

SELIM

and the Ghost in
the Cemetery



chicken Fight

Adam is growing up. I can tell because more and more he doesn't need me anymore. He used to always want to go to school at the same time as me and leave at the same time as me.



Then he made friends, and after that he didn't wait for me anymore. I started to think that he might never walk to school with me again, but one morning when I was getting ready to leave, I saw Adam at the gate. I thought he might be waiting for me. I asked him,

"What's up, Adam? Why haven't you left yet?"

"I am waiting for you, Selim."

"For me?"

"Yeah. Why are you so surprised? Is that a problem?"

"It's no problem at all, Adam. Let's go."



We left the house and were on our way to school. I started to turn in a direction that would take us on a shortcut, but Adam stopped me.

“Selim, I don’t want to go that way.”

“Why not, Adam?”



“But that way is much longer.”

“But I don’t know that way, we should go that way so I can learn it.”

I didn’t know why Adam didn’t want to go the shorter way, but I let it go. We took the long way to school.

The next day, we walked to school together again and when we came to the fork in the road, Adam insisted,

“Selim, can we please go the long way?”

“No reason...”

“No Adam. We are already late, and if we go the long way, we will be even more late. Why do you want to go the long way anyway?”



“Then we are taking the shortcut.”

He finally agreed. As we took the shortcut, Adam was walking like he had lead in his boots. I usually always had to tell him to slow down, but this time he was lagging behind me.

“What’s the problem, Adam? Let’s get a move on.”

I turned around and started walking towards him, but what was this! Adam looked like he had seen a ghost! When I saw him like that, I got scared as well. What had scared Adam so badly? I got him to keep walking, and it soon became clear what Adam was so afraid of. Around a corner down the road we saw a great big rooster standing in the middle of the path. When the rooster saw Adam, it ran after him. So it knew him from before. I wonder who doesn’t know Adam! The rooster flapped its wings and jumped at Adam.

Poor Adam began cried out,

“Selim! Help me!”

