



# The Tale of Ruby the Little Red Hen

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Ruby, a hardworking little red hen, lived on a cozy farm with her three friends. Barnaby the dog was always tired, Whiskers the cat was always sleepy, and Waddles the duck was always busy doing nothing. They lounged in the warm sun while Ruby kept the farmyard tidy and clean.



One sunny morning, Ruby scratched the dirt and found a few golden grains of wheat. Excitedly, she showed them to her friends and asked who would help her plant them in the fertile soil. But the dog, the cat, and the duck all refused, making excuses about being too tired, sleepy, or busy.



With a determined nod, Ruby decided to plant the seeds all by herself. She dug neat little holes in the rich earth and carefully tucked each grain inside. The other animals watched lazily from the shade of a big oak tree, not lifting a single paw or feather.



Weeks passed, and the warm rain and bright sun helped the wheat grow tall, strong, and golden. Soon, it was time to harvest the ripe stalks, and Ruby once again asked her friends for their help. Unsurprisingly, Barnaby, Whiskers, and Waddles turned away, repeating their usual excuses.



Ruby did not complain and set to work cutting the tall stalks of wheat herself. She worked diligently under the warm sun until every single stalk was neatly gathered. Her lazy friends watched her from afar, yawning and stretching in the cool grass.



The next step was to take the heavy sack of wheat to the mill to grind it into fresh white flour. Once more, Ruby asked her friends for assistance, but they all turned their backs on her. Undeterred, she hoisted the heavy sack onto her back and walked the long, dusty road to the mill alone.



Ruby returned to the farm carrying a sack of beautiful, powdery white flour. She stood in her cozy kitchen, ready to bake a delicious loaf of bread, and gave her friends one last chance to help. But the lazy trio just shook their heads and drifted back to sleep.



So, Ruby mixed the flour with water and yeast, kneading the soft dough with her strong little claws. She placed the loaf into the warm oven and watched as it baked to a perfect, golden brown. Soon, a wonderful, mouth-watering aroma drifted out of the kitchen window and across the farmyard.



Drawn by the delicious scent of fresh bread, the dog, the cat, and the duck came running into the kitchen, licking their lips in anticipation. Ruby smiled and asked one final question: who would help her eat the warm, fresh bread? All three animals eagerly shouted that they would.



Ruby shook her head and smiled gently at her lazy friends. She explained that since none of them helped plant, harvest, carry, or bake, she would eat the bread all by herself. With a happy cluck, Ruby enjoyed her delicious, hard-earned meal, leaving her friends to reflect on the value of hard work.