



Goosey McCoy's Great Calm-Down

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Goosey McCoy zoomed in circles, a whirlwind of white feathers and honks. Her wide eyes spun like pinwheels, and her long neck stretched and contracted with every frantic flap. She was absolutely convinced the sky was falling, or perhaps that her favorite shiny button had vanished forever.



Rooster McGee, perched calmly on a fence post, watched the feathered frenzy with a gentle cluck. His bright red comb bobbed as he cleared his throat, trying to get Goosey's attention. He knew a thing or two about keeping a cool head, even when the barnyard got a little wild.



"You really must calm down!" Rooster McGee called out, his voice steady amidst Goosey's chaotic honking. "You're acting rather hysterically!" Goosey skidded to a halt, scattering dust, her beak trembling as she pointed a wing at her chest. "But my lucky button! It's gone, gone, gone!"



Rooster hopped down, his tail feathers swishing with an easy rhythm. He gently nudged Goosey with his beak. "Now, now, panicking won't make it reappear any faster, dear friend. Let's take a deep breath together, nice and slow." He demonstrated a big, calming inhale.



Goosey puffed out her chest, mimicking Rooster, but her breath came out as a shaky little honk. Her legs still twitched, and her eyes darted left and right. It was hard to be calm when her favorite, most sparkly button, the one she'd found near the old oak, was missing!



"Let's retrace your steps," Rooster suggested, leading the way with a confident stride. They peered under hay bales, peeked behind the watering trough, and even investigated the dusty corners of the chicken coop. Goosey tried her best to walk slowly, but her tail still wiggled with anticipation.



Suddenly, Rooster let out a soft "Cluck-a-doodle-doo!" He pointed a wing towards a small, shiny glint peeking out from beneath Goosey's very own wing, where it had been tucked all along! Goosey looked down, her eyes growing wide with surprise and a little embarrassment.



A wave of relief washed over Goosey. She carefully plucked the button out, its sparkle brighter than ever. "Oh, Rooster!" she honked, a happy, relieved sound this time. "It was here all along! Thank you, thank you, for helping me calm down." She gave him a big, feathery hug.



Goosey giggled, realizing how silly she had been. She learned that sometimes, when things feel overwhelming, a moment of calm can help you see clearly. Rooster smiled, proud of his friend for learning to pause and breathe.



Later that day, Goosey sat peacefully by the pond, admiring her shiny button, now safely pinned to her scarf. Rooster McGee joined her, and they watched the dragonflies dance, enjoying the quiet calm of the afternoon. Their friendship felt even stronger, a testament to patience and a good heart.