

## Chapter 7 Animal Farm - George Orwell

It was a bitter winter. The **stormy** weather was followed by **sleet and snow**, and then by a hard **frost** which **did not break till well into February**. The animals **carried on as best they could** with the rebuilding of the windmill, well knowing that the outside world was watching them and that the envious human beings **would rejoice** and triumph if the mill were not finished on time.

**Out of spite**, the human beings **pretended** not to believe that it was Snowball who had destroyed the windmill: they said that it had fallen down because the walls were **too thin**. The animals knew that this was not the case. Still, it had been decided to build the walls three feet **thick** this time instead of eighteen **inches** as before, which meant collecting much larger quantities of stone. For a long time the quarry was full of **snowdrifts** and nothing could be done. Some progress was made in the **dry** frosty weather that followed, but it was **cruel** work, and the animals could not feel so hopeful about it as they had felt before. They were always cold, and usually hungry **as well**. Only Boxer and Clover **never lost heart**. Squealer made excellent speeches on the joy of service and the dignity of labour, but the other animals found more inspiration in Boxer's **strength** and his never-failing cry of "I will work harder! "

In January food **fell short**. The corn ration was drastically reduced, and it was announced that an extra potato ration would be **issued to make up for it**. Then it was discovered that the greater part of the potato crop had been **frosted in the clamps**, which had not been covered **thickly** enough. The potatoes

*burrascoso*

*seguito da nevisco e neve / gelo  
non migliorò fino a febbraio inoltrato  
continuavano come meglio potevano*

*si rallegrerebbero*

*per dispetto / fingevano*

*troppo sottili*

*spessi           **1 foot = 30,48 cm***

*pollici           **1 inch = 2,54 cm***

*accumuli di neve*

*secco*

*crudel*

*pure / non si scoraggiavano mai*

*forza*

*venne meno*

*data per compensare*

*gelate nei mucchi*

*spessamente*

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had become soft and **discoloured**, and only a few were **edible**. For days at a time the animals had nothing to eat but **chaff and mangels**. Starvation seemed **to stare them** in the face.

It was vitally necessary to **conceal** this fact from the outside world. **Emboldened** by the collapse of the windmill, the human beings were inventing fresh **lies** about Animal Farm. **Once again** it was being **put about** that all the animals were dying of **famine and disease**, and that they were continually **fighting** among themselves and **had resorted to** cannibalism and infanticide. Napoleon was well **aware** of the bad results that might follow if the real facts of the food situation were known, and he decided to make use of Mr. Whymper to **spread** a contrary impression. **Hitherto** the animals had had little or no contact with Whymper on his weekly visits: now, **however**, a few selected animals, mostly sheep, were instructed **to remark** casually in his **hearing** that rations had been **increased**. In addition, Napoleon ordered the almost empty **bins** in the store-shed to be **filled** nearly to the **brim** with **sand**, which was then covered up with what remained of the grain and meal. On some **suitable** pretext Whymper was **led** through the store-shed and allowed to catch a **glimpse** of the bins. He was **deceived**, and continued to report to the outside world that there was no food **shortage** on Animal Farm.

**Nevertheless**, **towards** the end of January it became obvious that it would be necessary to procure some more grain from **somewhere**. In these days Napoleon rarely appeared in public, but spent all his time in the farmhouse, which was **guarded** at each

*scolorite*

*commestibili*

*pula e barbabetole*

*fissarli*

*nascondere*

*incoraggiati*

*menzogne*

*ancora una volta / messo in giro*

*carestia*

*malattia / lottando*

*si erano dati al*

*cosciente*

*diffondere*

*finora*

*tuttavia*

*commentare / udito*

*aumentate*

*recipienti / riempiti*

*l'orlo / sabbia*

*adatto / condotto*

*sguardo*

*ingannato*

*scarsità*

*malgrado ciò, verso*

*qualche parte*

*sorvegliata*

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door by fierce-looking dogs. When **he did emerge**, it was in a ceremonial manner, with an **escort** of six dogs who **closely surrounded him** and growled if anyone came too near. Frequently he did not even appear on Sunday mornings, but **issued** his orders **through** one of the other pigs, usually Squealer.

