

# Harriet the Hippo

## 2024 Cousin Holiday Story





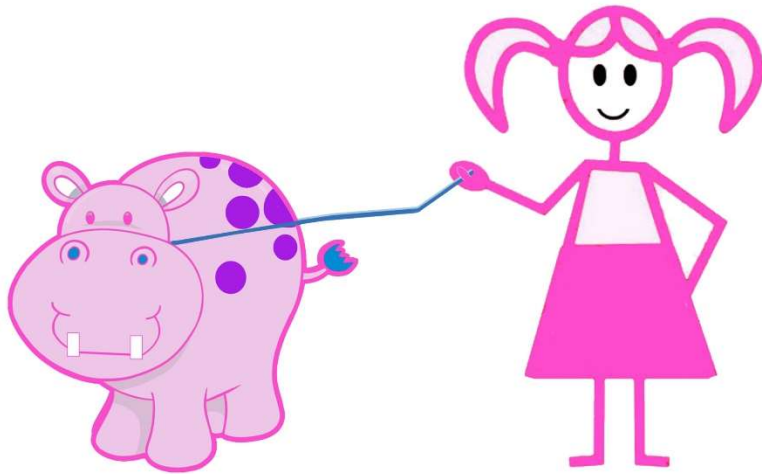
# Harriet the Hippo

When Leila was seven, she got a Christmas gift so grand.

A special baby hippopotamus, the cutest in the land.

Harriet was a special hippo, pretty pink with purple spots.

And a smile with two teeth, even as a calf she weighed a lot.

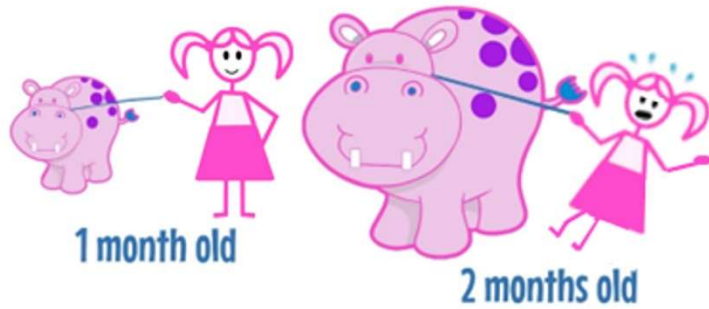


Every day Leila would take her to a nearby park for pets.

Harriet was size jumbo and walking her gave Leila sweats.

For you see Harriet wasn't a regular Hippo, that surely we can say.

She was a Gigantamus Hippopotamus, growing bigger every day.

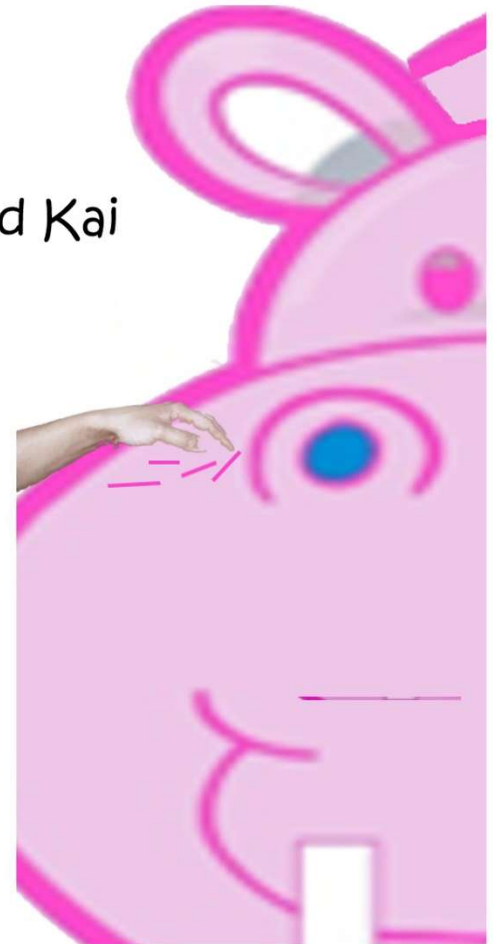


Not just one or two pounds, even that would be a big size.  
Harriet grew twenty pounds each day. Wow, a huge surprise.

But when they all arrive, they're puzzled, they can't quite figure,  
As they watch Harriet grow and grow, bigger and then bigger!



And the little ones, Leah, Oliver, Evelyn, Enzo and Kai  
Knew that this animal was 'Soooo Big!!',  
bigger than the sky.  
Dominic and Hugh touched the hippo's skin,  
it was very rough.  
Harriet liked it, so they kept petting her,  
she couldn't get enough.





Tall Sophia helped Little Sophia  
climb onto Harriet's head.

