

THE UGLY DUCKLING • SYNOPSIS

In a beautiful field, next to a lake, a duck has laid three eggs. One of them is different from the rest: it is bigger and has lots of colours. When they hatch, the mother duck notices that Pat, our protagonist, is different from her sisters. The sisters start laughing at her when they realise she is very colourful. Their mother scolds them: "Don't make fun of your sister for being different." But the sisters don't pay her any attention.

After some time of being ridiculed by her two sisters, Pat runs away from the fields to look for a place where she won't be made fun of for being different. On the way she sees some beautiful birds; she doesn't know what kind of birds they are, but she thinks: What beautiful birds they are! What I would give to look like them.

In the distance, she sees a farm full of animals. It doesn't take her very long to make new friends: the piglet, the rabbit, the cow, and the sheep. The farmer decides that she can stay but only if she lays eggs. Oh, but Pat can't lay eggs...so the farmer throws her off the farm.

Pat feels very sad but leaves the farm. Suddenly winter comes. She has nowhere to go so she hides in a cave to wait out the cold. Not for a day or two...not even for a month. Pat stays in the cave for three months! But the good weather comes and she comes out. She sees herself reflected in the lake. She looks at the image and, to her surprise, she has turned into a swan! Just like the swans she saw on her journey. Pat is now a swan!

Pat decides to go and find her new swan friends and live happily together. Sometimes just because you feel different doesn't mean you are not as good; it may be that you are not a duck, but a beautiful swan.