One Sunday morning Squealer announced that the hens, who had just come in **to lay** again, must **surrender** their eggs. Napoleon had accepted, through Whymper, a contract for four hundred eggs a week. The price of these would pay for enough grain and meal to keep the farm going till summer came on and conditions were easier.

When the hens heard this, they raised a terrible **outcry**. They had been **warned** earlier that this sacrifice might be necessary, but had not believed that it **would** really **happen**. They were just getting their **clutches** ready for the spring sitting, and they protested that to take the eggs away now was **murder**. For the first time since the expulsion of Jones, there was something **resembling** a rebellion. Led by three young Black Minorca **pullets**, the hens made a determined **effort to thwart** Napoleon's **wishes**. Their method was to fly up to the **rafters** and there lay their eggs, which **smashed to pieces** on the floor. Napoleon acted **swiftly** and **ruthlessly**. He ordered the hens' rations to be stopped, and **decreed** that any animal giving so much as a grain of corn to a hen should be punished by death. The dogs **saw to** it that these orders were **carried out**. For five days the hens **held out**, then they capitulated and went back to their **nesting** boxes. Nine hens had died **in the meantime**. Their bodies were buried in the

*usciva*

*scorta*

*strettamente lo circondavano*

*rilasciava*

*attraverso (per mezzo di)*

*deporre*

*cedere*

*protesta / avvertite*

*succederebbe*

*covate*

*assassinio*

*simile*

*galletti*

*sforzo per ostacolare*

*desideri / travetti*

*si frantumavano in pezzi*

*velocemente / severamente*

*decretò*

*controllavano*

*eseguiti*

*resistettero*

*nidi*

*nel frattempo*

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orchard, and **it was given out** that they had died of **coccidiosis**. Whymper heard nothing of this affair, and the eggs were **duly** delivered, a grocer's **van** driving up to the farm once a week to take them away.

*fu fatto sapere*  
*coccidiosi*  
*debitamente / furgone*

All this while no more had been seen of Snowball. He was rumoured **to be hiding** on one of the neighbouring farms, either Foxwood or Pinchfield. Napoleon was by this time on **slightly** better **terms** with the other farmers than before. It happened that there was in the yard a pile of **timber** which had been **stacked** there ten years earlier when a **beech spinney** was **cleared**. It was well **seasoned**, and Whymper had **advised** Napoleon to sell it; both Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Frederick were **anxious** to buy it. Napoleon was hesitating between the two, unable **to make up his mind**. It was noticed that whenever he seemed on the point of coming to an **agreement** with Frederick, Snowball was declared to be in hiding at Foxwood, while, when he inclined toward Pilkington, Snowball was said to be at Pinchfield.

*essere nascosto*  
*leggermente / rapporti*

*legno*  
*ammucchiato / faggio*  
*tagliato / stagionato*  
*consigliato*  
*ansiosi*

*di decidere*  
*accordo*

Suddenly, early in the spring, an alarming thing was discovered. Snowball was secretly frequenting the farm by night! The animals were so disturbed that they could hardly sleep in their stalls. Every night, it was said, he came creeping in **under cover** of darkness and performed all kinds of **mischiefs**. He **stole** the corn, he **upset** the milk-pails, he broke the eggs, he **trampled** the **seedbeds**, he **gnawed** the **bark** off the fruit trees. Whenever anything went wrong it became usual to attribute it to Snowball. If a window was broken or a **drain** was blocked up, someone was certain to say that Snowball had come

*sotto copertura*  
*malefatte*  
*rubava / rovesciava*  
*calpestava / solchi / rosicchiava*  
*corteccia*  
*fognatura*

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in the night and done it, and when the **key** of the store-shed was **lost**, the whole farm was convinced that Snowball **had thrown it down the well**. Curiously enough, they went on believing this even after the **mislaid** key was found under a sack of meal. The cows declared unanimously that Snowball crept into their stalls and **milked them** in their sleep. The rats, which had been troublesome that winter, were also said **to be in league** with Snowball.

