


By the author of *The Gruffalo*
Julia Donaldson

Illustrated by
Lydia Monks

What the Ladybird Heard





Two crafty robbers, one tiny ladybird,
and a whole farmyard of fun!

Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len have a cunning plan
to steal the farmer's fine prize cow.
But they reckon without the tiniest, quietest
creature of all: she has a plan of her own.

From the bestselling creators of
Sharing a Shell and
The Princess and the Wizard.

"Bursting with colour and verve"
Daily Telegraph

"A terrific and witty adventure"
Guardian







For New End Primary School ~ JD
For Noah and Eva ~ LM



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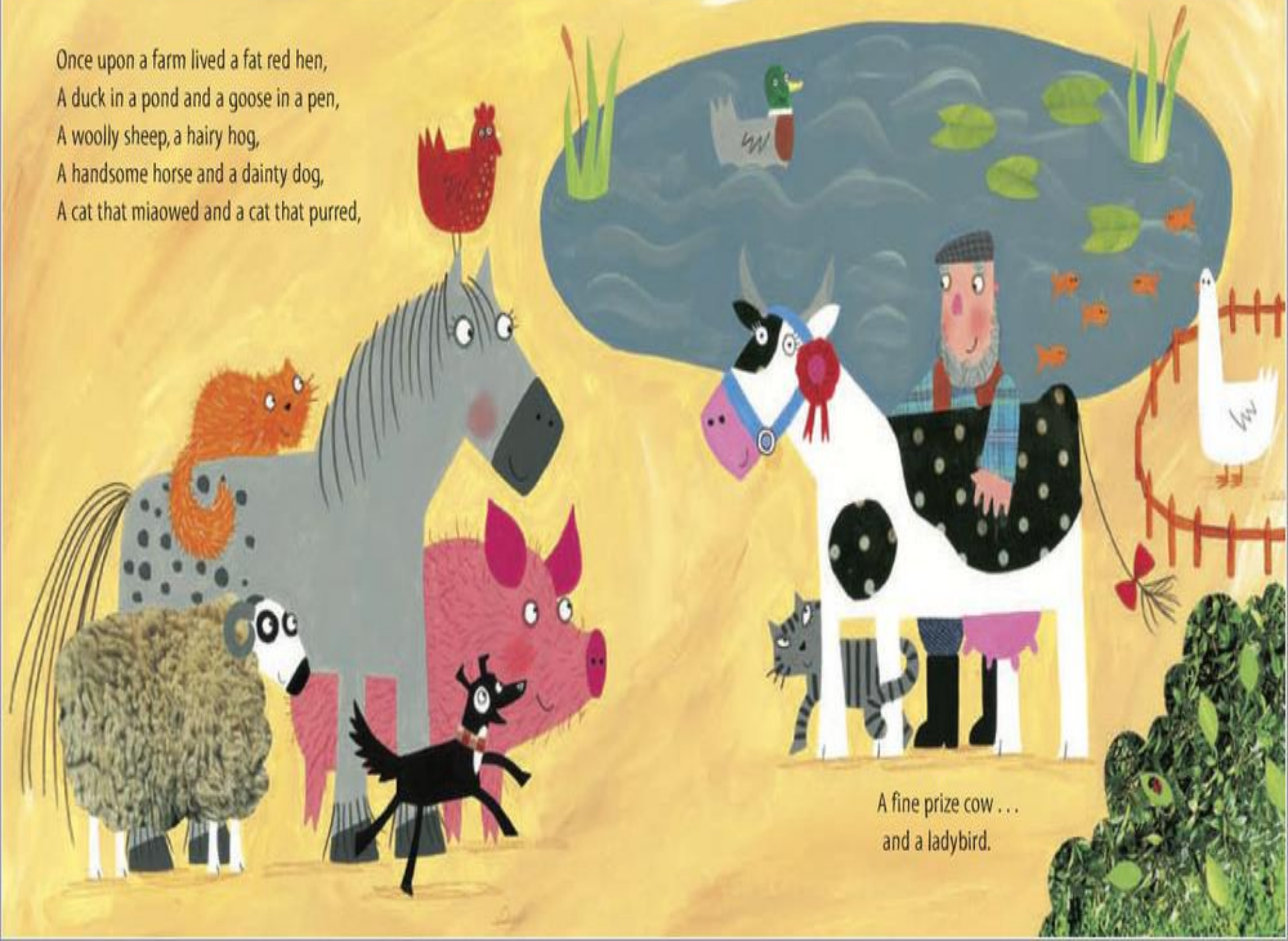
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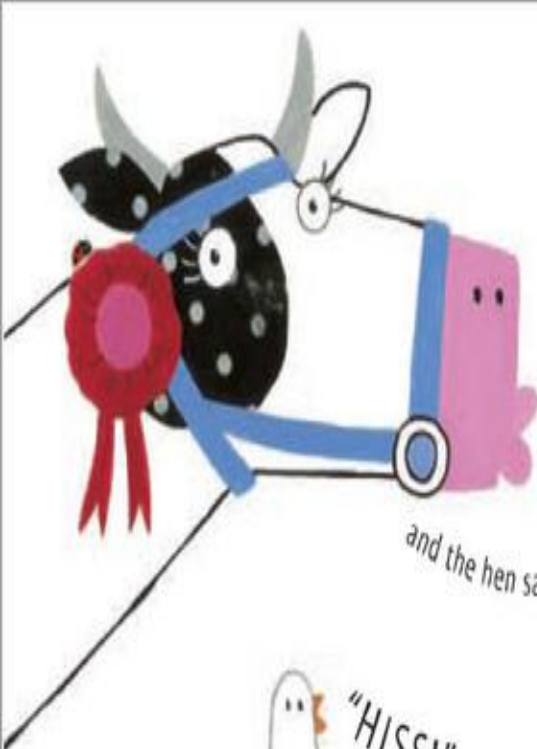
Macmillan Children's Books



