



With a Click of a Button

Author: Alaa Alian

Illustrator: Hossam Aldeen Al-Kileeny

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Rose lives a quiet country life but when a new telecommunications tower is installed nearby, it transforms her life.



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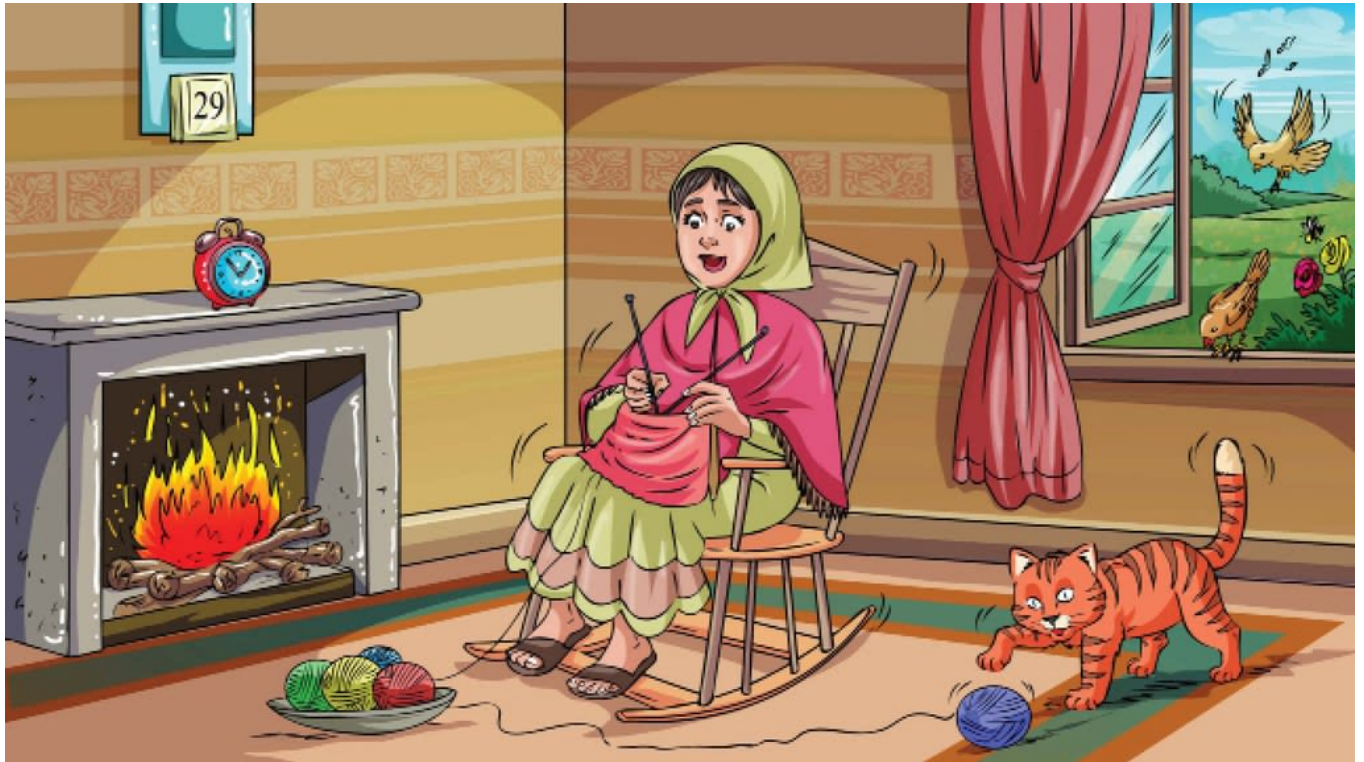




Near the village of Rose Hill lives Rose, on her small, quiet farm with her five children, her hens and her cat Ken.



Every day at dawn, Rose wakes up and feeds her hens and prepares breakfast for her children. She takes them to school and then goes to the market to sell eggs. Then she goes back to the farm to make lunch for them.



