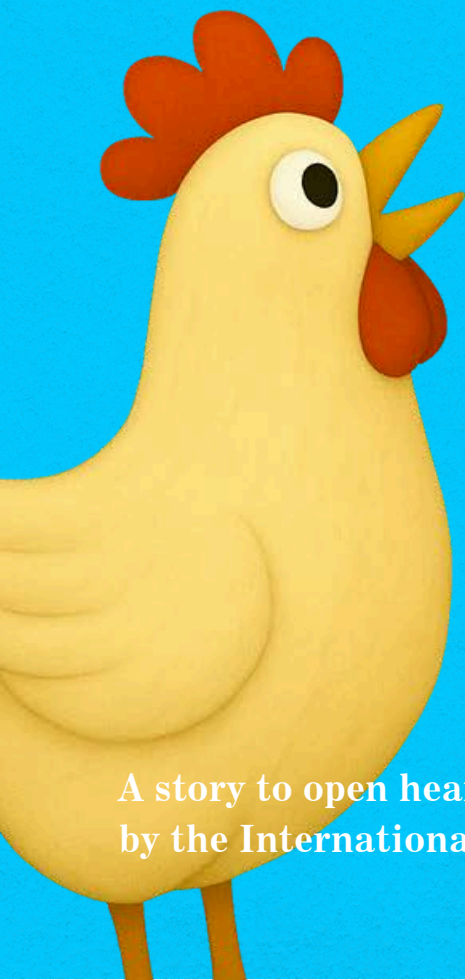


Cocotte and King Delhaize



A story to open hearts and minds, brought to you
by the International Council for Animal Welfare

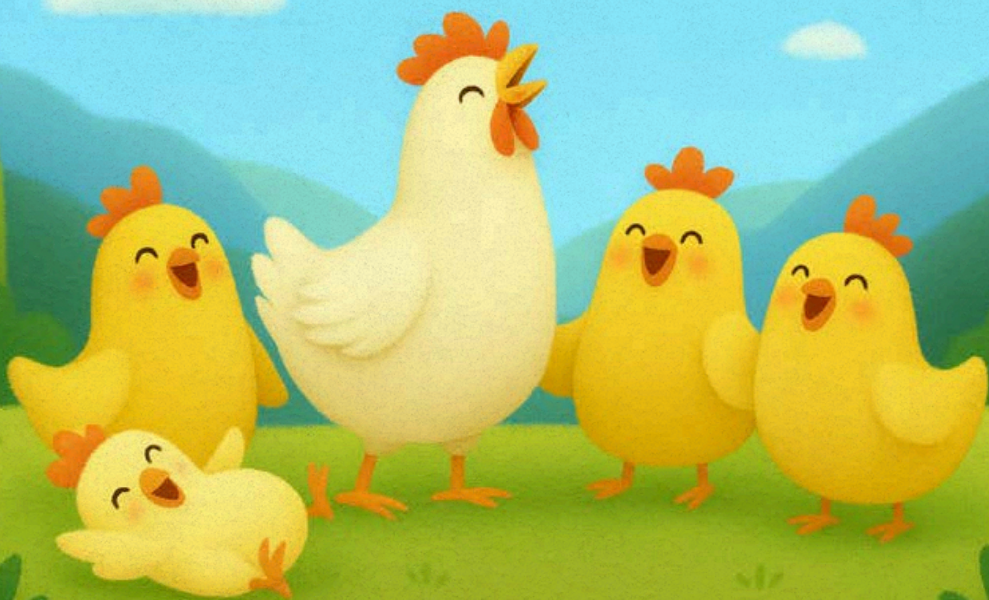
Once upon a time, in a sunny valley,
there lived a cheerful little hen
named **Cocotte**.

Every morning she stretched her wings,
scratched the earth, rolled in the dust,
and loved the world around her.



Cocotte often sang with her sisters:

