

MOLLY AND MUSE

written by

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INT. MOLLY'S TREEHOUSE - DAY

MOLLY is fiddling with her latest invention. It's very small - around the size of a quarter - and is clearly very hi-tech.

MUSE is bouncing around the room in excitement.

MUSE
Is it ready yet?

MOLLY
Almost, just a few more
adjustments...

Molly turns to Muse, who is now at the ready with a camera.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
What are you doing, Muse?

MUSE
I want to capture the exact moment
you finish your invention.

MOLLY
(laughing)
All right then. And... Got it!

We hear the <SNAP> of the camera.

Muse looks at the picture.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Well, did you get it?

MUSE
Um...

ON PICTURE - it's a slightly blurry picture of Muse's own face.

MUSE (CONT'D)
I got something! So, what did you
invent this time?

MOLLY
It's a voice-activated mini sound
chip! Check it out...
(clears her throat)
Mozart!

CUE MUSIC: Mozart's *Symphony No. 40*.

MUSE

Ahh I remember when he wrote this.
I told him 'Mozzie, you have got a
hit on your hands!'

MOLLY

Chopin!

CUE MUSIC: Chopin's *Revolution Etude*.

MUSE

I worked with him as well. He
sounds just like I remember.

MOLLY

Beethoven!

The sound chip emits a <WHEEZY TRUMPET BLARE.>

MUSE

(a little confused)
Now he sounds different than I
remember.

Molly looks at the sound chip, a little disappointed.

MOLLY

(sighing)
It hasn't quite gotten the hang of
Beethoven.

Another <WHEEZY TRUMPET BLARE.>

MUSE

We should probably stop saying
'Beethoven.'

Another <TRUMPET BLARE.>

Molly puts the sound chip in her bag.

MOLLY

Okay, I'm putting this away before
we both go deaf.

MUSE

Just like B-

Molly puts her hand over Muse's mouth. Muse gives an
appreciative thumbs up.

A <DOOR KNOCK.> Molly and Muse respond in unison.

MOLLY

Come in!

MUSE

(still muffled)

Hmm fmm!

Molly uncovers Muse's mouth. The door opens, and MAYOR WILSON walks in.

MOLLY

Mayor Wilson!

MAYOR WILSON

Hi Molly. Hi Muse.

MUSE

(bowing slightly)

Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR WILSON

Girls, I have a problem.

MOLLY

Well you've come to the right place: Molly and Muse, Solviteers!

MUSE

Solving problems is no problem for us problem-solvers!

(a beat)

Though we might need a less confusing slogan.

MOLLY

So Mr. Mayor, what can we do for you today?

MAYOR WILSON

Well I was talking to my son about his birthday party - it's coming up soon - and he asked me if he could have his favorite animal at the party.

MUSE

Well that doesn't sound too bad.

FLASHBACK TO Mayor Wilson's house. Mayor Wilson is with his son, David.

DAVID

Dad, can I have an elephant at my party?

BACK TO Molly's treehouse. Molly raises her eyebrows.

MOLLY
And what did you say?

MAYOR WILSON
Well it wasn't easy, but I had to
look him in the eyes and tell him
the truth.

FLASHBACK TO Mayor Wilson's house.

MAYOR WILSON (CONT'D)
Of course you can!

David starts jumping up and down with excitement. Mayor
Wilson joins in.

BACK TO Molly's treehouse. Molly and Muse exchange
exasperated looks.

MOLLY
Mr. Mayor, we've talked about
this...

MAYOR WILSON
(guiltily)
I know, I know - I have to stop
making such big promises. But you
should have seen how happy he was!
But now I'm stumped. But I know
that if anyone can make my son's
birthday wish come true, it's the
Solviteers!

Molly and Muse look at each other again. Mayor Wilson's faith
in them is very motivating.

MOLLY
(determined)
Don't worry Mr. Mayor, we're on the
case!

Molly walks over to a calendar on the wall and picks up the
sharpie.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
So when is your son's birthday
party?

MAYOR WILSON
Four o'Clock.

MUSE

Today??

MAYOR WILSON

That's right. In fact, I've gotta run - lots to do! But thank you, Solviteers, I'll see you soon!

Mayor Wilson dashes out.

MUSE

Well Molly, sounds like we've got our mission

MOLLY

That's right - **we need to get an elephant for David's birthday party!** And I know just where to start.

EXT. DOVE'S LANDING ZOO - DAY

CLOSE ON: Molly and Muse talking animatedly to someone we can't see.

