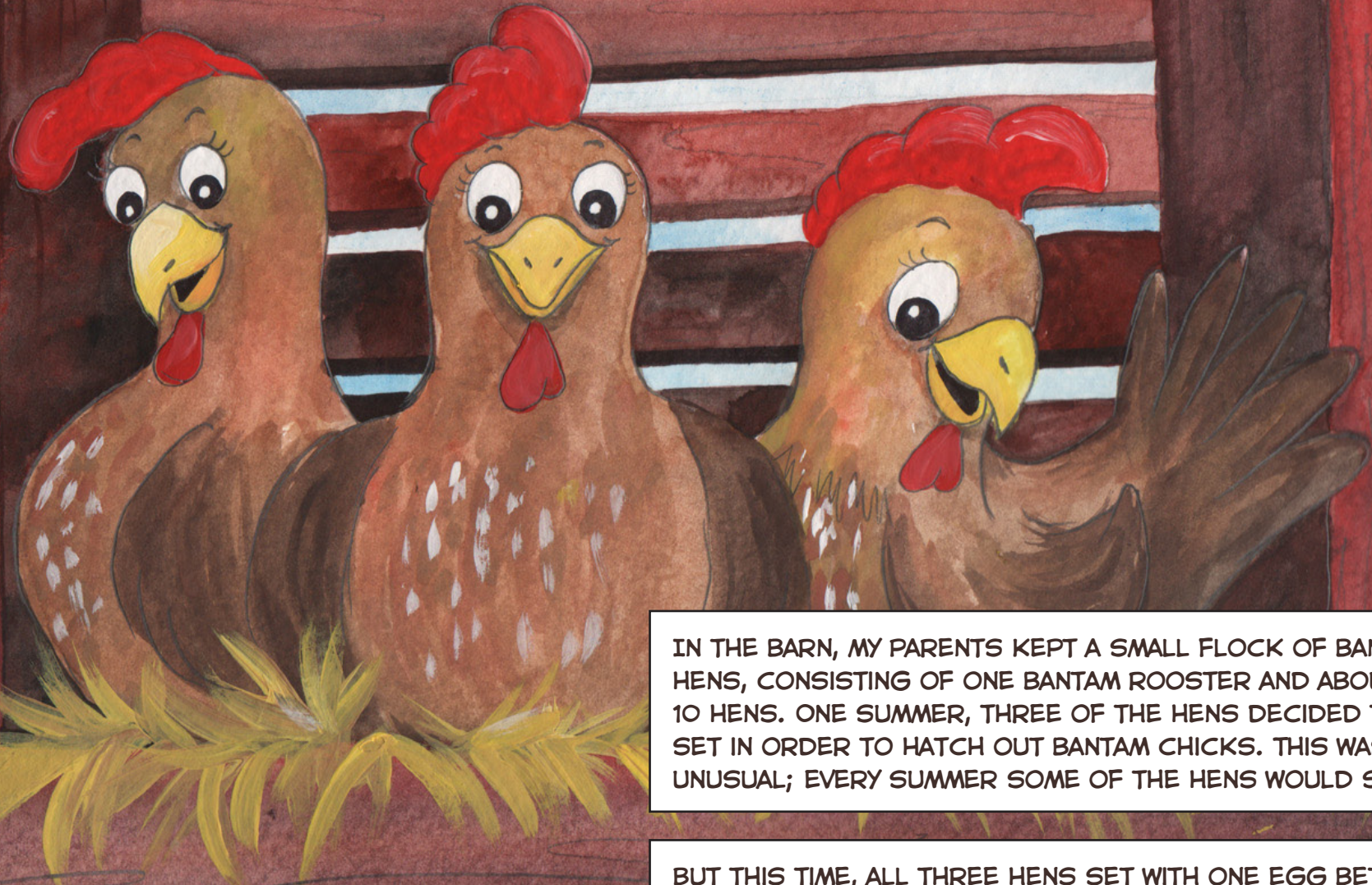


TALES OF FARM FRIENDS

ANOTHER'S FATHERLY LOVE



IN THE BARN, MY PARENTS KEPT A SMALL FLOCK OF BANTAM HENS, CONSISTING OF ONE BANTAM ROOSTER AND ABOUT 10 HENS. ONE SUMMER, THREE OF THE HENS DECIDED TO SET IN ORDER TO HATCH OUT BANTAM CHICKS. THIS WASN'T UNUSUAL; EVERY SUMMER SOME OF THE HENS WOULD SET.

BUT THIS TIME, ALL THREE HENS SET WITH ONE EGG BETWEEN THEM. THAT WAS A WELL-CARED-FOR EGG!



THREE WEEKS LATER, THE EGG HATCHED AND OUT CAME A CUTE BANTAM CHICK.

USUALLY WHEN A CHICK HATCHES, THE HEN EAGERLY CARES FOR IT, CALLING HER CHICK TO FOLLOW ALONG AS SHE FORAGES FOR FOOD, TEACHING IT HOW TO FIND FOOD AND WATER. BUT WHEN THIS EGG HATCHED, THE HENS WALKED OFF, AS EACH THOUGHT ONE OF THE OTHER HENS WOULD CARE FOR THE CHICK. THE POOR CHICK WAS SOON LEFT TO FEND FOR ITSELF.

NOT TO WORRY! NEARBY WAS A YOUNG LEGHORN ROOSTER. IN ANOTHER PEN, MY MOTHER HAD RAISED EIGHT ROOSTERS. ONE OF THEM WAS ALWAYS BEING PICKED ON BY THE OTHER ROOSTERS, SO MY MOTHER HAD REMOVED IT FROM THE PEN AND TAKEN IT TO THE BARN. WHEN THIS LONELY ROOSTER SAW THE LITTLE ABANDONED CHICK, HE ADOPTED IT.

AND THE LITTLE BANTAM CHICK GREW UP STRONG AND HEALTHY.

"GOD SHOWS THE SAME CARE TO THOSE WHO TRUST HIM AS A FATHER SHOWS TO HIS CHILDREN" (PSALM 103:13, PARAPHRASED).

