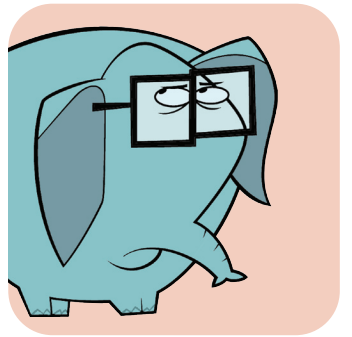
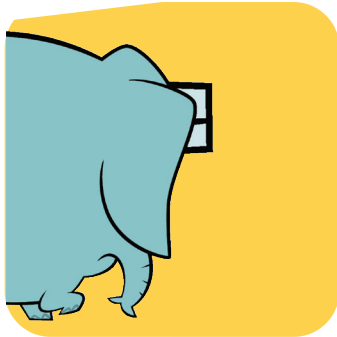
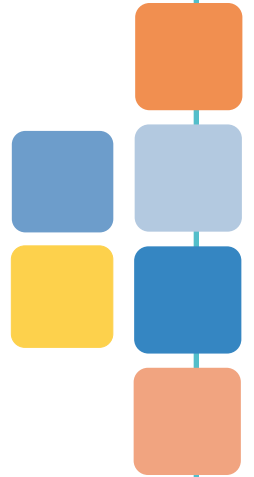


call me
BESSIE!

an animated series from
diane kredensor & dana galin





IN A SENTENCE...OR TWO

Buddy comedy, *Call Me Bessie!* is a constant tug-of-war between buoyant bovine Bessie and her negative neighbor Al. With Bessie singing in the clouds and Al sulking on the ground, this unlikely combination of opposites attract nothing but trouble.

