Ally the alligator is perfectly happy being alone . . . until one day a noisy bird named Beak lands on her snout and won’t stop bugging her! Much to Ally’s annoyance, this super talkative bird likes to sing all the time, and has chosen a nearby tree to build his new nest. Even worse, Beak insists he and Ally will be best friends. In fact, he has all kinds of friendship goals in mind, and it seems nothing Ally says will convince him that she’d rather be alone.

Nothing beats peace and quiet . . . except for maybe a new best friend?
To all my friends, likely or otherwise.
May I help you?

With what?

You don't seem to know where you are.

I know exactly where I am. I'm in the swamp.

You're also standing on an alligator's snout.

Oh! I didn't see you there.

Sorry, what did you say?

Clearly.

I said, "May I help you?"

And not just any alligator...
A hungry alligator!

Oh my!

Yes. I flew a long way to build a nest here, so I picked up some donuts for the trip.

Good thing I brought donuts.

Donuts?
I got plain, chocolate, and jelly. Which would you like?

Oh... Um... Jelly, please.

Hmm...

I'm all out of jelly.

I'll take chocolate, then.

One jelly donut, coming right up!

One chocolate donut, coming right up!

Hmm...
Let me guess. You’re out of chocolate?
Yes. I only have plain left.

I’ll have plain, then.
One plain donut, coming right up!

That one’s half eaten!
It was a long trip. I was hungry.

Do you still want it?
Sigh.
Yes.
They're not half bad.

Ha! I see what you did there. That's a good one!

They're good donuts, aren't they?

Mmm.

A sense of humor is important. It's what I look for in new friends.
I used to live next to a bird with no sense of humor.

What do you get when you cross an elephant with a centipede?

I didn't give up, though. I kept trying, day after day.

Knock knock!

Please stop.

I told him jokes all the time, but he never laughed.

A monster! Ha ha ha!

Until he moved away suddenly.

Weird.

FOR SALE
Anyway, my name is Beak and I'm new to the swamp.

Oh.

Maybe you and I could be...

You know what? Tomorrow would be better for me too!
Two

Alligator:

Fee Boo
pee Boo
pee Boo
pee Boo
pee Boo
pee Boo
pee Boo
pee Boo
pee Boo
pee Boo
What are you doing?

Building a nest. We're going to be neighbors!

Great.

Why do you keep singing that song?

I was born to sing!
Well, can you please sing something else?

Why not? You just said you were born to sing.

No.

I was born to sing.

They call us that because we have yellow bellies and sing "Fee Boo."

Yes, I get it.
So, what kind of alligator are you?

The regular kind.

And what are regular alligators born to do?

We’re born to swim, and to eat, and to be alone.

Of course. Yes, I can see that. You look very...

Regular.

What?

Sob. That’s the saddest thing I’ve ever heard!
I'm fine. Really.

No. You're not fine. You're just being brave.

SNIFF

But you will be fine, because I'm going to be your friend!

Whoa, now. Hold on...

Better than that! I'll be your best friend!
We'll do everything together!

We'll go on one of those baking shows!

We'll go bike riding!

We'll form a rock band!

We'll go to the movies!

We'll solve mysteries!
Stop! Stop! Stop!

You are too much for me!

I get that a lot.

Did you ever stop to think I like being alone?

No.
Well, I do.

You like being alone?

Yes.

All the time?

Well... not all the time.

See? So you do need a friend.

Alligators and birds can't be friends.

Why not?

We have nothing in common.

Sure, we do.

Name one thing.
I'm waiting.

Okay. Name two things.

No, no, no. I proved we have something in common, so we're friends now.

I know! We were both hatched from eggs!

I didn't agree to that!

But we'll have to finish our hangout later.
I need to finish building my nest.

This isn’t a hangout! We’re just talking!

I’ll see you at my nest-warming party!

Nest-warming party?
Howdy, Neighbor!
You are invited to a party at my new nest!
It's a nest-warming party!
When?: Today!
This will do.

I’ll stay for ten minutes, then say I have to go.

What the...
Bird! Where are you going? Isn't your party today?

It's been canceled.

I wonder why he canceled, though.

He seemed awfully sad.

Huh.

I guess that solves my problem.

I don't have to go to the party now.

Well, it's none of my business. I'll just leave this by his nest and go back to my day.
Are you a friend of the fee Boo bird’s?

No.

Then who are you?

Nunya.
Nunya?
Nunya business.
Yeah. Now get lost. I don't talk to alligators.
Humph!

If you're not a friend of the Fee Boo bird's, then what are you doing in his nest?
He gave it to me.
He gave it to you?
I'm going to find out what's going on here.
Come with me.

Is that bird the reason you canceled your party?

Yes.
That bird is a Long-Billed Party Pooper. They don’t build their own nests.

...then kick them out.

They wait for a smaller bird to finish building one...

Leaving that bird’s nest-warming party officially pooped.
HarperCollins

I'll just build another nest. It's fine.

No, it's not fine! That's your nest!

I'm making it my business.

Because this Fee Boo bird is...

It's my nest now. Mind your own business, alligator.
...my friend.

And when you steal from my friend, you might as well be stealing from me.

And stealing from an alligator is a very bad idea.
You know what? This is a stinky nest, anyway. I don't even want it, it's so bad.

As a matter of fact, this whole swamp is stinky! I'm outta here!

There. You have your nest back.

I Knew we would be best friends!
I didn't say we were best friends.

And I only said we were friends because...

We will have such good times together.

Sigh.

Fine. We're friends.

I can't wait.
Fee Boo
Fee Boo

Sigh.

NEST SWEET NEST
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