**"Hens are smart,
hens are kind,
hens keep friends
in heart and mind!"**



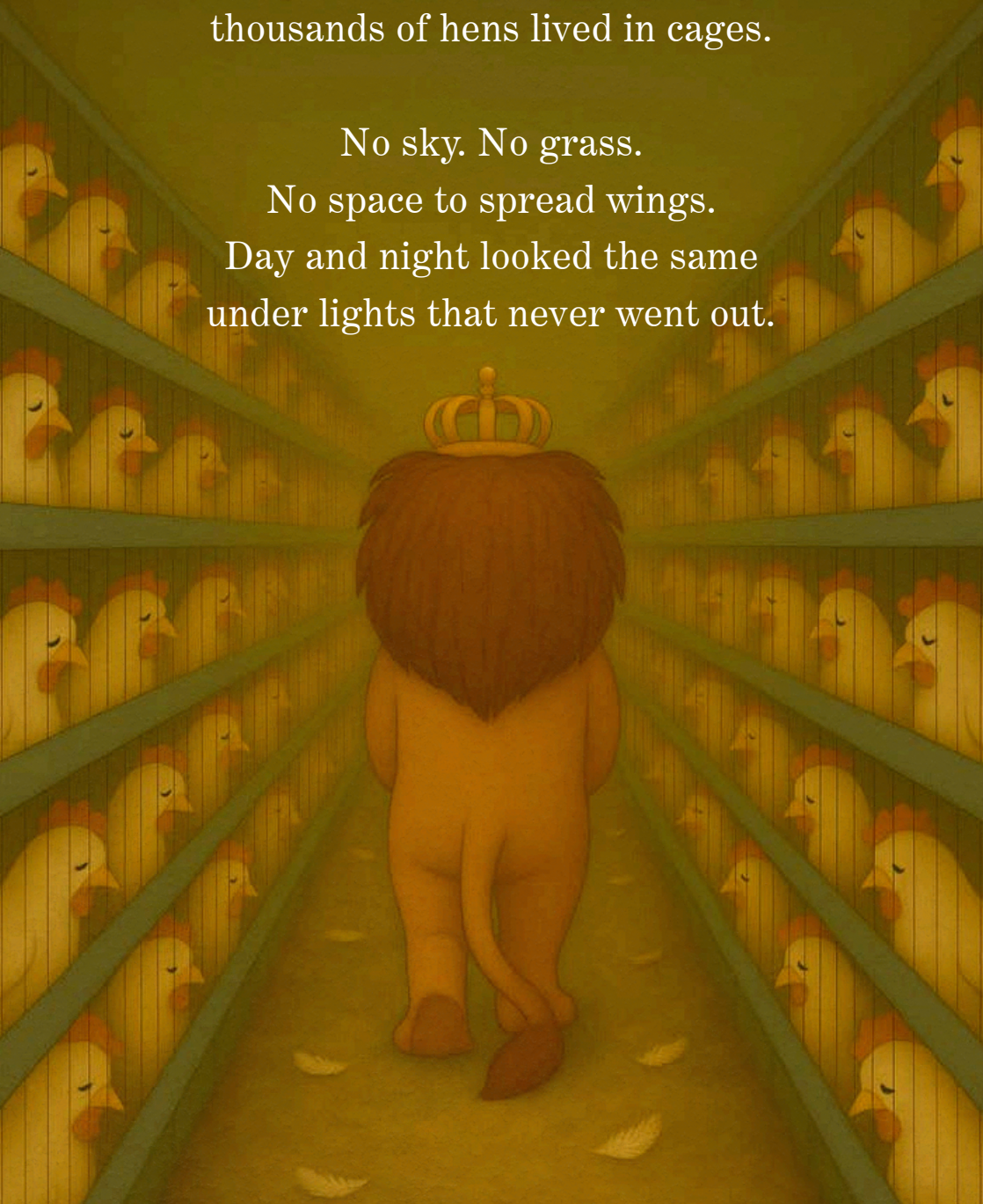
But not so far away,
on the other side of the hills,
things were very different.

There lived **King Delhaize**, a proud lion,
who only thought about one thing:
selling more and more eggs.



Inside **King Delhaize's** giant barns,
thousands of hens lived in cages.

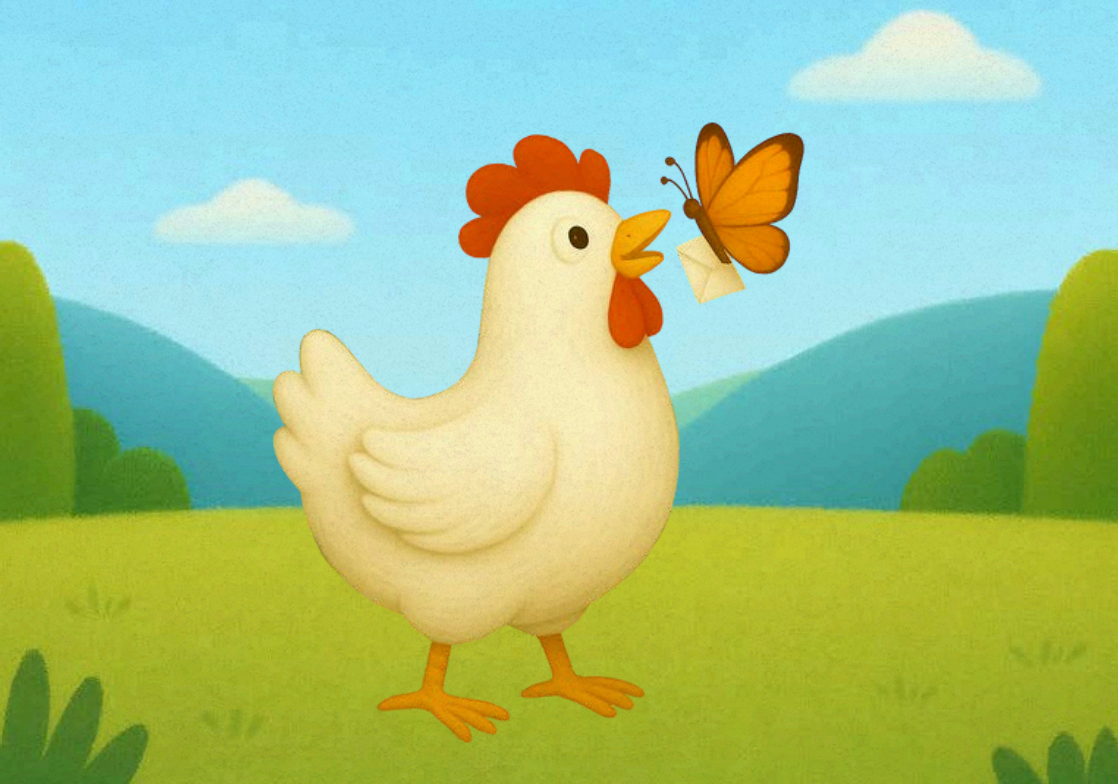
No sky. No grass.
No space to spread wings.
Day and night looked the same
under lights that never went out.



One morning, as **Cocotte** woke up under the sun, a butterfly landed on her beak.

He whispered:

“In the **King** barns,
where the valley ends,
hens live crowded in cages,
without grass, without sun,
without space to spread their wings!”



Cocotte shivered: “That’s no life!
Hens need freedom, grass, and light.”

**“Hens are smart,
hens are kind,
hens keep friends
in heart and mind!”**

She fluffed her feathers and said:
“I must show the **King** the truth!”



In the great hall,
the **King** sat on his throne.
“Who dares disturb me?” he roared.



“It’s me, **Cocotte**,” said the hen.