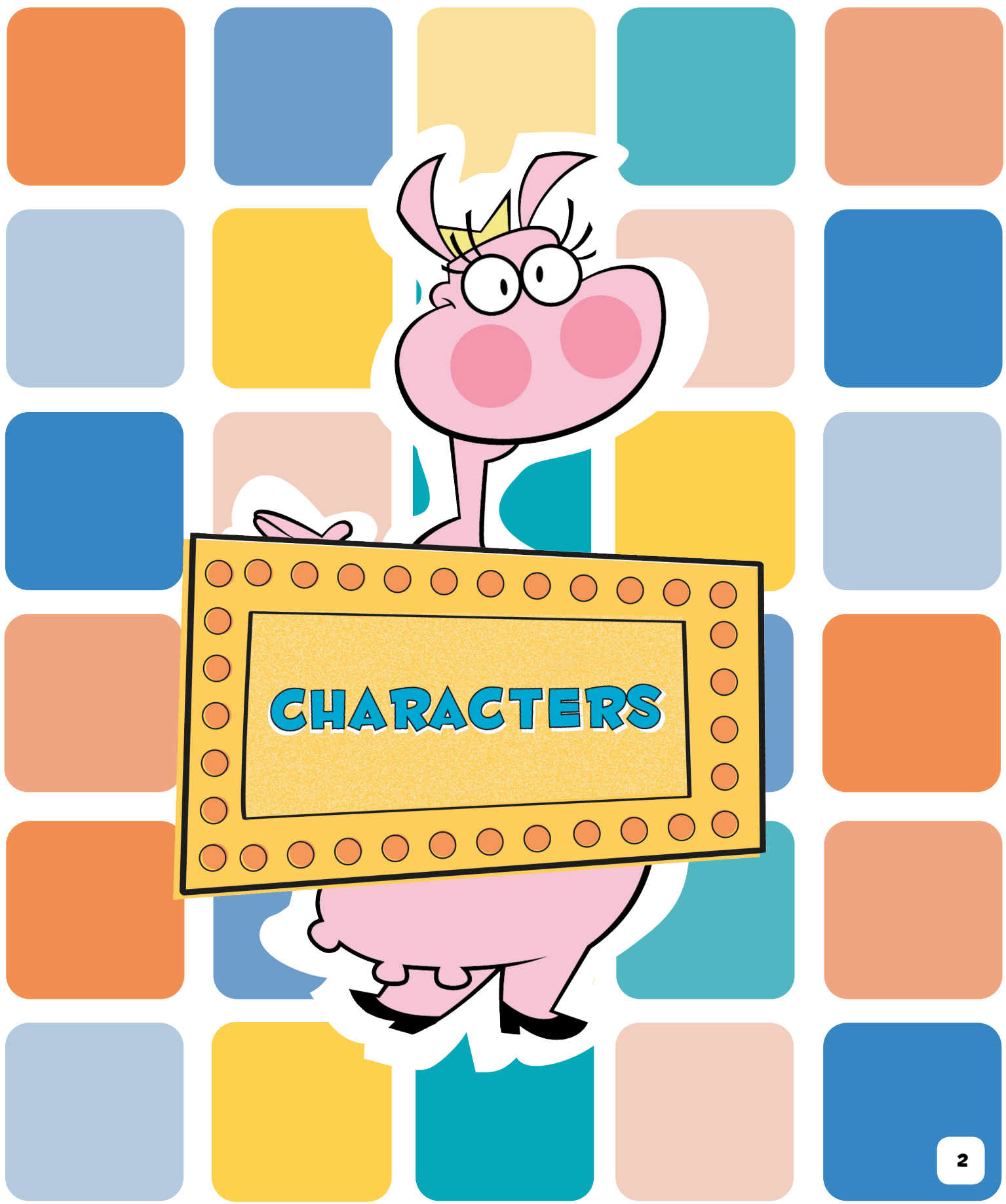
OVERVIEW

Ms. Besseifer Higgenbottom (or, as she always says, “just call me Bessie!”) is proprietor of the “Perfect Pastures Dating Service,” a match made-in-heaven haven for animals of all stripes. She’s an overly enthusiastic cow (who else would try to get sloths to speed-date?) whose only mission in life is to spread joy and happiness by sharing her remarkably bright and breezy world view with her friends.

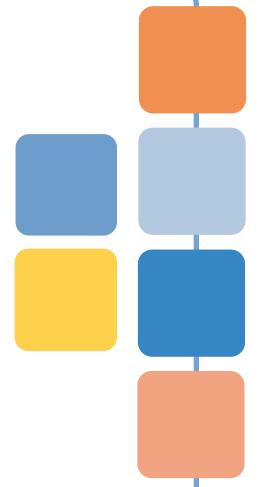
Bessie works from home - a trailer parked next door to her very best pal, a petulant elephant named Al Klopper. And as where Bessie is happy to wax poetic on the subject of “out-of-body” experiences, Al doesn’t even want to have an “out-of-house” experience. He’s a confirmed bachelor with a penchant for gloom. But since the upbeat Bessie will allow no sulking on her watch, she is determined to cheer him up.

And so, the hapless elephant is inevitably pulled into misadventures he’d much rather miss. Bessie just “knows” this next scheme will bring Al out of his shell once and for all. Of course, with that elephant’s memory of his, Al still hasn’t forgotten the last mess Bessie got him into, or the one before that, or the one before that. But she usually gets her way because Bessie tackles life as only a big bubbly bovine can.