They jumped up and down.  
"It's a good time." They said.



Then Harriet tried to squeeze through the garage door!

Busting right through it, sending the Sophias to the floor.

Noah, Evan, Andrew and Peyton wondered if they could take a ride.

Bounce up and down on the hippos back and run around outside.



Just when it seemed alright for the cousins, nephews, and the nieces.

Harriet stepped on a brand new car, smashing it into pieces



Caleb told all the others, "She's so big, she's not a house pet."

Case replied, "But she's a happy hippo, as cool as you can get."



Kody responded, "I like the big girl, she's so happy and sweet."

Frankie said, "Still, she can't be left to run up and down streets."

“Next thing you know.” Anistyn said, “She’ll be crashing.”

“And standing on top of a house that she is smashing.”

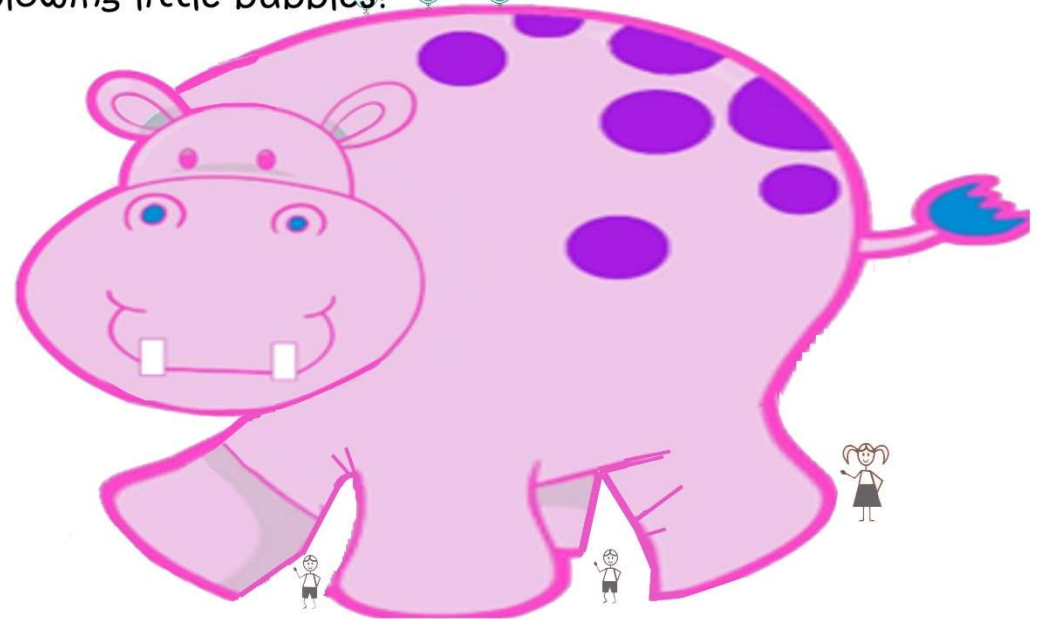


Oliver and Evelyn, climbed up on her back and took a seat.

While Violet, Kai and Hugh ran between the hippo's feet.

