



If it suits you, it suits me

There once was a little tiny house in the middle of big barren field where no food could grow. Granny and gramps, a very poor old couple who had nothing at all, not even food to eat, lived in the house. The only thing they did have was the one thing they didn't need: a horse. So, one day granny said:

"Gramps, how about going to the market and trading the horse for something more useful to us?"

"And how will I know what that will be?"

And Granny answered:

"If it suits you, it suits me."

So gramps took the horse and headed off to the market. As they were ambling along he heard a cow.

On the path in front of him was a farmer leading a great big cow to market. It was one of those cows that gives lots of milk. Gramps thought, "I know that the horse is bigger and more expensive than a cow, but a cow would give us milk every day and we could make delicious cheese. Mmm!"

So he said to the man who owned the cow:

"I know that a horse is bigger and more expensive than a cow, but I'll gladly trade one for the other. If it suits you, it suits me."

The farmer thought that was a great idea. He handed over the cow and set off with gramps' horse.

"But what if that wasn't a good deal?" thought gramps. He decided to continue on to the market in case he came across something better, and that's when he heard a sheep.

Gramps thought, "I know that the cow is bigger and more expensive than a sheep, but sheep's milk also makes good cheese, plus we would have wool from the sheep every winter. So if I trade the cow for a sheep, I'll still come out ahead."

In no time at all he had traded the cow for the sheep and he was checking the sheep's wool to see how thick and spongy it was when he heard something approaching which sounded more or less like this:

Right away he guessed what it was: it was a goose. He thought, "Geese don't give milk or wool, but they have soft, delicate feathers which we could use to make a pillow and a nice light comforter to keep us cozy warm during the cold winter nights. My wife would love to have a goose."

And without thinking twice, he asked the goose-keeper if he would trade the goose for the sheep.

The goose-keeper agreed and they traded animals. But since gramps still wasn't quite sure that he

had made a good deal, he continued on to the market with the goose and, just as they were about to arrive, he heard cockadoodledoo and, once again, he started to have some doubts.

"A hen is almost like a goose because it has feathers and its meat is good and you can make delicious broth with it, but a hen would also lay eggs for us every day and, since there are many days when we have nothing to eat, a hen would be much more useful to us than a goose."

No sooner said than done. He traded the goose for the hen and was happy as a clam. But gramps, by now at the entrance to the market, decided to take a walk through it to look at the stalls and enjoy the different smells. And what a smell he smelled!

"Where is that yummy smell of apples coming from?" asked gramps.

One of the vendors answered:

"From this sack of rotten apples that we keep to feed the pigs."

"A sack of rotten apples! My wife says that rotten apples bring good luck! I'll trade you that sack for this hen."

"Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha! You want to trade a hen for a sack of rotten apples? That won't exactly make your wife jump for joy. She'll shout at you, is what she'll do!"

"Well actually, I didn't set off from home to trade a hen, I set off to trade a horse."

Just then a very fat, rich man said to him:

"If your wife doesn't give you a good scolding, I'll give you a bag full of coins."

Gramps accepted the challenge and the whole group followed him home, where granny was waiting.

"I couldn't wait for you to get home to find out what they gave you in exchange for the horse."

Gramps explained to her that he had traded the horse for a cow, and that made granny very happy because then they would have cheese. But then gramps told her that after that he had traded the cow for a sheep.

"Great! That way we'll have cheese, and wool too!"

But then he traded the sheep for a goose in order to have feathers and, after that, he traded the goose for a laying hen to have eggs. And finally he traded the hen for a sack of rotten apples. Granny said to him:

"You made the best deal of all: last year we had just one apple from our apple tree and this year we haven't even had one. Now you arrive with a sack full of rotten apples and that means that good luck will be coming our way this year."

And she smothered him in kisses. Afterwards, of course, as promised, the rich, fat man gave them loads of coins. So many coins that gramps and granny could buy themselves a hen, a goose, a sheep, a cow...and the horse they had owned before.

Script: Jaume Esquiús

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