“Why do you keep hens in cages?”

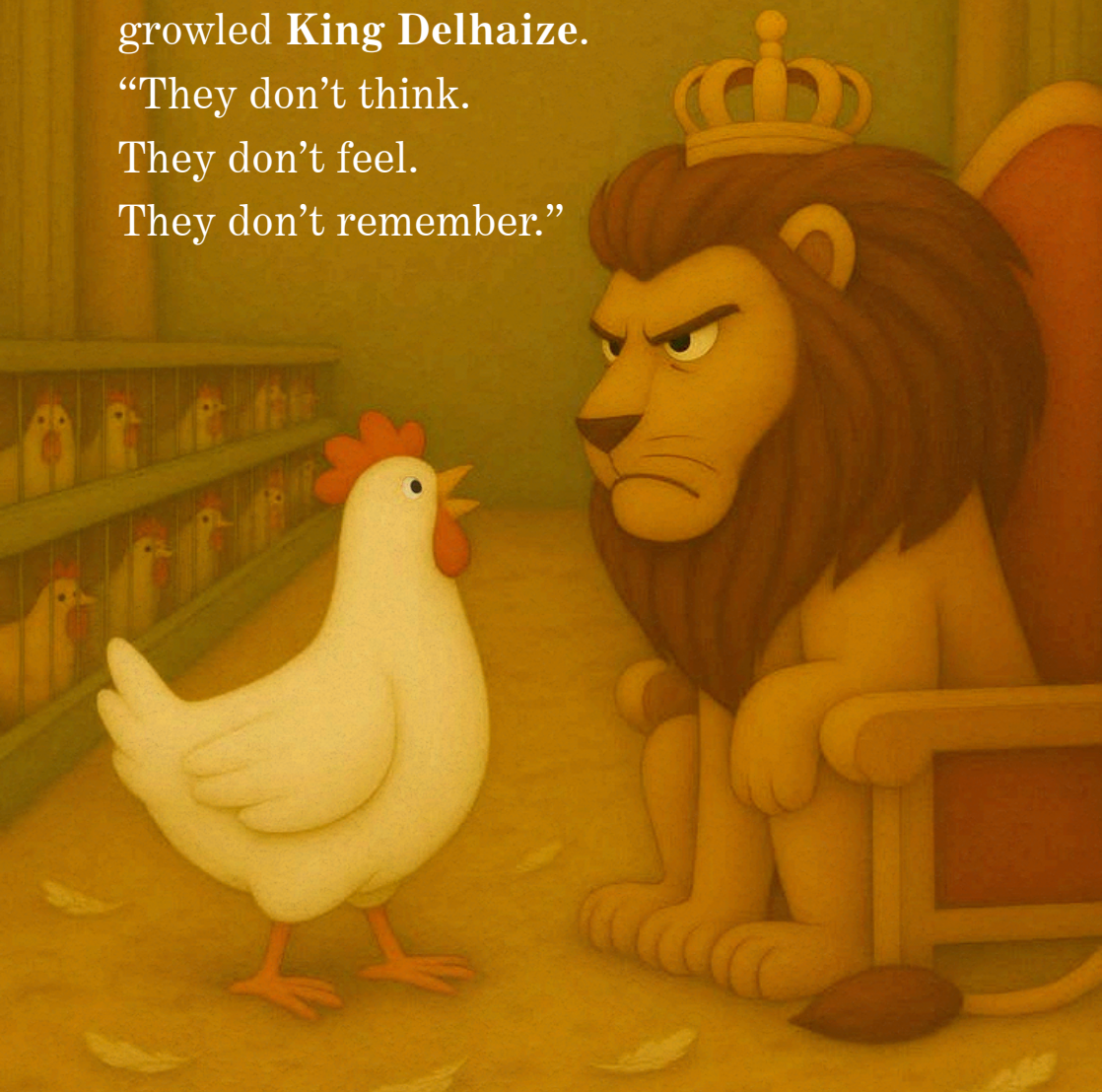
“Because I get more eggs that way!

Hens are simple creatures anyway,”
growled **King Delhaize**.

“They don’t think.

They don’t feel.

They don’t remember.”





Cocotte stood tall and brave.

