



Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer

By Kelly Jones

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Fans of Polly Horvath or Roald Dahl will love this quirky story of a determined girl, and some extraordinary chickens.

Twelve-year-old Sophie Brown feels like a fish out of water when she and her parents move from Los Angeles to the farm they've inherited from a great-uncle. But farm life gets more interesting when a cranky chicken appears and Sophie discovers the hen can move objects with the power of her little chicken brain: jam jars, the latch to her henhouse, the *entire* henhouse....

And then more of her great-uncle's unusual chickens come home to roost. Determined, resourceful Sophie learns to care for her flock, earning money for chicken feed, collecting eggs. But when a respected local farmer tries to steal them, Sophie must find a way to keep them (and their superpowers) safe.

Told in letters to Sophie's *abuela*, quizzes, a chicken-care correspondence course, to-do lists, and more, *Unusual Chickens* is a quirky, clucky classic in the making.

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Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer By Kelly Jones Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #284570 in Books
- Brand: Alfred A Knopf Books for Young Readers
- Published on: 2015-05-12
- Released on: 2015-05-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.56" h x .88" w x 5.81" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4–6—Sophie Brown is new to farm life, new to being one of the only "brown people" in town (the others being her mother and Gregory, the mailman), and definitely new to caring for chickens—and these are some challenging chickens. To help herself adjust to life away from Los Angeles and her extended family, she writes letters to her great-uncle Jim and her beloved Abuelita, both recently deceased, and embarks on a correspondence course in poultry care with the mysterious Agnes of Redwood Farm Supply. Agnes's poorly typed responses assure Sophie that the chickens that keep turning up on the farm (including Henrietta, a small white hen with a permanent unibrow of fury) belonged to her great-uncle, from whom Sophie's father inherited the farm and who implores her to keep the chickens safe—and to be careful. But how will she protect chickens that are capable of levitating their own coop, becoming invisible, and turning enemies to stone? And why does the town's resident chicken expert, Ms. Griegson, seem intent on stealing Sophie's brood? Told in letters, quizzes, newspaper clippings, and delicious ink drawings reminiscent of Quentin Blake, this middle grade epistolary novel has a little magic and a lot of warm family humor. Jones delivers a dynamic Latina protagonist in Sophie, who describes her experiences in satisfying detail: the discomfort of facing microaggressions based on her heritage (such as when the town librarian assumes that she and her family are migrant workers); love and concern for her parents, both struggling to find and keep work; and willingness to learn and grow despite typical tween self-consciousness. VERDICT Readers will cheer for Sophie and clamor for more of those amazing chickens. Exceptional, indeed.—Amy Martin, Oakland Public Library, CA

Review

"A delightful protagonist, interesting fowl of various breeds and a cast of appealing second-string characters make this a top pick for young readers, poultry fanciers or not."

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"Readers will cheer for Sophie and clamor for more of those amazing chickens. Exceptional, indeed."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

"Someone has finally written a real honest-to-goodness novel with chickens! This news will excite people who like novels, people who like chickens...and chickens. It is an unusual book!"

--Daniel Pinkwater, author of *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency*, and pioneer of chicken-lit.

"The combination of real-life emotion and otherworldly farming makes for a comedic story with the right amount of pathos."--*Booklist*

About the Author

KELLY JONES has worked as a librarian and a bookseller, and is a raiser of (much-loved, but fairly ordinary) chickens. This is her first novel. You can find her at her website: curiosityjones.net, or on Twitter: @curiosityjones.

KATIE KATH earned an MFA from the Savannah College of Art and Design and works as a freelance illustrator. You can learn more about her work at ktkath.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Inocencia Hensley:

As people who live in often the modest era should be up-date about what going on or info even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which you should start with. This Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Marietta Allred:

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Ilene Bixler:

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