



# The Best Pests



By  
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Illustrated By  
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# **Meet the Pests**

The farm was a nice place to live.

“Farmer Tom takes good care of us,”  
said Mama Pig.

The farm animals nodded.

Raccoon and Rabbit nodded too.

They didn’t belong to Farmer Tom.

But they liked living on his farm.

“We love Farmer Tom!”

said Raccoon.

“And he loves us!” said Rabbit.

Mama Pig looked at them.

“Don’t be silly,” she said.

“You eat his carrots,”

she said to Rabbit.

“And you spill his garbage cans,”

she said to Raccoon.

“You are pests.”







“We are not pests!” said Rabbit.

“Wait!” said Raccoon.

“You eat his food too.

So you are also pests.”

“But we help Farmer Tom,”

said Mama Pig.



“I won first prize at the fair!”

“He loves our eggs-eggs-eggs!”

said the chickens.

“He drinks my milk,” said the cow.

“See?” they all said.

“We are not pests!”

Raccoon began to worry.

“Maybe they are right,”

he said to Rabbit.

“Maybe we should be helpful too.”

“I can help!” said Rabbit.

“I’ll stop eating carrots.

I’ll eat lettuce instead!”





Raccoon shook his head.

“We’ll think of something,” he said.

“From now on, we will be  
the best pests ever!”

So, Raccoon and Rabbit  
tried to be helpful.

And this is what happened.







# **Rooster's Day Off**

Rooster had a big job.

Every morning,

he woke up the whole farm.

“I know!” said Rabbit.

“Maybe we can help Rooster.

I can crow loud!”

“Rabbits can't crow,” said Raccoon.

“But maybe we can help another way.

Let's watch.”

“Cock-a-doodle-doo!”

said Rooster.

“Cock-a doodle-DOOOOOO!

“COCK-A-DOODLE-

DOODLEEEEEEE-DOOOOOOO!”

It was very loud.

All the animals woke up.

Farmer Tom came out to the barn,  
right on time.





Raccoon and Rabbit cheered.

Rooster took a bow.

“Just doing my job,” he said.

“I don’t think he needs our help,”  
said Rabbit.

But the next day, Rooster was late.

“What’s keeping him?” asked Rabbit.

“Here he comes now,” said Raccoon.

Rooster looked tired.

“Cock-a-doodle-*cough*!” he croaked.

“*Cough*-a-doodle-doo.

*COUGH-A-DOODLEEE-COUGH!*”

It was still very loud,

but it wasn’t the same.





“Oh!” said Rooster.

“My throat hurts!

I think I might be dying!”

“Oh no!” said Rabbit.

“Rooster is dying!”

“It’s just a cold,” said Raccoon.

“He’ll feel better tomorrow.”

But the next morning,

Rooster’s cold was worse.

He tried to crow.

But no sound came out at all.





“This means trouble,” said Raccoon.

He was right.

All the animals woke up late.



Farmer Tom woke up late too.

He didn't milk the cows.

He didn't feed the pigs and chickens.

All day, everyone was grumpy.

Rooster was very upset.

“My voice is gone!” he whispered.

“It’s the end of the world!”

“Did you hear that?” asked Rabbit.

“It’s the end of the world!”

“No, it’s not,” said Raccoon.

“This is our chance to help.

We, the Best Pests,

will wake up the farm tomorrow!”

“Yes we will!” said Rabbit.

“Wait — how will we?”





“I will bang the garbage cans.  
They are very loud,”  
said Raccoon.

“Yes, you’re good at that,”  
said Rabbit.

“I’m good at hopping.  
Does hopping make noise?”

“Hopping on the chicken coop  
will make noise,” said Raccoon.

“Okay!” said Rabbit.

“I will hop on the roof  
until all the hens wake up.”



“We need one more noise,”  
said Raccoon.

They saw Mama Pig  
asleep in the straw.

She had a very loud squeal.

“But Mama Pig only squeals  
when she is mad,” said Rabbit.

“Then you must bite her tail,”  
said Raccoon.

“She won’t like that!” said Rabbit.

“That’s the idea,” said Raccoon.







