



# Hen-Picked

## By Cara Bafile

### **ANNOUNCER:**

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to *Boss Me Around*, the show in which a few lucky wannabe's compete for the chance to become one of tomorrow's business leaders. Let's give it up for our host, Donald Trumpeter Swann.

### **DONALD:**

Thank you! I'd like to introduce you to the CEO who will choose an apprentice today. You've probably already heard about this hard-working business-hen through children's stories. You might not know, however, that she started out as a single-fowl operation -- planting the wheat, harvesting it, grinding it into flour, and baking it into bread with her own two wings. Today, she really has something to crow about; she manages a nationwide chain of *Light as a Feather* bakeshops. Let's give a warm welcome to Little Red Hen!

### **LITTLE RED HEN:**

It's so nice to bawk, I mean *talk* with you, Donald.

### **DONALD:**

Likewise, Red. From the spring in your strut, you certainly seem to be fit and fabulous. Why are you looking for an assistant?

### **LITTLE RED HEN:**

Donald, I built my company by the squeak of my beak, and now I want to live like a bird of paradise. I'm looking for someone to keep the ovens hot while I take off some time to kick up my claws.

**DONALD:**

I see. So, you want to bake your bread and eat it too. Can you tell us what you're looking for in an apprentice?

**LITTLE RED HEN:**

I want an apprentice who can keep the company cooking and the dough rising; someone who won't ruffle feathers when an ill wind blows; someone who won't lay an egg when the going gets tough.

**DONALD:**

Do you prefer to hire poultry?

**LITTLE RED HEN:**

It's worked for me! But I'm just squawking. Baking isn't just for the birds. My apprentice doesn't have to *be* a chicken; he or she just has to *respect* chickens.

**DONALD:**

Well, then, let's get started! As you know, we've found three contestants who are eager to become your right-wing man -- or woman, as the case may be. Let's bring them in.

**ANNOUNCER:**

He's in security at a chicken coop and says his booming voice sets him apart from the flock. Give a doggone long round of applause for Bernard! [All applaud.]

She's a manicurist with a quiet demeanor, but if there's a rat in the organization, she's the one to sniff it out. Say hey to Kitty! [All applaud.]

Last, but not least, this champion swimmer always quacks up the competition. Give a down-right warm welcome to Mallard! [All applaud.]

**DONALD:**

Welcome, everyone. As you know, Red, we scratched and pecked to find the three best candidates in the land. We hoped they'd make a terrific team to help you in your bakery. Unfortunately, they aren't able to work together. So, you'll have to whittle down the selection to a single apprentice. Who should be eliminated first?

**LITTLE RED HEN:**

Donald, it's clear to me who must fly the coop. Kitty, you and Bernard fight like cats and dogs, and you duck all Mallard's attempts to be friendly. If you can't get along with your fellow apprentices, you'll never get along with the chicks that work for me. You're fired!

**DONALD:**

Thank you, Red. Kitty, best of luck in your future pursuits. Red, I understand you have a few questions for our remaining contestants.

**LITTLE RED HEN:**

Yes, Donald. First, I'd like them to understand that I'm a wings-on leader, not one who watches from the catbird's seat. I get involved in every phase of production -- from farming to delivery. So, I'd like to know first, which one of you will help me plant the wheat?

**BERNARD:**

Not I.

**MALLARD:**

Not I.

**LITTLE RED HEN:**

I see. Who will help me harvest it?

**BERNARD:**

Not I.

**MALLARD:**

Not I.

**LITTLE RED HEN:**

Interesting. Who will help me grind the wheat into flour?

**BERNARD:**

Not I.

**MALLARD:**

Not I.

**LITTLE RED HEN:**

I think I'm beginning to understand. Who will help bake the bread?

**BERNARD:**

Not I.

**MALLARD:**

Not I.

**LITTLE RED HEN:**

Who will help me eat the bread?

**BERNARD:**

Woof! I will.

**MALLARD:**

Quack! It would be a pleasure.

**DONALD:**

Well, Red, you have your answers. Who do you choose as your apprentice?

**LITTLE RED HEN:**

Donald, I cluck about this every day. No one wants to do the work, but everyone wants the reward. I won't hire either of these lazy creatures. They're both just in it for the bread -- and they're *both* fired!

**DONALD:**

There you have it. Thank you, Red, and thanks to our contestants. This is Donald Trumpeter Swann saying goodbye until next time.

**LITTLE RED HEN:**

Say, Donald, you seem like a good egg. Would you consider joining my company?

