

MOO DENG VS PESTO: THE MUSICAL

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MOO DENG VS PESTO: THE MUSICAL

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MOO DENG VS PESTO: THE MUSICAL

CAST: 1 Man/5 Women

Moo Deng. A charismatic hippo known for her diva-like presence and vibrant personality, grappling with her public image and self-esteem.

Pesto. A flamboyant penguin with a colorful personality, raised by gay dads, who brings a unique flair to the zoo's dynamic.

Casey. The zookeeper who provides guidance and support to the zoo's star animals, acting as a voice of reason and encouragement.

Allie. A jovial alligator who often lightens the mood with his good-natured humor and supportive demeanor.

Gerry. A contemplative gorilla whose thoughtful insights often help to soothe tensions and foster understanding among his zoo companions.

Rexie. A dignified lioness who commands respect through her regal manner and wise counsel, often acting as the moral backbone of the group.

TIME. The present, or 2025.

PLACE. A contemporary, well-maintained zoo.

MOO DENG VS PESTO: THE MUSICAL

MOO DENG VS PESTO: THE MUSICAL was originally produced by White Mouse Theatre at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL and at the Atlanta Fringe Festival, featuring the following cast.

Moo Deng..... Sara Vanderford
Pesto..... Hal Presley
Casey..... Alex Blanton
Gerry the Gorilla..... Ally Mowery
Allie the Alligator..... Alma Pichardo
Lexie the Lion..... Danielle Pedroso

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PRODUCTION NOTES

Style and Tone: This musical is envisioned to be performed with a high degree of flamboyance and theatricality, embracing a campy, over-the-top aesthetic. The characters should be portrayed in a manner that is exaggerated and larger-than-life, reflecting the vibrant personalities and dramatic conflicts inherent in the script.

Performance Approach: Actors are encouraged to embrace the silly and playful aspects of their roles, bringing a sense of joy and unrestrained expression to their performances. The interactions should be dynamic and filled with comedic timing, ensuring that the humor is both heartfelt and impactful.

Cultural References: While the script includes references to TikTok trends and other elements of popular culture, directors and performers should feel free to update these references to suit current trends and audience preferences. The goal is to keep the content fresh and relatable, allowing for a more engaging and relevant performance.

Audience Interaction: Consider ways to involve the audience in the performance, perhaps through direct address, interactive elements, or by breaking the fourth wall. This engagement should add to the fun and immersive nature of the show, making the audience feel like part of the zoo's community.

CASTING NOTES

All characters in Moo Deng vs Pesto: The Musical are open to actors of any gender or race. Pronouns and character descriptions within the script should be adjusted to fit the casting choices. This flexibility allows each production to reflect the unique diversity of its cast and community, emphasizing the universal themes of identity and acceptance portrayed in the musical.

The cast size can range from a minimum of six actors to a larger ensemble, depending on the director's vision and the resources available. Roles can be

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doubled or expanded to suit different production scales, making this musical adaptable for various staging environments—from intimate theater settings to larger stages. Directors are encouraged to creatively interpret the characters and ensemble roles to best suit their production needs and artistic intentions.

Additionally, the ensemble can be expanded as much as desired, allowing for a rich, dynamic background presence in scenes where larger crowds or groups add to the theatrical effect.

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ACT I SCENE 1

A whimsically celestial stage, complete with fluffy cloud motifs and a starry backdrop. Performers dressed as angels hold large white ostrich feather fans. ANGELS are gently fluttering around the stage. MOO DENG'S MOM is center stage, dramatically 'in labor'.

#1. WELCOME TO THE ZOO

MOO DENG'S MOM. Oh, it's time! It's time! My little star is about to shine! *(The music builds with a playful and suspenseful melody. The angels gather around Moo Deng's mom, using their fans to partially shield her from the audience's direct view, adding a layer of theatrical mystery to the birth. With a dramatic flourish, Moo Deng's mom acts out the labor, guided by the angels who coach her through the 'delivery'.)*

ANGEL #1. Just a little push now!

MOO DENG'S MOM. *(Dramatically wailing with exaggerated effort.)*
Oh, sweet mercy! This is more intense than that time I swallowed a whole watermelon! Holy hippo heavens, here it comes!

ANGEL #2. And she thinks this is tough? Just wait till it's potty-training time with a hippo! *(The angels flutter more urgently around her, their fans fluttering in sync with her 'contractions'.)*

MOO DENG'S MOM. Can I get an epidural? No? How about a magic wand then? Just kidding—make it two!

ANGEL #3. Did she just ask for a magic wand during labor? Oh, sweetie, this isn't a magic show at the pearly gates! *(With a final dramatic push and a comedic groan that could be straight out of a sitcom, Moo Deng's mom completes the 'delivery'.)*

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MOO DENG'S MOM. Oh, thank the stars! It's a... it's a hippo! I did it! I birthed a whole hippo! Look at you, my chunky bundle of joy! (*As the climax of the music hits, MOO DENG is 'born'. The angels use their fans to reveal her, wrapped in shimmering fabric. MOO DENG looks around in bewilderment.*)

MOO DENG. What... where am I? What's happening? (*The angels hold up a mirror for mother and baby. Moo Deng sees her reflection and reacts with exaggerated horror.*)

MOO DENG. What the heck...?

ANGELS

WHAT THE HECK!

MOO DENG. This is what I look like?

ANGELS.

THIS IS WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE!

MOO DENG'S MOM. Yes, my dear! You're a perfect little hippo!

ANGEL #4. Well, at least we know she's got her mother's eyes... and, uh, everything else!

ANGEL #1. Girl, you did amazing, sweetie! But next time, let's aim for something a bit smaller, shall we? Maybe a nice cockatoo?

MOO DENG. Oh jeez. I'm hideous. (*CASEY and the others come on stage.*)

CASEY.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD, LITTLE HIPPO!

WELCOME TO THE ZOO, LITTLE MOO!

A BOUNCING BABY GIRL - WHAT A JOY, WHAT A GLOW!

I CAN'T WAIT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!

YOU'LL MEET REXIE THE LION - SHE'S YOUR NEIGHBOR.

REXIE.

HI, MOO!

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CASEY.

AND GERRY THE GORILLA - WHAT A FRIEND!

GERRY.

HEY, KID!

CASEY.

I JUST KNOW YOU'LL LOVE ALLIE ALLIGATOR!

ALLIE.

HELLO, DEAR!

CASEY.

WHAT A GIFT - OUR LITTLE MOO DENG!

EVERYONE.

WELCOME TO THE ZOO! WELCOME TO THE FUN!