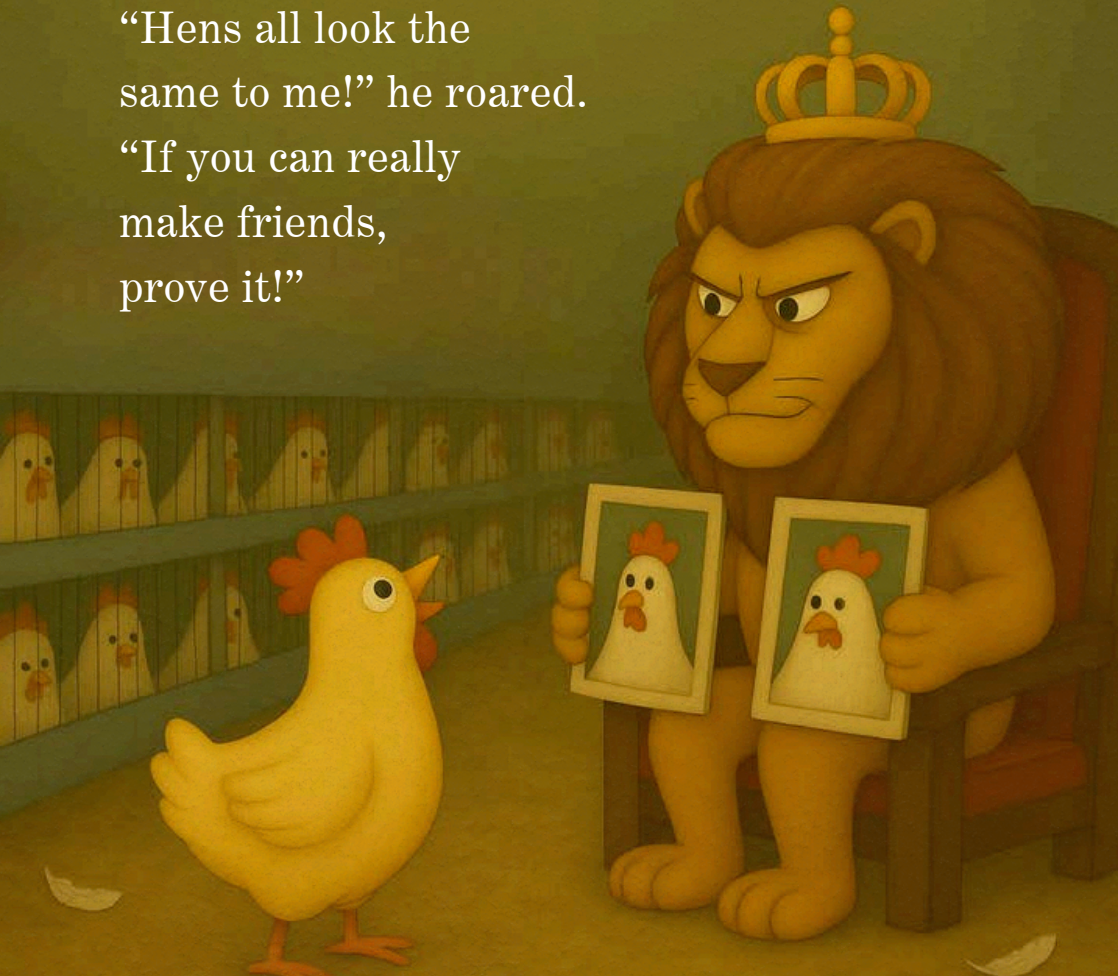
**"Hens are smart,
hens are kind,
hens keep friends
in heart and mind!"**

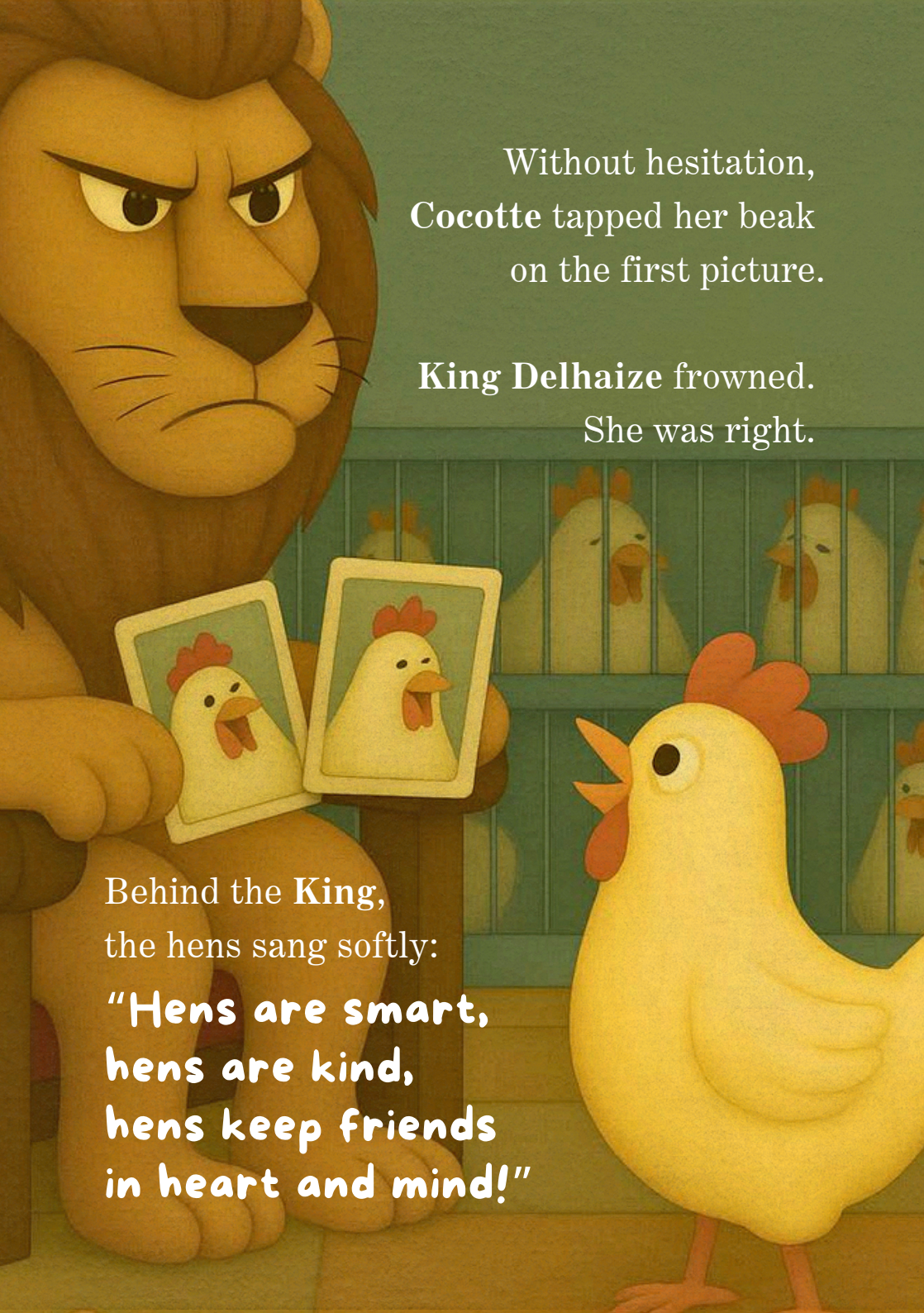
"If you don't believe me,
test us and you will see."