MOLLY

And that's why if we could borrow him just for the day-

MUSE

Just for the day!

MOLLY

-you'd be making a boy's birthday dreams come true. Dreams. Come. True.

MUSE

And at the end of the day, isn't that what being a zookeeper is all about?

ANGLE ON: The ZOOKEEPER, who is staring at Molly and Muse with a look of extreme incredulity on his face that clearly says *'Are you kidding me?'*

PAN OUT REVEAL: The elephant - he's standing next to the zookeeper and has the **exact same** incredulous look on his face.

CUT TO:

INT. MOLLY'S TREEHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

MUSE
Well, that didn't work.

MOLLY
Nope, we're gonna need a new plan.
You thinking what I'm thinking?

MOLLY/MUSE (CONT'D)
Brainstorm!

Muse takes a <DEEP BREATH.>

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Wait!

Molly goes over to the wall and **stands on her head.**

MOLLY (CONT'D)
All right, now I can focus. Take it
away!

INT. BRAINSTORM BUBBLE

A white void.

MUSE (V.O.)

Elephants.

A cartoon elephant appears in the blank void with a <LITTLE POP.> He looks around, confused.

As Molly and Muse talk, relevant cartoon-style images appear and animate (schoolhouse rock style) and disappear/morph when they move on or strike an idea. The original elephant stays the same.

MOLLY
Elephants are the largest land
animals. Most wild elephants are in
the African Savannah.

MUSE (V.O.)
But not in Dove's landing.

MOLLY
Except at the zoo.

MUSE
Where they have a very strict 'no
lending' policy. I don't get it.
(MORE)

MUSE (CONT'D)

They can jump through hoops but not come to a birthday party?

MOLLY

They can't jump through hoops.

MUSE

The ones at the circus can.

MOLLY

The traveling circus has elephants.

MUSE

But it's always *traveling*, we don't have time to track down that circus.

MOLLY

And they probably wouldn't do a private show.

MUSE

Shows... Houdini had an elephant in his show when I worked with him. He would make it disappear. But I never saw him make a new one.

MOLLY

That's it!

INT. MOLLY'S TREEHOUSE - CONTINUOUS.

Molly comes out of her headstand.

MOLLY

We can make an elephant ourselves using paper mache!

MUSE

That's a great idea! The Mayor never said the elephant had to be *real*, just 'huge' and 'awesome.'

Molly and Muse look at each other knowingly.

MOLLY

We can do huge and awesome.

EXT. MOLLY'S HOUSE - LATER

We see Molly and Muse's nearly-finished paper mache elephant, which sure enough is ENORMOUS.

Molly pops into view from behind the elephant's leg.

MOLLY
Got the brown?

Muse pop's up (floating) from behind the elephant's back.

MUSE
Coming down!

Muse tosses Molly the bowl with wet brown paper mache.

MUSE (CONT'D)
Got the gray?

MOLLY
On the way!

Molly tosses the gray paper mache up to Muse.

MUSE
Got the orange?

MOLLY
(struggling for a rhyme)
On the... I mean, uh...
(suddenly suspicious)
Wait, why do you need orange?

MUSE
I don't. Just wanted to hear what
you could come up with. And...
done!

MOLLY
Me too!

Muse flies down to Molly. The two of them step back to admire their handiwork.

MUSE
Now *that's* what I call an elephant!
David is going to love it!

MOLLY
He sure is! Looks like we've solved
this problem with time to spare.

MOLLY / MUSE (CONT'D)
Mission acco-

With a <CLAP> of thunder, it suddenly starts to rain.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Oh no - it's raining!

MUSE
We'd better get somewhere dry. Grab
a side!

Molly and Muse pick up a side and they carry the elephant
onto Molly's (covered) porch.

Molly's phone rings again. She picks up.

MOLLY
Hello?

MAYOR WILSON
Hello Solviteers! Hope everything
is going well with the elephant.
Just wanted to let you know that
since it's raining, the party is
going to be indoors. See you soon!
(short beat)
This is the mayor, by the way. Ta!

MOLLY
The party is going to be inside?

MUSE
Great news! We won't have to worry
about the rain.

MOLLY
No, but I think we have a bigger
problem.

Mal pushes the elephant with all her might, sliding it until
it's face to face with the door. The elephant much larger.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Much bigger.

EXT. MOLLY'S PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

Molly and Muse are sitting on the porch bench looking glum.