I'M SO EXCITED TO HAVE A LITTLE NEW SOMEONE!

WELCOME TO THE ZOO! WELCOME TO THE FUN!

THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT EACH ONE OF US WILL BECOME!

WELCOME TO THE ZOO! WELCOME TO THE FUN!

I'M SO EXCITED TO HAVE A LITTLE NEW SOMEONE!

WELCOME TO THE ZOO! WELCOME TO THE FUN!

THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT EACH ONE OF US WILL BECOME!

SCENE 2

The stage transitions to a vibrant zoo setting, we are now in Moo Deng's enclosure. CASEY, the zookeeper, enters with a large bucket of fruits and vegetables, a whistle around her neck, and a smartphone in her pocket. She blows the whistle to get the animals' attention.

CASEY. Feeding time, everyone! Come and get it, Moo Deng! (*Moo Deng, hearing the call, waddles over somewhat enthusiastically but still*

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with a bit of her dramatic flair.)

MOO DENG. *(muttering to herself)* Finally, something good about being a hippo—snack time! *(CASEY begins tossing food into Moo Deng's feeding area, watching her eat. She smiles warmly at Moo Deng's antics.)*

CASEY. You're just too cute, Moo Deng. Look at those cheeks! *(Moo Deng hears this and stops chewing, visibly annoyed by the 'cute' comment.)*

CASEY. Come on, Moo Deng! Time for your snack, you adorable chunk of cuteness!

MOO DENG. *(grumbling to herself)* Chunk? Adorable? That sounds like baby talk for 'fat.' *(As Casey starts tossing vegetables to Moo Deng, she continues with her compliments, unaware of Moo Deng's growing irritation.)*

CASEY. Look at those cheeks! You could store a week's food in there! *(Moo Deng catches the food but is visibly annoyed now. She chews aggressively, staring at Casey.)*

MOO DENG. *(sarcastically, mouth full)* Yeah, great for storing my massive frustration too! *(Moo Deng decides to show Casey she's not just a 'cute' hippo. She suddenly bites at the feeding scoop, pulling it away dramatically.)*

MOO DENG. See? I'm fierce!

CASEY. Oh, what a fierce little hippo you are! *(Moo Deng's frustration peaks. She deliberately splashes Casey.)*

MOO DENG. *(under her breath)* And splashy! Not so cute now, huh? *(Casey wipes off the water, laughing harder now. She pulls out her smartphone to record Moo Deng's antics, still seeing them as adorable rather than genuine protests.)*

CASEY. The world has to see this feisty hippo in action! *(Moo Deng starts chasing Casey around the enclosure, making ridiculous faces and mock growling. Casey continues to laugh, recording the whole spectacle, enjoying Moo Deng's exaggerated 'fury.')* You're going to break the internet, Moo! Who knew rage could be so charming? *(Moo Deng chomps her on the knee and won't let go.)* Ow! Ha ha, okay, let go now. Ow, that really hurts. Moo Deng! *(Moo Deng finally lets go for a piece of fruit.)*

MOO DENG. Aw, she tricked me!

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CASEY. (*affectionately, turning off the camera*) Alright, my fierce little star, let's calm down. But seriously, you're the cutest when you're mad! (*Casey exits, leaving a grumpy Moo Deng on stage.*)

SCENE 3

Moo Deng approaches the water pool. The audience can see her exaggerated expressions reflecting back at her.

MOO DENG. It can't be that bad, right...? Oh, my hippo hips! Holy hippo! Who turned the wide-angle lens on me? This can't be right! (**ALLIE** the Alligator glides elegantly into view, noticing Moo Deng's dismay.)

ALLIE THE ALLIGATOR. Don't worry, darling. You're not fat; you're just easier to see! (*Moo Deng tries to laugh it off, then watches Allie move with such grace. Moo Deng awkwardly attempts to imitate Allie's smooth movements, ends up splashing water everywhere.*)

MOO DENG. Look at me, I'm... I'm a swamp disaster! (*Allie chuckles and swishes her tail, demonstrating 'the proper technique'. Moo Deng tries again, only to cause more comedic chaos.*)

ALLIE THE ALLIGATOR. Maybe stick to dry land, hon. (*GERRY* the Gorilla is effortlessly swings on stage on vines.)

GERRY THE GORILLA. Give it a try, Moo! Swing into the fun! (*Moo Deng grabs a vine, hesitates, and then swings—comically misjudging the momentum, she swings back awkwardly, landing in a funny heap on the stage.*)

MOO DENG. Swinging? More like clinging for dear life! (*REXIE* the Lion has also been observing Moo Deng's attempts with a regal smirk.)

REXIE THE LION. Quite the spectacle we're having today. Ever considered a career in comedy, Moo Deng?

MOO DENG. Pipe down, you!

#2- CHUNK

MOO DENG.
“ADORABLE”

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“CUTE HIPPO”

“PERFECTLY PINCHABLE CHEEKS”

“LITTLE STAR”

“LOVE YOU THE WAY YOU ARE”

DO THEY THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

I'M JUST A CHUNK!

WHO'D HAVE THUNK

THAT A HIPPO LIKE ME

COULD FEEL SO UGLY FROM BIRTH

I'M JUST A CHUNK!

HIPS ARE SO PLUMP

JUST A ROLY-POLY

FLUBBERING 'ROUND IN THE WORLD

I'M JUST A CHUNK!

GERRY. Aw, Moo, you're not fat - you're just husky!

MOO DENG.

THOSE ARE FANCY WORDS

FOR SAYING THAT I'M BLUBBER-PRONE

I'VE GOT A STUMPY BASE

AND A FRUMPY FACE

YES, I KNOW I'M NOT JUST BIG-BONED

I'M JUST A CHUNK!

ENSEMBLE.

CHUNK!

MOO DENG.

WHO'D HAVE THUNK

ENSEMBLE.

THUNK!

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MOO DENG.

THAT A HIPPO LIKE ME
COULD FEEL SO UGLY FROM BIRTH
I'M JUST A CHUNK!

ENSEMBLE.

CHUNK!

MOO DENG.

HIPS ARE SO PLUMP

ENSEMBLE.

PLUMP!

MOO DENG.

JUST A ROLY-POLY
FLUBBERING 'ROUND IN THE WORLD
I'M JUST A CHUNK
BULKY!

ENSEMBLE.

BULKY!

MOO DENG.

POTBELLY!

ENSEMBLE.

BELLY!

MOO DENG.

"EASIER TO SEE"
STURDY

ENSEMBLE.

STURDY!

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MOO DENG.
BURLY

ENSEMBLE.
BURLY!