Once upon a farm lived a fat red hen,
A duck in a pond and a goose in a pen,
A woolly sheep, a hairy hog,
A handsome horse and a dainty dog,
A cat that miaowed and a cat that purred,



A fine prize cow . . .
and a ladybird.



And the cow said, "MOO!"



"NEIGH!" said the horse.



"OINK!" said the hog.

and the hen said, "CLUCK!"



"HISS!" said the goose



"BAA!" said the sheep



and "WOOF!" said the dog



and "QUACK!" said the duck.




One cat miaowed while the other one purred ...





And the ladybird said never a word.



But the ladybird saw,
And the ladybird heard ...

She saw two men in a big black van,
With a map and a key and a cunning plan.
And she heard them whisper, "This is how
We're going to steal the fine prize cow:

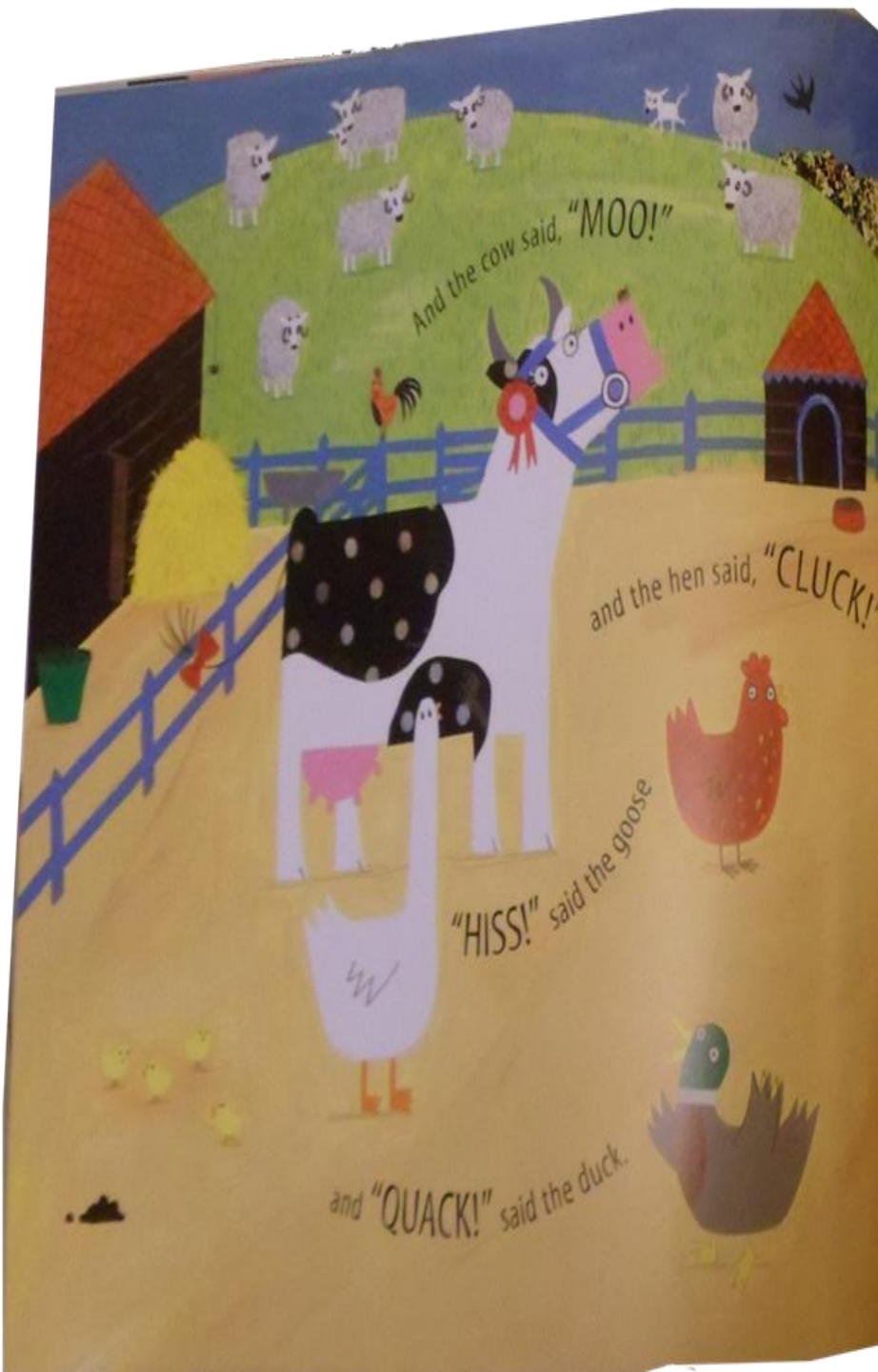
"Open the gate at dead of night.
Pass the horse and then turn right.
Round the duck pond, past the hog
(Be careful not to wake the dog).
Left past the sheep, then straight ahead
And in through the door of the prize cow's shed!"



And the little spotty ladybird
(Who never before had said a word)
Told the animals, "This is how
Two thieves are planning to steal the cow:
They'll open the gate at dead of night.
Pass the horse and then turn right.

Round the duck pond, past the hog
(Being careful not to wake the dog).
Left past the sheep, then straight ahead
And in through the door of the prize cow's shed!"



