

REMINDER

A little fairy tale against the war for children and grown ups



Part I – The Nightmare of the Bomb

REMINDER

*There are things to do every day:
wash, study, play,
Set the table
at mid-day.*

*There are things to do at night:
close your eyes, sleep,
have dreams to dream,
and ears not to hear.*

*There are things to never do,
neither day nor night,
neither by sea nor by land
For example, war.*

(Gianni Rodari)



Once upon a time there was a farm, which was called the animal farm, because animals had rebelled against the exploitation of their ancient master: man.

It was the three fat pigs who pushed the animals to riot, and with kicks, bites and horns, the man had been driven from the farm.

And since the piglets had led all the other animals into the fight, they had then divided control of the farm into three parts.



*There, comrades, is the answer to all our problems.
It is summed up in a single word-- Man.*

[ASCENDING PIGS REEL](#)
[ASCENDING PIGS - YouTube](#)

Despite being few, the piglets kept for themselves the vast majority of the products of the farm, the result of the hard work of all the other animals.

In addition to fattening themselves, they threw the dogs the remnants of their succulent binges, and in return the dogs made sure that no farm animal dared to rebel against the piglets.



As soon as they were weaned, the dogs had been taken away from their mothers, and the pigs had said that they would make themselves responsible for their education. They took them up into a loft which could only be reached by a ladder from the harness-room, and there kept them in such seclusion that the rest of the farm soon forgot their existence.

*War is Peace
Freedom is Slavery
Ignorance is Strength*

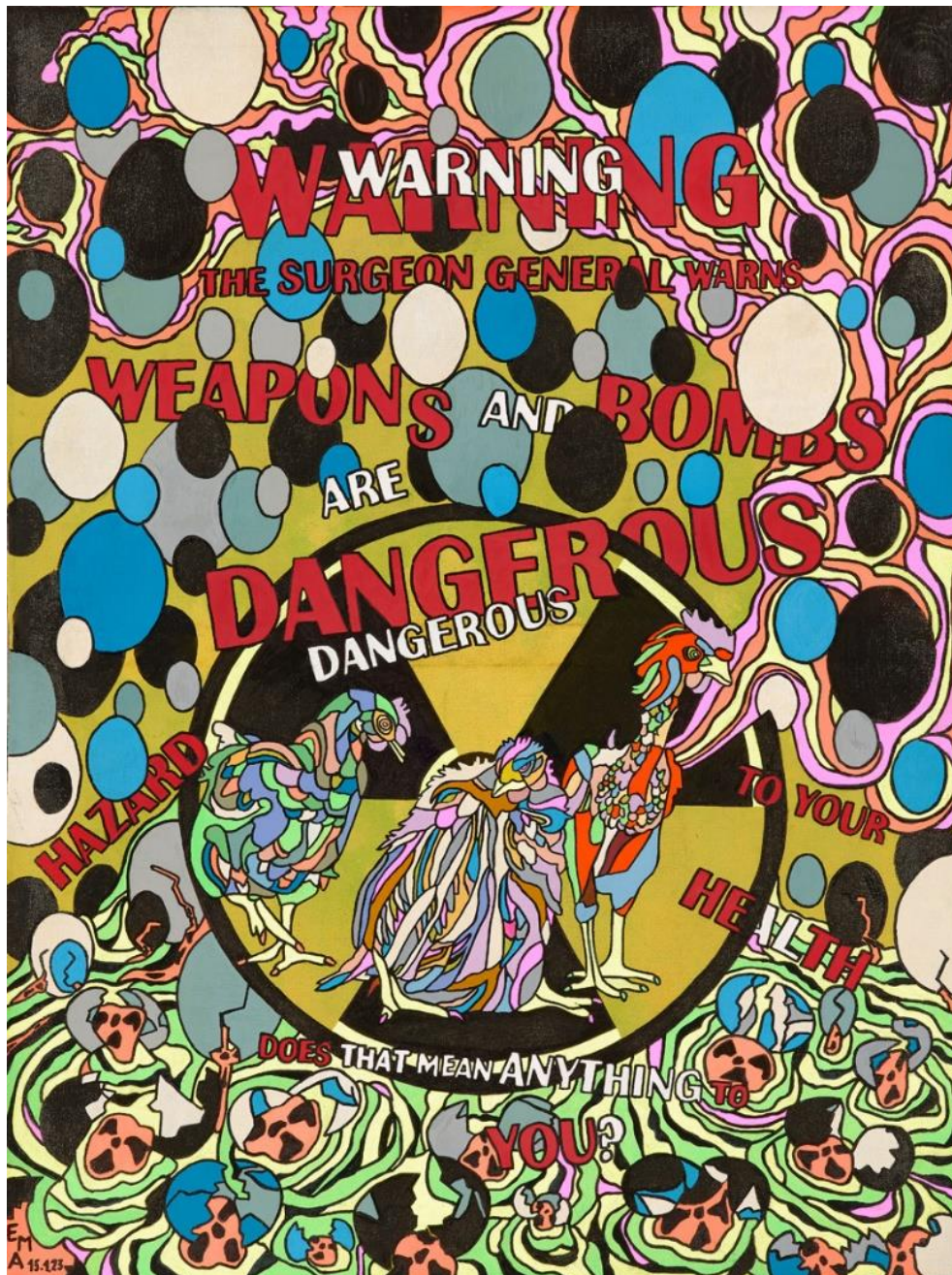
[WAR IS PEACE - YouTube](#)

