! Grab my hand and stand up slowly and walk, Miss Driscoll. I won't let you fall.

Panel 3

Shot of CLEO's hand-claw reaching up and clasping DANA's wrist.

PAGE 7

Panel 1

Shot of DANA's feet walking in profile next to CLEO's feet in mid-step.

DANA (wb 1): Left...right...left...No, your other left...good....

CLEO (wb): Feels so strrrange...

DANA (wb 2): Yes, learning to walk again must feel odd, but you're -

Panel 2

Shot of DANA and CLEO walking towards the viewer, but they've turned their heads to look at each other. And it's finally shown that CLEO is about a foot-and-a-half taller than DANA, looking down at her uncertainly.

CLEO (wb 1): No, being this tall! I mean, I was tall but not THIS tall. Feels weirrrd this way...Doc?

DANA (wb 1): Professor. I'm still working on the doctorate.

CLEO (wb 2): ...Um, okay....Thanks, Prof. I...I could be in a lab or a zoo if you hadn't helped last night...

DANA (wb 2): Well, I'm sorry whatever happened to you happened, but I'm glad to have met you. You're quite the welcome departure from my faculty meetings.

Panel 3

Shot of the tops of DANA and CLEO's heads facing the viewer, with CLEO's eyes rolling upward/to the sides as she thinks, a sweat bead on the side of her head.

DANA (wb): Besides, think of how much you could help me! This is an unprecedented chance to research the fine line between animal and human behavior, blah blah blah -

CLEO (thought balloon): Wow...such a huge geek, but nice...Usually I'm all about the fast cars and the dancers who can keep up with my legs...but Dana's really kind...I like that all of a sudden...

Panel 4

Waist-high shot of CLEO and DANA standing by a door, facing each other. DANA looks puzzled, as CLEO puts a hand up on DANA's shirt lapel.

DANA (wb): Well, here's the back door. Would you like us to try walking out back and getting some fresh air, or perhaps-

Panel 5

Close-up of CLEO (teeth shown) half-kissing/half-licking DANA's mouth.

PAGE 8

Panel 1

Same shot as last panel 4, with CLEO covering her mouth, eyes bulging. DANA stares at her blankly.

DANA (wb): That was not the "or perhaps" I was thinking of, precisely.

CLEO (thought balloon): What did I just do?! What is wrong with me? I-I don't kiss like that! At least not until the second date!

CLEO (wb): I'm sorry! Th-That was completely new for me!

Panel 2

Shot of DANA smilingly and embarrassedly rubbing back of the head.

DANA (wb): No, it's all right. It was completely new for me too. (On multiple levels.) And it's...it's good to finally be appreciated by someone.

CLEO (wb; off-panel): Huh? You've neVERR - Aw, hey, hey, come here...

Panel 3

Cute shot of DANA and CLEO hugging.

CLEO (wb): Mmmm, god, this is weird, but so nice...Finally found a use for these stupid-size long arrms...

DANA (wb): They're not stupid. Quite...powerful, in fact, so could you ease them up a little before you - Yes, that's very nice. Very much like you.

Panel 4

Shot of DANA and CLEO as they touch each other's foreheads together; CLEO is actually blushing, eyes closed.

CLEO (wb 1): Not...really. I'm the, you know, the shaker and the movERR type...and the taker type..and the party type...

DANA (wb): Perfect. I've always wanted to attend Mardi Gras. So please tell me about it, afterwards?

PAGE 9

Panel 1

Close-up of DANA's hand scratching the back CLEO's ear as CLEO squeezes her eyes shut and smiles.

CLEO (wb): What do you mean, afterwa- ooh-ho-ho, that's not fair...

DANA (wb): I'm sorry, but these really are amazing ears, all 7 inches of them...

Panel 2

Shot of the TWO standing facing each other; CLEO's now standing on the tips of her feeting, looking even taller from that, her head back, hands on DANA's shoulders, as DANA caresses her back and an ear.

CLEO (wb): Ohhh...Ngggh, i-it's like you're stretching m-me out more...on tip-toes now...feels so GOOD...

Panel 3

Close-shot of CLEO and DANA close-eyed kissing, their hands on each others' shoulders.

Panel 4

Same close-shot, with DANA and CLEO touching their foreheads together, both smiling.

CLEO (wb 1): Going to...cut that shirt...right off...huff...

DANA (wb): I can just unbutton it..

CLEO (wb 2): I meant *my* shirt. Stupid thing's so tight...Get some scissors...

Panel 5

Shot of both CLEO and DANA kneeling, as DANA helps pull CLEO's shirt over her head.

DANA (wb 1): Wait, that's my only, er, my favorite work-out shirt...

CLEO (wb): Hey...Are you sure about this? W-With the way I look?

DANA (wb 2): My dear girl, you're the most wonderful human I've had the good fortune of talking to in -

Panel 6

LOL-worthy shot of CLEO and DANA (kneeling in the background) both staring non-plussed at the WITCH (a middle-aged woman) who is standing in the foreground, her back to the VIEWER, fists on her hips.

WITCH (wb): WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH YOU? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SUFFERING RIGHT NOW, DAMMIT! OOOO, YOUNG PEOPLE NOWADAYS

(Yeah, there was some definite foreshadowing for this in page 6 , ^_^)

(to be continued)