MOO DENG.
WHAT ELSE IS THERE FOR ME?

I'M JUST A CHUNK!
WHO'D HAVE THUNK
THAT A HIPPO LIKE ME
COULD FEEL SO UGLY FROM BIRTH

I'M JUST A CHUNK!
HIPS ARE SO PLUMP
JUST A ROLY-POLY
FLUBBERING 'AROUND IN THE WORLD
I'M JUST A CHUNK!

SCENE 4

Casey enters into Moo Deng's enclosure and spreads out some treats, talking to Moo Deng as if she's a cherished pet.

CASEY. Who's ready for some yummy snacks? My big, beautiful bouncing... beauty! (*Moo Deng watches Casey and paces slightly, clearly wrestling with a decision.*)

MOO DENG. (*Muttering to herself.*) Okay, Moo Deng, you can do this. It's now or never. (*Moo Deng stops pacing and stares directly at Casey.*)

MOO DENG. Casey... I need to talk to you. (*Casey, distracted by organizing the food, doesn't look up immediately.*)

CASEY. Sure, Moo Deng, talk away! I love our little chats. (*Realizing what just happened, Casey snaps her head up, staring at Moo Deng in shock.*)

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CASEY. Wait... You... you really talked? This isn't one of those prank shows, is it? Am I being filmed?

MOO DENG. No, Casey! Look at me. Do you see any cameras? It's just us here.

CASEY. But animals don't talk. This can't be happening. Are you... Are you a robot or something? Did someone put a speaker in you?

MOO DENG. Casey, think about it. Have I ever been anything but a hippo to you? Who would even do that? Listen, I know it's hard to believe. I don't know why I can talk, but I can. And I have things I want to say.

CASEY. Okay, okay. So, you can talk. This is... wow, this is something else.

MOO DENG. Yes, it's strange, but it's real. I just want to be heard, not just seen as some 'cute' animal.

CASEY. Alright, I'm listening now. And I'm sorry for calling you cute... I didn't realize it bothered you that much.

MOO DENG. I need to tell you something important. When you and the visitors call me cute... it doesn't feel right. They laugh at my size, my... my whole appearance. It feels like they're laughing at me, not with me.

CASEY. Moo Deng, I never realized. Everyone loves your cheerful antics. You're one of our most popular animals here.

MOO DENG. But that's just it. They don't see me. They see this... this 'bouncing pig' stumbling around, and it's funny to them. I've heard some of the visitors call me that.

CASEY. 'Bouncing pig'? Moo Deng, do you know what your name means?

MOO DENG. No, what?

CASEY. It means 'bouncing pig' in Thai. It was meant to be endearing because of how playful you are... I'm so sorry if it hurts you.

MOO DENG. A pig? That's what I am to them? To you? To everyone? I... I just feel so big, so awkward all the time.

CASEY. Moo Deng, you're not just a 'bouncing pig' or just a spectacle for laughs. You have a charm, a real personality that we all love. And yes, you are cute—not because of how you look but because of who you are.

MOO DENG. I want to believe that. I really do. But it's hard when I feel like everyone's just waiting for me to slip up or fall over for their next laugh.

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CASEY. I get it. And I promise we'll work on this together. Let's show them the real Moo Deng, the one who's got more to offer than just a few laughs. (*Casey hugs Moo Deng, showing her support.*)

MOO DENG. Can you promise me something? Stop recording me for now... at least until I feel better about all this.

CASEY. (*looking guilty, fidgeting with her phone*) There's something I need to tell you. It's not just the recording...

MOO DENG. What do you mean?

CASEY. I didn't just keep the videos for us. I... I posted them online. You've... you've gone viral, Moo Deng.

MOO DENG. Viral?! As in... the internet? The whole world has seen me?!

CASEY. Yes, look here... (*Casey pulls up her phone to show Moo Deng. The stage background changes to display various social media clips and news segments.*)

SOCIAL MEDIA USER #1. (*in a TikTok clip, laughing*) Check out this chunky hippo! She's got moves! (*Uses a trending TikTok sound like "Oh No" by Kreepa, showing MOO DENG slipping and sliding in her enclosure.*)

NEWS ANCHOR. (*On a fake news clip.*) And in today's dose of cuteness, a hippo named Moo Deng steals the show with her hilarious antics. She's not just big; she's internet big!

SOCIAL MEDIA USER #2. (*In a viral YouTube reaction video.*) Oh my gosh, she's so crazy! Look at her go! That's one wild hippo! (*Uses background music from a viral challenge, maybe the "Running Up That Hill" challenge, with MOO DENG awkwardly attempting to climb a small hill and failing humorously. Other Tiktok trends can be subbed in and as many as wanted. As the clips play, MOO DENG becomes increasingly flustered, her reactions growing more and more exaggerated.*)

SCENE 5

MOO DENG. No, no, no! This can't be happening! I'm a meme? A... a joke?

CASEY. I'm so sorry. I thought people were laughing with you, not at you.

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They love you—maybe not in the way we hoped, but...

MOO DENG. I'm the laughingstock of the internet! I need a hole to hide in! (*MOO DENG starts looking around for a place to hide, comically trying to fit behind tiny props, showcasing her desperation and the physical comedy of her size.*)

CASEY. Think about it. You've got a voice, and now you've got an audience that adores you. Let's show them the star you can be!

#3- THREESIXFIVE

CASEY.

COME ON, MOO
THERE'S A FIRE IN YOU
THAT THE WORLD WANTS TO SEE SHINE THROUGH

YOU MAY THINK THEY MAKE FUN
BUT DON'T YOU KNOW EVERYONE
NEEDS A LAUGH WHEN THE DAY IS DONE?

WHEN IT COMES TO THE ANIMAL KINGDOM,
NO ONE EVER EVEN COMES CLOSE!
INTERNET ROYALTY YOU'LL BECOME.

MOO DENG. I like the sound of that, I suppose...

MOO DENG.

EVERY DAY, I CAN ROCK - 365
ALL YEAR ROUND, I'LL POP OVERDRIVE
QUEEN BEE, YEAH, I'LL GET THE WHOLE HIVE
SINGING OUT, "MOO DENG, MOO DENG!"

ENSEMBLE.

MOO DENG, MOO DENG!

CASEY. That's the spirit, Moo!

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CASEY.

NOW THAT YOU SEE
EVERYTHING YOU CAN BE
YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE - WHOOPEE!

MOO DENG.

WITH MY FANS AND MY CLOUT,
THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT
THE WAY THEY ALL FELL IN LOVE WITH THIS SNOUT

EVERY DAY, I ROCK - 365
ALL YEAR ROUND, I POP OVERDRIVE
QUEEN BEE, YEAH, I'VE GOT THE WHOLE HIVE
SINGING OUT, "MOO DENG!"

