

THE UGLY TURKEY

By Carole L. Cooney

Setting: The barn yard

Characters:

Narrator

Muffy Cat

Puffy Pig

Ruffy Dog

Tuffy Turkey

Narrator: Once upon a time, four animals were born on the same day, in the same barn, on the same farm. There was Muffy the cat, and Puffy the pig, and Ruffy the dog, and Tuffy the turkey. They were best friends – BUT! things changed when they began to grow up.

Muffy Cat: (meee-ew) Look at that REVOLTING sight! Tuffy Turkey is growing into a HIDEOUS looking animal. Take a glance at *my – sleek -- body* and you'll know what I mean.

Puffy Pig: (snort-snort) Well I'll be darned! Looks like his parts don't belong together. Look at me! I'm smooth and round and have such a *cute* tail.

Ruffy Dog: (arf-arf) What's that thing growing from his neck? Looks pretty weird to me. What's that for anyway? *All my parts* have purpose!

Muffy Cat: (meeeeow) I don't want to have to look at that *ugly* creature every day. It gives me the creeps.

Puffy Pig: (snort-snort) I totally agree! I get the willies! Let's get *it* out of here!

Ruffy Dog: (arf-arf) I'm not scared. Just let me handle it. (growl)

Tuffy Turkey: (gobble-gobble) Hi! Everyone! Isn't it a *great day* in the barn yard?

Buffy Dog: Yeah! It'd be even better if a certain *ugly someone* wasn't here. (growl)

Tuffy Turkey: (sheepishly) Who? (weak gobble-gobble)

Muffy, Puffy, Ruffy: Who? (meeeow, snort-snort, arf, arf) Why *YOU!!!* That's who!!!

Tuffy Turkey: Me? (weak gobble) Gee, I didn't think it mattered *what I looked like*, but I know what you mean. I can't help the way I'm growing. And I don't know what to expect next. Don't worry. I think it's time for me to go away anyway, so you all enjoy the barn yard. Have a happy day! (gobble-gobble)

Narrator: And so Tuffy Turkey waddled down the road into the sunset with its head swinging to a happy beat. It wandered over the hill and through the forest, singing a happy song. (Tune: Old MacDonald)

Tuffy Turkey: Gobble-gobble here and Gobble-gobble there
Ee i Ee i o
I'm gonna have fun in the sun and the snow
Ee i Ee i o

Gonna grow up tall and spread my wings
Have lots of color and other things.
Gobble-gobble here and Gobble-gobble there
Ee i Ee i o

(The cat, pig and dog fill in the blanks below)

- Narrator:** Many months passed and the cat, and the pig and the dog spent most of their time eating and lazing about in the barn yard. The cat got so fat it measured _____. The pig got so fat it couldn't even _____. The dog weighed 200 hundred pounds and could no longer _____.
- Muffy Cat:** (meeeeow) I'm starving and I can hardly reach my bowl. Can someone get up and push it over to me?
- Puffy Pig:** (snort-snort) What do you think we are? Room service? Just let me roll around in this cool mud, will ya? Stop bothering us! (snort-snort)
- Ruffy Dog:** (whimper) Oh, if I only could reach that bone. Hey, Muffy, can't you just toss it to me?
- Muffy Cat:** (mew-mew) Only if you push over my bowl.
- Narrator:** Just then, Muffy, Puffy and Ruffy heard loud singing in the distance. Stretching to see what was there, they spied a large, beautifully-feathered animal waddling down the road toward the barn yard.
- Gobble-gobble here and Gobble-gobble there
Ee i Ee i o
I'm gonna have fun in the sun and the snow
Ee i Ee i o
- Muffy, Puffy, Ruffy:** (hiding their faces, whispering) Who is it?
- Tuffy Turkey:** Hi! Mates. I've come to celebrate the season – yes, it's the season for giving thanks and I give each of you thanks for *letting me go* find the *real me*.
- Muffy, Puffy, Ruffy:** Are you who we *think* you are?
- Tuffy Turkey:** Yes, it's me, the Tuffy Turkey. (gobble-gobble)
- Muffy Cat:** But you've *changed*. I *hate* to say this but YOU look GORGEOUS! (Meeow!)
- Puffy Pig:** Where'd you get those colored tails? They're mighty pretty! (snort!)
- Ruffy Dog:** And that red wiggly thing under your beak. It looks A-Okay! (arf!)
- Tuffy Turkey:** I owe it all to you. I grew up when I was away. And so have you.
- Muffy Cat:** Yes, I grew AND grew. Now just look at me – well, really DON'T! I'm embarrassed by the way I look.
- Puffy Pig:** Me, too. I mean I like to be round but not so that I look like a whale.

Ruffy Dog: And I just can't do the things I used to do like run and jump and fetch.

Muffy, Puffy, Ruffy: Maybe it's time for *us* to go away.

Tuffy Turkey: No, no. Please don't think that way. I remember when we were just kids, we were friends. That's why I've come back. I want to be friends with you. It's not the way you look on the outside, but the way you are inside.

Muffy Cat: If you say anymore I'm going to cry and ruin my mascara. (mew)

Puffy Pig: You're right, Tuffy. It'll be good to have a *beautiful* friend back. (snort)

Ruffy Dog: And I know a *good* friend when I see one. (arf)

Tuffy Turkey: Let's make some music and get those bodies moving. In no time, we'll all be good as new.

Gobble-gobble here and Gobble-gobble there
Ee i Ee i o
FRIENDSHIP forever we will share
Ee i Ee i o
With a little laugh here
And a little help there
FRIENDSHIP, FRIENDSHIP every where
Gobble-gobble here and Gobble-gobble there
Ee i Ee i o

Narrator: Muffy, Puffy, Ruffy and Tuffy sang and danced into the wee hours of the night, happy that they were friends once again.