Napoleon decreed that there should be a full investigation into Snowball's activities. With his dogs in **attendance** he set out and made a careful tour of inspection of the farm buildings, the other animals following at a respectful distance. At every few steps Napoleon stopped and snuffed the ground for traces of Snowball's footsteps, which, he said, he could detect by the **smell**. He snuffed in every corner, in the barn, in the cow-shed, in the henhouses, in the vegetable garden, and found traces of Snowball almost everywhere. He would put his **snout** to the ground, give several deep sniffs, and exclaim in a terrible voice, "Snowball! He has been here! I can smell him distinctly!" and at the word "Snowball" all the dogs let out **blood-curdling** growls and showed their side teeth.

The animals were **thoroughly frightened**. It seemed to them **as though** Snowball were some kind of invisible influence, pervading the air about them and menacing them with all kinds of **dangers**. In the evening Squealer called them together, and with an alarmed expression on his face told them that he had some serious news to report.

*chiave**persa**l'aveva buttata giù nel pozzo**smarrita**le mungeva**essere in combutta**presenti**odore**muso**agghiacciante***blood** = *sangue***to curdle** = *coagulare**completamente spaventati**come se**pericoli*

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"Comrades!" cried Squealer, making little nervous skips, "a most terrible thing has been discovered. Snowball has sold himself to Frederick of Pinchfield Farm, who is even now **plotting** to attack us and take our farm away from us! Snowball **is to act as** his guide when the attack begins. But there is worse than that. We had thought that Snowball's rebellion was caused simply by his vanity and ambition. But we were wrong, comrades. Do you know what the real reason was? Snowball was **in league** with Jones **from the very start!** He was Jones's secret agent all the time. It has all been proved by documents which he left behind him and which we have only just discovered. To my mind this explains a **great deal**, comrades. Did we not see **for ourselves** how he **attempted** - fortunately without success - to get us **defeated** and destroyed at the Battle of the Cowshed?"

The animals were **stupefied**. This was a **wickedness** far **outdoing** Snowball's destruction of the windmill. But it was some minutes before they could fully **take it in**. They all remembered, or thought they remembered, how they had seen Snowball **charging ahead** of them at the Battle of the Cowshed, how he had **rallied** and encouraged them **at every turn**, and how he had not paused for an instant even when the **pellets** from Jones's gun had **wounded his back**. At first it was a little difficult to see how this **fitted in** with his being on Jones's **side**. Even Boxer, who seldom asked questions, was **puzzled**. He lay down, **tucked** his **fore** hoofs beneath him, shut his eyes, and with a hard effort **managed** to formulate his thoughts.

"I do not believe that," he said. "Snowball fought

*complotando  
deve agire come*

*in combutta  
proprio dall'inizio*

*molto  
noi stessi  
cercò  
sconfitti*

*stupefatti / cattiveria  
oltrepassando  
capirlo*

*caricando in avanti*

*incitato / continuamente*

*proiettili / ferito la sua schiena  
concordava*

*parte  
intrigato / conficcò  
anteriori  
riuscì a*

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**bravely** at the Battle of the Cowshed. I saw him myself. Did we not give him 'Animal Hero, first Class,' immediately **afterwards**?"

*coraggiosamente*

*dopo*

"That was our mistake, comrade. **For** we know now – it is all written down in the secret documents that we have found - that in reality he was trying to **lure us to our doom**."

*perché*

*attirarci con lusinghe verso sventura*

"But he was **wounded**," said Boxer. "We all saw him running with **blood**."

