

Humpty Dumpty Hardboiled



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Humpty-Dumpty was a smooth, round little chap, with a winning smile, and a great golden heart in his broad chest.

Only one thing troubled poor Humpty, and that was that he might fall and crack his thin, white skin. He wished to be hard, all the way through, for he felt his heart wobble when he walked, or ran about, so off he went to the Black Hen for advice.

This Hen was kind and wise, so she was just the one for him to go to with his trouble.



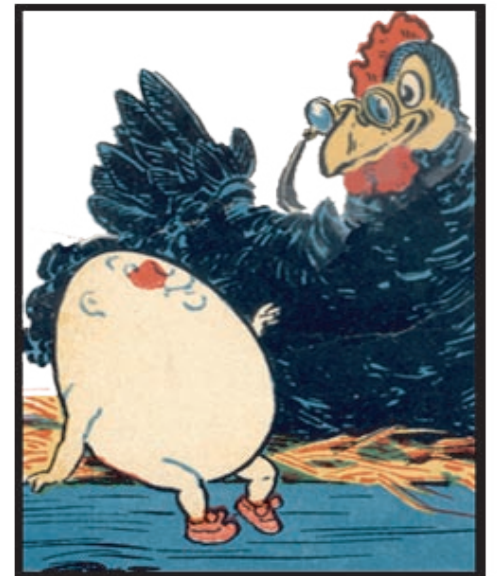
"Your father, Old Humpty,"



said the Hen,



"was very foolish, and would take a warning from no one; you know what the poet said of him,"





"Humpty-Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty-Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses, and all the
king's men
Could not put Humpty-Dumpty
together again."



"So you see, he came to a very bad ending. He was reckless, and would not take advice from anyone. He was much worse off after his fall than a scrambled egg. The King, his horses, and his men, did all they could for him, but his case was hopeless."



And the Hen shook her head sadly.



"What you must do,"



continued the Hen as she wiped a tear from her bright blue eye,



"is to go to the Farmer's Wife, next door, and tell her to put you in a pot of boiling hot water. You see, your skin is so hard and smooth, it will not hurt you, and when you come out, you may do as you wish. Nothing will be able to break you, you can tumble about to your heart's content. You won't even dent yourself."





So Humpty rolled in next door and told the Farmer's Wife that he wanted to be put into boiling hot water.

He explained he was too brittle to be of any use to himself or to anyone else.



"Indeed I shall,"



said the Farmer's Wife.



"And I'll tell you what else I will do for you.

I will wrap you in a piece of spotted calico, so that you will have a nice colored dress.

You will come out looking as bright as an Easter egg!"





So she tied him up in a nice new rag, and dropped him into the copper kettle of boiling water that was on the stove.

It was pretty hot for Humpty at first, but he soon got used to it and was happy, as he felt himself getting harder every minute.

He did not have to stay in the water for long, before he was quite well done, and as hard as a brick all the way through.

Untying the rag, he jumped out of the kettle as tough and as bright as any hard boiled egg.

The calico had marked him from head to foot with big, bright, red spots.

He looked as gaudy as a circus clown, and was as nimble and merry as one.





The Farmer's Wife shook with laughter to see the pranks of the little fellow, for he frolicked and frisked about from table to chair, and mantelpiece.

He would fall from the shelf to the floor, just to show how hard he was.

And after thanking the good woman most politely, for all her help, he walked out into the sunshine, and onto the clothes-line like a rope dancer, to see the wide world.





Of the travels of Humpty-Dumpty, much could be said. He went East, West, North, and South.

He sailed the seas, he walked and rode on the land through all the countries of the Earth, and all his life long he was happy and content.

Sometimes, he would play the part of a clown to entertain children and their parents.

As a wandering musician, he also twanged the strings of his banjo and sung a merry song.

All in all, throughout his travels, he would lighten the cares of others, and make them forget their sorrows, and fill every heart with joy.





But wherever he went, in sunshine or in rain, he never forgot to sing the praises of the wise Black Hen nor the good Farmer's Wife.

They had started him in life, hardened against sorrow, with a big heart in the right place, for the cheer and comfort of others.



The

End