



STORY: TURKEY FINDS HOME

An Original Thanksgiving Tale by Dianne de Las Casas
© Copyright 2008 The Story Connection

Turkey lived on a farm. One windy day in November, he was sitting in the warm barn with his friends, Sheep, Horse, and Cow.

Sheep said, “Turkey, we have something important to tell you. We think it would be best if you left the farm.”

Turkey was shocked. “What do you mean? I can’t leave the farm. It’s my home.”

Horse said, “It’s for your own good. Do you know what people do to turkeys in November?”

Turkey shook his head no. Cow said, “In November, they celebrate Thanksgiving. They stuff turkeys and eat them! Turkeys are their favorite Thanksgiving food.”

Turkey was horrified. “I guess it is best if I leave the farm.” So Turkey packed his belongings in a big bandana and tied the bundle to the end of a stick. He hugged his friends goodbye and set off to find a new home.

Turkey traveled until he came to the woods. He was tired and needed to rest. It was then that Turkey saw a big hedge. Turkey said, “That hedge would make a nice home.” So he crawled under the hedge and settled down for nap when a voice yelled, “OUCH! Get off. You are crushing us!”

Turkey turned around and discovered a family of Quails. “I’m so sorry. Is everyone okay?”

All at once, the children chattered. Father Quail held up a wing and everyone quieted down. “We’re fine but you have to leave. This is our home.”

Turkey said, “I understand. I was just trying to find shelter because I had to leave the farm. Do you know what people do to turkeys? They stuff them and eat them! So now I have to find a new home.”

Father Quail said, “My name is Bobwhite Quail. I know exactly how you feel. My family and I always have to watch out for the hunters. You are welcome to stay with us for as long as you would like.”

Turkey was delighted. It was chilly outside and the hedge was warm. He stayed in the hedge for a while. It was a busy household full of chattering children. Although Turkey was grateful to the Quails, he decided to leave. The Quails had a nice home but it wasn’t his home. Turkey hugged his feathery friends goodbye and set off to find a new home.

As Turkey journeyed further into the woods, the sharp December winds whipped around him. He shivered and hoped to find shelter soon. Suddenly he stepped into a hole and doooooown he fell. THUD! He landed on top of a rabbit. “OUCH! Get off! You are crushing me!”

Turkey got up and saw an angry rabbit glaring at him. “I’m so sorry. Are you okay?”

Rabbit huffed, “I’m fine but you have to leave. This is my home.”

Turkey said, "I understand. I was just trying to find shelter because I had to leave the farm. Do you know what people do to turkeys? They stuff them and eat them! So now I have to find a new home."

Rabbit said, "My name is Jack Rabbit. I know exactly how you feel. I always have to watch out for the hunters. You are welcome to stay with me for as long as you would like."

Turkey was delighted. It was nippy outside and the burrow was warm. He stayed in the burrow for a while. Although Turkey was grateful to Jack Rabbit, he decided to leave. Jack Rabbit had a nice home but it wasn't his home. Turkey hugged his furry friend goodbye and set off to find a new home.

As Turkey walked deeper into the woods, tiny snowflakes danced around him on the December wind. He shivered and hoped to find shelter soon. Turkey spotted a cave. He said, "This cave would make a nice home." So he crawled inside the dark cave and walked around until he found a warm place to sleep. Suddenly, a voice bellowed, "OUCH! Get off my face!"

Turkey turned around to find himself staring into the face of a huge, snarling bear! Turkey was terrified. The bear scooped Turkey up in his enormous paws and said, "I was sleeping for the winter and you woke me up!"

Turkey said, "I'm so sorry! I was just trying to find shelter because I had to leave the farm. Do you know what people do to turkeys? They stuff them and eat them! So now I have to find a new home."

Bear said quietly, "My name is Grizzly Bear. I know exactly how you feel. I always have to watch out for the hunters. You are welcome to stay with me for as long as you would like." Grizzly Bear set Turkey down.

Turkey was delighted. It was freezing outside and the cave was warm. He stayed in the cave for a while. Although Turkey was grateful to Grizzly Bear, he decided to leave. Grizzly Bear had a nice home but it wasn't his home. Turkey hugged his big friend goodbye and set off to find a new home.

As Turkey trudged through the snow, he dreamed of finding a home of his own. He started climbing a tall hill but couldn't go on anymore. His wings were frozen and his beak felt brittle. Turkey passed out in the snow.

When Turkey opened his eyes, he didn't know where he was. It was bright and warm. "Am I in heaven?" Turkey asked.

A voice laughed, "No silly. You're with friends."

Turkey sat up and saw that he was back in the barn. There were his friends, Sheep, Horse, and Cow. "But I don't understand!" Turkey said.

Sheep said, "Horse found you outside in the snow so he brought you back."

Turkey said, "But won't the people stuff me and eat me?"

Cow said, "It's December now! You won't have to worry about that for a long time. Now they want a Christmas ham. It's a good thing there are no pigs on this farm!"

Everyone laughed. Turkey smiled and hugged his friends. Sheep, Horse and Cow begged him to share his story. So he did. Turkey became the farm's teller of tales. Everyone loved hearing about his big world adventures.

Each November, Turkey would set off to find another big world adventure. He visited old friends. He made new friends. And he always brought his Turkey Tales back to the barn. Turkey said to his barnyard friends, "No matter how far away you roam, when friends are near, you are always home." Indeed, Turkey finally found home.

