



Munch and the Magic Munch Box

Once upon a Munch Time there was a cow called Munch. She lived on a lovely little farm with her farmer and the other cows in her herd. Her farmer called her 'Munch' because her favourite pastime was munching fresh green grass alongside her best friend, Bunch. Her farmer called her 'Bunch' because she had an unusually long forelock which she liked to wear in bunches!

Munch had a nice life but she wasn't content. She felt average and wanted to be really special to make her farmer proud. She wanted to be a superstar!

One day, as she was munching, she spotted something sparkly in the undergrowth. She nudged it out with her velvety nose and to her amazement the box began to speak! It said **"I am a Magic Munch Box. Inside me are 3 apples. Each apple, when eaten, will grant you one magic wish!"** Well, Munch could not believe her luck and had no trouble deciding what to wish for. She ate one of the apples and said **"I wish I was the cleverest, best looking, best milk producing cow in the whole world!"** When Munch looked down at her legs she was amazed to see that they were no longer black and white, but pink! She had turned totally pink from head to hoof and what's more, her milk had turned to strawberry milkshake! Her farmer could not believe his eyes at milking time. Munch was so proud.

Very soon word got round about the pink cow who could produce strawberry milkshake and she was in all the newspapers and on television. Munch's new life as a celebrity cow began. She made appearances at fetes, shows, parties (including the Queen's annual garden party!) and even appeared on celebrity television reality shows! She travelled the country and had the best treatment befitting of a celebrity cow. She ate the tastiest food, she stayed in the warmest barns and slept on the most comfortable straw beds. All Munch's dreams had come true, but she wasn't happy. In fact she was very sad. She was lonely. She missed her farm and her farmer and most of all she missed Bunch. Her amazing new life meant nothing because she had no one to share it with.

One day at a school fete, Munch was feeling particularly dejected. She stood with her head held low, trying not to cry. Before long a sister and brother called Evie and Jude approached her. Munch noticed that they didn't point and gawp at her like most people did but, instead, looked concerned. **"Whatever is the matter?"** they asked kindly. Munch had been brave for so long but could bear it no longer and burst into big cow tears which ran down her face for at least five minutes and made big pools on the ground. Evie and Jude were glad they had worn their wellies! Finally she managed to tell them the whole story about how she had found the Magic Munch Box and had wished to be special but now how she just wanted to go home. **"Don't worry Munch,"** said Evie and Jude, **"We will come back soon."** And they hurried off. Munch managed a brave little smile.

Later that day Munch was surprised to see that the children had kept their word, they had come back to the fete and were running up to her looking very excited and carrying something sparkly. It was the Magic Munch Box! **"We found it!"** they cried, **"And there are still two apples inside, which means two more wishes!"** Munch was overjoyed, **"Thank you so much,"** she gushed **"How can I ever repay you?!"**



Munch ate the second apple and before long found herself back on her farm. Her farmer and Bunch were overjoyed.

Munch tried to think how she could repay Evie and Jude for their kindness. Suddenly she remembered the third apple! She ate it and wished...

When Evie and Jude next opened their fridge they were amazed to see the biggest bottle of strawberry milkshake they had ever seen. They drank it, and were even more amazed to see that it magically refilled! Munch had wished for them a lifetime's supply of strawberry milkshake!

Munch was so happy to be an average cow again. She spent her days munching grass with Bunch. Her farmer told her every day how much he loved her just the way she was, and Evie and Jude came to visit often.

One day she was ruminating with her best friend Bunch and she said, "You know, Bunch, being a superstar is nice, but what really matters are the people (and cows!) who love you." "Aaaaw" said Bunch, "Now MOOOOVE over you daft old bovine!!" And both cows began to laugh...