WHEN YOU OPEN UP YOUR PHONE, I'M ON SCREEN
TOP OF THE CHARTS, MY SWEEP, IT'S CLEAN
WHOLE CROWD HOOKED, I'M LIKE CAFFEINE
THEY'RE SINGING, "MOO DENG, MOO DENG!"

ENSEMBLE.

MOO DENG, MOO DENG!

MOO DENG.

EVERY DAY, I ROCK - 365
ALL YEAR ROUND, I POP OVERDRIVE
QUEEN BEE, YEAH, I'VE GOT THE WHOLE HIVE
SINGING OUT, "MOO DENG!"

WHEN YOU OPEN UP YOUR PHONE, I'M ON SCREEN
TOP OF THE CHARTS, MY SWEEP, IT'S CLEAN
WHOLE CROWD HOOKED, I'M LIKE CAFFEINE
THEY'RE SINGING, "MOO DENG, MOO DENG!"

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ENSEMBLE.

MOO DENG, MOO DENG!

CASEY. That's how you turn lemons into lemonade, Moo Deng! You're not just a viral sensation; you're a superstar!

SCENE 6

Lights up. Allie the Alligator is lazing near the water's edge, Gerry the Gorilla is perched up high on a climbing frame, and Rexie the Lioness is sprawled regally on a sunny rock. Moo Deng enters, dramatically swishing her boa.

MOO DENG. Behold, the star has arrived! Make way for Moo Deng, the internet sensation! (*Allie rolls her eyes playfully but smirks, deciding to play along.*)

ALLIE. Oh, how we missed your radiant presence, oh great Moo Deng! (*Gerry chuckles from above, swinging down to join the others.*)

GERRY. Yes, the zoo was just so dull without the glow of your starlight! (*Moo Deng preens, clearly enjoying the attention, oblivious to their sarcasm.*)

MOO DENG. Of course, it was! It's tough being this popular. Not everyone can handle the spotlight like I do. (*Rexie, previously lounging, slowly rises, their expression less amused and more irritated by Moo Deng's arrogance.*)

REXIE. Really, Moo Deng? And here I thought the 'King of the Jungle' was still a title of some clout. But perhaps the jungle has changed.

MOO DENG. Oh, Rexie! You know you'll always be the king! I'm just... the queen of the media jungle. (*Rexie narrows her eyes, not quite appeased but deciding to let it slide for the moment.*)

REXIE. Media jungle, hmm? Make sure your kingdom doesn't collapse under its own vanity, 'Your Majesty.'

GERRY. Well, queen or not, how about you grace us with a performance? The kingdom awaits!

MOO DENG. Very well! Prepare to be dazzled once more by Moo Deng's

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unmatched talent! (*Moo Deng reenacts her most famous viral moments. She “bites the knee,” she makes the big facial expressions, she slips and falls, whatever you can think of. It should be very energetic and over the top. Moo Deng, panting slightly from her 'performance', preens under the lukewarm applause from Allie, Gerry, and Rexie.*)

MOO DENG. Thank you, thank you! Its tough work being this beloved! (*Allie glances around at all the new, extravagant items filling Moo Deng’s enclosure.*)

ALLIE. So, Moo Deng, what's with all the new... stuff? It looks like a hippo's paradise here! (*Moo Deng struts around, showing off her gifts with pride.*)

MOO DENG. Oh, these? My fans send them! Look at this custom-made mud pool and these designer hippo loungers. Even got hippo-sized sunglasses—only the finest for their star!

REXIE. And what about those? Are those gold-plated watermelons?

MOO DENG. Yes! Can you believe it? And the crowds at my meet and greets... They've gone wild! Had to put up extra fencing. People just throw gifts over, wanting a piece of the Moo Deng magic.

GERRY. Sounds... impressive. Maybe you could share some of that magic with us? (*Moo Deng, momentarily caught off guard, quickly recovers her diva demeanor.*)

MOO DENG. Oh, of course! Once I’ve thoroughly enjoyed them, you’re all welcome to... play with whatever’s left.

ALLIE. Just make sure not to eat all those treats yourself, or you might outgrow even these lavish gifts! (*Moo Deng laughs it off, but her smile falters slightly, showing that the comment stung.*)

MOO DENG. (*Forcing a laugh*) Ha, very funny, Allie. It’s all about portion control, right?

REXIE. Indeed, wouldn’t want to lose that svelte figure. The internet might not be as forgiving. (*Moo Deng’s facade cracks a little, her eyes darting away to hide her hurt feelings. She quickly changes the subject, masking her discomfort.*)

MOO DENG. Anyway! Let’s not dwell on such trivial matters. There’s always more to see, more to do! (*Casey enters, ready to feed everyone.*)

MOO DENG. Casey! Just the person I wanted to see! Where are my gifts

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for today? I can't wait to see what surprises await! (*Casey shifts uncomfortably, avoiding Moo Deng's gaze. She hesitates before speaking.*)

CASEY. Um, Moo Deng, about that... I don't actually have any gifts for you today. (*Moo Deng laughs, assuming Casey is joking.*)

MOO DENG. Very funny. Really, where are they?

CASEY. No, Moo Deng, I'm serious. No new gifts came in today. Nothing. (*The other animals, Allie, Gerry, and Rexie, exchange glances, murmuring among themselves.*)

ALLIE. Guess the magic's wearing off...

GERRY. All shows come to an end...

REXIE: Even for queens...

MOO DENG. But... but why? There's always something. There's always someone who...

CASEY. Moo Deng, sometimes these things just... taper off. People move on to the next big thing. It doesn't mean they don't care, but the internet can be... fleeting.

MOO DENG. What do you mean 'move on to the next big thing'? Who is the next big thing? Tell me, Casey! (*Casey looks uncomfortable, clearly hesitant to stir the pot further. She tries to dodge the question.*)

CASEY. Oh, Moo Deng, it's not important. You're still very special to everyone here. (*Moo Deng isn't satisfied and ramps up her diva antics, stomping her foot and raising her voice.*)

MOO DENG. No, I want to know! Who are they cheering for now? Who?!

CASEY. It's... it's Pesto. Pesto the baby penguin. He's... he's captured everyone's hearts lately. (*Moo Deng's expression darkens, her jealousy evident. Before she can react further, a new, flamboyant figure slides into the scene. Enter PESTO, a larger-than-life baby penguin with a flamboyant flair, glittering with charisma.*)

#4. FLUFFY BACK

PESTO.