CHARACTERS

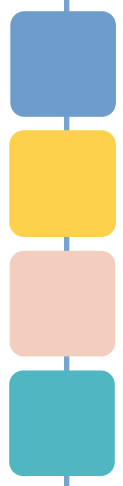


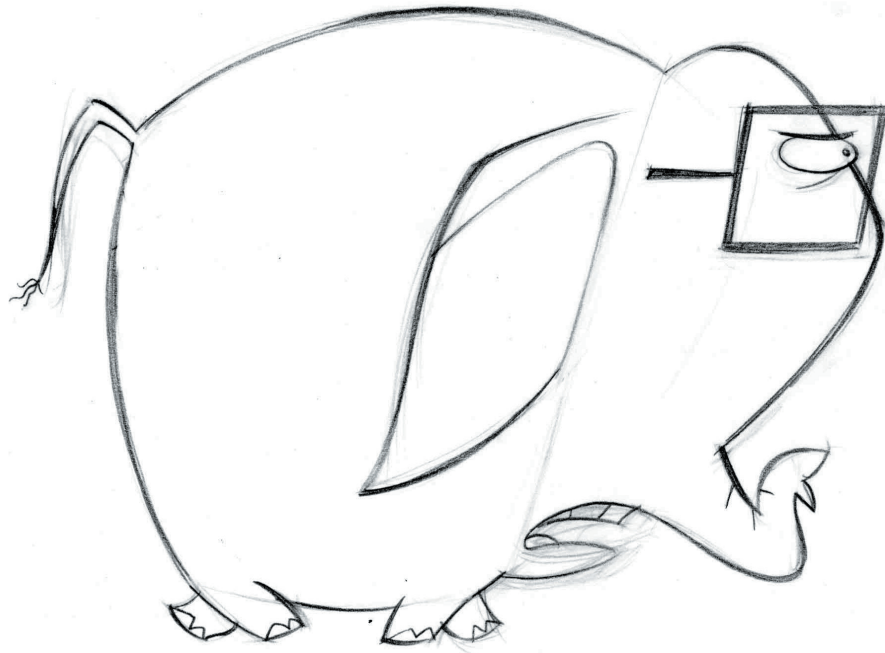
BESSIE

Besseifer Higgenbottom a.k.a **Bessie**, is one big, happy, if not downright exuberant cow. A high-pitched, fast-talking, whirlwind of energy, Bessie keeps herself busy with the dual tasks of running her home business and helping her pachyderm pal to change his isolationist ways.

She may not be the brightest candle on the cake, but Bessie doesn't sweat the small stuff. She has a head of fluff, but she also has a heart of gold. Driven by sudden whims and out-of-the-ether ideas, Bessie will stop at nothing to spread her message of love, peace, and understanding to the residents of Pleasant Pastures.

Anything but a "normal" bovine, Bessie still possesses some endearingly cow-like qualities, like her chomping fixation. Sure, it extends well beyond her God-given right to chew cud -she'll chew anything from blue jeans to bees (ouch). The girl can't help it, she's just gotta do something with all that energy!





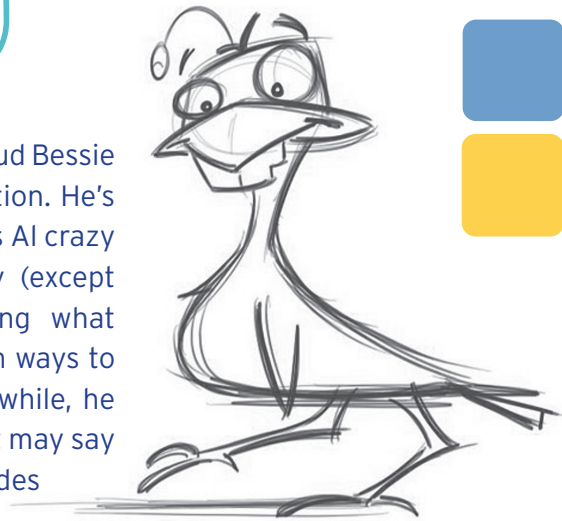
AL

Al Klopper, on the other hand, spends his days preparing for the inevitable end of the world. From an early age, he has lived life desperately trying to avoid disaster. You see, as a baby, Al was clipped in the backside by the remains of a far-flung meteorite. An event he, of course, has never forgotten.

A smart-enough guy, Al is cynical and resigned. All he really wants is to be left alone. But no such luck, because Bessie has ordained him her best friend, and much to his dismay, her confidante. (We suspect though, that deep down, Al really does have a soft spot for Bessie, he'd just never let on.) So, repeatedly sucked into Bessie's adventures against his better judgment, Al's life mantra, "It pays to be prepared," is continually put to the test. Unfortunately, no matter how prepared Al is, it never seems to be enough.

BENNY

A buck-toothed cowbird, Benny worships the cud Bessie chews. He's always trying to get in on the action. He's as loyal and loving as they come, and he drives Al crazy - oh heck, Benny drives EVERYBODY crazy (except Bessie of course). He's constantly repeating what Bessie says or trying to come up with his own ways to help them out of jams. And every once in a while, he does. Just when you least expect it, Benny just may say something brilliant enough to save all their hides