*ferito*

*sangue*

"That was part of the **arrangement!**" cried Squealer. "Jones's shot only **grazed** him. I could show you this in his own writing, if you were able to read it. The **plot** was for Snowball, at the critical moment, to give the signal for **flight** and leave the field to the enemy. And he very nearly **succeeded** - I will even say, comrades, he would have succeeded if it had not been for our heroic Leader, Comrade Napoleon. Do you not remember how, just at the moment when Jones and his men had got inside the yard, Snowball suddenly turned and **fled**, and many animals followed him? And do you not remember, too, that it was just at that moment, when panic was **spreading** and all seemed lost, that Comrade Napoleon **sprang forward** with a cry of 'Death to Humanity!' and **sank** his teeth in Jones's leg? Surely you remember that, comrades?" exclaimed Squealer, **frisking** from side to side.

*accordo*

*sfiorò*

*complotto*

*fuga*

*riuscì*

*scappò*

*spargendo*

*saltò in avanti*

*affondò*

*saltellando*

Now when Squealer described the scene so graphically, it seemed to the animals that they did remember it. **At any rate**, they remembered that at the critical moment of the battle Snowball had turned

*ad ogni modo*

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to flee. But Boxer was still a little uneasy.

*per scappare /incomodo*

"I do not believe that Snowball was a traitor at the beginning," he said finally. "What he has done since is different. But I believe that at the Battle of the Cowshed he was a good comrade."

"Our Leader, Comrade Napoleon," announced Squealer, speaking very slowly and firmly, "has stated categorically - categorically, comrade - that Snowball was Jones's agent from the very beginning - yes, and from long before the Rebellion was ever thought of."

*dichiarato  
proprio dall'inizio  
molto tempo prima  
pensata, ideata*

"Ah, that is different!" said Boxer. "If Comrade Napoleon says it, it must be right."

"That is the true spirit, comrade!" cried Squealer, but it was noticed he cast a very ugly look at Boxer with his little twinkling eyes. He turned to go, then paused and added impressively: "I warn every animal on this farm to keep his eyes very wide open. For we have reason to think that some of Snowball's secret agents are lurking among us at this moment! "

*gettò  
luccicanti  
avverto  
spalancati wide = ampio  
motivo (ragione)  
sono in agguato*

Four days later, in the late afternoon, Napoleon ordered all the animals to assemble in the yard. When they were all gathered together, Napoleon emerged from the farmhouse, wearing both his medals (for he had recently awarded himself "Animal Hero, First Class," and "Animal Hero, Second Class"), with his nine huge dogs frisking round him and uttering growls that sent shivers down all the animals' spines. They all cowered silently in their places, seeming to know in advance that some

*riuniti  
conferito  
saltellando  
emettendo / brividi  
spine dorsali / acquattarsi (per paura)  
in anticipo*

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terrible thing was about to happen.

Napoleon stood **sternly surveying** his audience; then he uttered a high - **pitched whimper**. Immediately the dogs **bounded** forward, **seized** four of the pigs by the ear and **dragged** them, squealing with pain and terror, to Napoleon's feet. The pigs' ears were **bleeding**, the dogs had tasted blood, and for a few moments they appeared **to go quite mad**. To the **amazement** of everybody, three of them **flung themselves** upon Boxer. Boxer saw them coming and put out his great hoof, caught a dog in mid-air, and **pinned** him to the ground. The dog **shrieked for mercy** and the other two **fled** with their **tails** between their legs. Boxer looked at Napoleon to know whether he should **crush** the dog to death or let it go. Napoleon appeared to change **countenance**, and sharply ordered Boxer to let the dog go, **whereat** Boxer lifted his hoof, and the dog **slunk away**, **bruised** and **howling**.

