

Anya Faulkner

Alison Butler

The sun shines down on Roberts Farm. All the animals are in the barn. Pokey pig and her six piglets, The cows, the chickens, ducks and cygnets.

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Under the barn there lives a rat With beady eyes and fur jet black. He's lived down there since he was small But really has no friends at all.

Every night, while the animals sleep, He pops upstairs in the hope he'll meet A little friend to share his home.

He's so fed up of being alone.

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But every time he shows his face The night-time creatures leave in haste.

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They hold their noses and run by. Poor Reggie Rat does not know why!

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"What's wrong with me?" he says out loud. "You Stink!" a sneery voice meowed.

> It was Tom, the old farm cat, Who had been watching Reggie Rat.

"You seem like quite a friendly chap. I'm sure they'd love to have a chat

## But none of them can stand your smell. If I ate you I'd be unwell!"

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