

Hera Readers' Theater

This Reader's Theater has been taken from pages twelve to twenty of *Hera: The Goddess and her Glory*. It comprises the scene in which Hera discovers Zeus with his lover Io, who is disguised as a cow.

Read the original scene as it is portrayed in *Hera: The Goddess and her Glory*. Then assign roles from the cast list. Act out the scene with each character speaking and acting his or her part.

Worst Gift Ever.

Cast list:

- Hera
- Zeus
- Io
- Poseidon
- Apollo
- Artemis
- Hestia
- Aphrodite

Hera: Zeus? Zeu-us! Poseidon, have you seen Zeus?

Poseidon: I think I saw him with Apollo.

Apollo: Haven't seen him all day, have you asked Artemis?

Artemis: Try the throne room. He likes it there.

Hestia: Have you tried the forge?

Hera: I don't suppose any of you have seen my husband lately?

Aphrodite: I think I saw him down on earth. Some pretty mortal princess or another...

Hera: (on Earth) Zeus, are you here? You can come out now!

Zeus: (whispering) Oh no! It's her! Quick, hide!

Cow: (whispering) Her? Her who? Hera!? Hide where?!

Hera: Here you are! Having a picnic...with a cow?

Zeus: Hera! I can explain!

Hera: Well, this should be good...

Zeus: Yes, well, you see...She's a gift! For you!

Hera: For me? Zeus, I can't remember the last time you got me a gift! Let's get a look at you...

(Hera looks at Cow)

Whatever made you think to get me such a romantic gift?

Zeus: It's, uh, because she has such beautiful eyes! They remind me of yours!

Hera: Did you hear that? Cow-eyed! I have a very flattering husband.

Cow: Moo.

Hera: But you're right—she is a very beautiful cow, Zeus. That must be why you were having a picnic with her.

Cow: Moo?

Hera: I shall take her and put garlands on her horns and sing her praises. Wouldn't that be lovely, dear?

Zeus: Uh, on second thought...I've seen more beautiful cows. Let me go get you another one—

Hera: More beautiful?! But you said that this cow has eyes as beautiful as mine!

Zeus: Uh...

Hera: Are you saying that you've seen cows with eyes more beautiful than mine!?

Zeus: Well, I—

Hera: Yes or no, Zeus? You can't have it both ways. Have you or have you not seen cows with eyes more beautiful than mine?

Zeus: No! Of course not! Even this cow's are not so beautiful as yours! I merely meant her eyes, her eyes had a...shade of something that reminded me of yours. And now of course, I see that it is just the reflection of the sky.

Cow: (sadly) Moooo

Zeus: The same beautiful blue color of your eyes.

Hera: That's better. Very well, Zeus. I accept your very thoughtful, very romantic gift.

Zeus: Umm, where are you taking her?

Hera: Someplace safe. Someplace where she will be under guard twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. For all of time.

Cow: (alarmed) Moo!

Zeus: But Hera!

Hera: A cow as lovely as this, it would be a shame if she were stolen. By the way, what's her name?

Zeus: Io. It's Io.

Hera: A lovely name for a cow.

Cow: (sadly) Moo...