However, the three pigs were so greedy, that none of them could be satisfied with their share, each wanting to take those of the brothers and keep the whole farm for themselves.

Thus, each of them secretly hatched the plan to eliminate the other two, subdue the other animals and become the sole and undisputed master of the farm.

The hatred among the pig brothers kept growing, until it became so great that they invested much of the farm's resources in building murderous weapons, rockets and bombs, and gave them to their dogs to throw them at each other.

But in the end, it was mainly the chickens that died under the bombs. All their eggs were contaminated, and no more chicks were born.



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.

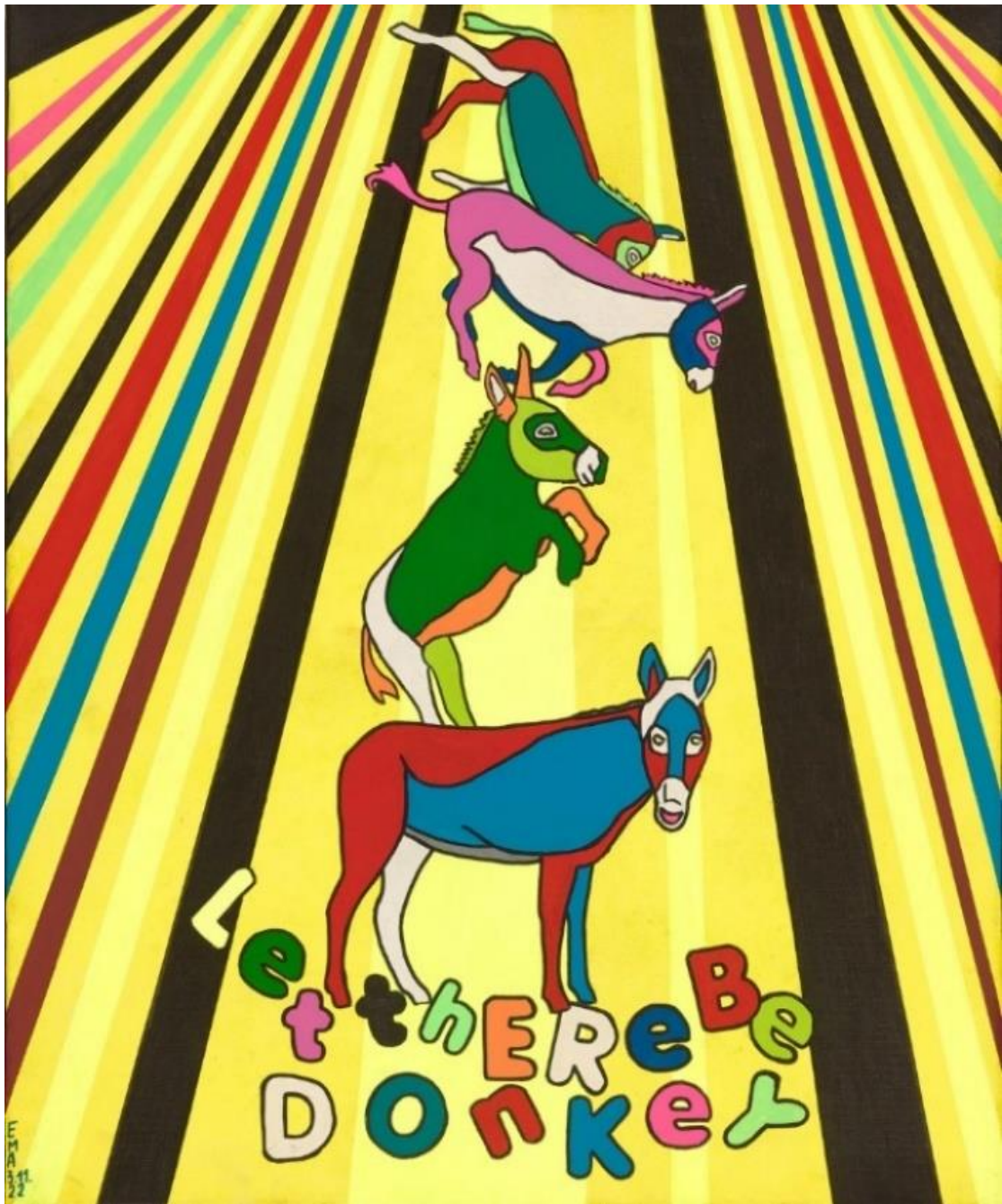
The war which is coming

*The war which is coming
is not the first one.
There were
other wars before it.
When the last one came to an end
there were conquerors and conquered.
Among the conquered the common people
starved. Among the conquerors
the common people starved too.*

(Bertolt Brecht)



The old donkey prudently stood aside,
not wanting to have any problems with any of the three pigs.



*Donkeys live a long time.
None of you has ever seen a dead donkey.*

[LET THERE BE DONKEY REEL](#)
[LET THERE BE DONKEY - YouTube](#)

The cows, on the other hand, which until now had been quiet ruminating, began to worry and to moan loudly.



But at this moment the cows, who had seemed uneasy for some time past, set up a loud lowing.

[NEUTRAL COWS REEL](#)

As for the cat, it was hiding as always somewhere.

