

Lieselotte ist krank / Lieselotte is Sick

by Alexander Steffensmeier



©S. Fischer Verlag GmbH, Frankfurt, 2013.

Lieselotte is Sick

When the weather got worse in Fall, the mail-cow Lieselotte and her friend, the postman, very often had to fight their way through wind and rain.

During the last few days it had been particularly cold and unpleasant. And this morning at milking Lieselotte felt weak and tired. "My goodness," said the farmer. "You look terrible! Did you catch a cold?"

It was well that the farmer knew a lot about natural remedies.

Gargling.

Inhaling.

Warm throat compresses.

Cold leg compresses.

A lot of rest and infrared light.

But when Lieselotte was still not feeling better after a while, the farmer stroked her fur. "I think we have to call the doctor."

"No problem," the doctor's assistant said when the farmer called the veterinary clinic. "The doctor can see her later today."

Late in the afternoon, the doctor arrived at the farm. "Shall we take a look at our patient," he said and opened his big bag.

"Well, well," he said after a while. "That does look like a bad cold. Poor Lieselotte. But a few days of rest, good care and some cough sirup and she will be herself again."

So Lieselotte stayed in the warm straw. The farmer tucked her in and brought some hot tea. Lieselotte was allowed to listen to her favourite records, and sometimes the farmer read to her.

Three days later, Lieselotte was feeling much better.

And on the fourth day she was almost well.

And on the fifth day she would maybe have gotten up if the postman had not send her a new puzzle.

The next morning, Lieselotte was finally feeling perfectly fine again. But outside it was particularly cold and grey and wet and Lieselotte did not fancy delivering the mail again today. She could stay sick for another day, surely?

When the farmer arrived for the milking, she hung her head and looked around miserably.

"Mmmh," said the farmer and put her hand on Lieselotte's forehead. "You haven't got a temperature anymore, but you still look unwell to me. I think you should stay in the straw for another day."

But by afternoon Lieselotte was getting bored in the barn. And what was suddenly coming in from outside? Sunshine! Chicken Laughter!

Lieselotte went to the barn door. What a wonderful afternoon to play! But then she stopped...

She was meant to stay indoors today. The farmer and the other animals would never believe her that she got well again so quickly...

Even so, Lieselotte wanted to skip and jump, too.

But then the postman dropped by to say hello.

And as Lieselotte wanted to play with the ballon for a bit...

...the farmer looked in to see how Lieselotte was.

But Lieselotte got terribly impatient when she saw that the other animals were flying kites outside. Lieselotte had been waiting for weeks to try out her new kite. She wanted to come, too!

But what would the farmer say if she saw Lieselotte romping about outside? There was no other way, Lieselotte would have to go to the farmer and admit to her that she had been exaggerating this morning about her cold.

Accordingly, Lieselotte went to the farmhouse feeling bad and with her ears hanging down.

But the farmer was not in the kitchen.

And the farmer was not in the parlor.

And not in the bathroom, either.

Suddenly, Lieselotte heard a sneeze. It came from upstairs.

What a surprise. The farmer was lying in bed, looking terrible. "Lieselotte, it's good you are feeling better again. I am not really myself today. I think I caught the cold now. But I will get up again in a minute. There is so much to do still! I need to rake the leaves, chop some wood and make dinner..."

Suddenly, Lieselotte knew exactly what she wanted to do even more than flying her kite...

to be a nurse!