

PEEP AND THE BIG WIDE WORLD

"ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR STICK"

Written by

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EXT. CHIRP'S TREE - EVENING

Wind whips through the grass as CHIRP arranges her collection --buttons, string, knickknacks--into neatly stacked piles of red, yellow, brown, and blue. She hums to herself, not noticing her branch whipping in the wind or the gathering clouds overhead.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Chirp loves two things more than anything else in the world: collecting things and trying to fly. And since this evening was much too windy to try to fly anywhere, she was busy organizing her collection. ...There was only one problem.

A burst of lightning flashes through the sky, followed shortly by the KABOOM of thunder. Chirp jumps, dropping a yellow button from her mouth.

CHIRP

Aaah!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

See?

Raindrops start pouring down, pelting Chirp and her collection.

CHIRP

Ah. Ooh. Ah.

She spots the water hitting her treasures.

CHIRP (CONT'D)

Hey!

She scurries to bunch everything up around the base of her branch. When she is content everything is as safe as possible, she huddles down under her branch to stay dry.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

So Chirp did what any sensible bird would do.

A leaf, full of water, tips down and douses her.

CHIRP

AAAAAH!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She ran away.

INT. PEEP'S CAN - EVENING

PEEP is laying down in the safety of his can, listening to the rain PINGING off the tin.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Peep, meanwhile, was having a much better time with the rain.

PEEP

<Sigh> I love the sound of raindrops on a can on a warm summer night...

Chirp bursts in with a flash of lightning.

CHIRP

AAAAAH!

Peep jumps up.

PEEP

Chirp! What are you doing here?

Chirp struggles to regain composure.

CHIRP

Wet! Wet! Everything--wet!

PEEP

I know. I've never seen it rain this hard before. Do you want to stay here tonight?

Chirp takes a deep breath and calms down.

CHIRP

Is that okay?

Peep flops back down.

PEEP

Sure.

Chirp lays down beside him and sighs.

CHIRP

<Sigh>

MONTAGE

Of Peep and Chirp sleeping in odd positions, sometimes one awake, sometimes another...and finally both sound asleep.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

So Peep and Chirp had a good night's rest--sort of--while outside the rain fell and fell and fell.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

The rain pours down, forming puddles all around Peep's can, Chirp's branch, and, finally, Quack's pond.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Peep was right: it had never rained that much in their entire lives. And when the rains came down, Quack's pond came up.

The pond waters start to rise.

INT. PEEP'S CAN - DAY

Chirp sleeps blissfully away while Peep looks out the door at the last few drops of the waning storm.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In fact, the rain didn't stop until halfway through the next day.

A beam of sunlight pierces through the clouds and strikes the front door of the can.

Peep jumps around to wake Chirp.

PEEP

Chirp, Chirp! The sun's out. The storm's over!

She blinks her eyes.

CHIRP

Huh? Did the rain stop?

PEEP

Come on, let's go see!

They turn to go but hear Quack approaching.

QUACK (O.S.)
 (singing)
 A lum-dee dum, a lum-dee.
 Oh I love to be a duck
 With a paddle and a swim and a
 quack.
 I wouldn't wanna be any other kind
 of bird...

ANGLE over Peep and Chirp as they look out the door to see QUACK apparently doing the backstroke right past them.

QUACK (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 'Cause when the rain comes down it
 rolls right off my back!

He sees them as he glides past.

QUACK (CONT'D)
 (spoken)
 Quack. Hi, guys!

The two birds stare at each other.

CHIRP
 Was Quack flying?

PEEP
 I don't think so.

Quack comes back the other way.

QUACK
 Come outside. It's a lovely day!

EXT. PEEP'S CAN - DAY

As Quack swims past, Chirp hops after...

CHIRP
 Quack, wait! How are you--?

...Only to SPLASH straight into a pond. She frantically comes up for air.

CHIRP (CONT'D)
 GAAAH! Water! Water! Wet, wet!

She pulls herself up onto the shore, right next to the can. Peep comes outside and Quack swims back over.

PEEP

Wow. How did that water get there?

CHIRP

I don't know, but I don't like it!