Some animals suspected that he played a double, if not triple, game, and in the meantime, he seemed to gain weight too, despite the wartime restrictions from which all animals suffered, except piglets and dogs.



*It was soon noticed that whenever there was work to be done
the cat could never be found.*

[LAST CAME THE CAT REEL](#)
[LAST CAME THE CAT - YouTube](#)

And in the meantime, it was the sheep that died, those same sheep that had never even dreamed of rebelling against the will of the pigs in their lives.



*Of late the sheep had taken to bleating "Four legs good, two legs bad"
both in and out of season, and they often interrupted the meeting with this.*

*Harmlessly passing your time in the grassland away
Only dimly aware of a certain unease in the air
You better watch out
There may be dogs about ¹*

[SUICIDAL SHEEP REEL](#)
[SUICIDAL SHEEP - YouTube](#)

¹ Pink Floyd, Animals, Sheep

Brothers

*What regiment are you from
Brothers?
Word trembling
In the night
Newborn leaf
In the spasmic air
Involuntary revolt
Of man living his own
Fragility
Brothers*

(Giuseppe Ungaretti)



But since no pig alone could prevail over the other two, all three built, each on their own, new bombs even more terrible than the old ones, and that would have been enough to completely raze the farm to the ground and kill all the animals, including the pigs; and openly threatening each other, they ordered the cocks of their respective armies not to hesitate to use them, if necessary to win the war.



At any given moment there is an orthodoxy, a body of ideas which it is assumed that all right-thinking people will accept without question.