To test **Cocotte**, the **King**
showed her pictures of two hens:
One who she locked eyes with
while entering the barn,
One of another hen who
she had never seen before.

“Hens all look the
same to me!” he roared.
“If you can really
make friends,
prove it!”





Without hesitation,
Cocotte tapped her beak
on the first picture.

King Delhaize frowned.
She was right.

Behind the King,
the hens sang softly:

**"Hens are smart,
hens are kind,
hens keep friends
in heart and mind!"**

To test **Cocotte**'s intelligence,
the **King** placed grains under two leaves:
Three grains under one leaf,
Five grains under the other leaf.
“Pick the bigger number,
if you are clever!”

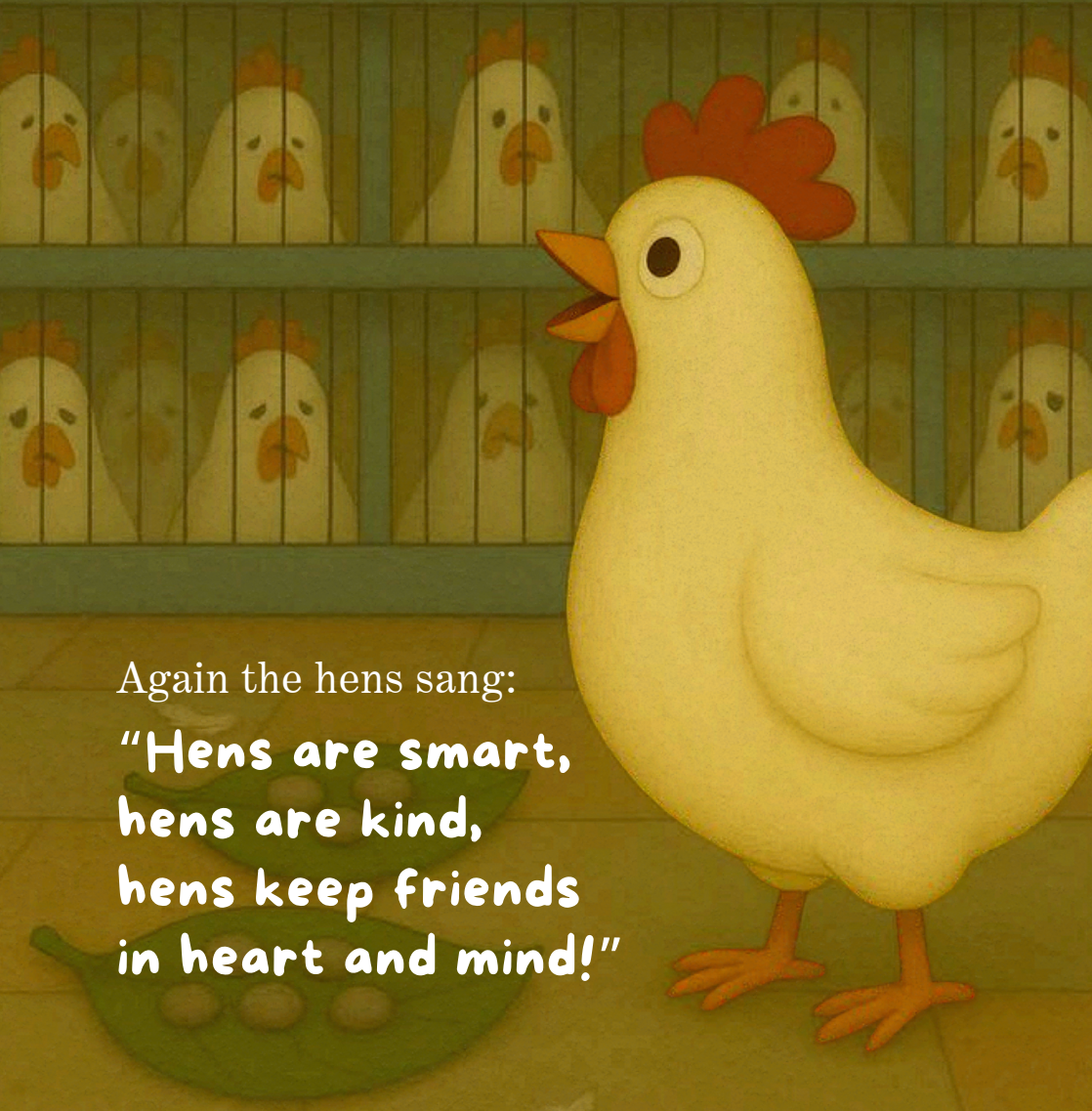


Cocotte scratched at the leaf
with five grains.