**Presently** the tumult **died down**. The four pigs waited, trembling, with **guilt** written on every line of their **countenances**. Napoleon now called upon them to confess their crimes. They were the same four pigs as had protested when Napoleon abolished the Sunday Meetings. Without any further **prompting** they confessed that they had been secretly in touch with Snowball **ever since** his expulsion, that they had collaborated with him in destroying the windmill, and that they had entered into an agreement with him to **hand over** Animal Farm to Mr. Frederick. They **added** that Snowball had privately admitted to them that he had been Jones's secret agent for years past. When they had finished their confession, the

*sorvegliando severamente*

*acuto mugolio*

*saltellarono/ afferrarono*

*trascinarono*

*sanguinando*

*diventare completamente pazzi*

*stupore / si lanciarono*

*inchiodò / gridò per pietà*

*scapparono - code*

*schacciare*

*aspetto*

*come conseguenza*

*sgattaiolò via*

*ferito / ululando*

*subito dopo / finì*

*colpevolezza*

*visi*

*suggerimento*

*fin dalla*

*consegnare*

*aggiunsero*

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dogs promptly **tore** their throats out, and in a terrible voice Napoleon demanded whether any other animal had anything to confess.

The three hens who had been the **ringleaders** in the attempted rebellion over the eggs now came forward and **stated** that Snowball had appeared to them in a dream and **incited** them to disobey Napoleon's orders. They, too, were **slaughtered**. Then a **goose came forward** and confessed to having **secreted** six **ears of corn** during the last year's harvest and eaten them in the night. Then a sheep confessed to having urinated in the drinking pool - **urged** to do this, so she said, by Snowball - and two other sheep confessed to having murdered an old **ram**, an especially devoted follower of Napoleon, by **chasing him** round and round a **bonfire** when he was suffering from a **cough**. They were all **slain on the spot**. And so the **tale** of confessions and executions **went on**, until there was a pile of **corpses** lying before Napoleon's feet and the air was heavy with the smell of blood, which had been unknown there since the expulsion of Jones.

When it was all over, the remaining animals, except for the pigs and dogs, crept away **in a body**. They were **shaken** and **miserable**. They did not know which was more shocking - the **treachery** of the animals who **had leagued themselves** with Snowball, or the cruel retribution they had just **witnessed**. In the old days there had often been scenes of **bloodshed** equally terrible, but it seemed to all of them that it was far worse now that it was happening among themselves. Since Jones had left the farm, until today, no animal had killed another animal. Not even a rat had been killed. They had **made their way** on to

*lacerarono*

*capibanda*

*affermarono*

*incitati*

*macellati / oca*

*venne avanti / nascosto*

*pannocchie di mais*

*spinta*

*montone*

*rincorrendolo*

*falò*

*tosse / uccise sul posto*

*storia*

*continuò / cadaveri*

*tutti insieme*

*sconvolti / infelici*

*tradimento*

*che si erano alleati*

*testimoniato*

*versamento di sangue*

*si erano incamminati*

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the little knoll where the half-finished windmill stood, and with one accord they all **lay down** as though **huddling together for warmth** - Clover, Muriel, Benjamin, the cows, the sheep, and a whole flock of **geese** and hens - everyone, indeed, except the cat, who had suddenly disappeared just before Napoleon ordered the animals to assemble. For some time nobody spoke. Only Boxer remained on his feet. He **fidged** to and fro, **swishing** his long black tail **against** his sides and occasionally **uttering** a little **whinny** of surprise. Finally he said:

"I do not understand it. I would not have believed that such things could happen on our farm. It must be **due** to some **fault** in ourselves. The solution, as I see it, is to work harder. From now onwards I shall get up a full hour earlier in the mornings."

And he moved off at his **lumbering trot** and **made for** the **quarry**. Having got there, he collected two successive **loads** of stone and dragged them down to the windmill before retiring for the night.

The animals **huddled about** Clover, not speaking. The knoll where they were lying gave them a wide prospect across the countryside. Most of Animal Farm was within their view - the long pasture **stretching** down to the main road, the hayfield, the **spinney**, the drinking pool, the **ploughed fields** where the young **wheat** was **thick** and green, and the red **roofs** of the farm buildings with the smoke **curling** from the **chimneys**. It was a clear spring evening. The grass and the **bursting** hedges were **gilded** by the level rays of the sun. Never had the farm-and with a kind of surprise they remembered that it was

*si sdraiarono*  
*stringersi insieme per scaldarsi*  
**warmth** = calore moderato  
*oche*