FROM THE STREETS OF MELBOURNE,

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I'M A SURE-FIRE KING
CONFORMITY I SPURN -
I'M A REMARKABLE THING

FROM MY BEAK TO MY FEATHERS,
I'M A REAL VIP
AND I'VE GOT NO TETHERS
ON MY PERSONALITY

DON'T NEED NO ONE
TELLING ME I'M DUMB
OR THAT I'M TOO BIG FOR MY AGE

I'VE GOT MY FLUFF
SO I'LL SHOW MY STUFF
NEVER MIND WHAT HATERS SAY

FASHIONISTA
FAMED ARTISTA
BUENA VISTA
EXTROVERTED SOCIALISTA

BIRD COMMERCIAL
UNIVERSAL
RUNWAY TRANSVERSAL
FASHION SHOW, DON'T NEED REHEARSAL

ALL AROUND ME, CROWDS FLOCK
'CAUSE THEY KNOW WHAT I'VE GOT
THEY LINE UP AROUND THE BLOCK
TO SEE ME ROCK MY SPOT

FAME CAN BE A LOT TO HANDLE,
BUT I'M READY FOR MORE
HONEY, YOU WON'T FIND A SCANDAL

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‘CAUSE THIS GLAMOR IS PURE

DON'T NEED NO ONE
TELLING ME I'M DUMB
OR THAT I'M TOO BIG FOR MY AGE

I'VE GOT MY FLUFF
SO I'LL SHOW MY STUFF
NEVER MIND WHAT HATERS SAY

FASHIONISTA
FAMED ARTISTA
BUENA VISTA
EXTROVERTED SOCIALISTA

BIRD COMMERCIAL
UNIVERSAL
RUNWAY TRANSVERSAL
FASHION SHOW, DON'T NEED REHEARSAL

PESTO. Now, everyone, watch this! And this! I'm going viral, baby!
That's right, I'm bringing fluffy back!

PESTO.
FASHIONISTA
FAMED ARTISTA
BUENA VISTA
EXTROVERTED SOCIALISTA

BIRD COMMERCIAL
UNIVERSAL
RUNWAY TRANSVERSAL
FASHION SHOW, DON'T NEED REHEARSAL

PESTO. Life's a fashion show, baby! The sidewalk is your runway. You've

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only got one shot, so honey, make it werk! (*Moo Deng watches, a mix of awe and rising competitiveness marking her features. Pesto finishes his song with a dramatic flourish, the crowd, imaginary or off-stage, going wild.*) What can I say? It's tough being this fabulous!

SCENE 7

Lights up on Moo Deng, her head hung low, her diva accessories discarded beside her. She is the picture of despair.

MOO DENG. What am I, if not the star? If they don't love me, do I even matter? (*Casey approaches cautiously, her tone soft and comforting as she tries to console Moo Deng.*)

CASEY. Moo Deng, you don't need a crowd's adoration to be important. You matter because of who you are, not who cheers for you. (*Moo Deng shakes her head, unconvinced, wiping away a theatrical tear.*)

MOO DENG. Easy for you to say. You're not the one who's been replaced by a penguin. (*As they speak, Allie, Gerry, and Rexie exchange glances and decide to chime in, much to Casey's surprise.*)

ALLIE. You know, fame isn't everything. Look at us, happy as clams—or, you know, an alligator, gorilla, and lion.

CASEY. Wait—you can talk too?! All this time?

GERRY. Yeah, we can. Just never felt the need to show off like some folks.

REXIE. Indeed. Speaking up all the time seemed a bit excessive. We prefer the strong, silent type of charm.

CASEY. This zoo is full of surprises! And here I thought Moo Deng was my only talking miracle. (*Moo Deng stands up, her demeanor changing from dejection to fiery determination.*)

MOO DENG. Enough of this! I won't be overshadowed by a penguin! Pesto may be the flavor of the month, but I will be the legend! (*Casey, still amused by the earlier revelations, nods, getting into the spirit of Moo Deng's competitive streak.*)

CASEY. Alright! What's the plan then, Moo Deng? How do we get you back on top?

MOO DENG VS PESTO: THE MUSICAL

ALLIE. How about a big stunt? Like swimming across the entire pond?

GERRY. Or you could, I don't know, climb a tree? Do hippos climb trees?

REXIE. A royal decree. Declare yourself the queen of all media.

CASEY. Those are... interesting. But let's think digital. You need viral content, Moo Deng. TikTok dances, challenges, maybe some collaborations? Embrace every trend, do it all!

MOO DENG. Yes! I'll out-dance, out-challenge, and out-perform everyone! Pesto won't know what hit him!

EVERYONE. (*Chanting.*) Go Moo Deng! Go Moo Deng!

#5. THE COMEBACK HIPPO

MOO DENG.

WHO IS THIS BIRD TRYING TO STEAL MY CROWN?

WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?

I'M NUMBER ONE! THAT JERK IS GOING DOWN!

I'LL SHOW HIM I'M THE ONE WHO OWNS THIS BIZ!

FEATHERS AND FLUFF -

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT STUFF?

I'M THE MEDIA BUFF;

I'M GONNA CALL HIS BLUFF!

LOOK OUT, WORLD - I'M A HIPPO ON A FRENZY!

THAT SMALL-TOWN BIRD PICKED THE WRONG GIRL FOR AN ENEMY

HEADS UP, PESTO - I'M A MAMMAL ON HER A-GAME,
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW, YOU'LL WISH YOU'D NEVER
LEARNED THE NAME MOO DENG!

WHEN THAT PUFFY-DUFFY DODO SEES MY SHOW-STOPPING
FACE,

WHEN I SHOW HIM EVERYTHING I'VE GOT,
HE'LL SAY, "MOO DENG IS THE GREATEST! I AM LOST IN

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DISGRACE!”

AND I’LL TAKE BACK MY RIGHTFUL SPOT

LOOK OUT, WORLD - I’M A HIPPO ON A FRENZY!
THAT SMALL-TOWN BIRD PICKED THE WRONG GIRL FOR AN
ENEMY

HEADS UP, PESTO - I’M A MAMMAL ON HER A-GAME,
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW, YOU’LL WISH YOU’D NEVER
LEARNED THE NAME MOO DENG!

I’LL SHOW HIM, I’LL SHOW HIM!
I’LL SHOW HIM, I’LL SHOW HIM!

(During the song, Moo Deng is seen trying to keep up with every TikTok trend imaginable. From dancing to cooking challenges, her attempts are over-the-top and increasingly disconnected from her true self. The stage is a flurry of lights, sounds, and motion, reflecting the frenzied pace of her efforts. By the end of the song, Moo Deng stands center stage, breathless and exhilarated but visibly unsure if her soul isn’t slipping away with each new post and like.)

