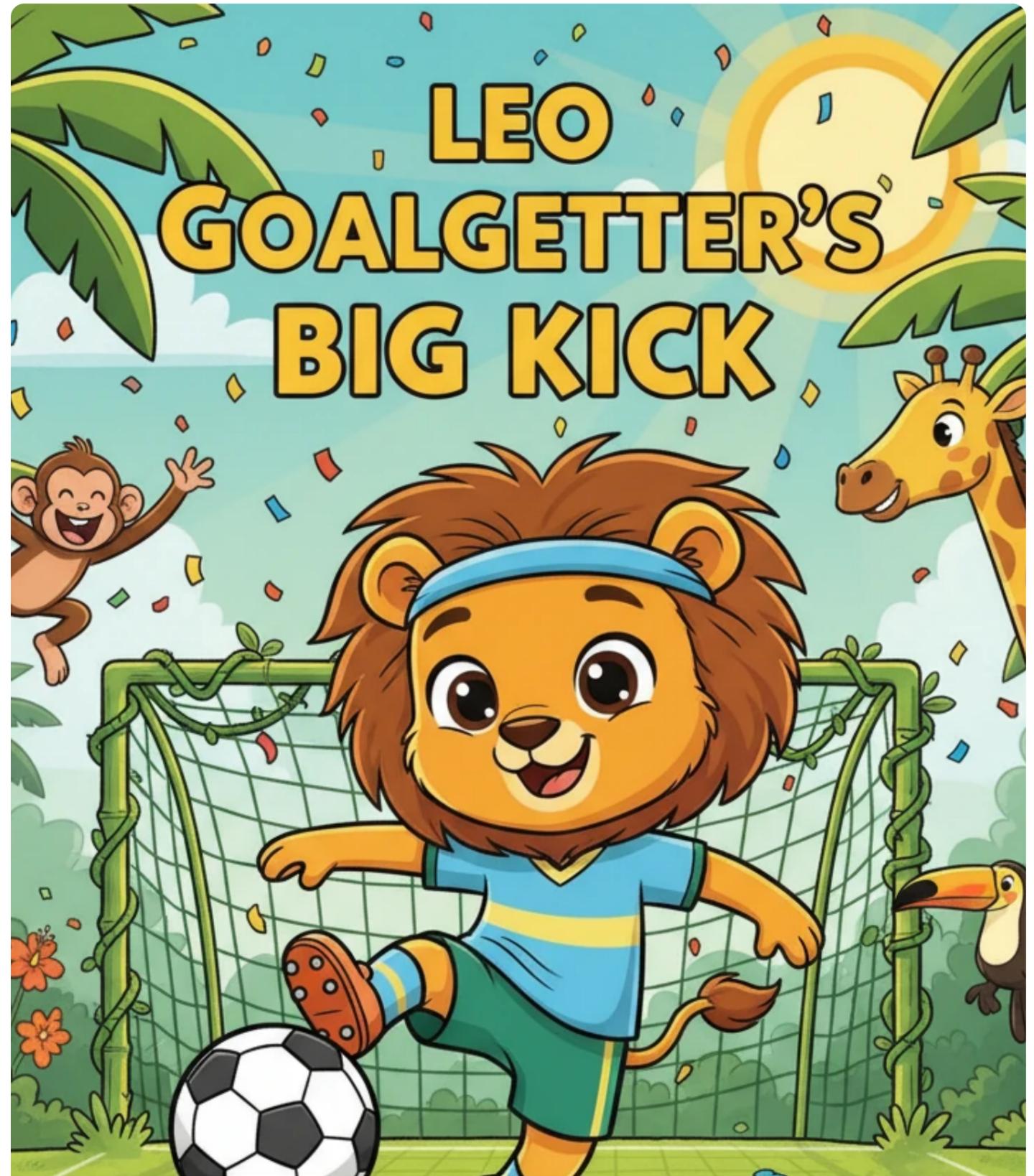


LEO GOALGETTER'S BIG KICK



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Queiti Mcdaniel



Leo, a tiny lion cub with a huge grin, bounced a colorful striped ball with his paws, his tail wagging furiously. He dreamed of scoring the winning goal in the big jungle soccer tournament, practicing every day in a sun-dappled clearing.



He watched the older, bigger cubs play, their powerful kicks sending the ball soaring. When Leo timidly asked to join, they kindly said he was a bit too small right now, encouraging him to keep practicing.



A tiny tear welled in Leo's eye, but it quickly turned into a spark of determination. He wouldn't give up! He decided to train even harder, imagining himself a champion.



Leo practiced dribbling with a super bouncy jungle fruit, weaving it through a maze of playful vines. His little legs moved like lightning, his concentration intense and focused.



He practiced shooting at a target made of hanging leaves, aiming with all his might. Each time he hit the mark, he let out a triumphant roar, feeling stronger and more confident.



Leo even practiced passing with his best friend, Mimi the monkey, who would swing from trees to volley the ball back. Their teamwork was playful and precise, their laughter echoing through the trees.



One sunny afternoon, during the big annual jungle soccer match, a key player from the older cubs' team accidentally stumbled, hurting their paw. The crowd gasped, and the team looked worried.



The wise old elephant coach, with a gentle wrinkle of concern on his trunk, scanned the sidelines for a replacement. All eyes were on him, waiting for his decision.



To everyone's surprise, the coach pointed his trunk directly at Leo, who was eagerly watching from the front row. Leo's eyes widened, a mix of nervousness and excitement bubbling inside him.



Leo, with newfound courage, sprinted onto the field. He used his incredible dribbling skills, made a perfect pass to his teammate, and together they scored the winning goal! The jungle erupted in cheers for the littlest lion with the biggest heart.