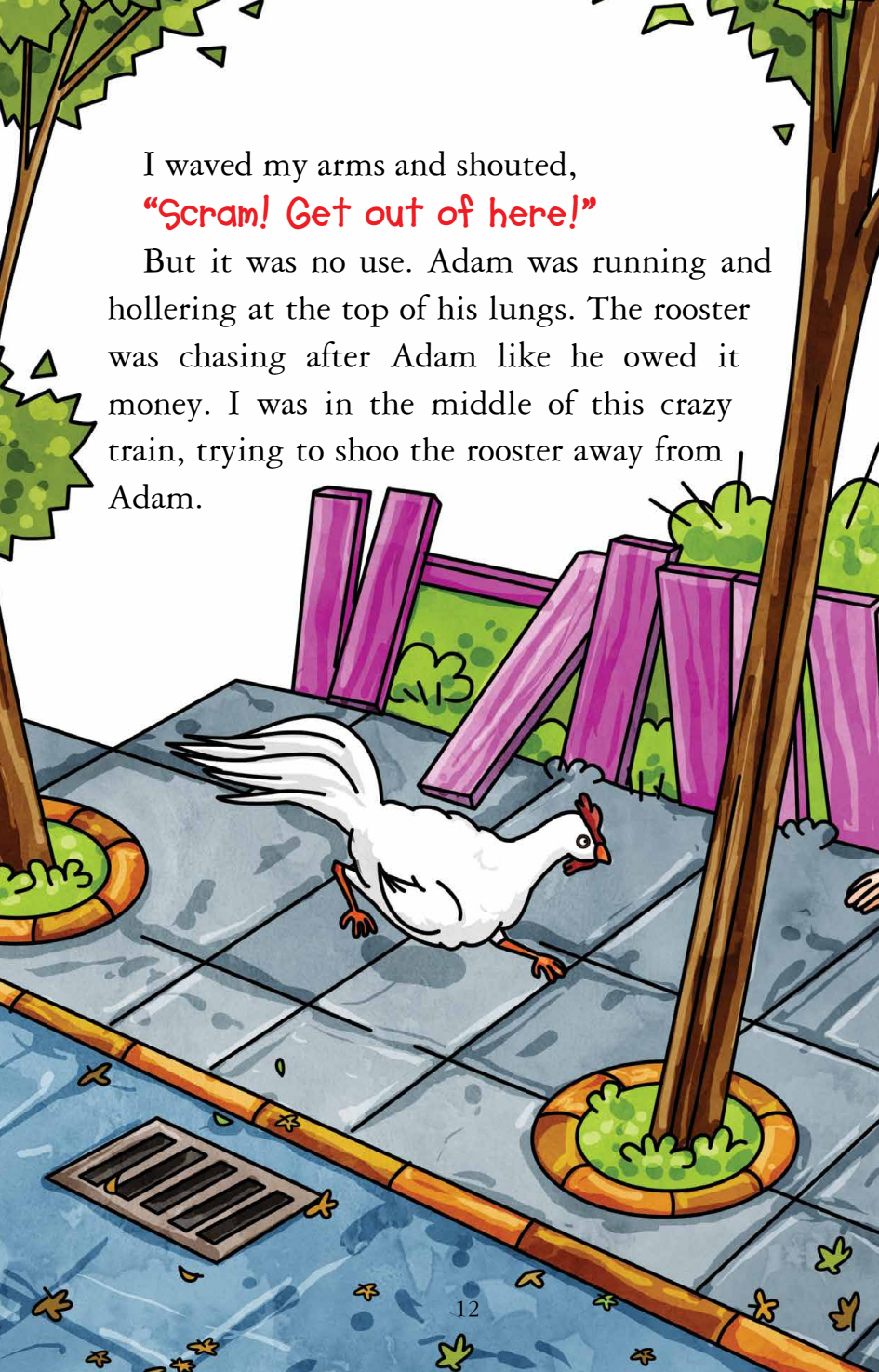




AAAH!!

I waved my arms and shouted,
“Scram! Get out of here!”

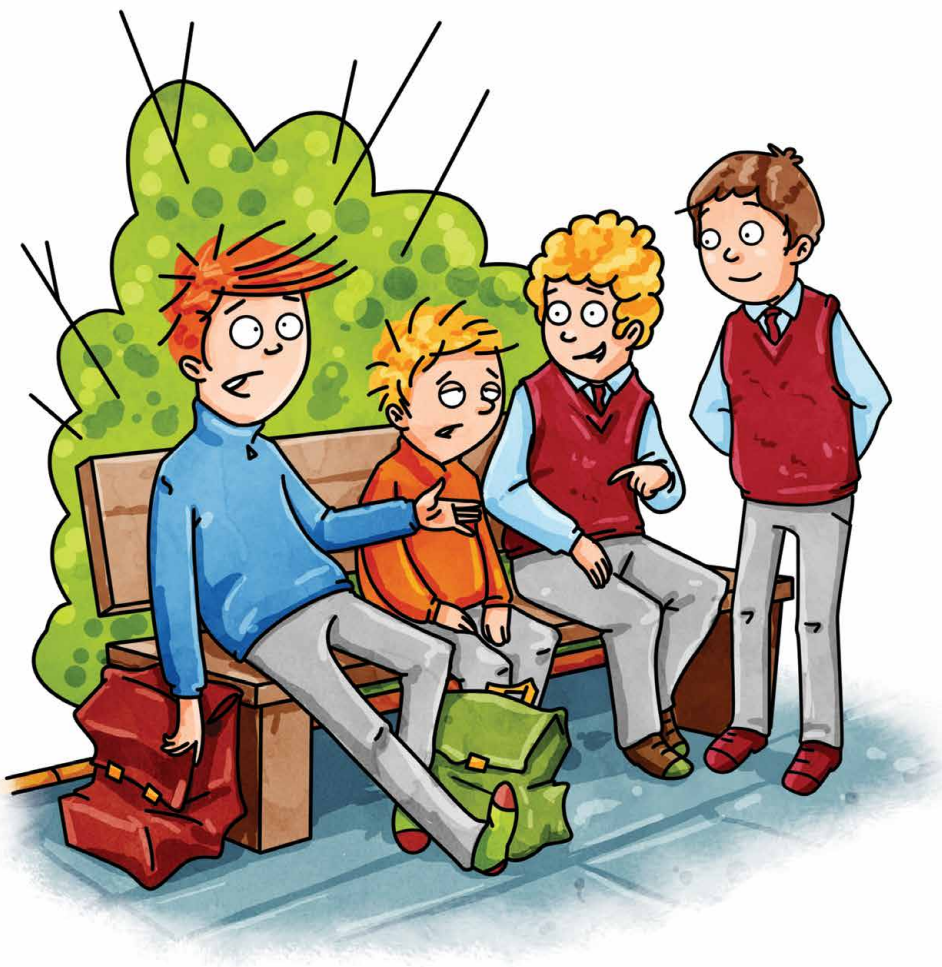
But it was no use. Adam was running and hollering at the top of his lungs. The rooster was chasing after Adam like he owed it money. I was in the middle of this crazy train, trying to shoo the rooster away from Adam.



I was able to get it to stop chasing Adam, but then it got angry. It left Adam and turned on me. It was pecking at my shoes and jumping up at me, flapping its wings. I couldn't take it so I ran away.

Or rather we ran away...





We were a mess when we got to school. We didn't talk to anyone. What were we going to say? That we'd been beaten up by a rooster? I must have only spoken five times the whole day.

