

# READERS THEATRE SCRIPT FOR *HEDGIE'S SURPRISE*

By Kary A. Johnson

**Narrator:** Once there was a speckled hen that lay an egg every day, only to have it taken by a little Tomten every morning just after the rooster crowed.

[Enter Rooster, Tomten, and Henny.]

**Rooster:** Cock a Doodle Doo!!

**Tomten:** I am so tired of eating porridge. Henny, have you got a little yummy for my hungry, hungry tummy?

**Henny:** [sitting on egg in nest] Please don't take my egg. Cluck Cluck Cluck.  
[sounding sad]

**Tomten:** I'm hungry. I will take the egg anyway!

[Tomten grabs the egg from underneath Henny and runs to the barn.]

**Narrator:** As usual the Tomten climbed into the henhouse and took Henny's warm, smooth egg. He ran off to cook it in his little kettle, sprinkle it with salt, and gobble it down.

[Tomten eats egg and pats his tummy.]

**Tomten:** Yum, yum. That was a good egg. [Yawn] I am so sleepy. I think I will take a nap.

[Tomten falls asleep on the hay.]

**Narrator:** The next morning, Henny left the henhouse and went for a walk. She saw Goosey-Goosey sailing forth in the pond, smiling and bowing with a stream of piping goslings.

[Henny leaves henhouse. Enter Goosey-Goosey and goslings.]

**Henny:** [asking Goosey-Goosey] Where did all those goslings come from?

**Goosey-Goosey:** [to Henny] My eggs are hatching!

**Goslings:** [pretending to swim] Cheep, Cheep! Swish, Swish, Swish

**Henny:** I want my eggs to hatch too. I have to stop that Tomten from taking my baby eggs!

**Narrator:** The next morning the Tomten poked his head in.

[Enter Rooster, Henny, Tomten, and Hedgie.]

**Rooster:** Cock a Doodle Doo!!

**Henny:** Cluck, Cluck [pecking at the Tomten]. Please don't take my baby eggs! NO! NO! NO!

**Tomten:** I am so tired of eating porridge. Henny, have you got a little yummy for my hungry, hungry tummy?

[Tomten grabs the egg and runs out of the henhouse.]

**Narrator:** Nothing stopped that hungry Tomten from taking her eggs again!

**Henny:** [wailing] No eggs, no chicks, no peeping babies.

**Hedgie:** Puffa-puffa, Stick-stick. Henny, you are wailing so loudly that you woke me up! Poor Henny, I've been watching the Tomten take your eggs. I'll help you trick him into stopping!

[Everyone goes to sleep.]

[Hedgie sneaks in the henhouse and trades the egg for an acorn. She carries the egg back to her nest and Henny never knows.]

[Next morning comes; enter Rooster, Henny, and Tomten.]

**Rooster:** Cock a Doodle Doo!!

**Tomten:** [enters henhouse shouting] Henny, have you got a little yummy for my hungry, hungry tummy?

**Narrator:** The Tomten reaches into the nest and pulls out an acorn.

**Tomten:** Hmm. What's this? I think I will try it.

**Narrator:** The Tomten eats the acorn and lays down for a nap but by mid-afternoon he wakes from his nap.

**Tomten:** I am hungry and grumpy!

[Everyone goes to sleep for the night.]

[Hedgie sneaks in the henhouse and trades the egg for a strawberry. She carries the egg back to her nest and Henny never knows.]

[Next morning comes; enter Rooster, Henny, and Tomten.]

**Rooster:** Cock a Doodle Doo!!

**Tomten:** [enters henhouse shouting] Henny, have you got a little yummy for my hungry, hungry tummy?

**Narrator:** The Tomten reaches into the nest and pulls out a strawberry.

**Tomten:** Hmm. What's this? I think I will try it.

**Narrator:** The Tomten eats the strawberry and lays down for a nap but by mid-afternoon he wakes from his nap.

**Tomten:** I am hungry and grumpy!

[Everyone goes to sleep for the night.]

[Hedgie sneaks in the henhouse and trades the egg for a mushroom. She carries the egg back to her nest and Henny never knows.]

[Next morning comes; enter Rooster, Henny, and Tomten.]

**Rooster:** Cock a Doodle Doo!!

**Tomten:** [enters henhouse shouting] Henny, have you got a little yummy for my hungry, hungry tummy?

**Narrator:** The Tomten reaches into the nest and pulls out a mushroom.

**Tomten:** Hmm. What's this? I think I will try it.

**Narrator:** The Tomten eats the mushroom and lays down for a nap but by mid-afternoon he wakes from his nap.

**Tomten:** I am hungry and grumpy!

[Everyone goes to sleep for the night.]

[Hedgie sneaks in the henhouse and trades the egg for a potato. She carries the egg back to her nest and Henny never knows.]

[Next morning comes; enter Rooster, Henny, Hedgie, and Tomten.]

**Rooster:** Cock a Doodle Doo!!

**Tomten:** [enters henhouse shouting] Henny, have you got a little yummy for my hungry, hungry tummy?

**Narrator:** The Tomten reaches into the nest and pulls out a potato.

**Tomten:** Hmm. What's this? I think I will try it.

**Narrator:** The Tomten eats the potato and lays down for a nap but by mid-afternoon he wakes from his nap.

**Tomten:** I am hungry and grumpy! Henny, if you do not give me an egg tomorrow I will eat you up instead!

**Henny:** Hedgie, I am so scared. How will we fool the Tomten again?

**Hedgie:** Don't worry, Henny. Now it is time for my surprise. [Hedgie whispers in Henny's ear.]

[Everyone goes to sleep for the night.]

[The next morning comes; enter Rooster, Henny with Hedgie underneath, Tomten.]

**Rooster:** Cock a Doodle Doo!!

**Tomten:** [enters henhouse shouting] Henny, have you got a little yummy for my hungry, hungry tummy?

**Narrator:** The Tomten reached into the nest and pulls out...

[Tomten forcefully grabs under Henny.]

**Tomten:** Ow, Ow, Ow!

**Hedgie:** Puffa-puffa, Stick-stick!

**Tomten's mom:** Tomten—come home to the hayloft. I have some nice porridge for your breakfast.

[Tomten goes to the hayloft, eats and falls sound asleep.]

**Henny:** Thank you so much, Hedgie! What I can't figure out is where all my eggs are going.

**Chicks:** [coming from Hedgie's nest] Peep, Peep, Peep. Here we are, Mom! Hedgie was keeping us safe and warm in his nest.

**Narrator:** From that day on, Henny and Hedgie remained good friends. The Tomten never took any more of Henny's eggs and seemed content to eat porridge and stay in the hayloft with his mom.