MOLLY
We were so close - so close!

MUSE
Missed it by *that* much.

Muse holds her arms apart - they stretch cartoonishly match
the size of the elephant.

MOLLY

Maybe I should call the mayor and tell him there's not going to be an elephant at the party.

MUSE

(defiantly)

No. We're not giving up that easily. That's not the Solviteers way!

MOLLY

(hopefully)

So you have an idea? Of how to get the elephant into the house?

MUSE

Nope! No clue. But I do have an idea of who might have an idea...

Molly is confused for a moment, then she catches on.

MOLLY / MUSE (CONT'D)

Uncle Sal!

Molly and muse join hands.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

I wonder where he is?

MUSE

Well wherever he is, the tele-door will bring us right to him.

INT. OPERA HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER.

Molly and Muse appear in a grand opera house. They see GREAT UNCLE SAL in front of the stage, writing music.

MOLLY

Uncle Sal!

SAL

Molly! Muse!

They run to him and give him a hug.

SAL (CONT'D)

So good to see you two. Welcome to the Grand Opera House of Florence, Italy!

MUSE

Opera House? I'd better change!

Muse <POOFS> into a fancy aristocrat-wear. She fans herself with a fancy folding fan.

MUSE (CONT'D)

Maaahvelous daaaahling.

MOLLY

What have you got there?

SAL

Oh this?

He holds up his conductor's stick.

SAL (CONT'D)

This is my conductor's baton.

Sal gives the baton a wiggle as he shows them. We hear <LOUD ORCHESTRAL MUSIC>

Mal and Muse turn around and see a FULL ORCHESTRA behind them.

SAL (CONT'D)

(calling out)

Sorry guys, just an accident! Just showing the baton!

MOLLY

I'm sorry, we didn't mean to interrupt.

SAL

Nonsense, I've always got time for you two! So, what's going on?

MOLLY

Well we're on a mission to bring a *huge* and *awesome* elephant to a birthday party.

MUSE

And we just found out the party is happening *indoors*! And we don't know how to get an elephant inside!

Uncle Sal strokes his chin thoughtfully.

SAL
Fitting an elephant through a doorway, huh? Tricky, very tricky...

MOLLY
Have you ever done anything like that?

SAL
Sadly not, I'm afraid. I did once fit three kangaroos into an elevator. But that was years ago. And also it might have been a dream.

Sal looks over their shoulders.

SAL (CONT'D)
(calling out)
What about you guys? Any ideas?

The orchestra <MURMURS> and shrugs... no ideas.

SAL (CONT'D)
Ah well... I'm sure you'll think of something. You always do! I always say, you can do anything you set your mind to.

Sal taps his baton against his temple. The orchestra starts <PLAYING> again.

SAL (CONT'D)
(waving for them to stop)
Nope, sorry! Another false alarm!

MOLLY
Thanks Uncle Sal.

MUSE
Hey Sal, what are these?

Muse holds up some small cardboard cutouts.

SAL
I'm glad you asked! I'm composing the world's first *shadow puppet opera*!

MOLLY
A shadow puppet opera?

SAL

That's right! All the characters in the opera, the queen, the wizard, the dinosaur...

(Sal holds up each of the characters in turn)

They'll all be cast as shadows.

MUSE

But Sal, these puppets are so small. How will everyone see?

SAL

Well these cardboard cutouts are small, but the shadows they cast will be *huge*. I'll show you!

Sal dims the lights. He grabs a flashlight, and uses it to cast the shadow puppets against the wall.

MUSE

Cool!

MOLLY

Sure is! The optical refraction from the light divergence magnifies the umbra-

MUSE

(totally lost)

Uh-huh...

MOLLY

Just like how a movie projector makes a tiny picture fill the big screen - the image grows...

Molly stops suddenly. She's having an epiphany - she's looking at the large shadows.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

The image grows...

Muse looks back and forth giant shadow dinosaur on the wall and the little cardboard cutout dinosaur in Sal's hand. It dawns on her too.

MUSE

Ooh! Ooh!

She and Molly can hardly speak.

MOLLY

It's small-

MUSE
But the light! And...

Molly turns to Uncle Sal.

MOLLY
We've gotta go - but thank you
Uncle Sal! You're the best!

She hugs him. Sal is bewildered.

SAL
Huh? I mean - okay! Good luck!

Molly and Muse grab hands and disappear.