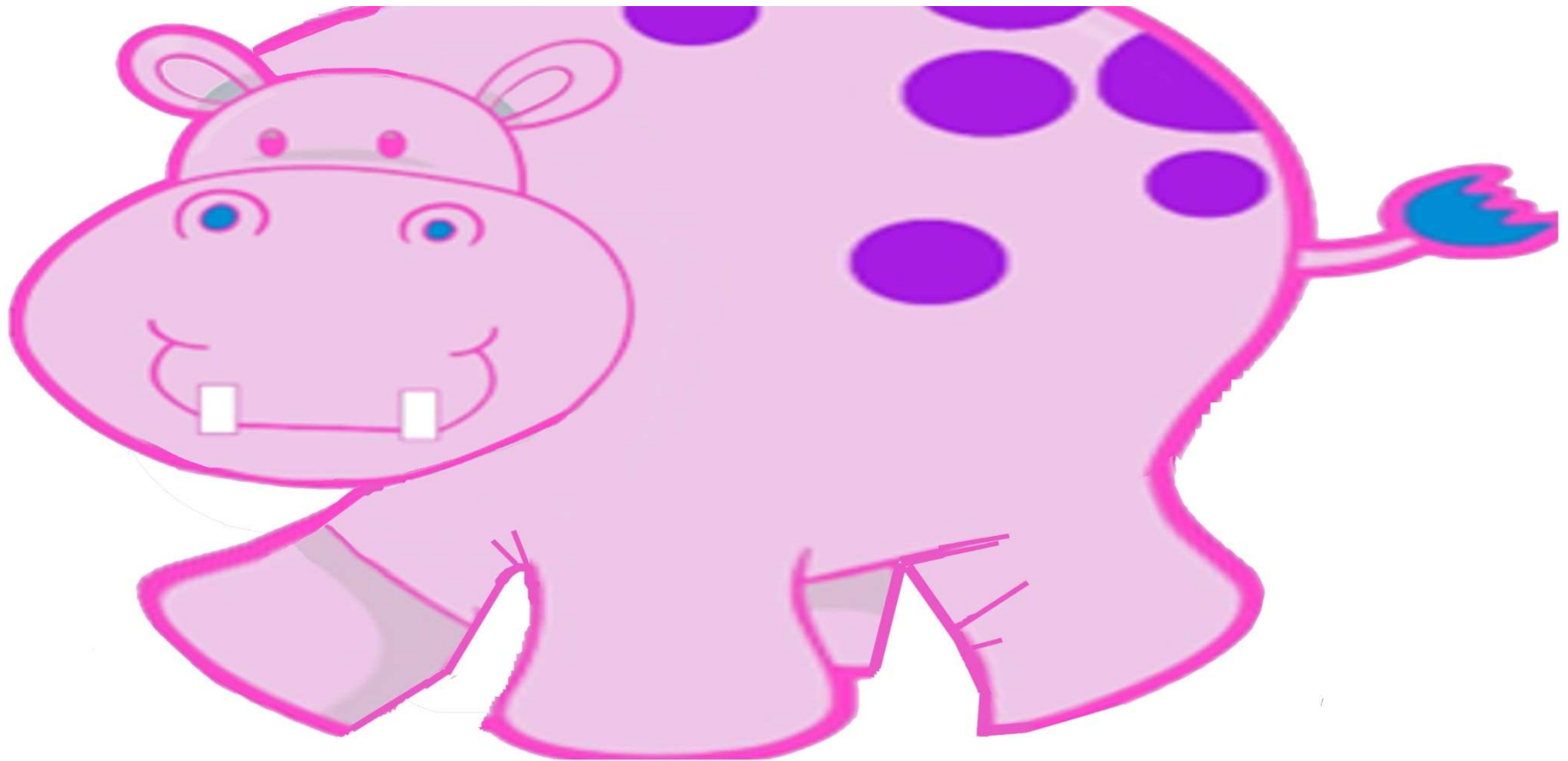
But even the newborn, Leah, knew this hippo would be trouble,

But could only tell the others through blowing little bubbles! 😊 😊



Enzo and Dominic understood sweet Leah, but they were having fun.

Then Harriet had a big growth spurt and now she weighed ten tons.



The cousins had to run and hide, and Tom said. “That’s too much.”

“We have to find a place for her to eat and sleep and such.”

Frankie and Violet worried there wasn't a good place.  
Peyton wondered if the Royals could find a perfect space.  
Andrew said. "That's it! We'll see if the Royals can agree."  
"On a special place for Harriet that will keep her happily."



They asked Queen Kathy of the Braves if she knew what to do  
With a hippo who was big and strong and every day she grew.



Queen Kathy of the Braves

The queen thought a moment and said, "You know what might be fun!"  
"Put Harriet in the infield and if you hit the ball over her, you get a run."  
"Or maybe in the outfield, where she'll make sure there's no grand slam."  
"But if she falls in the wrong place, fans might be flattened with a blam."

But Anistyn said “That’s not quite right, for a hippo can get a sunburn.”

Case said, “That idea is out. Let’s give someone else a turn.”

“Cause there’s no water for the girl, so maybe a ballpark isn’t quite right.”

“She’ll be losing so much sleep, with all the games they play at night.”





Earl Eddie of Spaghetti said, "Harriet will need food to keep her size."

"She only eats fruits and vegetables and sometimes she'll eat fries."

"Still, I think she'll eat Italian food, with meatballs made of plums."

"And sauce made from grape jelly. I can hear her saying 'YUM!'"



Earl Eddie of Spaghetti

But she can't stay in a place where there's no wholesome foods to eat.

So, she should live inside a grocery store, where there are many treats.

Noah, Kody and Evan worried that maybe she would sit,  
On top of the bakery shelf and squash donuts into bits.  
And if she gets too big, she might just grow out of every wall.  
That wouldn't be a good thing, not a real good thing at all.



“Let’s take her to my golf course” Prince Pat said, “For goodness sake.”

“It’ll be something new to overcome; she can stay in the golf course lake.”