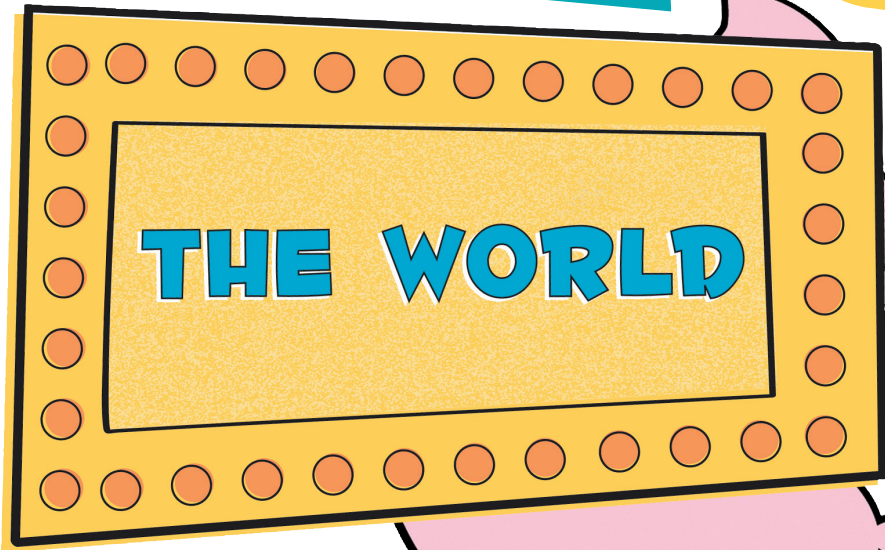
YURI

Across the street dwells Yuri, a retired circus chimp who continually attempts to pull the wool over the eyes of our hoofed heroine. From his tastefully decorated tree house, this smooth simian con-man keeps careful watch over Bessie, waiting for just the right moment to fleece her of her life savings.

SWAMPY

A narcissistic duck whose only concern is proving himself (although he'd deny it and then challenge you to an arm wrestle). Swampy is a know-it all neighbor, way too self-absorbed to actually have close friends. He tags along with Bessie and the gang to give himself a forum for showing off his "smarts." Most of the time Swampy proves to be too smart for his own good and digs an even deeper hole for everyone.







SETTING

The stories take place in the little town of Perfect Pastures, where every resident is yes, you guessed it, an animal. Perfect Pastures is just minutes from the beach at Bovine Bay. Bessie lives in a vintage 50's style trailer right next-door to best pal Al in his custom made fortress of solitude.

A cartoon character with teal hair and glasses is holding a yellow sign with the word "PREMISES" written on it. The sign has a decorative border of small orange circles. The character is wearing a teal jacket and has a confident expression. The background is a grid of colorful squares in shades of orange, blue, yellow, and teal.

PREMISES



BLUEBERRY COW PIES

Nobody knows their way around a kitchen like Bessie - And she's sure to win the local bake-off contest if only Al would stop eating her entries. But he's an elephant obsessed. Soon she's forced to hide the pies from him in increasingly bizarre places - booby-trapped treasure chests, hollowed out phone books and bricked-up breadboxes. Al finally repents but it seems too late - the pies are all gone. "Not so," says Bessie. The best pie was hidden in the one place Al never thought to look - his own refrigerator.

COW EGGS

When Bessie fills in as the Easter Bunny (okay, a really big Easter Bunny) at the local grade school picnic, Yuri sees an opportunity to make some money. He secretly snaps some photos of her and sells them to a tabloid newspaper as proof of the existence of Bigfoot. Pursued by monster hunters and run ragged by the local press, Bessie is hounded into hiding at Al's house. But she must get to the school in time for the annual Easter egg hunt or risk disappointing the children. Al suggests a disguise. Unfortunately, it's not easy to disguise a cow who's dressed in an Easter Bunny suit. Bessie is already a tad on the plus size and those rabbit ears and whiskers don't help. Besides, the only thing Al has that's anywhere near the right size is a bag of flour. But that gives Bessie an idea. And though Al hates to part with his collection of old Sunday newspaper comics, Bessie whips up a great big batch of paper mache - enough to make the biggest egg you've ever seen. The monster hunters and news crews pay no attention to the giant Easter egg that she rolls to school later that afternoon. Once safely at the picnic, her plan is hatched - literally - when Al (aka the new Easter Bunny) comes out of his shell to the delight of the waiting children. And while an elephant in a rabbit suit is not going to be mistaken for Bigfoot - the monster hunters, news crews and happy children alike, now join in pursuit of what they believe is clearly a mutant elephant. As Al is chased into the sunset, Bessie relaxes with a cold lemonade and the satisfaction of a job well done.