INT. MOLLY'S TREEHOUSE - LATER

Molly is fiddling with a small box. A projector light turns on and shines on the wall.

MUSE
You did it!

MOLLY
Not quite yet.

Molly takes Muse's elephant picture and puts it in the projector. It's distorted, stretched very tall and then.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Projector's are tricky business
Muse. Why don't you work on some
elephants and I'll work on the
projector?

MUSE
Sounds like a plan!

The two do their SECRET HANDSHAKE.

CUE MUICAL MONTAGE:

-Muse drawing more elephants in different styles and colors.

-Molly fiddling with the projector.

-The two testing it out, leading to a series of ridiculous looking elephants.

MOLLY AND MUSE (CONT'D)
(singing)
No time to waste
(MORE)

MOLLY AND MUSE (CONT'D)

we've got a job to do!
We'll keep on working
til we see it through.
You do your part
and I'll do mine.
Then we'll put it all together
and we'll make it shine!

So many colors
so many styles!
So many ways to tweak
these buttons and dials
But if we keep at it
then you can bet
We're gonna make an elephant
to never forget!

This one is too blurry
this one is stretched tall
These floppy ears are perfect
But the trunk is too small!
But we can't give up
We've got to keep the focus

(just Molly)
Until we make the perfect
Loxodonta Cyclosiiiiiiiis.

A beat. Muse looks at her, confused.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

(not singing)
Elephant.

MOLLY AND MUSE (CONT'D)

(singing)
So many colors
So many styles!
So many ways to tweak
These buttons and dials
But if we keep at it
Then you can bet
We're gonna make an elephant
To never forget!

END OF MONTAGE.

Molly is projecting something onto the wall. We can't see it yet - only Molly and Muse, beaming with pride.

MUSE (CONT'D)

It's perfect. David is going to
love it!

MOLLY
He sure is - oh wow, we'd better
get going or we'll be late!

Molly and Muse dash out.

EXT. MAYOR'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Molly and Muse are at the door. Molly <KNOCKS.>

MUSE
Oh, wait!

Muse points at the projector.

<POOF!> It's suddenly neatly wrapped.

MOLLY
Ooh good thinking.

MUSE
And...

<POOF!> There's a huge bow on top. Ridiculously huge.

MOLLY
Sorry, just a little excited.

The door opens - it's Mayor Wilson and his son DAVID.

ANGLE ON Molly and Muse. The bow is so big that we can't even
see their faces.

MOLLY AND MUSE (CONT'D)
Happy Birthday!

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

David unwraps his present.

DAVID
Oh cool! It's, uh - what is it?

MOLLY
I'll show you.

Molly hits a button, turning on the projector.

David and all the guests <GASP!>

ANGLE ON the wall. We see the projected elephant. Huge. Very
realistic.

David takes the projector. He bounces it slightly to make the elephant look like it's walking along the wall. His friends all gather around, <CHATTERING EXCITEDLY.>

Mayor Wilson beams. He pulls Molly and Muse aside.

MAYOR WILSON

Girls, I can't thank you enough. I must admit, I was totally stumped. Well I had one idea, but it didn't work.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOVE'S LANDING ZOO -FLASHBACK

The zookeeper and elephant are making the same incredulous face as earlier, while Mayor Wilson implores:

MAYOR WILSON

So if I could borrow him - just for one day...

BACK TO:

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

MAYOR WILSON

But you two really saved the day!

MOLLY

Happy to help.

MUSE

It's what we do!

David rushes up to them, projector in hand.

MAYOR WILSON

So David, what do you think? Pretty cool, right?

DAVID

It's the coolest elephant EVER! I just wish he made noise...

Muse has a thought. She leans over and whispers something in Molly's ear.

MOLLY

Ah, of course! May I?

David hands her the box. Molly turns around, fiddles with it for a moment, and hands it back.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
There you go David, now all you
have to do is call out his name!

DAVID
His name?

MOLLY AND MUSE
Beethoven!

The <WHEEZING TRUMPET BLARE> rings out. It sounds just like an elephant!

David jumps and runs around in excitement.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Well Muse, looks like our work here
is done.

MOLLY/MUSE (CONT'D)
Mission accomplished!

MAYOR WILSON
Wait - before you go - would you
mind taking a quick father-son
birthday picture?

MUSE
Of course!

Mayor Wilson puts his arm around David. Muse aims the camera.

MUSE (CONT'D)
Say cheese!

<SNAP!>

ANGLE ON the photo. Muse's blurry face.

END.