The Best Pests had a plan.  
They met before sunrise.  
Rooster was there too.  
“Are you better now?” asked Rabbit.  
Rooster just said, “*Cough!*”  
“It’s up to us!” said Raccoon.  
The sun was coming up.  
Raccoon gave the signal,  
“One... two... THREE!”  
And all at once...



Raccoon banged the lids,  
“CLASH, BANG, SMASH!”



Rabbit bit Mama Pig's tail,  
“SQUEEE-SQUEEE-SQUEEE!”



Then he hopped on the coop,  
“HOP-HOP-HOP!”



The hens woke up and began to cluck,  
“CLUCK, CLUCK, CLUCK!”



It was very loud.

The noise stopped.

It was quiet for a minute.

Then, they heard the animals  
waking up.

They saw Farmer Tom  
coming out to the barn.

“It worked!”

cheered Raccoon and Rabbit.

“Hooray!” cheered the farm animals.





Then they all heard  
another loud cheer.

“Cock-a-doodle-YAHOO!”  
crowed Rooster.

Raccoon and Rabbit looked at him.

All the animals looked at him.

“Gee,” he said,

“I guess my voice is back.”

“Then you’ll be back to work  
tomorrow,” said Mama Pig.

“But today, the Best Pests  
saved the day!”







# **The Thief and the Ghost**

One morning, there was  
trouble in the barnyard.

“Thief, thief!” clucked the hens.

“He stole our eggs-eggs-eggs!”

“It’s true,” said Mama Pig.

“The chickens saw him.”

“He was mean-mean-mean!”

said the chickens.

“And he’s coming back to steal us too!”



“A chicken thief is a very bad pest!”  
said Raccoon.

“But Rabbit and I are the Best Pests.  
We will stop him!”

Everyone cheered.

Except Rabbit.

He said, “What if he’s  
a rabbit thief too?”

“Nonsense,” said Raccoon.

“No one steals rabbits.”





Later, Raccoon and Rabbit hid  
under the clothes line to wait.  
Soon it was very dark.



All the chickens were asleep.  
Suddenly, they saw something  
creeping toward the coop.

“It’s the chicken thief!”

said Raccoon.

“He looks like a rabbit thief  
to me!” said Rabbit.

“Run!”

He started hopping away.







“Come back!” said Raccoon.

He jumped on Rabbit.

They banged into the clothes line.

A sheet landed on top of them.

“Oh no!” yelled Rabbit.

“We’re trapped!”

“Stay still!” said Raccoon.

“I can’t see!”

The chicken thief looked up.

He saw the white sheet moving.

“It’s a ghost!” he yelled.

“Did he say ghost?” asked Rabbit.

“Yes!” said Raccoon.

Now he was scared too.

“Let’s get out of here!”



Rabbit ran to the left.

Raccoon ran to the right.

They got very tangled in the sheet.

They started to roll down the hill.

They were headed toward the thief.

“The ghost is coming to get me!”

yelled the thief.

He dropped the chickens and ran away.







Raccoon and Rabbit crashed  
into the barnyard fence.

Mama Pig woke up.

She came over to the fence.



They all saw the thief running away.

“Where’s the ghost?” asked Raccoon.

Mama Pig held up the sheet.

“You were the ghost!” she said.

“We scared the rabbit thief?”

asked Rabbit.

“No,” said Raccoon.

“We scared the chicken thief!”

“I knew we could do it!”

said Rabbit.

“After all, we’re the Best Pests!”









# **A Feast for the Pests**

Stopping the chicken thief

was hard work.

Raccoon and Rabbit slept late.

When they woke up,

all the animals were looking at them.

“Good morning!” they all said.

“We made you breakfast,”

said Rooster.

“These are scraps from my dinner,”

said Mama Pig.

“And this is corn from our coop,”

said the chickens.

“I found some carrots

in the barn,” said the cow.

“My favorite!” said Rabbit.

“How nice!” said Raccoon.





“So we are not pests anymore?”

asked Rabbit.

“You are still pests,” said Mama Pig.

“But you are the Best Pests we know!”

They all had breakfast.

And Farmer Tom’s farm

was safe and sound.