LOOK OUT, WORLD - I’M A HIPPO ON A FRENZY!
THAT SMALL-TOWN BIRD PICKED THE WRONG GIRL FOR AN
ENEMY

HEADS UP, PESTO - I’M A MAMMAL ON HER A-GAME,
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW, YOU’LL WISH YOU’D NEVER
LEARNED THE NAME MOO DENG!

MOO DENG. *(Breathing heavily, trying to convince herself as much as the audience.)* I am the queen of the internet! No trend can defeat me!

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SCENE 8

Lights up on Moo Deng, looking disheveled and weary. She is surrounded by remnants of her failed attempts to go viral again.

MOO DENG. Casey, tell me... am I beating Pesto yet? Am I back on top? *(Casey, hesitant, exchanges a worried look with the other animals before answering.)*

CASEY. Moo Deng, I'm sorry, but... it's not working. Pesto's still the favorite. *(Moo Deng rises abruptly, her fatigue momentarily forgotten in a burst of outrage.)*

MOO DENG. What?! How? What has he done now?

CASEY. It's... it's his molting season. His new feathers are coming in, and... well, he looks like he's wearing a luxurious fur coat. It's quite the spectacle. *(Moo Deng, deflated, realizes she can't compete with that.)*

MOO DENG. Molting? I can't molt! How am I supposed to compete with a penguin who changes his whole... look? *(Pesto enters, his feathers looking exceptionally fluffy and luxurious, resembling a fur vest.)*

PESTO. *(To the audience, proudly flaunting his feathers.)* Darlings, isn't nature just fabulous? Look at this natural makeover—molting season has turned me into a fashion icon! Who knew losing feathers could look so glamorous? *(Pesto struts a little on stage, the lights catching his new plumage, making it shimmer. He turns and winks at the audience.)* And to think, all I had to do was be myself. Sometimes, the best changes come from just... letting nature take its course. Remember that my adoring fans! *(With a dramatic flourish, Pesto exits, leaving the spotlight to shift back to Moo Deng, who has been watching from afar, her frustration boiling over at the sight of Pesto's effortless charm.)*

MOO DENG. Show-off... It's just feathers! *(Allie, Gerry, and Rexie step forward, trying to offer comfort.)*

ALLIE. Hey, Moo Deng, it's not about outdoing Pesto. You're amazing in your own way.

MOO DENG. No, you don't understand! I have to be the best. Leave me... I need to think. *(The animals and Casey, hurt but understanding, slowly back away, leaving Moo Deng alone. She decides to make a Tiktok calling*

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Pesto out.)

MOO DENG. *(Pressing the record button and speaking directly into the camera with dramatic flair.)* Hey TikTok, it's your queen, Moo Deng! You all know me, the diva of the zoo, but there's a new bird trying to ruffle my feathers! That's right, I'm talking about you, Pesto! Now, everyone loves a good underdog story, but let's set the record straight. This zoo ain't big enough for two top-tier social media stars, and I've been ruling this roost long before Pesto waddled onto the scene. So, here's what we're gonna do, TikTok fam. Let's settle this once and for all. Team Moo or Team Pesto? Drop your votes, stitch this video, and let's show that flashy penguin that while he may have the moves, Moo Deng has the whole zoo behind her! *(She blows a kiss to the camera.)*

MOO DENG. And Pesto, if you're watching, may the best diva win! #DivaDuel #MooDengVsPesto. *(She signs off, paces back and forth, muttering to herself, unsure if that will be enough.)*

MOO DENG. There's got to be something... something big, something to push me over the top... yes, that might just work! *(Suddenly, an idea strikes her. Moo Deng stops pacing, her expression one of manic determination.)*

MOO DENG. That's it! I know exactly what to do! *(With renewed energy, Moo Deng rushes offstage.)*

SCENE 9

Lights up on Moo Deng, who is in full diva mode, rushing around backstage. She is barking orders at the crew, adjusting her costume, and checking the props.

MOO DENG. More glitter on that backdrop! This isn't a rehearsal, people—we're live to the world! *(She turns to a makeup artist, pointing at her face.)* And make sure my highlight pops. I need to shine, literally. *(As she struts over to a mirror to inspect herself, Casey approaches, clipboard in hand, a worried look on her face.)*

CASEY. You haven't been online today, have you?

MOO DENG. No, I was busy getting ready. Why?

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CASEY. Pesto... released a response.

MOO DENG. Show that to me now! (*Moo Deng snatches the phone away from Casey. Pesto enters.*)

PESTO. Hello, TikTok! It's Pesto here, your favorite tuxedo-clad trendsetter! I saw a certain hippo's challenge, and oh, Moo Deng, you do know how to stir the pond! Now, darling, we both know there's plenty of spotlight to go around at the zoo. But since you've thrown down the gauntlet, how can I resist picking it up? It's showtime! So, here's my pitch, TikTok. why not love us both? Imagine, TeamPestMoo! Why choose when you can adore us both for our fabulousness? But if it's a duel you want, dear Moo, then let the games begin! Let's make it a dance-off, shall we? Right here, on TikTok. Team Pesto, let's show them how we waddle with style. And Moo Deng, may the best performer win! #FlipperFancy #PestoPower. (*Pesto exits. Moo Deng is livid.*)

MOO DENG. That pompous penguin! How dare he--?!

CASEY. You're getting so worked up. Maybe we should--

MOO DENG. No, I am fueled by spite! His words will only inflame me to success! Are we ready?

CASEY. The dancers are ready, but we're still having some issues with the wave machine. Maybe we should run a—

MOO DENG. No delays, Casey. I've waited long enough for this moment. The world needs to see me shine again! (*Casey nods reluctantly, then turns to address the crowd as Moo Deng continues to fuss over her appearance, applying last touches to her makeup and costume.*)

CASEY. (*To the audience, masking her concern with professionalism.*) Ladies and gentlemen, prepare yourselves for a performance like no other! Welcome to our show, it's like TikTok—banned one day, back the next, and you can't stop watching! Presenting Moo Deng in "The Aquatic Extravaganza!" (*The crowd erupts in cheers as Moo Deng takes a deep breath, her demeanor shifting from nervous to determined.*)

#6. AQUATIC EXTRAVAGANZA

(*Music cues up, and the performance begins. Moo Deng strides confidently into the water, joining the professional dancers.*)

MOO DENG VS PESTO: THE MUSICAL

MOO DENG.