HOOF AND MOUTH

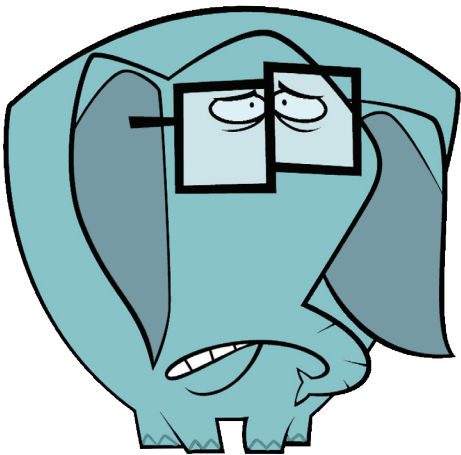
Al needs help with his self-esteem (seems he has a bad body image). So Bessie convinces him to join her in Yuri's new dance class. Turns out, Al's a natural. For a big fella, he's pretty light on his feet - all four of them. Soon, the dance world sits up and takes notice of the prancing pachyderm and he's offered a starring role in a Broadway musical. Al and Bessie pack their bags for the big city, but arrive

at the station to learn that there's only room for one passenger on that train to stardom. Bessie is not invited and will have to stay behind. Of course she'll miss Al but would never stand in his way. Al feels differently. As annoying as Bessie can be, she's the friend that believed in him in the first place. Al decides to give up dancing on Broadway, but not dancing. In fact, on many a moonlit night one can catch an odd glimpse of a cow and an elephant doing the Tango in Bessie's backyard.

RUNNING WITH THE BULLS

Bessie wants to run in the local marathon. Can she do it? Only Swampy, her personal trainer, knows what it will take for her to win. But is Bessie up for Swampy's Kick-Yur-Butt training camp? She says she is, but when put to the test, Swampy finds her doing everything BUT exercising.

Sunnin' herself at Bovine Bay, taking her plants for a walk, picnicking with Al...But what Swampy doesn't know is that Bessie is up to something. She knows about little duckling Swampy's nightmare game of "Duck, Duck, Goose" during his elementary school days that left him scared for life and wanting to prove he's not a Goose! So she fakes her lack of commitment to get Swampy to overcome his fear of running. And her plan works when in a fit of anger he quits as Bessie's coach and decides to run in the marathon himself. Relieved, Bessie finds her place as Swampy's cheerleader and cheers him all the way to victory!



THE DIVINE MS. BOVINE

Realizing she has something of a knack for making up TV jingles, Bessie turns total pop diva - and is only too happy to share her mad rhyming skills with her increasingly dismayed neighbors. Yuri hears Bessie sing and decides to cash in on her talent with a new scheme - Pfony Records & Artist Management (complete with golden records and autographed images of rock stars with Yuri at their side on the walls). Bessie can't believe her luck. Her friends are less than thrilled. While Bessie can be a nuisance, they love her and don't want to see her get taken by Yuri, who's starting to control her life. Who would have thought that the first step to becoming a pop star was doing Yuri's dishes? On her way home one night she sees her favorite misogynist having a party and she WASN'T invited. The gang's all there playing Al's favorite pastime, Spin the Peanut. Her friends explain that they did invite her, but Yuri must not have given her the invitation. They didn't really expect her to come anyway, given her tight schedule. Bessie realizes that she's been giving up her friends for Yuri's promises of fame. She immediately fires Yuri and offers to jump-start the

entertainment for the party...a game of Bovine Ballet, in which everyone gets to dance with someone they don't know! Sheesh, not another dating game. Although he won't admit it, even Al is happy to have his old friend back!

BESSIE MY LOVE.