Rose did this year after year until...



Her children were all grown. And one by one, they left. Then Rose was all alone with her hens and her cat, Ken.



She still wakes at dawn to feed her hens, prepare breakfast and water her plants. She continued her routine, just waiting for summer, when her children would come visit her.



In the evenings, her old red rotary phone never stops ringing. Her sons all call her, one after the other. Until...



It was finally summer! The house was full and she was happy to have her all her children home with her again.



The family loved being together! They talked and talked and laughter rang throughout the house. Their mother's delicious meals only added to their happiness.



A few days before they left, the children heard that cell towers were being installed near the farm.



They had gone into town and came back after a few hours.
They bought their mom a smart phone and had connected it to the new wi-fi service the cell tower provided.



Summer ended and the children left. Rose was back to her daily routine. She woke up at dawn and fed her hens, but...



Now Rose could communicate with her children on the Internet. She could video chat with them and they with her. They did this every day.



One night, Ken the cat tapped one of the smart phone buttons!!



Lots of videos appeared. Rose spent the night watching one video after another.



Rose learned many new recipes from these videos. She made Lebanese tabbouleh salad and eggplant baba ghannouj too.



Iraqi dolma was one of the most delicious dishes. Then she became a master chef in making Saudi Arabian kabsa. She also loved Egyptian koshari.



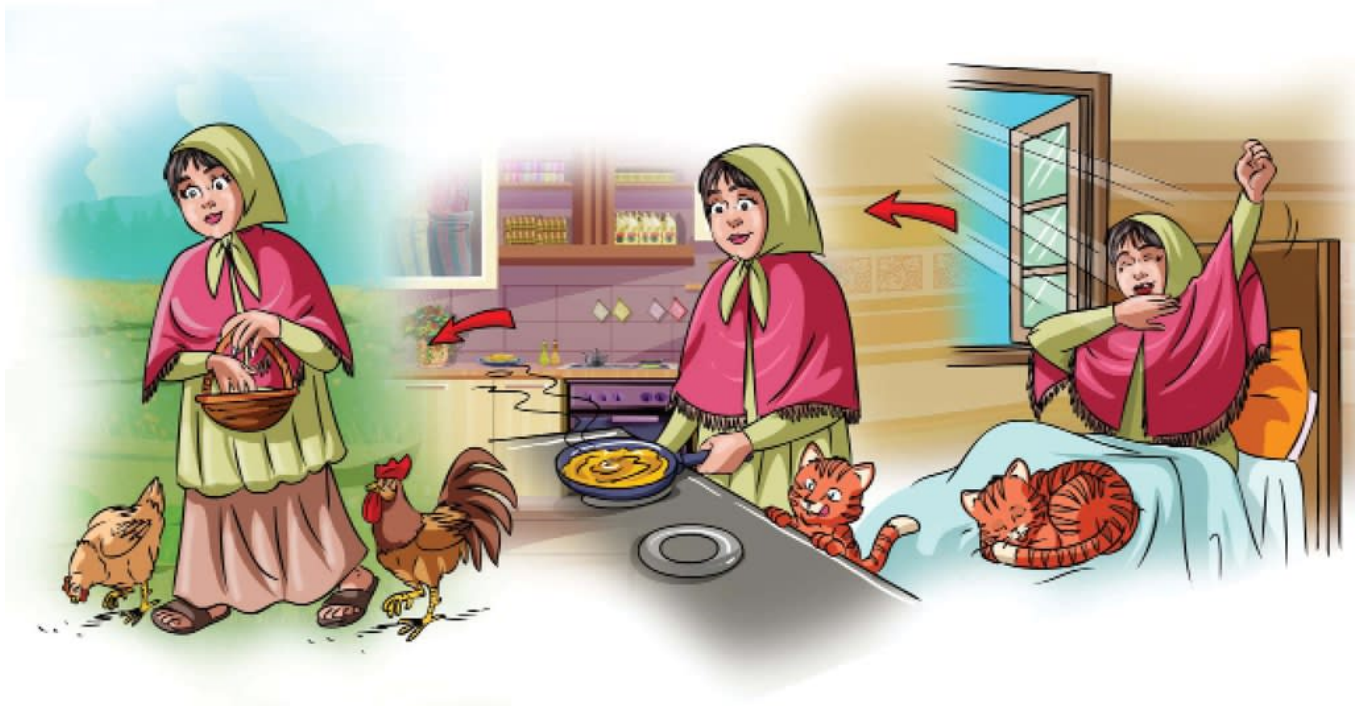
After a while, with no one to help her eat all these delicious meals, Rose started to feel unhealthy. She decided to start exercising and watching workout videos.



