

## Country in the City

By Erin P. and Edie S.

The McKinney farm was placed in Sunshine, TX. Where the roads were quiet and the tulips and daisies bloomed. The rural town was always quiet, but in the barn there was always hustling and bustling. Jerry, the barn cat, loved climbing on the roof beams of the barn, but hated the fleas in the country. Jeff, the chicken, loved sleeping in his coop all day, but almost turned red when the owner of the farm, Chuck McKinney, took his poor eggs away to be cracked and fried. Bessie, a cow, loved sitting around in the barn eating hay in the shade all day, but hated being milked by all the humans. Bob, a Shetland pony, loved the apples from the grove, but hated being rode every day. All these animals had pros and cons about the farm, but they mostly hated it. They needed to do something about it.

So, all the animals packed their bags and at the crack of dawn they sneaked off to a city called Famousopolis. A city where no tulips bloom, and the roads are certainly not quiet, especially at noon. As soon as they got to the city, the nearly got run over by the yellow and black taxis. They passed by buildings so tall they touched the cloud-filled sky. They even passed a structure called the Empire Steak Building. That didn't seem quite right. Bessie had heard Chuck McKinney talking about butchering her but decided not to make her steak. Oh no, do they really have to do all the stuff the McKinney's do for them? How are they going to find a barn to sleep in or money for food? How were all the barn animals going to survive in the city? All the animals thought and thought about this and already wanted to go back to the country.

The next day, they went to a place called "mall." They passed places called Hot Topic, Sears, and one that said "Going out of business." About an hour into the "mall" they came to a sign that said FOOD COURT.

“Finally,” yelled Jerry. “My cravings for cooked corn have gone higher than an apple tree in the farm grove.”

Everyone agreed. So they made their way inside the FOOD COURT to get some decent corn. They passed restaurants like TX Tamale with pork-filled tamales. That’s what happened to good old Jack the Pig. He was killed and sent to be made into a tamale. All the animals got chills about the FOOD COURT. Suddenly, they passed by Chick-fil-A, Pie in the Sky, Bake So Good. Wait did that sign say Chic fil-A? That was the name my chicks were always called before they were fried. That was enough. I couldn’t believe that my poor eggs were fried just to feed humans junk food! No, No, No we are not spending another minute in this FOOD COURT. So the animals marched out of the mall without even looking back.

Next, Jerry had really been wanting to go on the cat tower. There was a sign on Main Street that said, “Animal Park → ½ mile”. They looked like hitchhikers on the side of the road. They got to the fence, but when they got there, there was a big red sign on the window that said. . . NO CATS ALLOWED!

“Well pluck my whiskers,” Jerry said.

“No, No, No if it says cat tower then it’s for cats. Humans make no sense,” said Jerry angrily.

So Jerry clung to the fence, but right when he did that, ZAP! Apparently, the fence was electric. Jerry flew off the fence faster than time.

“I don’t know what that was, but until we meet again you monster I will hate you for all of my nine lives. I was just looking for somewhere to relax from this busy city, but you took it from me, and someday you’re going to pay for what you did.”

By now all the animals were looking at him like they’d never seen a cat before. “You know what I agree. I agree that this city is terrible. I want to go home.”

When they got onto the streets, there was a big building that said Big City Elementary School. When they went to go open the door, it came to their surprise that the door opened by itself. It scared the chicken so much that it bocked louder than the cars honking because of traffic.

“Don’t worry about that, I’m going in,” said the horse bravely. When the horse went inside, he saw another sign that said, CAFÉ-TERIA. So they went in, as soon as he stepped foot in the room he smelled everything apple, applesauce, apple pie, apple yogurt, apple cobbler, etc. Bob couldn’t believe it. He rushed to the buffet line, but what he saw after that was terribly horrendous, terrible. Oh he couldn’t stop saying terrible. “Today’s Special: horse meat hamburgers.” Bob didn’t even have the courage to read the rest.

*What’s next he thought, horse nuggets? Who would eat horses? I mean they’re so cute and fun and the perfect companion.* Sweat started to come down Bob’s horse face, he was so shocked that his friends had to put him on Bessie’s back to be escorted out of the building.

A layer of sadness now fell over all the farm animals Bessie say that they named the building after her type of meat. Jeff found out that some restaurants kill baby chicks to make money. Jerry went to a place for cats that said, “No Cats Allowed.” And now Bob found out that they use his meat for hamburgers. Later they all decided to leave the city at the stroke of midnight. They lived up to their agreement and left the city at 12:00.

Back in the country, they had everything they wanted and they never ever stepped near the city again and stayed on the farm for the rest of their lives.