

# The Musicians of Bremen

A traditional story  
In simple English  
The Stories First Foundation

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A traditional story

By Claire Walter



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In faraway Germany, a donkey went down down the road to Bremen. He was old, and he was slow.

Old Donkey had a cruel master. His master said, “Go! Go faster!” Old Donkey walked as fast as he could, but at his age, it was difficult.

Old Donkey traveled for a very long time. Eventually, Old Donkey was tired.

His master got frustrated. He cried out, “Old Donkey, you are so slow! I can go faster alone.”

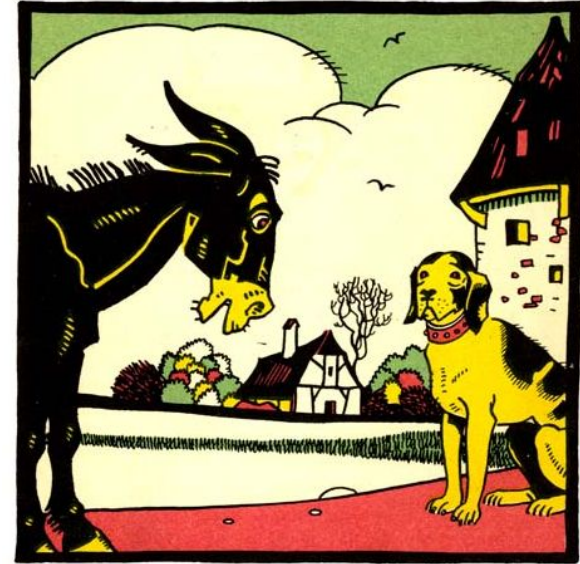


Angry, the master went off. He abandoned the donkey. Old Donkey looked and looked for his master, but he was alone.

Sadly, Old Donkey continued on the road. As he went down the road, he heard the sound CLIP CLAP, CLIP CLAP coming from his feet. It was like music. The donkey danced to the rhythm CLIP CLAP, CLIP CLAP!

“Oh my, I am a musician!” thought Old Donkey. Then he had an idea. “I will go to Bremen to be a musician! In Bremen, the people will love me. I will be a star!”

Old Donkey continued on the road to Bremen. Suddenly, he saw a dog on the road. The dog was all alone, and he looked sad.



“Oh, no! Is there a problem? Are you okay, Dog?” said Old Donkey.

The dog said sadly, “I am old and my master abandoned me.”

“My master abandoned me, too. But I have an idea. Let's go to Bremen. Let's go be famous musicians,” said Old Donkey.

“That's an excellent idea!” said Dog. “I am a musician too. I can sing.” Then, Dog sang BOW WOW, BOW WOW!

“Bravo! You are an excellent musician!” said Old Donkey. “Let's go to Bremen!”



Dog was happy. With Old Donkey, he was not alone. He had a friend. So Dog decided to travel with his new friend to Bremen.

Old Donkey was happy too. Joyfully, he said to himself, "With Dog, I am not alone."

The two animals continued on the road to Bremen. They traveled a long time. Suddenly, they saw another animal on the road. It was an old cat.

The cat was all alone. The old cat repeated sadly, "It's terrible, so terrible!"

"Oh no, Cat! Are you okay? Is there a problem?" said Old Donkey.

"Oh, yes. It's terrible. I'm all alone. My master abandoned me," said Cat. "He says I am old and good for nothing."

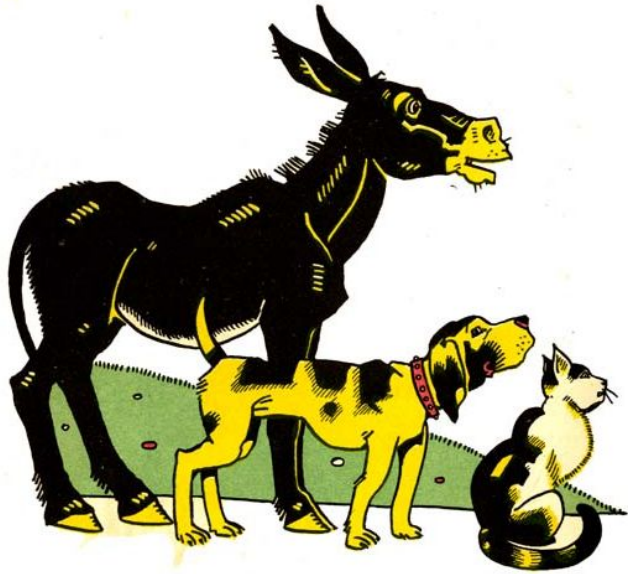
Old Donkey said kindly, "It's okay, Cat. I have an idea. Let's travel to Bremen. We will be famous musicians."

