

Chapter Seven



Animal Farm by George Orwell

Chapter Preview



- ❧ The winter is difficult and building the windmill is even harder since the walls have to be built thicker. Shortages are so bad that Napoleon makes a deal to sell 400 eggs a week to buy grain. The hens protest and Napoleon takes their food from them. Nine hens die. Snowball is apparently sabotaging Animal Farm. He begins to convince all the animals that Snowball was working with Mr. Jones to begin with. Boxer does not believe this. Napoleon begins executing animals because they are confessing about working with Snowball. The huddle together after the executions and sadly sing *Beasts of England* but squealer appears and says that the song has been abolished and replaced.

Items/Ideas to Know



☞ Propoganda

- ☞ Napoleon does not want humans to know they are starving, so he persuades Whymper that there is more than enough food. He gets the sheep to explain how hearty their rations are whenever Whymper is nearby. He also fills the bins up with sand and covers the sand with grain and meal to make the bins appear fuller.
- ☞ Squealer convinces the animals that Snowball did not fight heroically at the Battle of the Cowshed and was working with Mr. Jones. He claims there is secret documentation that depicts all of this and that he would show all the animals if they could read. Snowball getting shot was supposedly an arrangement. Squealer describes how Snowball ran away at the end of the battle, and everything is so detailed that the animals think they remember it all.
- ☞ Napoleon bans *Beasts of England* and replaces it with a song that praises Animal Farm since he claims that the rebellion is over and the animals have their freedom. Some animals protest, but the chapter ends with a few animals shouting “Four legs good, two legs bad.”

Items/Ideas to Know



❧ Principles of Animalism

- ❧ Napoleon's dogs slaughter a high number of animals and this is the first time since the rebellion that any animal has broken the rule and killed another animal. Up to now, not even a rat had been killed.
- ❧ The change of *Beasts of England* to the song "Animal Farm" is part of the change from Old Major's ideas of freedom.

Quotes



- ❧ “They were always cold, and usually hungry as well.” (62, 52)
- ❧ “If a window was broken or a drain was blocked up, someone was certain to say that Snowball had come in the middle of the night and done it, and when the key of the store-shed was lost, the whole farm was convinced that Snowball had thrown it down the well. Curiously enough, they went on believing this even after the mislaid key was found under a sack of meal.” (66, 56)
- ❧ “If she herself had had any picture of the future, it had been of a society of animals set free from hunger and the whip, all equal, each working according to his capacity, the strong protecting the weak... Instead - she did not know why - they had come to a time when no one dared speak his mind, when fierce, growling dogs roamed everywhere, and when you had to watch your comrades torn to pieces after confessing to shocking crimes.” (73, 63)

Chapter Eight



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Chapter Review



- ❧ Later, the animals remembered that the sixth commandment stated that no animal should kill another, but no one cared to mention it. When Clover had Muriel read the commandment to her, it was changed to add the words *without cause*. Animals work hard and are always hungry, but Squealer keeps reading them lists on Sundays that claims they have more food than ever. Napoleon is now always “our leader, comrade Napoleon.” Minimus writes a poem called “Comrade Napoleon” and it is by the seven commandments and a portrait of Napoleon. Around mid-summer, three hens confess to plotting to kill Napoleon as per Snowball’s orders and they are executed. Napoleon assigns a pig named Pinkeye to be his food taster in case someone is trying to poison him. Snowball continues to be blamed for things going wrong.

Chapter Preview, Cont'd...



- ☞ Napoleon sells the timber to Frederick and Frederick pays in forged banknotes. Frederick came to the farm carrying the gun and pulverized the windmill. The animals attack and manage to drive them off, but there are casualties on both sides. Later, the pigs find a case of whiskey and are heard drunkenly singing *Beasts of England*. There is a loud crash in the barn and around midnight Squealer is found with a broken ladder, lantern, and overturned paint-pot. A few days later, Muriel notices that the Fifth Commandment, the one about not drinking alcohol, is not what she remembered.

Items/Ideas to Know



∞ Principles of Animalism

- ∞ The sixth commandment is changed to “No animal shall kill any other animal *without cause*.”
- ∞ The term “Comrade,” originally meant to remind everyone that the animals are equal, but it becomes completely meaningless when used in connection with worshipping Napoleon.
- ∞ After the pigs get drunk, Napoleon orders Whymper to buy booklets on brewing and distilling and arranges to plant barley. The fifth commandment then is changed to “No animal shall drink alcohol *to excess*.”

Items/Ideas to Know



∞ Propaganda

- ∞ Since the animals are upset about being hungry, Squealer reads them strips of paper that tells them the type of food on the farm and how much.
- ∞ As Napoleon leans toward selling to Pilkington rather than Frederick, rumors go around. Some are that Frederick is planning on taking over Animal Farm.
- ∞ Now that the animals have finally accepted Squealer's version of the Battle of the Cowshed and remember this as the true version. He convinces them that they are still remembering things wrong about Snowball.

Items/Ideas to Know



∞ Greed

- ∞ Napoleon is still hungry for more power. He issues orders through Squealer and other pigs and doesn't go out in public. When he does, he is surrounded by his dogs. The gun is now fired on his birthday as well as the other two anniversaries every year. Pigs make up titles for him like "Father of All Animals," "Terror of Mankind," and "Protector of the Sheepfold."
- ∞ Napoleon refuses to take a check for the timber and asks to be paid in cash. He allows the animals to walk around and look at all the cash for as long as they want, however, this backfires as the cash is fake.

Quotes



- ❧ “Some of the animals remembered - or thought they remembered - that the Sixth Commandment decreed 'No animal shall kill any other animal.' And though no one cared to mention it in the hearing of the pigs or the dogs, it was felt that the killings which had taken place did not square with this.” (76, 66)
- ❧ "It had become usual to give Napoleon the credit for every successful achievement and every stroke of good fortune. You would often hear one hen remark to another, 'Under the guidance of our Leader, Comrade Napoleon, I have laid five eggs in six days'; or two cows, enjoying a drink at the pool, would exclaim, 'Thanks to the leadership of Comrade Napoleon, how excellent this water tastes!'" (78, 68)