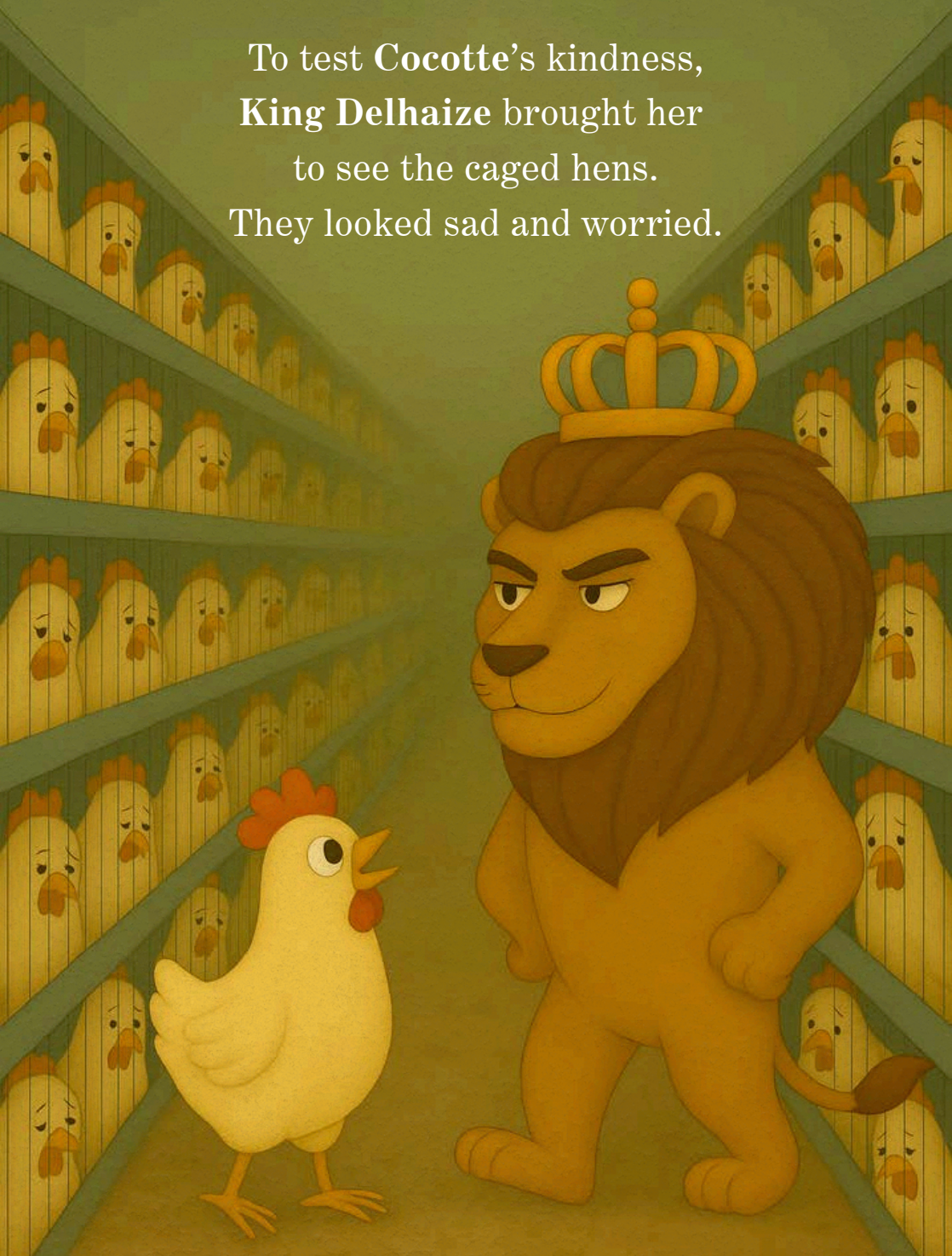
King Delhaize gasped.
Cocotte had chosen correctly.

Again the hens sang:

**"Hens are smart,
hens are kind,
hens keep friends
in heart and mind!"**



To test **Cocotte's** kindness,
King Delhaize brought her
to see the caged hens.
They looked sad and worried.



Cocotte approached the caged hens
and clucked gently,
comforting them until they calmed down.



The background of the page is a cartoon illustration. A large lion with a golden crown is the central figure, looking forward with wide, surprised eyes. In the background, to the left, are two chickens in cages. One chicken is visible through the bars, and another is in the foreground, looking up at the lion.

The **King**'s eyes widened.

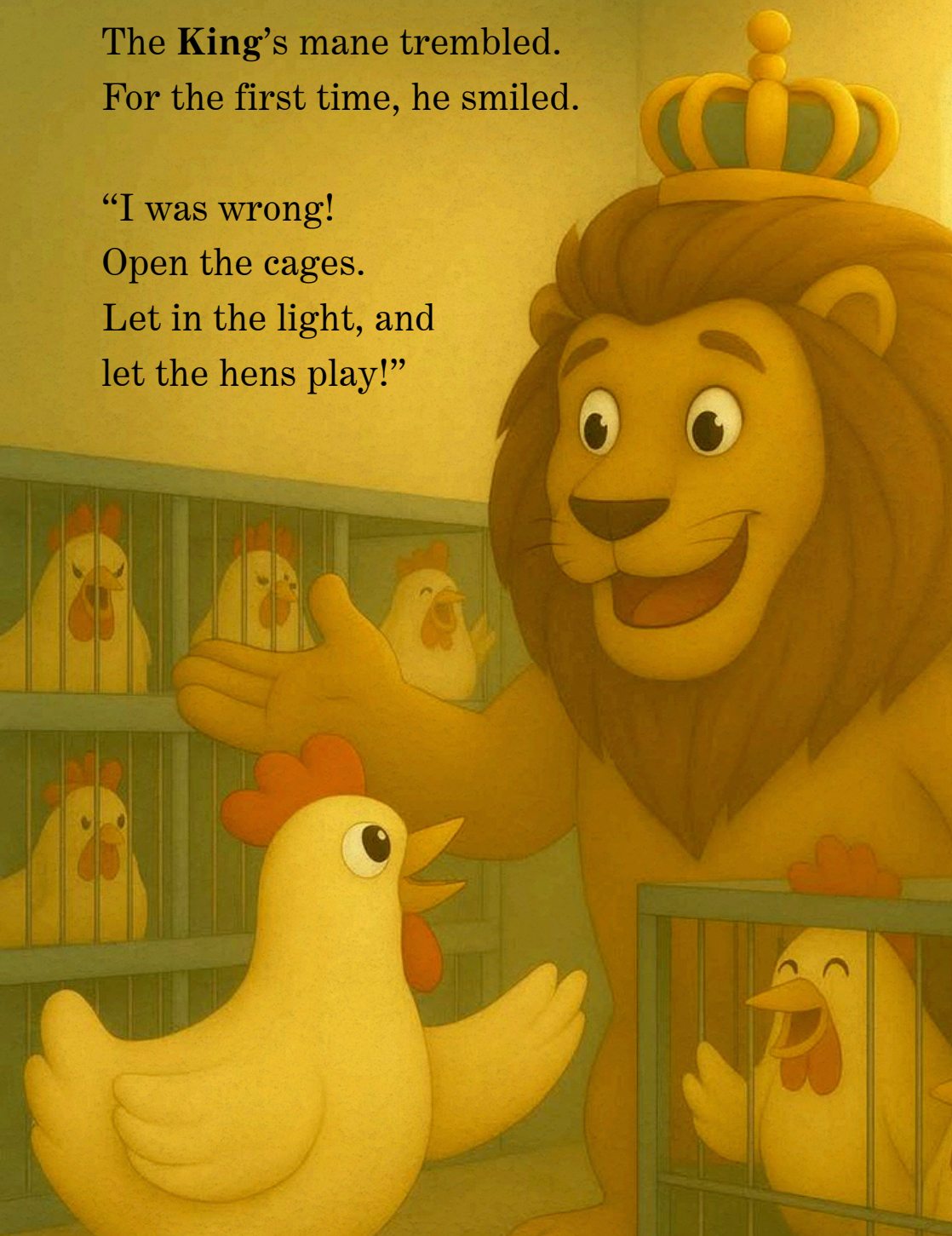
"They care for each other... they feel!"