*si dimenava avanti indietro / muovendo*  
*contro/ emettendo*  
*nitrito*

*dovuto / mancanza*

*faticoso trotto / si dirigeva*  
*cava*  
*carichi*

*si accovacciarono intorno a*

*che si estendeva*  
*boschetto / campi arati*  
*frumento / spesso*  
*tetti / attorcigliandosi*  
*comignoli*  
*sbocciando / indorati*

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their own farm, every inch of it their own property - appeared to the animals so desirable a place. As Clover looked down the hillside her eyes filled with tears. If she could have **spoken her thoughts**, it would have been to say that this was not what they had **aimed** at when they had set themselves years ago to work for the **overthrow** of the human race. These scenes of terror and **slaughter** were not what they **had looked forward** to on that night when old Major first **stirred** them to rebellion. If she herself had had any picture of the future, it had been of a society of animals **set free from hunger and the whip**, all equal, each working according to his capacity, the strong protecting the **weak**, as she had protected the lost **brood of ducklings** with her foreleg on the night of Major's speech. Instead - she did not know why - they had come to a time when no one **dared speak his mind**, when **fierce**, growling dogs **roamed** everywhere, and when you **had to watch** your comrades **orn to pieces** after confessing to shocking crimes. There was no thought of rebellion or disobedience in her mind. She knew that, even as things were, they **were far better off** than they had been in the days of Jones, and that **before all else** it was **needful** to prevent the return of the human beings. **Whatever happened** she would remain faithful, work hard, carry out the orders that were given to her, and accept the leadership of Napoleon. **But still**, it was not for this that she and all the other animals had hoped and **toiled**. It was not for this that they had built the windmill and faced the bullets of Jones's gun. Such were her thoughts, though she **lacked** the words to express them. **At last**, feeling this to be in some way a substitute for

*espresso i suoi pensieri*

*mirato*

*rovesciamento*

*macello*

*avevano anelato*

*li spronò*

*liberati dalla fame e dalla frusta*

*i deboli*

*nidiata di anatroccoli*

*osava dire ciò che pensasse*

*feroci / vagavano*

*dovevi ossevare*

*fatti a pezzi*

*stavano molto meglio*

*prima di ogni altra cosa*

*necessario*

*qualunque cosa succedesse*

*tuttavia*

*lavorato*

*le mancavano*

*alla fine*

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the words she was **unable** to find, she began to sing Beasts of England. The other animals sitting round her **took it up**, and they sang it three times **over** - very **tunefully**, but slowly and **mournfully**, in a way they had never sung it before.

*incapace*

*la seguirono / di seguito  
intonati / tristemente*

They had just finished singing it for the third time when Squealer, attended by two dogs, approached them with the air of having something important to say. He announced that, by a special decree of Comrade Napoleon, Beasts of England had been abolished. From now onwards it was **forbidden** to sing it.

*proibito*

The animals were **taken aback**.

*presi alla sprovvista*

"Why?" cried Muriel.

"It's no longer needed, comrade," said Squealer **stiffly**. "Beasts of England was the song of the Rebellion. But the Rebellion is now completed. The execution of the traitors this afternoon was the final act. The enemy both external and internal has been **defeated**. In Beasts of England we expressed our **longing** for a better society **in days to come**. But that society has now been established. Clearly this song **has no longer any purpose**."

*rigidamente*

*sconfitto  
desiderio / nei giorni futuri*

*non ha più nessuno scopo*

**Frightened** though they were, some of the animals might possibly have protested, but at this moment the sheep set up their usual bleating of "Four legs good, two legs bad," which went on for several minutes and put an end to the discussion.

*spaventati*

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So Beasts of England was heard no more. In its place Minimus, the poet, had composed another song which began:

Animal Farm, Animal Farm,  
Never through me **shalt thou come to harm!**  
and this was sung every Sunday morning after the hoisting of the flag. But somehow neither the words nor the tune ever seemed to the animals **to come up** to Beasts of England.

*ti sarà inflitto del male*

**shalt** = shall    **thou** = you

*essere all'altezza*