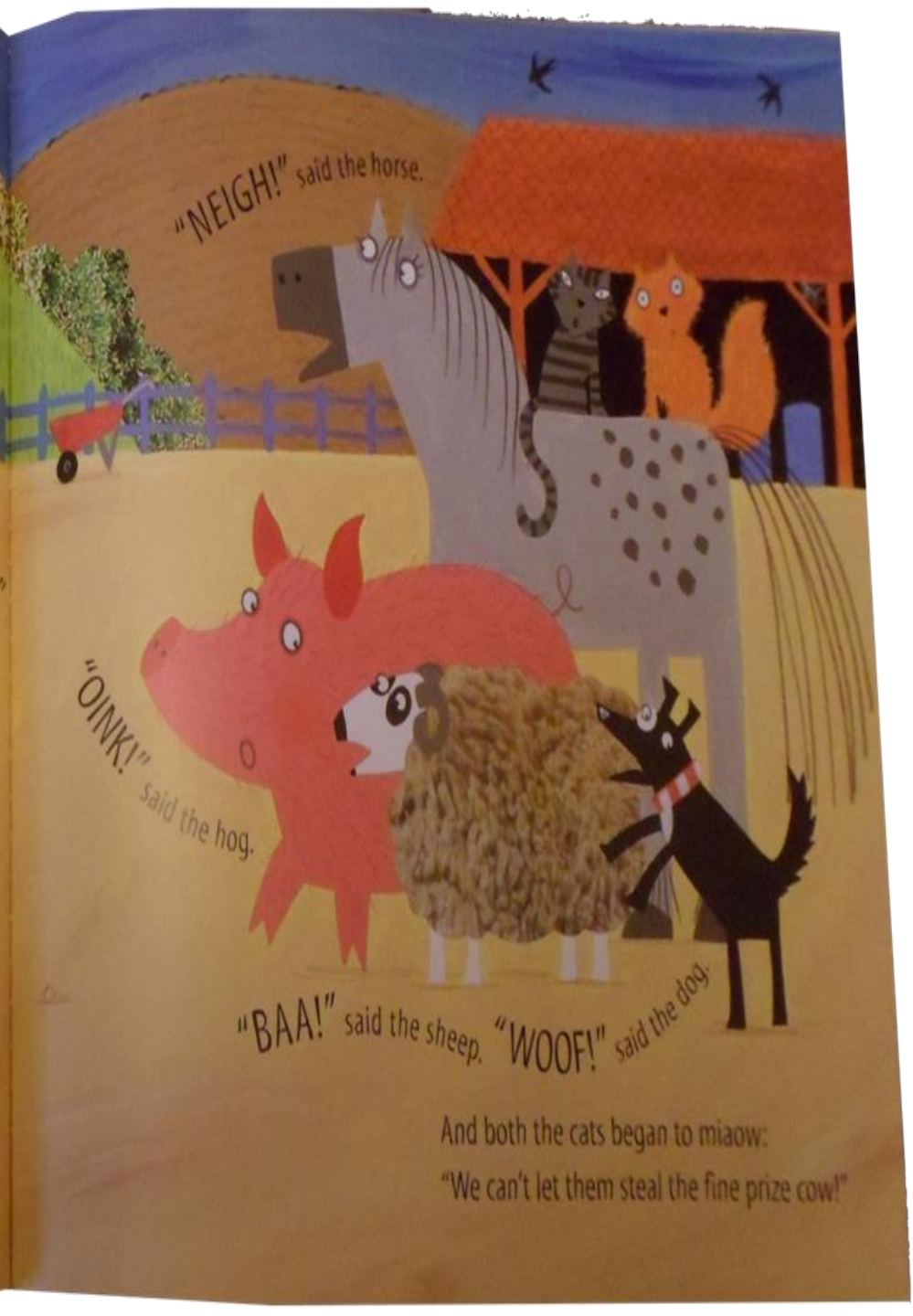
A vibrant illustration of a farm scene. In the foreground, a white cow with a black and white polka-dot pattern and a red ribbon around its neck stands on a dirt path. To its left is a white goose with a pink beak. In the background, a green hill is dotted with several white sheep and a small white dog. A red barn with a blue roof and a blue fence are also visible.

And the cow said, "MOO!"

and the hen said, "CLUCK!"

"HISS!" said the goose

and "QUACK!" said the duck.

An illustration of a farm scene. A grey horse with a white mane and a spotted pattern on its body stands in the center. To its left is a pink pig. In front of the pig is a fluffy brown sheep. To the right of the sheep is a black dog with a red collar. In the background, a barn with a red roof and two cats (one orange and one striped) are visible.

