

Early★Reader

The Chicken Knitters

Lilly loves to knit. When she discovers
Farmer Claw's poor chickens all
cooped up and cold, she realises she
has some work on her hands.

Can Lilly free the chickens and stop
Farmer Claw with her knitting skills?

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Cath Jones

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By Cath Jones

Illustrated by
Sean Longcroft



'The Chicken Knitters'

An original concept by Cath Jones

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Chapter 1

Clickety-click-click. Lilly was busy knitting in her bedroom. Suddenly, she heard a strange noise coming in through her open window. CLUCK-SOB-SIGH.



It was coming from Old Barn Farm at the end of the road.

Lilly had heard about Farmer Claw's chicken farm. He didn't care if his hens were happy or not. Eggs, eggs, eggs: that was all that mattered.

Lilly wondered if the strange sound might be coming from some unhappy hens. She tucked her knitting needles behind her ears and grabbed her enormous knitting bag. She had to find out.

The barn door was locked but that didn't stop Lilly. She poked a knitting needle into

the lock. Clickety-click-click, the door swung open. Lilly gasped. Hundreds of chickens were crammed into the barn and they had hardly any feathers!

“Hello girls,” she whispered sadly. “Has Farmer Claw not been looking after you properly?”

The chickens gazed up at her with unhappy eyes.

“Chin up, chickens,” Lilly said. “I’m here to help.”

She popped open her big bag and quick as a flash, three chickens dashed over and



climbed in. Dozens more chickens darted out through the door. Every evening, Lilly tiptoed back to the barn and rescued more chickens. By the weekend, Farmer Claw was hopping mad.

“Where are my chickens?” he roared. He stamped his feet, gnashed his teeth and jumped up and down! “Just you wait until I catch you,” he yelled, “you chicken thieving gangsters.” He slammed shut the big barn door and... CLINK!

A knitting needle fell out of the lock. Farmer Claw stared at it suspiciously.



Chapter 2

Lilly gazed round her bedroom. There were chickens everywhere!

She gave each one a name. Ginger nested under the bed, Gloria settled on top of the wardrobe and Gladys snoozed in Lilly’s sock drawer.

“Brrrrrrrrr!” Gloria shivered.