“If somebody hits a golf ball into her hippo head, ‘Kerplunk’”

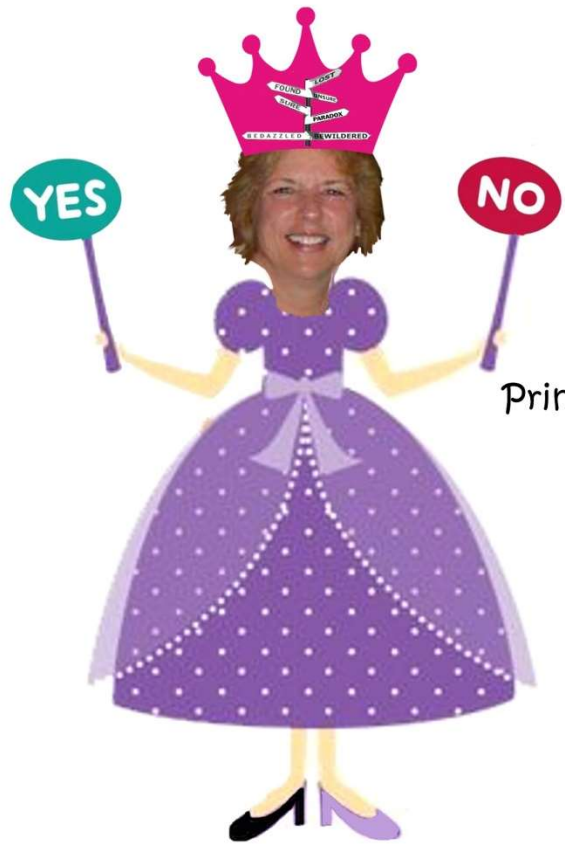
“She’ll knock them to the 19<sup>th</sup> hole, they’ll end up in a funk.”



Prince Pat of the Greens



And Caleb holding Leah's hand, thought a moment and then said,  
"She can't be a golf course hazard, and risk plops upside the head."  
"And if she gets too big she'll take up too much golf course ground."  
"There'll be nowhere there for golfers to find a way around."



Princess Mary Quite Contrary thought the hippo should go left or right.

Or she should go up or down, sit or stand or hug or fight.

Maybe she should go out to the country or set off into town.

Or maybe just stand so still or maybe she should turn around.

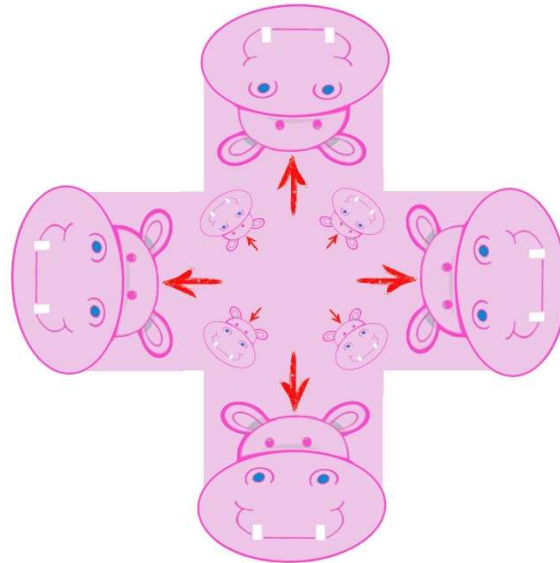
Princess Mary Quite Contrary

Or scream into a pillow with a yell from our baby Hippo.

Or maybe just sit quietly. You never ever really know.

Mary said, "Maybe we'll say. 'Welcome' when we should have said so long."

"I think the right choice for the pet, might very well be wrong."



"But if we can't make up her mind, we'll remember or forget."

"And we don't want that to happen to our lovely, huge, nice pet."



Emperor Bob the Elder

Now, Emperor Bob the Elder sat quietly, hearing the confusion.  
A smirk across his face, Bob said, "These ideas are a delusion."  
"Last night, I said my daily prayer, asked our angels from above."  
"Can they inspire a solution, that will treat Harriet with love?"



The Archangels – Adele, Ken and Paula

“And they came to me and shared an idea for how our hippo should live.”

“Where she can grow to be happy. This is something we can give.”

“And she will be a big attraction. She bring in fans from near and far.”

“Everyone will come see Harriet the Hippo and place dollars in a jar.”

“So, she can get great food and the best of care, it’s true.”

“We should take her to live at the famous, Zoo Boogaloo.”



Leila and the cousins were happy that her pet will be at the Zoo Boogaloo  
She can visit anytime, because the zoo is located in Cleve-a-Villa-lot-a-lulu.

A short walk from Jacksonville, Hawaii, Ohio, Atlanta and Charlotte.

Where your imagination is free to see what others simply cannot.



And know that there are angels looking over her with care.

And they touch all the cousin's lives, it doesn't matter where.

But if you're feeling blue and down, not quite feeling grand.

Come and visit Harriet the Hippo, the hugest hippo in the land.



Happy Holidays, 2024.  
Earl Eddie of  
Spaghetti