

I LOVE CHICKENS



A children's story for 2-8 year olds.

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*Who's been writing in the chicken coop?
Will poor Florrie end up in "the soup"?
If you put your T-shirt on a shelf
Can it walk all by itself?
If you open the pages and take a look
The answers may be in this book.*



I Love Chickens

Once upon a time a man called Grampy lived in a house called Mount Pleasant with a big garden. He had so much room he decided to buy some chickens. So he used some old wood from behind his garden shed to make a chicken shed. It had a little upstairs coop with a ladder going up to it and a little door.

It was quite big enough for the chickens to sleep in the upstairs bit at night and run around in the bigger bottom part in the day but Grampy decided to give the chickens some more room.

He was worried though that if he let them out in the garden a fox might come and get them so he decided to build a high fence all around the bottom of the garden. Just so the fox couldn't dig under it he put some more wire on the ground all the way round and let the grass grow through it. Perhaps lots of foxes came at night to try and dig the grass and get under the fence but just found that they hurt their paws and sharp claws on the wire under the grass.



"Ouch who put this wire here!!"



So everything was ready and Grampy went to a chicken farm to get two chickens which his grandchildren called Florrie and Annabelle and they were very happy in the coop and laid lots of eggs so Grampy decided to get another chicken. This one was a black one called Stephanie.

One day, however, Grampy found a smashed egg in the coop and then the next day there was another one and then another. He couldn't understand it and thought maybe it was the new chicken but one day as he opened the coop he saw Florrie was in there and she was pecking an egg. She pecked the shell open and began eating the egg.

Well chickens are not supposed to do that, so Grampy put her in a little coop by herself which he had to make with some more wood. He hoped she would stop doing it but even if she didn't, at least she couldn't peck Annabelle's or Stephanie's eggs.



"Hmm. This looks tasty"

Well after two weeks she was still pecking any eggs she laid and so Grampy decided to take her back to the farmer and to get a new one. That's what happens to naughty chickens!! Grampy's friend Rosalie was staying with him by then so they went together and swapped Florrie for another chicken. Rosalie picked a big black chicken with a golden breast. She was very pretty and Rosalie named her Henrietta. Well, she might have been pretty but she was a bit of trouble. The first night she flew right over the fence in the dark and Grampy couldn't find her. He was worried that a fox might get her but in the dark he just didn't know where she was.



The next morning very early, Grampy's phone rang and it was the man from the caravan park next door who knew Grampy had chickens and he said that there was a chicken sitting on their garden patio chair. Grampy rushed round and there she was. He had to use a net and Grampy's friend Rosalie helped him chase Henrietta into a corner and then they threw the net over her. They had to do that or she would have flown away again. So Grampy took her back but before he set her free he used a pair of nail clippers to clip the end of Henrietta's wings. This doesn't hurt a chicken but it means that they can't fly. After that everything was alright. Each day after that Grampy sometimes had two eggs and on a really good day there would be three eggs as there were three chickens.

When Grampy was out shopping one day, he saw a T-shirt with the words **"I ❤️ Chickens"** so he bought it and liked wearing it. He liked the T-shirt because on each arm it had a few real feathers and also some feathers on the back a bit like a little tail.



One morning though when he woke up he couldn't see the T-shirt and he joked to himself: "I think this T-shirt has got legs" (Grampy was always making jokes).

He found it downstairs in the office so thought perhaps he had put it there although he didn't remember leaving it there.

The very next day he got up and there was no sign of his T-shirt again. "Where is it now?" he asked himself and after looking around he found it in the downstairs bathroom. So that night when he undressed he made sure he put it in a wardrobe in the bedroom but just to make sure he thought he would put something heavy on top of it. So he got some chicken corn and filled a polythene bag with it and put it on the T-shirt.



The next day he opened the cupboard and there was the empty polythene bag and a few bits of corn but no sign of the T-Shirt. "Where on earth is it now?" he said "and where is all the corn?" Well this time he found it in the back porch of the house and a strange thing was that it looked a bit bigger than the day before.

"OK" said Grampy. "I will fix it". That night he put an even heavier bag of corn on top of it and went to sleep. He had a dream about a chicken walking down the garden and when he woke up there was no sign of the T-shirt. Once again there was just an empty bag. He looked in the office, no sign, looked in the bathroom, no sign and looked in the back porch but there was still no sign so he looked out of the window down the garden and there he could see flapping on the fence of the chicken run was his T-shirt. So he went and got it and put it on. He saw that it looked even bigger than the day before but thought perhaps he was losing weight.

Grampy decided to punish the naughty T-shirt so that night he said he would leave it out all night in the chicken coop.



Well what a surprise the next morning when he went down to feed the chickens and collect the eggs. There was no sign of his T-shirt so perhaps it blew away in the night and he never saw it again but he opened up the chicken coop to get the eggs and couldn't believe his eyes. There were four eggs all together in one of the nest boxes. How could there be four eggs with only three chickens? So Grampy collected them up and he saw on one of them there was some writing. It was a little hard to read but when he put his spectacles on back in the house he read it and it said **"I ❤️ Chickens"**. What a special egg. Perhaps it had been a magic T-shirt after all.



The End

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