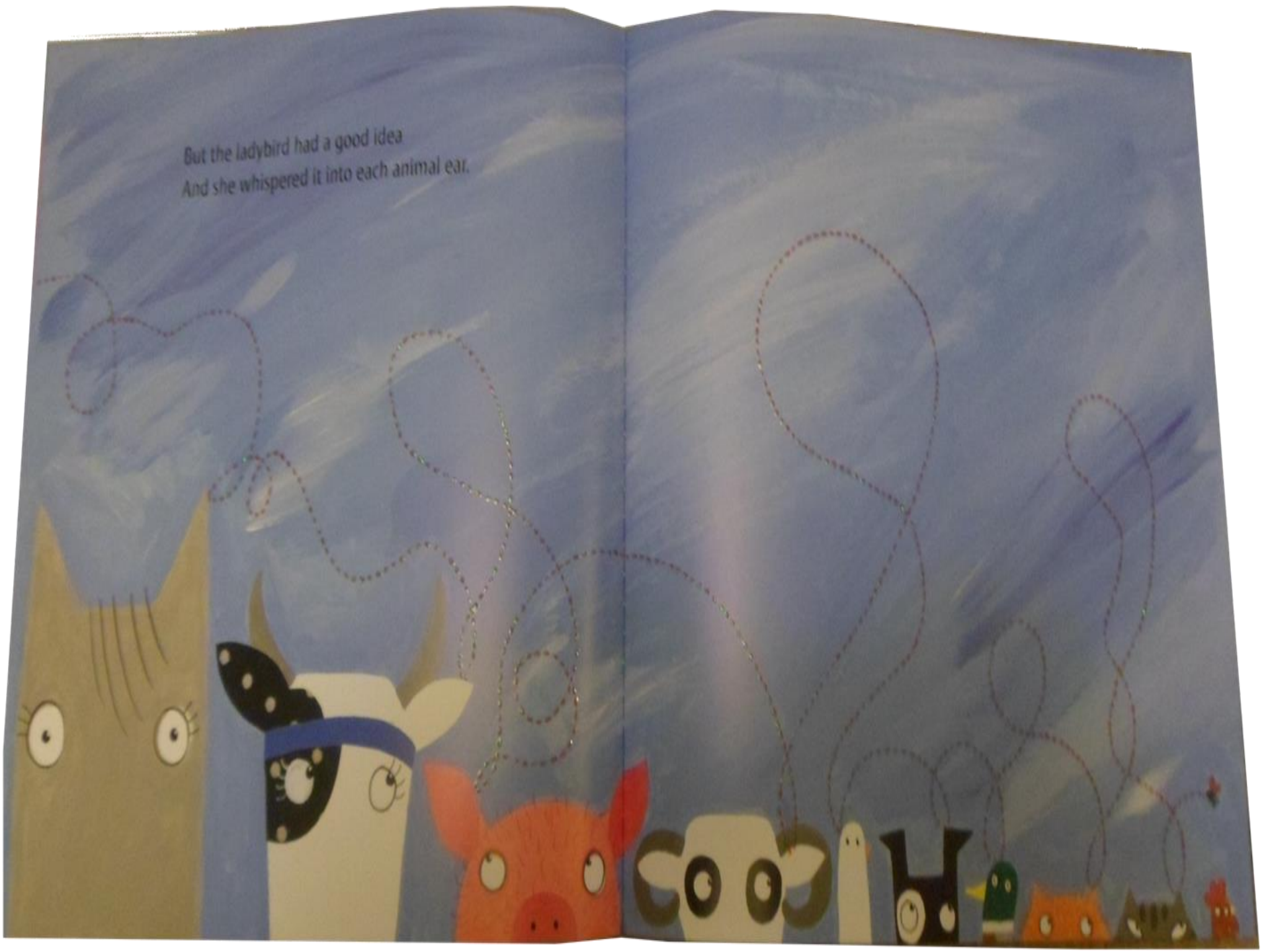
"NEIGH!" said the horse.

"OINK!" said the hog.

"BAA!" said the sheep. "WOOF!" said the dog.

And both the cats began to miaow:
"We can't let them steal the fine prize cow!"

But the ladybird had a good idea
And she whispered it into each animal ear.



At dead of night the two bad men
(Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len)
Opened the gate while the farmer slept
And tiptoe into the farm they crept.



Then the goose said, "NEIGH!" with all her might.
And Len said, "That's the horse – turn right."



NEIGH!



And the dainty dog began to QUACK.
"The duck!" said Hugh.
"We're right on track."



"OINK," said the cats.
"There goes the hog!
Be careful not to wake the dog."