"Musicians? How perrrfect!" said Cat. "I can sing beautifully!" With that, Cat sang MEOW MEOW!

The music was so beautiful, Donkey and Dog cried, "Excellent! Come with us to Bremen!"

Cat was very happy. He agreed to travel with the band of animals.

On the road, Dog sang BOW WOW. Cat sang MEOW MEOW. Old Donkey accompanied them with a CLIP CLAP. The friends were happy and their music was joyful.



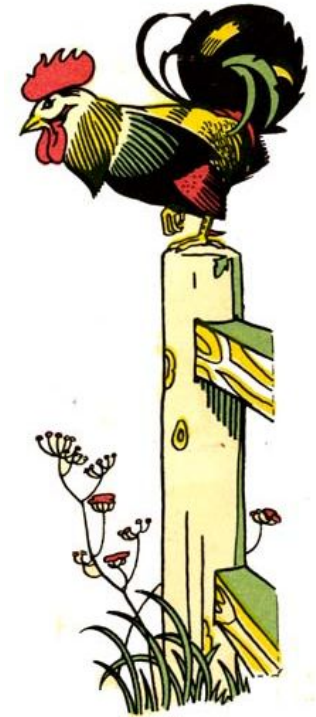
The animals continued on the road to Bremen. They played joyfully as they go. But soon, they were surprised. There was an animal all alone on the road. It was an old rooster.

The rooster repeated sadly, “Oh no! How horrible.” Poor Rooster was so sad, he cried and cried.

“Oh no, Rooster! Are you okay? Is there a problem?” said Old Donkey kindly.

“I am old and good for nothing,” said Rooster.

“Oh.... I suppose your master abandoned you,” said Old Donkey.



The rooster cried in terror, “Abandoned me? No, my master wanted to eat me!”

“Oh, that's terrible!” said Old Donkey. “I have an idea: come with us to Bremen. We are going to be famous musicians.”

“Perfect! I am a great musician. I can sing,” said Rooster. Then, he sang with all his strength **COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!**

The animals were surprised. “You *can* sing!” cried Dog. “You have talent!” said Cat.

“Come with us to Bremen!” said Old Donkey.





The animals continued on the road to Bremen. They were happy. They played and sang and danced on the road. Old Donkey went down the road with a CLIP CLOP, CLIP CLOP. Dog sang BOW WOW. Cat sang MEOW MEOW. Rooster accompanied the group of animals. He sang COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

The friends were happy and they said, “We are going to be famous musicians!”

Old Donkey, Dog, Cat, and Rooster traveled far. For a very long time, they were not tired. The music energized the animals.



Eventually, the animals got tired. They prepared to sleep in the forest. Dog was tired and Cat was tired. Old donkey pretended not to be tired, but really he was tired, too. Soon, the tired animals fell asleep.

But Rooster could not sleep. Rooster looked after his friends as they sleep.

The minutes passed. Suddenly there was a cry of COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO! The surprised animals woke up and ran to their friend, Rooster.





Rooster repeated  
COCK-A-DOODLE-  
DOO!

“Oh no, Rooster! Is  
there a problem?”  
said Old Donkey.

“Look, a house!” cried Rooster. He is very  
happy. “There is a house in the forest. I think  
it is abandoned.”

Old Donkey looked nervously at the house.  
“Oh, no! I think there are people in the  
house,” said the donkey. “It may be  
dangerous. I will go look first.”



Old Donkey went quickly  
to the house. It was small  
and white. “This is an  
adorable house,” thought  
Old Donkey.

But it was silent. “I wonder if there is a  
family inside,” said Old Donkey.

At this moment, Old Donkey remembered  
his master and his family. He loved his  
family, but they did not love him. Soon, Old  
Donkey was very sad.

Then, Old Donkey heard people. There were  
cries of joy. Donkey smelled a delicious  
dinner. “A family!” cried Old Donkey,  
happily.





Old Donkey looked through the window.  
There were four bandits sitting at a big table.  
There was a delicious dinner on the table, and  
there was a pile of treasure.

“100, 101, 102, 103...HA HA! We are rich!”  
cried the bandits.

“Soon, we will go to Bremen and attack,”  
cried one bandit. “We will be the most famous  
bandits in Bremen!”

Old Donkey was very surprised and thought,  
“How terrible! This is not a family at all, but a  
group of cruel bandits.” He went to alert his  
friends.



“Everybody! There are bandits in the house!”  
cried the donkey. “Let me look,” said the  
curious dog. Dog jumped on the donkey’s  
back and looked inside.

“Let me look, too!” said Cat. Then, Cat  
jumped on Dog’s back. “Me, too!” cried  
Rooster as he jumped on Cat’s back.

The animals looked through the window.  
They were very scared, but they could not  
look away.