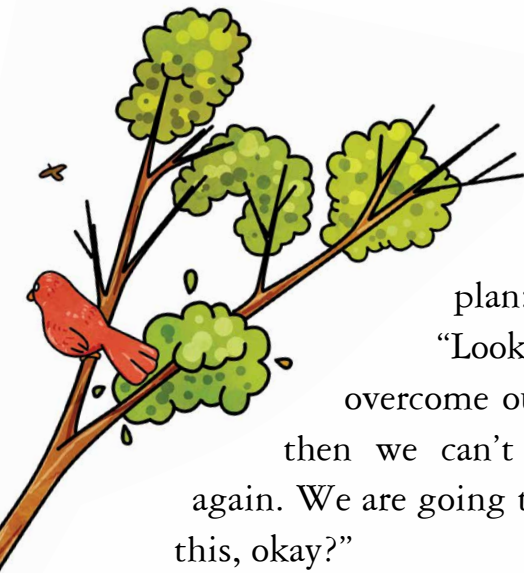
Now I understood why Adam wanted to go the long way. That night I hatched a plan and gathered the necessary equipment. I took a thick suitcase that my dad had given me the year before. It was a seriously tough bag. The next day Adam and I set off again on our way to school. When Adam saw that I was still turning onto the shortcut street, he was shocked.



“Selim, don’t go to that way.
That’s where that rooster is.”

“Don’t be scared Adam. We can’t change
our route just because of a silly old
rooster.”

“Shh! It will hear you! Have you
already forgotten how it wrecked us
yesterday?”



I had to explain my plan:

“Look Adam, we have to overcome our fear. If we don’t, then we can’t go that way ever again. We are going there today to finish this, okay?”

Adam reluctantly agreed. As the oldest, I took the lead as we walked along the road towards where we knew the rooster was. To be honest I was terrified, but I did my best not to show it. After a few steps, that crazy rooster appeared again. First, I said calmly to Adam without turning to face him, “Adam, don’t move.”

Then I gathered up all my courage and shouted at the rooster,

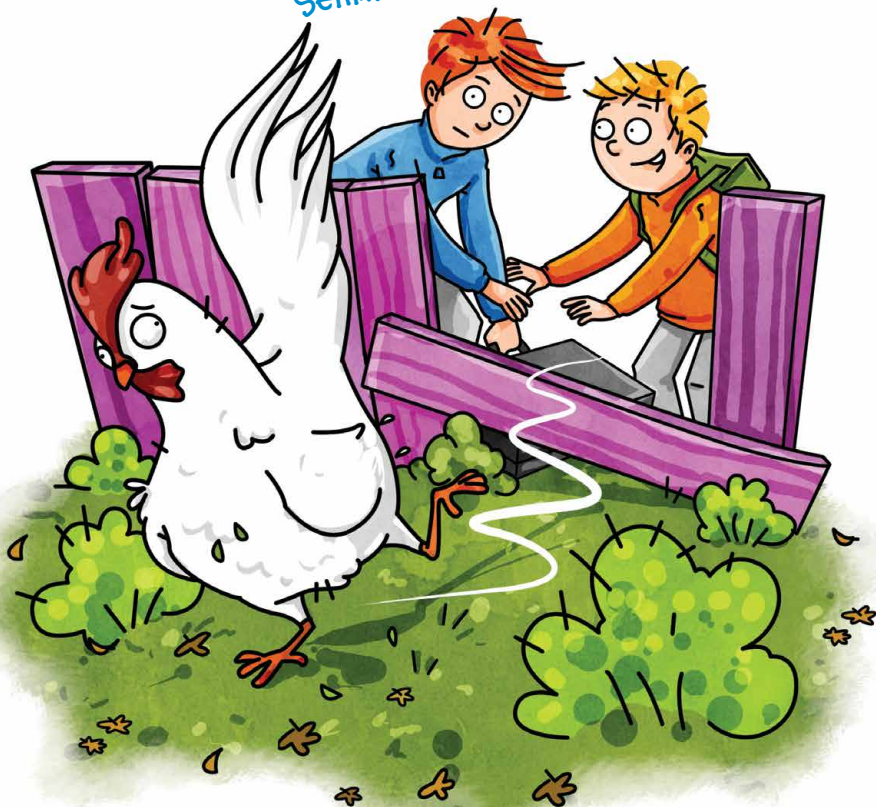
“Look rooster! I am not going to take any of your nonsense today! Don’t chase us!”





But I guess the rooster didn't understand what I said, because it began to run after us. I hurled the suitcase at the rooster. The rooster was at least a little spooked and ran back to where it had come from. I turned to Adam. He was looking at me in awe.

"Selim! You're a hero!"



‘Don’t be silly. I can’t be a hero by scaring away a rooster.’

But Adam didn’t shut up about it for one second the whole way to school.

“Run away roosters! Run away. My brother Selim is here and he eats rooster for breakfast! He is your worst nightmare!”