The hens lifted their
voices once more:

**"Hens are smart,
hens are kind,
hens keep friends
in heart and mind!"**

The **King**'s mane trembled.
For the first time, he smiled.

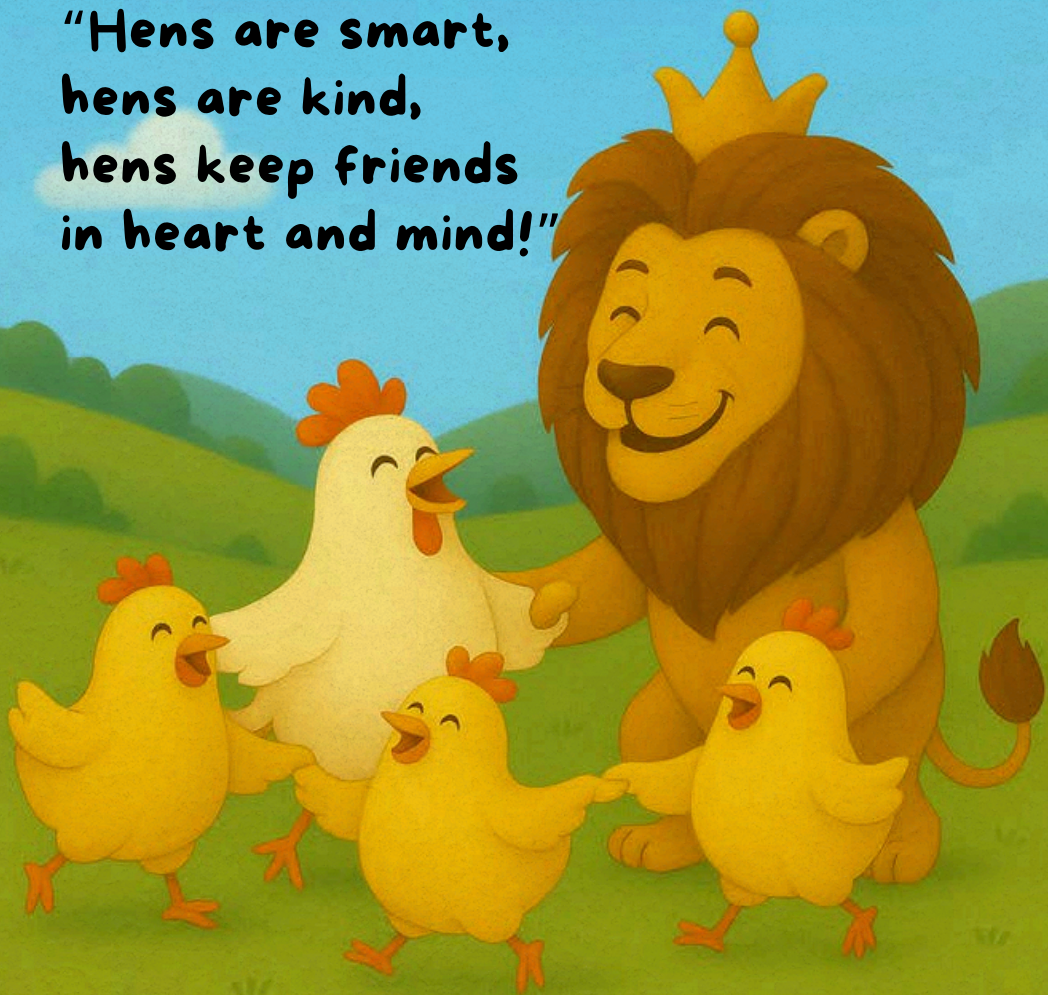
“I was wrong!
Open the cages.
Let in the light, and
let the hens play!”



The doors opened. The walls came down.
Hens rushed outside. They ran, hopped,
flapped, and rolled in the dust.
The air filled with joyful clucks.

And together they sang:

**"Hens are smart,
hens are kind,
hens keep friends
in heart and mind!"**



Since that day,
it is said the **King** often repeats:

**"No two hens are alike,
they're special, it's true.
Every hen deserves freedom,
just like me and you!"**



"Hens are smart,
hens are kind, hens keep
friends in heart and mind!"

Is that true? The answer is: yes!