WELCOME TO THE ZOO!
WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING YOU NEED –
A SAFARI-THEMED LOO,
AND BIG CATS - EVERY BREED!

BUT THERE'S A HIDDEN GEM
THAT YOU WON'T FIND ANYWHERE ELSE!
SHE'S THE PIECE DE RESISTANCE,
THE PRETTY CHIME OF HEAVEN'S BELLS!

ENSEMBLE.

WHO IS IT?

MOO DENG.

HM? I CAN'T HEAR YOU - WHAT WAS THAT?

ENSEMBLE.

WHO IS IT?!

MOO DENG.

WELL... IT'S ME!
IT'S MOO!
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE ONLINE FRIEND,
WHO, OF COURSE, BUT ME, MOO DENG?

IT'S ME! IT'S MOO!
CLAP YOUR PAWS, YOUR FINS, YOUR TALONS
FOR THE FAMOUSLY UNCHALLENGED MOO DENG!

NOW, I'LL ADMIT, THAT FEATHERED FISH HAS HAD ME
STRESSED
AND MORE THAN ONCE, HE MADE ME QUESTION WHO'S THE
BEST

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BUT...

WHO'S GOT TIME FOR PENGUINS
WHEN I'VE GOT THAT VIBE SO SANGUINE?
WHO'S GOT TIME FOR FLUFF
WHEN I'VE GOT BLUBBER ON MY SCRUFF?

IT'S ME! IT'S MOO!
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE ONLINE FRIEND,
NO ONE ELSE CAN TOP MOO DENG!

IT'S ME! IT'S MOO!
CLAP YOUR PAWS, YOUR FINS, YOUR TALONS
FOR THE FAMOUSLY UNCHALLENGED MOO DENG!

ENSEMBLE.

SHE'S THE BIGGEST, SHE'S THE GREATEST
WE OFFICIALLY COLLATE IT
MOO DENG TAKES THE CAKE AND
PESTO PENGUIN COULDN'T EVEN TASTE IT! MOO DENG!

MOO DENG. Now folks, singing and biting aren't my only talents. Watch this!

(Initially, Moo Deng keeps up, but as the routine grows complex, she begins to struggle. Special effects in the water, like colored fountains and synchronized lighting, start to malfunction. Erratic lighting cues and mistimed water jets add to the confusion, causing disarray among the dancers. Her bulky, flashy costume begins to come apart at the seams, pieces detaching and floating away awkwardly in the water. The wave machine suddenly kicks in, creating large, unpredictable waves that completely throw off the choreography.)

MOO DENG. (To the Zoo Choir.) Sing!

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ENSEMBLE.

SHE'S THE BIGGEST, SHE'S THE GREATEST
WE OFFICIALLY COLLATE IT
MOO DENG TAKES THE CAKE AND
PESTO PENGUIN COULDN'T EVEN TASTE IT! MOO DENG!

MOO DENG.

IT'S ME! IT'S MOO!
IT'S ME! IT'S MOO! IT'S MOO!

(Moo Deng and the dancers are knocked off balance, leading to a comedic yet disastrous spectacle. Moo Deng emerges from the water, drenched and disheveled, as the music stutters to a stop. The crowd is initially silent, shocked by the failure. As Moo Deng looks around, expecting laughter and mockery, a few scattered cheers and claps break the silence—offered by her zoo friends and a handful of sympathetic audience members who appreciate her effort, regardless of the outcome. Overwhelmed and embarrassed, Moo Deng doesn't wait to absorb the cheers. She rushes off the stage, fleeing from the public eye, her steps heavy and her head bowed in defeat.)

SCENE 10

Lights up on Moo Deng, who staggers onto the stage, visibly distraught. She collapses beside the pool, catching her reflection in the water.

MOO DENG. Look at you, Moo Deng... once the queen of the zoo, now just a washed-up has-been. How could anyone love this? How could I think I was ever anything more than... than just a big, silly hippo? It's all that Pesto's fault! That... that fluffy, flightless fiend! He stole my spotlight, my fans, my life! *(Fueled by her emotions, Moo Deng rises, ready to express her tumultuous feelings through song.)*

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#7. *SO WHAT?*

MOO DENG.

STUPID, POOPID HIPPO
TRYING HARD BUT NEVER WINNING
HUMILIATING SHOW!
WHILE THE WHOLE WORLD KEEPS ON GRINNING

ALL I AM'S A LAUGHING STOCK
THEY THINK I LOVE IT WHEN THEY MOCK
JOKES AND MEMES ABOUT ME
MY SHAPE, MY SKIN, MY FEELINGS

SO WHAT IF I FALL ON MY FACE?
THE CROWDS LOVE ME IN DISGRACE!
SO WHAT IF I FEEL LONELY?
SO WHAT IF NO ONE REALLY KNOWS ME?

I HAD BIG PLANS TO SHOW THE PEOPLE
THAT I'M MORE THAN JUST A SILLY HIPPO!
BUT I FAILED,
AND THEY LAUGH
SO WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT THAT?

CLUMSY-DUMSY FOOL
IS THAT ALL THEY'LL EVER SEE?
"BOUNCING PIG" - A NAME SO CRUEL
BUT HE GETS "PESTO" SO YUMMY

ALL HE DOES IT FLUFF AROUND
STUPID WADDLING, STUPID SOUNDS
AND THAT MOLTING COAT? HE LOOKS LIKE A GOAT!
AND STILL HE SURPASSES ME

SO WHAT IF I FALL ON MY FACE?

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THE CROWDS LOVE ME IN DISGRACE!
SO WHAT IF I FEEL LONELY?
SO WHAT IF NO ONE REALLY KNOWS ME?

I HAD BIG PLANS TO SHOW THE PEOPLE
THAT I'M MORE THAN JUST A SILLY HIPPO!
BUT I FAILED,
AND THEY LAUGH
SO WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT THAT?

SO WHAT IF I LIVE IN INFAMY?
SO WHAT IF THEY ALL MAKE FUN OF ME?
BETTER TO BE KNOWN AS A DAFT BLUBBER-BALL THAN
NEVER TO BE KNOWN AT ALL

SO WHAT IF THAT BIRD DETHRONES ME?
I'M STILL THE UNQUESTIONABLE QUEEN!
WHO AM I KIDDING? I'M A DOPE.
DO I KNOW IF I WANT THIS ANYMORE?
NOPE. BUT SO WHAT? SO WHAT? SO WHAT?

SCENE 11

Moo Deng is visibly shaken, her emotions raw. Her friends, Allie, Gerry, and Rexie, approach cautiously, their expressions one of concern.

ALLIE. Moo Deng, we... we just want to help. You don't have to go through this alone.