Rooster started shaking and said to his friends, "They are bandits! It's dangerous. We must leave immediately!"

Old Donkey was scared too, but he was scared for the people of Bremen. The bandits were going to attack Bremen soon.

Old Donkey thought and thought. Then, he had an idea. "No, we must not go. We must attack the bandits."

The scared Rooster repeated, "It's dangerous! It's dangerous!"

"But we have the element of surprise," said Old Donkey. "We will sing."



"I like this plan," said Dog. "Let's do it!" said Cat. "I suppose I can sing," said Rooster. Finally, the animals were enthusiastic and only a little scared.

The band of animals prepared to sing as they counted, "3-2-1." Then Old Donkey ran into the house first. Dog, Cat, and Rooster followed him.

The brave animals sang with all their strength. BOW WOW! MEOW MEOW! COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!





The bandits were relaxing at the table.  
Suddenly, there was a terrible cry.

The animals jumped at the bandits as fast as they could. They attacked in unison. The bandits thought they are seeing one big animal.

“A monster!” cried one bandit. “Let’s run away!” cried another. The bandits ran as fast as they could.

The bandits ran so fast, they abandoned their delicious dinner. They abandoned their comfortable house. Most importantly, they abandoned their pile of treasure.

The animals cried for joy, “Hurray! We did it!”



“We will be famous!” said Cat.

“We will eat a delicious dinner,” said Dog.

“We will sleep in a comfortable house,” said Rooster.

The friends celebrated with a delicious dinner, music and dancing. Finally, the animals were tired. Cat, Dog, and Rooster relaxed in the comfortable house. Soon, the animals fell asleep.



But Old Donkey could not relax. He looked around the house. There were no signs of the bandits, but he was still nervous. “A bandit does not abandon his treasure,” he thought. “They will return.”

Old Donkey guarded the house. He was tired, but he refused to sleep. “I told my friends to come to Bremen. I told them to attack the bandits,” he thought. “I am responsible for my friends.”

Old Donkey guarded the house for as long as he could. But Old Donkey was very old and very tired. Eventually, he fell asleep.

In the forest, the gang of bandits regrouped. The chief of the bandits said, “Let’s go back to the house and get the treasure.”



The other bandits were terrified. In unison, they shouted, “No! It’s dangerous! And there is not much treasure. Let’s abandon it.”

“I am in charge!” said the chief of the bandits. He ordered the other bandits to go get the treasure. But they refused.

The chief was furious. “There was no monster!” he cried. “They’re just stupid animals. I’m going back for the treasure ... alone.” Furious, he he went off.



The chief bandit went off alone in the forest. Frustrated, he thought, “They abandoned me.”

Little by little, his frustration turned into fear. “Oh, no!” he thought. “The monster will see that I am alone, and it will attack me in a second!”

Soon, the bandit arrived at the little house. He hesitated... then he went in. He looked around, but there was no monster. There was only a horrible silence.



At that moment, Cat jumped at the chief bandit. Cat took him by surprise.

The bandit was terrified. He looked around in fear, but the cat jumped on his eyes. He could not see his attacker. “Monster! It’s a monster!” cried the bandit.

The cries alerted Dog and Rooster. Immediately, they attacked the bandit, too. Quickly, the bandit abandoned the treasure. He ran away with all his strength.







From inside the house, Rooster, Dog, and Cat cried out, "A bandit! Get him!"

Old Donkey was sleeping in front of the house. But the cries alerted Old Donkey.

At that moment, he looked up and saw the bandit. The bandit was running as fast as he could.

Old Donkey thought sadly, "Oh no! I abandoned my friends. They are in danger!"

Old Donkey ran after the bandit. Furious, he cried, "You attacked my friends!" He prepared to attack.



Old Donkey kicked with all his strength. He kicked the bandit up into the air. The bandit was horrified and he cried, "It's a monster!"

From a distance, the gang saw their chief running and crying in fear. In a panic, the chief arrived at the bandits' camp.

"Monster! There is a monster!" he cried.

Immediately, all the bandits ran from the forest. They abandoned their plan to attack Bremen. The bandits never again returned to the road to Bremen.



“We did it!” cried Dog, Cat, and Rooster. But Old Donkey was too sad to celebrate. “I am old and good for nothing. I was asleep and I abandoned you.”

“You did not abandon us. You took us to this house and made us a family,” said the animals.

From that day on, Cat, Dog, Rooster and Old Donkey were a family. They abandoned their plan to go to Bremen.



If you go into the forest, you can still see their adorable, little house. You can still hear Rooster sing COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

You can still hear Cat sing MEOW MEOW! and Dog sing BOW WOW!

And even today, you can still hear Old Donkey go CLIP CLAP, CLIP CLAP.

THE END