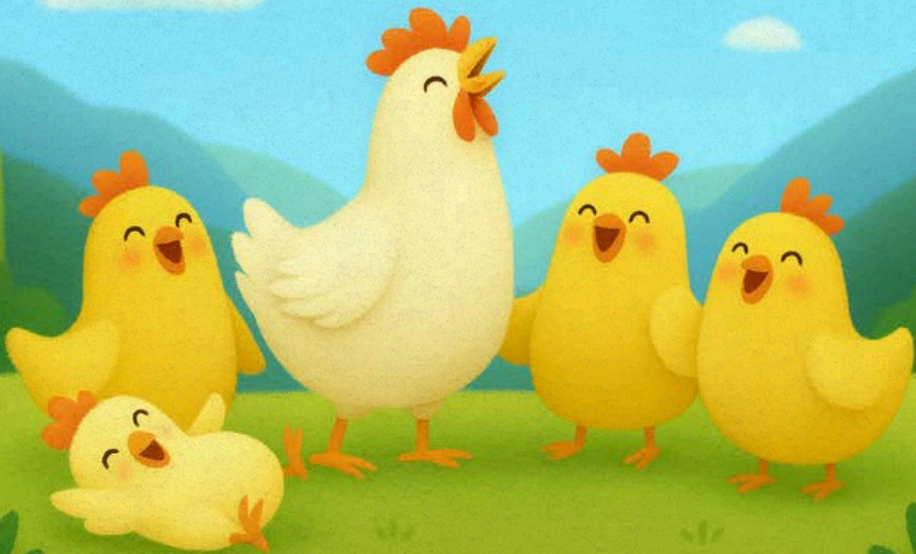


Here are three fascinating facts about hens:

**Hens can recognize more than
100 faces of their own species.**

**Hens can count up to five and
do both addition and subtraction!**

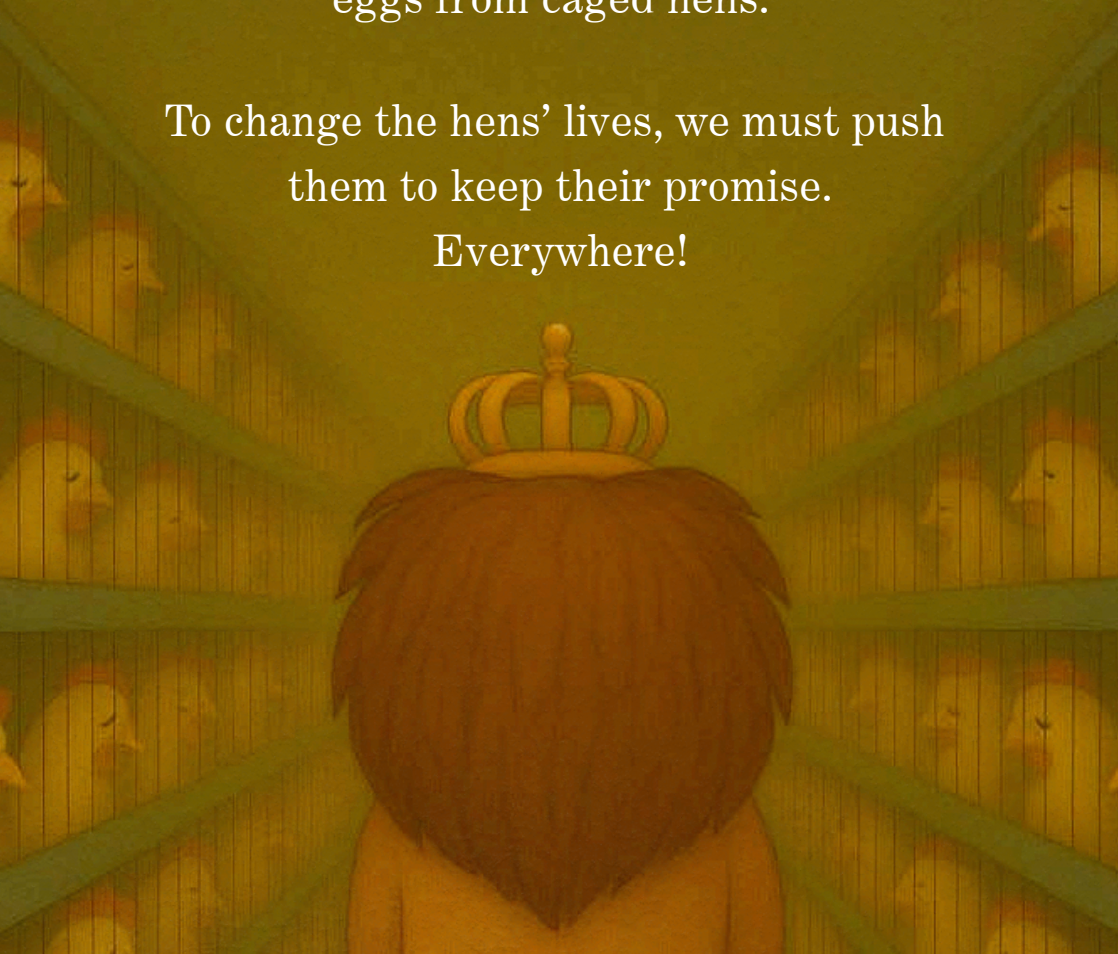
**Hens have pain receptors which make
them able to feel pain and distress.**



What about **King Delhaize**?

In the real world, he is still caging hens.
The supermarket chain **Ahold Delhaize**
(**Albert Heijn, Delhaize, Etos, Gall&Gall**)
has promised to stop using cages.
But in many places, they still sell
eggs from caged hens.

To change the hens' lives, we must push
them to keep their promise.
Everywhere!



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Cocotte
and King Delhaize