Valentines Day has Benny the cowbird searching for just the right gift to express his love and admiration for the bodacious bovine. Determined to win her over, Benny showers Bessie with a series of increasingly inappropriate items (dead bugs, old socks, etc). When she doesn't respond as he'd like, Benny increases the size and frequency of his gifts. Bessie thinks he's sweet, but her house is filling up with the weird tokens of his affection. Bessie decides to teach Benny the real way to court a female -

without hurting his feelings. She decides to hold a Valentines Day seminar called "Communicating Your Feelings without Ruffling Your Feathers." But she can't do it alone. Bessie needs Al and friends to help. She gets Al to participate by making him head of security. Yuri comes over to see what the ruckus is about (as Al is building a threat-proof stage) and offers to help publicize



the event and check people in, so he can get first dibs on all the hotties (he envisions a gaggle of female chimps on his arm). One of the attendees turns out to be a fetching little free-range hen who immediately becomes the target of Benny's attention. Much to Bessie's relief, Benny is no longer interested in her and doesn't even mind when he takes back all his gifts to give to his new crush.

HORTON HOOF

Bessie is not her normal self. She's sitting in her garden mooing inconsolably. Al, is being driven mad by the racket. He can't stand it anymore and asks her what's wrong. She tells him that Horton Hoof is in town, appearing at the local mall. She has tried to get tickets, but can't and

now she's miserable. Fearing an eternity of moaning cow disease, Al is determined to help Bessie see Horton Hoof. He wracks his brain for a plan to save the day. Suddenly he realizes - that's it! He will devise a plan in which Bessie will save Horton's Day. And then Horton will be so thankful, he'll do something for her - an autograph at least. Then Al will finally have peace and quiet again. Bessie is dubious as Al explains that Horton can't do anything without first having a Sumptuous Salty Salt Lick Shake from Starducks Coffee Shop. He immediately buys all the Shakes in town so there are NO more left for Horton - except the one Bessie will offer him. Unfortunately Al's gotten it all wrong - Horton only drinks the Low-Salt Lick Shakes. Discouraged, Bessie sits crying on the back steps as Horton is leaving the mall. He notices her and offers her a handkerchief to dry her eyes. Of course she uses it to blow her nose. Horton insists that she keep it as a souvenir. Overjoyed, she even gets him to autograph it before he goes. The contented cow returns home clutching her prize while Al begins to drink his way through 2,000 salt shakes.

THE COW JUMPED OVER THE MOON

What better way to cure Al of his fear of heights? Bessie volunteers Al for astronaut training. Does Al have the right stuff? Does Al have any stuff? Doesn't appear as though Bessie will be able to get Al even close to the space shuttle (for training purposes only) until Yuri steps up luring Al in dressed as a peanut salesman. Yuri's scheme is to send the duo into space and be the first to sell the story to the press, Yuri's plan backfires when Bessie accidentally breaks the bottom out of the shuttle while practicing her "weightlessness" dance and Yuri gets sent into space alone, leaving Bessie and Al safely on the platform waving goodbye and reminding him to send a postcard!

GONE WITH THE MOO

An overly chatty Bessie bets Al she can go an entire afternoon without speaking. She takes a vow of silence and it looks like she may actually win the bet - so Al starts looking for ways to trick her into talking. The easiest way? Just call her on the phone. But Bessie



resists mightily and AI admits that in just 30 more seconds she will have won. Then, with mere seconds to go, Bessie sacrifices her victory to finally say something: a timely warning that AI is about to slip on a banana peel. Touched by her dedication to their friendship, he grudgingly declares her the winner.

PEANUTS FOR PANDAS

A tour bus full of Panda Bears arrives in town. Who would make a better guide to the local sights than Bessie? Unfortunately, she's using an old "map to the stars homes" sold to her by Yuri. Even though AI warned Bessie not to trust Yuri's maps, Bessie's too excited and follows it anyway. They all end up lost in the desert. The Panda Bears complain they haven't had lunch OR dinner - and now they're HUNGRY! It looks like Bessie's career as a Tour Guide is over. But even worse...how is she going to get home! Fortunately, AI's skepticism and his life mantra, "It pays to be prepared," drove him to follow Bessie and the Panda's while dropping his hard earned peanuts along the path to find their way home. Not only does AI save Bessie from Pandabear- monium, but the Panda's get a peanut snack as they trot back to where the peanut's end...Yuri's tree house! They all climb in, make themselves at home, and devour everything and anything they can find - including Yuri's "Star Maps."

