



A Cry For Help

Adapted by Eva Grayzel

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" The mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the barn, the mouse cried out to the other barn animals, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig who sympathized, but said, "I am so sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do but pray."

The mouse turned to the cow who said, "Mr. Mouse, life is short and all we can do is live while we are living." So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house -- like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital.

She returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient.

His wife's illness continued. Friends and neighbors came to sit with the farmer around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer's wife took a turn for the worse and died. So many people came to her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.