

Cast In Order Of Appearance:

**Loud
Insect
Everyone
Caterpillar Cop
Io Moth
Friend
Slug
Judge**

LOUD : Attention all insects! Attention all insects! There is an Io Moth Caterpillar on the loose. Attention all insects! An Io Moth Caterpillar is on the loose.

INSECT : Oh no! What can we do? Do you all know what happens when Io Moth Caterpillars get defensive?

EVERYONE : No!

INSECT : They secrete an irritating substance. This is horrible! We need some help!

SFX: theme music

CATERPILLAR COP : It is I, Caterpillar Cop. When the larva get loathsome and unlawful, who ya gonna call?

EVERYONE : Caterpillar Cop!

CATERPILLAR COP : Right! Now, let's go find this Io Moth Caterpillar.

SFX: transition music

IO MOTH : Ha, ha, ha, ha. They will never stop me before cocooning. Now, who is this coming towards me with such well-developed thoracic legs?

CATERPILLAR COP : Excuse me, but you look a little lost.

IO MOTH : I'm not lost, honey. I'm lonely.

CATERPILLAR COP : Really. And why is that?

IO MOTH : Because of my sharp spines and my ability to really irritate everyone due to secretions from my glands.

CATERPILLAR COP : Have you ever considered a bath?

IO MOTH : Look, friend, I've already molted five times. What more do you want from me?

CATERPILLAR COP : To turn yourself in, of course.

IO MOTH : Why? Who are you?

CATERPILLAR COP : Caterpillar Cop.

IO MOTH : What's the charge?

CATERPILLAR COP : Pupating in public.

SFX: transition music

IO MOTH : Thank goodness you've come.

FRIEND : I'm sorry. I would have been here sooner but the Wood Gnats were having a festival and the traffic was terrible.

IO MOTH : They have me segregated from the other prisoners because they're afraid I might molt again. And the way I'm feeling, I just might.

FRIEND : Don't worry. I've gotten you a good lawyer. She's a Slug Caterpillar and you know how they can drag things out during trial if things aren't going their way. The judges hate that.

IO MOTH : Why?

FRIEND : Usually some of the spider bailiffs start eating each other.

IO MOTH : Can I afford this defense?

FRIEND : Don't worry. We have a deal. If you lose your case you don't have to pay anything.

IO MOTH : And if I win?

FRIEND : What I've promised is something you won't be needing anymore.

SFX: transition music

SLUG : Your Honor, this isn't fair. My client didn't have one strand of silk coming out of her spinnerets when she was picked up.

SFX: gavel sounds twice

JUDGE : Sit down, sit down. The Io Moth Caterpillar will have her say. I want to hear from Caterpillar Cop first.

CATERPILLAR COP : Thank you, your Honor. This caterpillar was threatening the general welfare of the community by brazenly leaving the silk factory with the intent to pupate in public.

JUDGE : Such activity would draw much attention from the humans and the factory would be in jeopardy of being found. What say you, Io?

SLUG : Your Honor, my client -

JUDGE : Sit down, Slug Caterpillar. If you bristle too much your stinging hairs might harm someone in the court. Speak to me, Io.

IO MOTH : But I wasn't going to cocoon and pupate in public. It was selfishness, your Honor. I wanted some fun food and a little excitement before cocooning. I was trying to get to that new joint that everyone is talking about - The Lepidoptera Lounge.

JUDGE : The Lepidoptera Lounge? Hey! I hear that place really swings. Great greens, too.

CATERPILLAR COP : Your Honor, she's playing on the sympathy of the court.

JUDGE : Now, Caterpillar Cop, you know as well as I do that Io Moths don't feed once they've finished pupation and become adults.

CATERPILLAR COP : Yes, your Honor, but really -

IO MOTH : Your Honor, I know what I did was wrong and foolish. And after eating the stale leaves in the jailhouse and molting in a cold cell, I'm ready to return to the warmth and safety of the silk factory to begin cocooning.

JUDGE : Very well. No sense in keeping a larva from pupating for too long. Especially one with spines. Spider bailiffs? Carefully escort the prisoner back to where she belongs. And don't make her nervous. We don't need another molt to clean up after.

SFX: gavel sounds twice

JUDGE : Next case!

SFX: transition music

SLUG : Well, it's a good thing the judge listened to her.

CATERPILLAR COP : And why's that?

SLUG : Because now I'll be able to collect on my fee.

CATERPILLAR COP : And this from a caterpillar with no prolegs. Listen, Slug Caterpillar, how do you expect to get to the factory in time to collect anything? She's due to cocoon at any moment and you move like a slug.

SLUG: Her silken cocoon is my fee. When she's done pupating and sheds it, it'll be mine to add to my collection of Giant Silkworm Moth cocoons. So you see, I'm in no hurry.

CATERPILLAR COP : That's why they call you Slug!

SFX: theme music except the very last note

CATERPILLAR COP : When the larva get loathsome and unlawful, who ya gonna call?

EVERYONE (Slug comes in a little slower) : Caterpillar Cop!

SFX: last note of theme