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# The Spoiled Llama of the Barnyard

*Mary Graham Bonner*

A farmer once went on a long trip and saw a llama so beautiful that he had to have him. He bought the llama and took him home, though his friends warned him that the llama might not get along with the other animals. The farmer was willing to risk it.

When they arrived, the llama had never seen such strange creatures in his life, and the barnyard animals felt exactly the same about him. Animals have keen senses of humor, and the barnyard rang with the noisiest laughter ever heard. The llama didn’t mind being laughed at, because he could laugh just as hard at them.

A few days later, the farmer decided the llama might enjoy being useful. He hitched him to a cart, loaded it with milk bottles and pails of milk, and sent him off.

The llama took off at wild speed. Milk splashed all over the barnyard. “Whoa! Stop!” cried the farmer, but the llama kept going. He came to a steep, rocky bank, and the farmer thought, *Surely that will stop him.* It didn’t. The llama was used to climbing far higher rocks than these, and to him they were pebbles. Up he went until the cart broke and tumbled back down the bank.

Then the llama turned and strolled back to the barnyard, where the other animals stood with their mouths open.



He looked at the farmer and said, in llama talk: “You bought me for my beauty, so I will not be made useful.”

The farmer didn’t usually understand llama talk, but this time he understood perfectly. And never again did he try to make the llama useful.

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