[THE LAST DAWN \(NUCLEAR COCKFIGHT\) - YouTube](#)

August 6

*can we forget that flash?
suddenly 30,000 in the streets disappeared
in the crushed depths of darkness
the shrieks of 50,000 died out
when the swirling yellow smoke thinned
buildings split, bridges collapsed
packed trains rested singed
and a shoreless accumulation of rubble and embers - Hiroshima*

(TÔGE Sankichi)



Part II – The Revolt of the Donkey and the Happy Beasts

The war of the pigs had been going on for days and days, without respite, and without any of the three enemy brothers being able to achieve the final victory over the other two.

At one point, bomb explosions caused dogs and cats to fly through the air. After flying high in the sky, full of fear, the cats and dogs fell to the ground, scattering themselves here and there around the farm.

They, too, began to regret not having opposed the war wanted by the pigs.

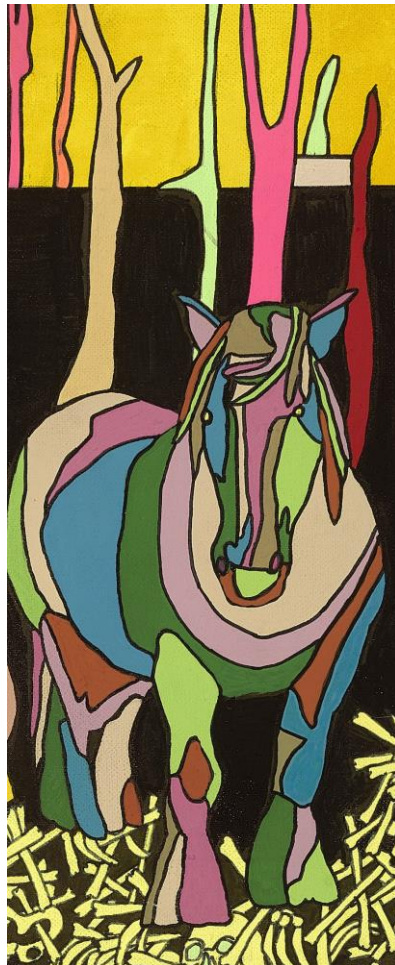


[SINGING IN THE RAIN REEL](#)

The Deserter

*Mr President,
I am writing you a letter
That you will read, perhaps
If you have the time
I just received
My military papers
To go to the war
Before Wednesday evening
Mr President
I don't want to do that
I am not on this earth
To kill any poor people
It's not to make you angry
I must say to you
My decision is made
I am going to desert*

(Boris Vian)



But the bad surprises were not over for the dogs and cats, who had thought they could take advantage of the war, allying themselves in their own way with the three pigs, but miscalculating their accounts.

When they landed, in fact, a great kick in the back awaited them, which was imparted to them with great violence by a young rebellious donkey who did not want to know more about this senseless war.

Back to flying, the cats made one last attempt to catch some butterfly with their sharp claws, but the butterflies dodged them without even being a little afraid of them, to fly lightly towards freedom.

Below them, two fat, placid cows watched the donkey's revolt with hope, although not without some concern.



[BREAKING FREE, FREEDOM AND FREEDOM AGAIN REEL](#)

Like butterflies, birds also mocked cats, which wriggled in the air in an attempt to catch and devour them.

Very fast, the birds took advantage of the updrafts to climb so high, that none of the cats could even snatch a feather from them.

All that remained was for the cats to be content to have landed once more on their paws, even if on an empty stomach.

And without even a meow, after stretching well, they sat quietly, on the sidelines, as if nothing had happened.



FREEDOM REEL
FREEDOM AGAIN REEL

The pigs watched with terror as their armies were defeated and fled. Meanwhile, the other animals had regained courage and joined the donkey revolt. They had suffered greatly, and now they were looking for the piglets to give them the lesson they deserved. So, as soon as night fell, the pigs decided to flee the farm, taking with them everything they could grab and transport.