MOO DENG. Help? Like when you joked about me eating all the treats? Or called me a 'big, silly hippo'? That kind of help? (*Gerry steps forward, their tone sincere but pained, realizing the impact of their words.*)

GERRY. I thought I was just teasing... I didn't mean to hurt you, Moo Deng. I'm sorry.

REXIE. We all said things, Moo Deng. Perhaps in jest, or carelessly, without thinking how deep the words might cut.

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MOO DENG. But that's just it, isn't it? You see a hippo, and there's so much to make fun of. How can I not listen to what others say when my own friends...? *(There's a heavy pause as the weight of her words hangs in the air. Each friend looks down, grappling with their own guilt.)*

ALLIE. You're right. We got carried away. It can be hard to see how things we think are small can feel so big to someone else.

GERRY. We've laughed together, sure. But if the laughter turns into something that hurts you, then it's no longer a joke—it's just unkind.

REXIE. A true king—or queen—should uplift their companions, not bring them down, even in jest. We need to be better for you, Moo Deng.

MOO DENG. I can't help being a hippo. This is who I am.

ALLIE. And we love you for it, Moo Deng, we do. Everyone does.

MOO DENG. You just like to laugh at me, not with me. You think I'm a joke.

GERRY. No. We'll be here, Moo Deng.

REXIE. Not for laughter or the spectacle, but for you—our friend. *(Just then, Casey bursts onto the scene, her expression a mix of excitement and relief.)*

CASEY. Moo Deng! Oh, thank goodness I've found you. I was so worried after you ran off. Are you... are you feeling any better?

MOO DENG. I'm... getting there, Casey. What's going on?

CASEY. While you thought that the extravaganza was a disaster, it... it actually wasn't all bad. Yes, it didn't go as planned, but people loved your effort. They saw something real in that chaos—you trying so hard. And because of that, you're almost catching up to Pesto in popularity!

MOO DENG. Catching up to Pesto? But how? I made such a fool of myself...

CASEY. Sometimes, it's not about perfection. It's about being genuine, and you were definitely that. And now, the zoo higher-ups have a proposal. They want to set up a meeting—an event with you and Pesto. *(Moo Deng reacts with immediate outrage, her feathers—figuratively—ruffled once again.)*

MOO DENG. Meet Pesto? That preening penguin? Why would I subject myself to that?

ALLIE. Yeah, Casey, that doesn't sound like a good idea...

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GERRY. She's been through enough already. Why put her through more?

REXIE. Let her recover, not push her into another spectacle.

CASEY. I understand your concerns, really, I do. But think about it— this could be a chance to show everyone the real Moo Deng, on your own terms. It's not about competing with Pesto but about showing the world who you really are, alongside him.

MOO DENG. On my own terms, huh? Casey, make it happen. I want to meet Pesto face to face. I'm not just any hippo; I'm Moo Deng, the diva, the queen! And it's time everyone, including that penguin, knew it.

CASEY. Alright, Moo Deng. I'll arrange the meeting. Are you sure you're ready for this?

MOO DENG. Ready? Darling, I was born ready. This won't just be a meeting; it will be a showdown. And by the end, they'll have no choice but to love me!

ALLIE. That's the spirit, Moo Deng! Show them what you're made of!

GERRY. Yeah, if anyone can turn this around, it's you!

REXIE. Indeed, let the world see the true queen of the zoo. We're with you, every step of the way.

MOO DENG. Thank you, all of you. (*Casey pulls out her phone, beginning to make the necessary calls.*)

CASEY. Yes, hello? We need to set up the event. Yes, it's going to be face-to-face. Moo Deng and Pesto, together at last. Let's make sure it's one for the history books. (*As Casey and Moo Deng rush off, the other three huddle.*)

ALLIE. Let's show Moo that we've got her back, now and always! (*Rexie steps forward, ready to support Moo Deng. She begins to film a TikTok.*)

REXIE. Greetings, TikTok realm! Queen Rexie here, from the wilds of our kingdom, where every creature has a voice that roars—or bellows! Today, I'm here to talk about a very special friend of mine, the fabulous Moo Deng. It's time we rally for our resident diva hippo! Moo Deng isn't just a performer; she's an inspiration. A true diva who teaches us all to own our space and be proud of who we are—no matter how big or bold! (*She picks up a small flag with 'Team Moo' written on it and waves it.*) So, let's not just watch this duel, let's be a part of it. Join me, and let's support Moo Deng. Team Moo, let's make some noise! Stomp, cheer, and show your

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love. And remember, in this jungle, every cheer is a roar! (*Rexie gives a loud and playful roar.*) #TeamMoo #DivaSupport #RoarForMooDeng. (*Rexie gives a final regal wave, blows a kiss to her followers. Allie steps up.*)

ALLIE. Hey there, TikTok swimmers! It's your favorite alligator, Allie, soaking up some good vibes and bringing you a splash of fun today! But we're not just here to soak up the sun—no, sir! We're here to talk about our phenomenal friend, Moo Deng, the hippo with more heart and sass than my whole tail! Listen up, folks! Moo Deng is in a bit of a splash-off with Pesto, and she needs all the cheers we can muster. As the funniest gator in this pond, I'm all about making waves, and I know just how to support our star! Dive into the fun, stitch this video, show your moves, and let's flood the zone with love for Moo Deng! #TeamMoo #SplashSupport #GatorCheer. (*Allie winks at the camera. Now, it is Gerry's turn.*)

GERRY. Ah, greetings, curious minds and kindred spirits! Professor Gerry here, your resident philosopher and part-time banana connoisseur. Today, we delve into the existential quandary of Moo Deng versus Pesto. But really, it's a tale of epic proportions—imagine, a diva hippo and a dapper penguin, dancing the dance of rivalry. And who stands at the heart of it? Our beloved Moo Deng. (*Gerry suddenly stands, revealing a 'Team Moo' banner draped around her neck like a superhero cape.*) Now, while I ponder the great mysteries of the universe, one truth remains clear—Moo Deng's spirit is as large as her splash in the pond. And she needs our support as she navigates the turbulent waters of social media fame! (*Gerry does a slow, exaggerated spin, showing off her banner.*)

GERRY. Let us not just stand by! Let's dance, shimmy, and shake our support for Moo Deng. After all, what is life without a little razzle-dazzle and a lot of laughter? (*Gerry pauses to pull a banana out, holding it up like a microphone.*) So, my friends, join me in cheering for Moo. Let's make noise, let's make merry, and let's make sure the world knows—it's #MooTime!

***THE PLAY IS NOT OVER!! TO FIND OUT HOW IT ENDS—
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