

The king and the cockerel

Once upon a time there was smart, brave, little cockerel and he lived by a little old cottage with a little old lady. They were happy but very, very poor. Each day, the cockerel would go scratching and scratching in the soil looking for food. Sometimes he found bugs and old roots, but one day he discovered a gold coin. "I can give this to the old lady," he thought. "She'll be so happy." Just then, the king walked by. With a crown on his head and his nose in the air the king was thinking how great it was being king and how he could have whatever he liked. Now, the thing the king liked best was gold and when he saw the gold coin on the ground by the cockerel's feet, he thought, "that must be mine," and he climbed over the fence and took it. Putting the coin into his pocket, he climbed back over the fence and carried on his way back to the palace. The cockerel shouted, *"I'll scream and shout with all my might. That's not fair, that's not right! Give me back the coin."*

That night, the king was getting ready for bed. He dressed in his pyjamas, washed his face and cleaned his teeth, said his prayers, turned out the light and was almost asleep when he heard *"Cock-a-doodle-doo!"* The king switched on the light *and jumped out of bed and was astonished to see the little cockerel standing on the foot of his bed. He called for his guard to take the cockerel away. The king looked at the cockerel, the cockerel looked at the king and warned, 'I'll scream and shout with all my might. That's not fair, that's not right! Give me back the coin.'*

The king refused. The guard took the cockerel out into the garden and threw him in a tank of water. Inside the tank, the cockerel was drowning but then suddenly had an idea. Glug glug, glug! He drank the water until at last he was standing at the bottom of the tank tapping his claw. When the guard came back and opened the tank, the cockerel flapped past him.

The king was in the middle of a lovely dream when *"Cock-a-doodle-doo!"* *The king sat up...[repeat]*

Again the king refused to return the coin and this time had the little cockerel thrown into the oven to cook. Inside the oven it was hot. The cockerel jumped from foot to foot, smoke fuming from his wings. But then he had an idea. He opened his mouth and out came the water, put out the fire and cooled everything down. When the guard came back and opened the door, the cockerel flapped passed him again.

The king was in the middle of a lovely dream when *"Cock-a-doodle-doo!"* *The king switched on...[repeat]*

Again the king refused to return the coin and this time had him thrown into a beehive. Inside the beehive the bees were angry, the brave little cockerel was scared he was going to stung to death. But then he had an idea. He opened his mouth and swallowed all the bees. When the guard came back...[repeat]

Awoken for the fourth time the king called for all his guards but none of them could catch the brave little cockerel. He looked down at them from the rafters, opened his mouth and out came the bees, stinging everyone.

Finally, the king called for the captain of the guards and ordered that he went to the stores and returned with the cockerel's gold coin. The cockerel took the coin home and gave it to the little old lady. They went shopping, bought a feast with money to spare and lived happily ever after.

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