The next night, before she went to bed, she thought about her childhood and the dreams and aspirations she had. Rose had always wanted to learn how to paint.



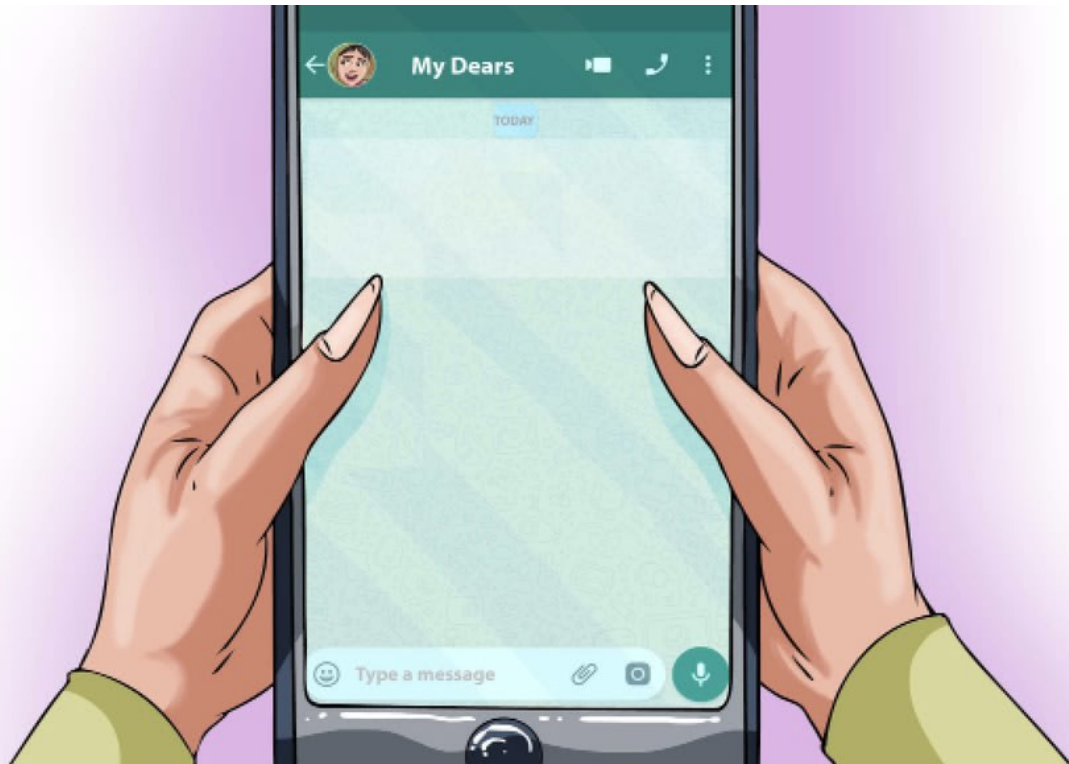
So she woke up early in the morning and went to Rose Hill to purchase some supplies. She spent hours choosing each brush and paint color.



Rose still wakes at dawn and she still feds her hens.
She still prepares breakfast and lunch.



But she spends most of her time in her studio where she mixes colors together and creates the most beautiful paintings.



You're invited, my dear sons, to attend my first art exhibit this Wednesday at the Rose Hill Gallery.



The End