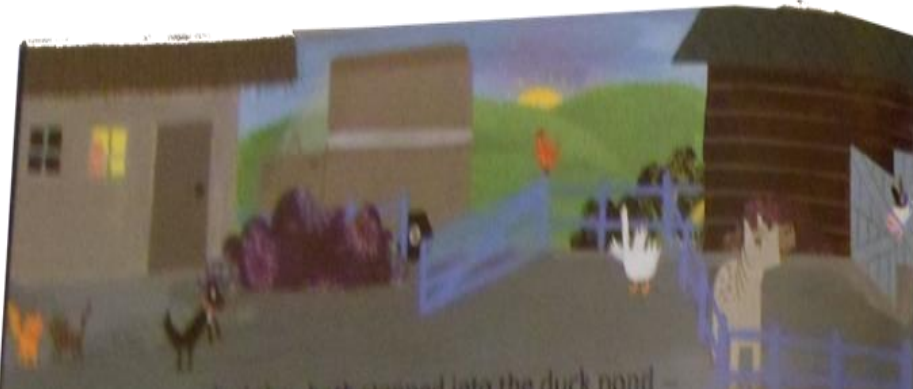


"BAA BAA BAA," said the fat red hen.
"The sheep! We're nearly there," said Len.



Then the duck on the pond said, "MOO MOO MOO!"
"Two more steps to go!" said Hugh.



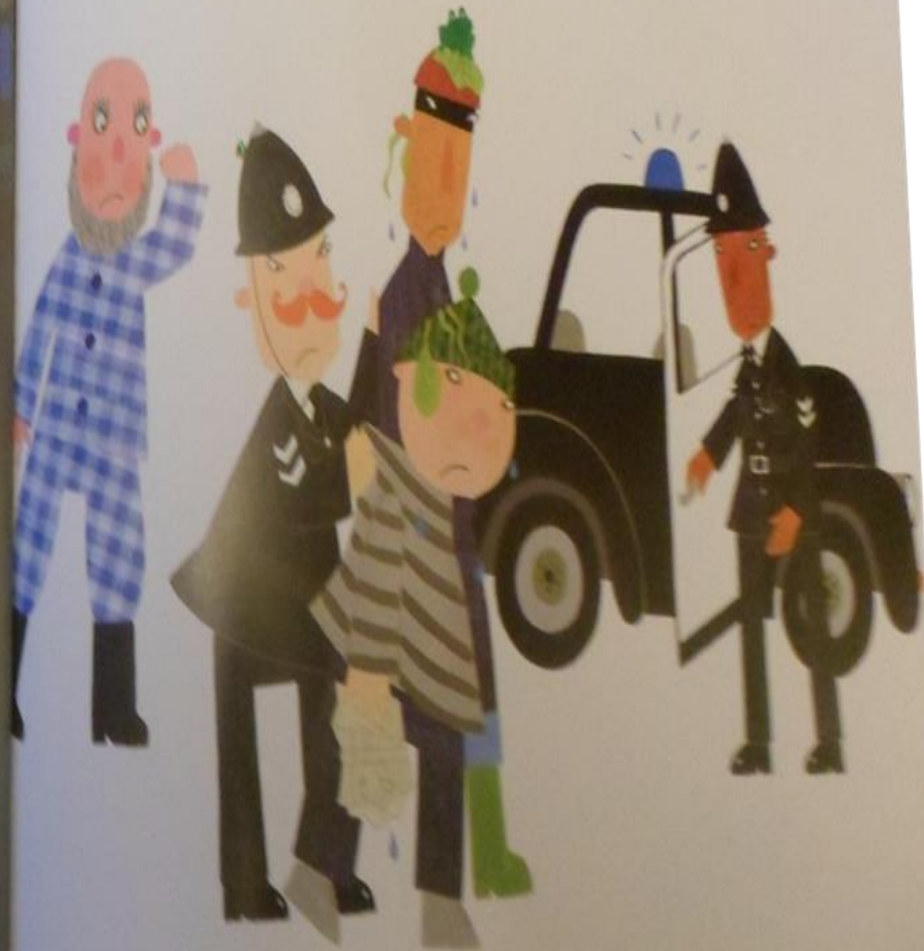


And they both stepped into the duck pond –

SPLASH!



And the farmer woke and said, "Golly gosh!"
And he called the cops, and they came – NEE NAH!
And they threw the thieves in their panda car.



Then the cow said, "MOO!"



and the hen said, "CLUCK!"



"GEESE!" said the goose



and "QUACK!" said the duck.



"NEIGH!" said the horse.



"OINK!" said the pig.



"BAA!" said the sheep.



"WOOF!" said the dog.



And the farmer cheered, and both cats purred.



But the ladybird
said never a word.







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The **W**hat
the
Ladybird
Heard
Song



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