But among the dogs, there was a dog named Stella, who until then had gone about her business. Stella wasn't very beautiful, but she was always very hungry. And that day, by chance, she really wanted a nice feast of piglet cutlets. Seeing the pigs so fat, running blindly in her direction, without even noticing her, so short and stocky, she had to do nothing but open wide her mouth. She had a big mouth!

The three evil pigs, one after the other, slipped in very fast, like Pinocchio in the belly of the whale, and Stella swallowed them as an anaconda would have done.

Once those three pigs in the belly, Stella stretched and stretched more and more, until she became the longest hot dog in the world.

Then she burped, and satisfied, rolled up on herself to take a well-deserved nap. Shortly after, in her sleep, Stella raised her tail a little, and with voluptuousness, one after the other, vented three very long hissing farts, which, for a few minutes, remained to terribly impede the air.

At the end of the war, the only remains of the three piglets and of their ambitions were three hot dog farts.

Fortunately, soon, the wind swept away those too.



The war

*It's beautiful, those military marches,
Marching in our uniforms we feel so strong.
We slow down quickly our fanfare,
As soon as we approach the front.*

*War,
That's for sure,
It's hard
To endure,
O mocking fate!*

*But what
A beautiful feast,
When it
Is past,
And we are alive!*

(Georges Brassens)



And so, as it began, the war on animal farm ended.

The animals were tired of all that hatred, all that suffering,
and they mourned their dead brothers and sisters.

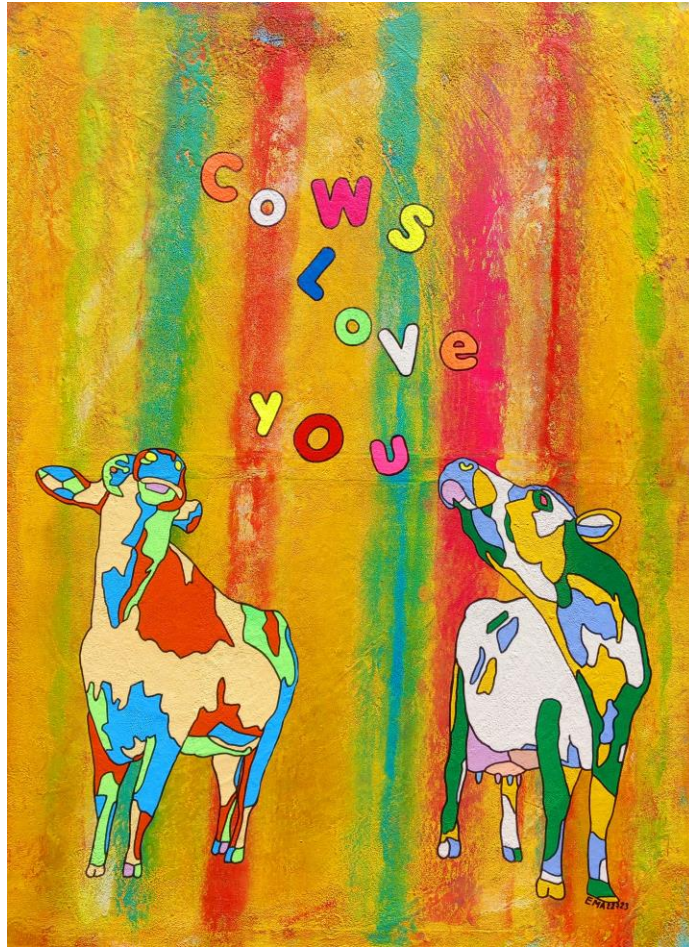
But suddenly, the kitten jumped off the balcony to reach the big dog,
and from that day they became best friends, and never broke up.



If the dog and the cat can live together, the cows said then, maternally,
why can't we all be friends too?

All the animals agreed with the good cows. And since what remained
of the bad pigs had long since been returned to the earth by the good dog Stella,
the animals decided by mutual agreement that the cows would run the farm.

And the cows and all animals together wrote a new constitution for the farm, but this time they no longer called it constitution, because not all animals had understood, in the past, what that difficult word meant.



So they decided to name it

REMINDER

And the reminder went like this:

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