

# Henrietta's Egg

1 Scrambled Egg.

## *Characters*

Old MacDonald.

Henrietta Hen.

Walter.

Cheepy Chick. (Starts inside giant egg)

Reporter.

From behind a curtain there are loud and frantic chicken noises, and exclamations from Old MacDonald like:

"Ooo Ahhh! Good grief," and "Oooo Ahhh! Come on Henni you can do it,"

After a minute all goes quiet and Old MacDonald emerges from behind the curtain.

Mac: Ooo Ahh! Well I never. I've never seen anything like it! It's the biggest, the most ginormous, the most .... most stupendous one I've ever seen.

(He takes down the curtain to reveal Henrietta Hen looking exhausted, standing beside an enormous egg)

Mac: Oooo Ahhh Well done! Well done Henni. It's one for the papers this you know. What a whopper! It'll be front page news. It might even get in the Daily Eggxpress. It might even be in the Guinness book of records!!

Hen: (Just looks at him exhausted)

Mac: Ooo Ahh! I'm off to tell old Walter. I'm sure he's never had one this big. Cor... what a whopper! Mind you look after it carefully now Henni. I wouldn't like anything to happen to it now.

(Old Mac leaves the stage, muttering things like: "Well I'm blowed", and, "what a whopper!")

Hen: Oh listen to him wittering on, getting all excited. It's me that's made all the effort, and it's me that's got to look after this thing now I've got it. I mean, look at it. I've got to sit on that thing for .... I don't know .... ever and ever. Oh well, I suppose I haven't got any choice. Here goes.

(Hen tries to get on to the egg but can't)

Hen: See what I mean!? What a bother! Still I suppose I haven't got any choice. I know, I'll cuddle it. That should be as good as sitting on it.

(Hen cuddles up to the egg and all goes quiet)

Hen: (Jumping up) Oh dear, Oh dear, Oh dearie me! This is so, so, so ,boring. I mean I'm not one for just sitting around. I like to be out and about. I like a night on the town. Or.. Or .. Or ... Or a good Hen Party. But I've got to just sit here with this!

(Cuddles up to the egg again)

Hen: (Jumping up) No, it's no good, I can't do it. I've just got to get away, I need some fresh air. (looking at the audience) Look, will you help me? Will you just keep an eye on the egg for me? and can you keep your ears open as well? If you hear Old Bossy boots MacDonald coming back give me a shout. Now what can you shout? (Thinks) I know, shout: "Egg-mergency, Egg-mergency!" Will you do that for me?

(After a little Ad-lib chat and practice with audience Hen leaves the stage)

Suddenly off stage Old Mac and Walter are heard talking loudly.

Audience: Egg-mergency, Egg-mergency!

(Hen comes spluttering back to the egg just as Old Mac and Walter come on stage)

Mac: See for yourself then Walt! (Points to egg)

Walt: (Astonished) Well .. Well .. Well .. I'll be jiggered, it's true, its ... it's ... it's ... it's enormous!"

Mac: Come off it Walt, it's GINORMOUS! It's the biggest one you've ever seen.

(Hen stands by egg smiling benignly)

Mac: Well done Henni. I see you're looking after it. You stay right by it. I've phoned the newspaper and they're sending a man over straight away. I couldn't get through to the Daily Eggxpress, so I called the local rag: the Eggles Independent. Just look after this egg my girl. With this all our troubles will be over.

(Hen nods obediently, Mac and Walt leave the stage)

Hen Who does he think he is? Ordering me about like that! (To audience) Look you lot, I'm off to visit my friend Helga next door. Do you remember the word? (Egg-mergency) You watch the egg. If anything happens, shout as loud as you can.

(Hen leaves the stage and all is quiet)

Chick begins banging on egg, louder and louder until audience hear and start to shout. At shouting Hen rushes back - but all has gone quiet - Hen scolds audience for playing games with her, leaves the stage.

Chick peeps out of egg. At shouting Hen returns but all is quiet and still. Hen again scolds the audience.

This goes on several times, each time chick shows herself a little more, and each time Hen gets more annoyed with the audience.

On the agreed last time Chick peeps out, audience shout, but Hen shouts back and refuses to come. Chick pushes top right off Egg and jumps out, leaving egg on it's side. Chick runs off stage.

Audience shout louder. Hen eventually returns.

Hen: (Looking at Egg) Wa... Wa.. Wa ... What's happened? (Looks straight at Audience) Why didn't you tell me? (bit of to and fro banter, Oh yes we did, Oh no you didn't etc) But this, this this .. is terrible! Old bossy boots MacDonald is going to .... (Hen pauses and swallows hard) he's going to .... to ....

(Mac and reporters voices are heard off stage, Hen rushes to try and make the egg look good but is caught in the act)

Mac: Henni! Henni!.... What have you done!?

(Hen shrugs her shoulders and looks like she is going to cry)

Mac: My Egg, My Egg, (looks inside) It's .. it's .. its empty! My passport to happiness, my .. my. (Holds head in hands)

Reporter: (sarcastically) Well I'll be off then. There doesn't seem to be anything very EGG citing around here does there. I suppose you thought this was some sort of YOKE did you! Well the whole story seemed somewhat Eggxtraordinary from the start, and now, well now it all seems a bit hollow to me! (Reporter leaves muttering) Giant Egg my foot Huh!

Mac: Oh well Henni, something else will turn up I'm sure. Don't you worry, you never know, you might lay another like that.

Hen: (looks very perplexed and staggers at the thought)

(Mac and Hen leave the stage. As they do Chick quickly runs across the back of the stage and disappears on the other side. They do not notice)