QUACK

My pond grew, silly. Isn't it wonderful? Now we're neighbors.

Peep and Chirp look around. All around them little hilltop islands poke out of a sea of blue. Peep's can is right in the middle of one.

CHIRP

Your pond didn't grow. All the land shrank!

PEEP

Where did everything go?

Quack leans back, secure in his superior knowledge.

QUACK

It's simple, really. A duck can't stay cooped up in the same little pond his whole life. It's gotta grow, give him space to stretch his little webbed feet.

He wiggles his toes to demonstrate. As he does, a yellow button floats past.

CHIRP

Aah! My button!

Chirp dives for it but misses, succeeding only in splashing Quack and Peep. Once again she comes up desperate and clambers up on shore.

CHIRP (CONT'D)

Wet. ...Again! ...Argh!

QUACK

I don't see what you have against being wet all the time. Because it looks like you're going to have to get used to it. It's a duck's world, you know.

A piece of string and a popsicle stick float past.

CHIRP

My collection! It's floating away.
Quack, you've got to save it.

QUACK

Afraid I can't help ya.

He strikes an intrepid pose.

QUACK (CONT'D)

I'm far too busy boldly swimming
where no duck has swum before!

He swims over a few feet.

QUACK (CONT'D)

Like...here!

He spies another spot.

QUACK (CONT'D)

And...here! And...over here!

CHIRP

Quack, no duck's ever swum there
before because there's never been
water there before.

PEEP

Your pond must have flooded from
all of the rain last night. That's
why everything's covered in water.

Quack is vindicated.

QUACK

Precisely!

He swims away, his voice trailing off as he gets further.

QUACK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Now to go here...and here...and...
ooh, over there! There! That's
nice. Now let's try over there.

Peep and Chirp look at each other.

PEEP

I guess we're on our own.

CHIRP

<Sigh>

A green button floats past.

CHIRP (CONT'D)
 Another button! Grab my tail, grab
 my tail!

Perplexed, Peep takes hold of a tail feather in his beak. Chirp leans out over the water and tries to grab the button. It gently floats right past.

Then, with a POING, the feather pops off: Peep falls backwards and Chirp SPLASHES into the water again. This time she gets out, disgruntled, without saying a word.

She sits down and watches as other pieces of her collection float by. Peep joins her.

CHIRP (CONT'D)
 We need a boat.

PEEP
 Yeah. But we don't have one.

Both are lost in thought. Chirp suddenly brightens and hops up.

CHIRP
 I know! We could make a boat!

PEEP
 That's it! ...Uh, how do we make a
 boat?

CHIRP
 Well, uh, we...um...

She sits back down.

CHIRP (CONT'D)
 <Humph>

They ponder again. Then it's Peep's turn to jump up.

PEEP
 I've got it! We could use my can.

CHIRP
 We could do that?

PEEP
 Yeah, come on! Help me push it into
 the water.

They both get behind the can and push against it with all their might. Slowly...slowly...slowly they force it out of its rut. Then it rolls down into the water with a SPLASH.

PEEP/CHIRP

Hurray!

PEEP

Okay, let's get onboard.

They're about to hop onto the can, but it is already sinking, with a flurry of bubbles, into the water.

CHIRP

Oh, um, maybe we need something that floats.

PEEP

Sorry.

They sit back down, crestfallen. Chirp watches more of her collection make its way past, but Peep won't give up.

PEEP (CONT'D)

You know, in all this great wide world there's gotta be something that floats. Let's look around. It has to be something lighter than my can.

Chirp takes heart.

CHIRP

Yeah, okay.

They get up and start looking around. Peep picks up a small pebble and drops it into the water--PLOP!

PEEP

Nope.

Chirp picks up a leaf and sets it down on the water. It floats.

CHIRP

Hey, Peep! Look at this--I did it!

Peep rushes over.

PEEP

Wow. A leaf floats! Of course. Leaves are really light. And they're broad and flat like a raft. Come on, let's get some more.

They quickly gather a few more leaves and group them together on the water's edge.

CHIRP
Here goes nothin'.

Both birds gingerly step out onto their vessel. SPLOOSH! The leaves all go under them as they sink to the bottom.

Peep bounds out as fast as he can, but Chirp stalks slowly and, without a word, throws herself down and folds her wings. As they get out of the water the leaves bob back up to the surface.

PEEP
I don't understand. Why didn't that work? The leaves are floating fine now.

CHIRP
They're too thin. We need something that will float while we're on it.

Another popsicle stick floats past. Chirp's eyes widen.

CHIRP (CONT'D)
Ah-ha. We need wood.

PEEP
Wood? But how would that be any different from leaves? Don't they both come from trees?

Chirp is on her feet again.

CHIRP
Yeah, but wood is thick enough and strong enough and floaty enough to hold us up. Come on, let's find some!

They start looking around.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
So Peep and Chirp looked high and low--mostly high--for all the sticks they could find.

EXT. ISLAND - LATER

They have gathered together a few sticks and are now trying to fashion them into a raft.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And then they started building a boat. They thought it couldn't be that hard, after all, because it was just like building a nest.

They struggle with the sticks, never quite making them stay where they want them.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The only problem was that Peep and Chirp didn't know how to build a nest.

Spring-loaded, the sticks pop apart and fly all around the shore.

CHIRP

Argh! That's it.

In frustration she grabs a few sticks, tucks them under her wings, and leaps into the water, flapping madly. The sticks stay on top of the water but slide out of their places as Chirp herself slips under the surface.

Peep blinks, a stick still in his beak, as he watches and waits.

Slowly, exhausted, Chirp trudges out of the water and flops down on the grass. She closes her eyes and talks as much to herself as to Peep.

CHIRP (CONT'D)

It's no use. We'll never get enough wood to stick together. My collection is lost, floating down a river, to the ocean, never to be seen again.

Peep sits next to her to listen, but keeps his eyes on the shore.

CHIRP (CONT'D)

We tried everything that floats: we tried sticks, we tried leaves...we even tried rocks. We tried everything--there's nothing left to try.

PEEP

Um, Chirp?

CHIRP

Yes?

PEEP

We didn't try that.

Chirp looks up and sees Nellie's plastic food dish floating past. Chirp shoots straight up; her eyes light up and she zips to the water.

CHIRP

Nellie's food dish! Why didn't I think of that before?

She hops right in, flapping her wings for a graceful descent.

PEEP

Because it wasn't here before. Will it work?

Chirp looks around--at herself, the boat, and the water.

CHIRP

Yeah, I think so. Get in and let's see if it will hold both of us.

EXT. DISH-BOAT - DAY

Peep wades out to the dish and carefully climbs aboard. It wobbles...

CHIRP

Woah!

...but stays afloat. The birds hold carefully still for a moment.

CHIRP (CONT'D)

Are we sinking?

PEEP

I don't think so. Hey, look!

The yellow button floats past. Chirp quickly reaches out, plucks it up with her beak, and drops it down in the boat with them, landing with a PLINK!

Both birds shut their eyes, waiting to go under.

CHIRP

Have we sunk?

Peep slowly opens one eye and looks around. He opens the other and sees that they're still floating on top of the water.

PEEP
We're not sinking! Look! We're
boldly floating where no birds have
floated before.

Chirp opens her eyes and sees her collection floating all
around them. The sight takes her breath away.

CHIRP
It's so beautiful

EXT. DISH-BOAT - DAY

ANGLE down on Peep and Chirp as they navigate between the
islands with a long stick, gondola-style, picking up the
pieces of Chirp's collection.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
So Peep and Chirp found every last
piece of Chirp's collection, and
even quite a few new things too.
Even better, they had a fantastic
time in their new boat.

EXT. WATER - DAY

Quack backstrokes past several islands with a yo-yo on his
stomach, singing to himself.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Quack even got into the act,
helping out with a few things that
Chirp couldn't reach herself.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The three run and play on wet grass, Peep and Quack jumping
into puddles in between hilltops.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
The pond water stayed high for
about three days, but it gradually
went back down to its normal size.
So Peep, Quack, and Chirp went
exploring where no birds had ever
explored before--on the dried-up
bottom of what once had been the
greatest duck pond in the big wide
world.

THE END