



# Armadilly Chili

*Helen Ketteman , Will Terry (Illustrator)*

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Miss Billie Armadilly is hankering to make a pot of chili. Only she'll fix it all by herself because everyone else is too busy to lend a hand. Ketteman's Texas-style spin on "The Little Red Hen" is joined by the Southwestern warmth of Terry's paintings. Full color.

## Armadilly Chili Details

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Author : Helen Ketteman , Will Terry (Illustrator)

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## **From Reader Review Armadilly Chili for online ebook**

### **LauraW says**

If I were still teaching, especially in the lower grades, I would certainly add this book to a unit on re-writing folk tales. This is basically The Little Red Hen, translocated to the SouthWest. It would be an interesting book to read along with The Little Red Hen and then have the students write their own take-off version: Marie the Moose's Mousse, Aspice for Astronauts, whatever. Very colorful illustrations.

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### **Beverly says**

This is a very cute take on "The Little Red Hen," Texas-style. Miss Billie Armadilly's friends are a tarantula, a bluebird and a horned toad. Now I have lived in Texas most of my life and have never laid eyes on a bluebird here yet. Maybe the bluebirds lived in whatever part of Texas Helen Ketteman used to live. In the story, Miss Billie regrets turning her friends away in a huff when they didn't help with preparing the chili; but at least, when they show up at her house later, they come with apologies and don't come empty-handed. I really liked the story and the very colorful artwork, with the bulging-eyed animals.

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### **Mary says**

A Texas style retelling of The Little Red Hen. In this version, Miss Billie, an armadillo, is gathering the fixings for her homemade chili. She does get annoyed with her friends for not helping, but they all reconcile at the end and share a delicious feast together. A fun read aloud with a positive message.

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### **Maggi Rohde says**

I'm a big fan of fractured fairy tales, and this one is done well. It's another retelling of The Little Red Hen, with a southwestern slant. Not as well written as *Mañana Iguana*, but I appreciated the tarantula, and the ending is a welcome modification to the original you-didn't-help-so-you-can't-have-any. Also, the illustrations are absolutely gorgeous. A welcome addition to contemporary fairytale retellings.

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### **Benjamin Elliott says**

A retelling of the "little red hen" story, with a southwest flair. I particularly like the redemption story that this version tells at the end. It shows that the other characters have learned the value of friendship and sharing after having been punished for their initial laziness.

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## Dolly says

This is an interesting take on the story of The Little Red Hen. It has a southwestern flavor and the dialogue has a twang.

The illustrations are colorful and fun and the story puts us in the mood for a big ol' pot of chili.

Our youngest compared this story to Manana, Iguana, which I thought was pretty observant. We liked that one better, but all in all, we enjoyed reading this story together.

This story was selected as one of the books for the March 2017 - Humor reads at the Picture-Book Club in the Children's Books Group here at Goodreads.

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## Manybooks says

Helen Ketteman's [Armadilly Chili](#) is a fun Southwestern United States take on the *Little Red Hen* folktale thematic, although with more of a message promoting sharing, kindness, friendship and the need for all parties to apologise than the cautions against laziness and shirking one's responsibilities that are usually part and parcel to *Little Red Hen* type of stories (and while I guess not really all that necessary here, the folklorist in me still misses the inclusion of an author's note, detailing history and genesis of the *Little Red Hen* tradition and how the author came to consider her fun and entertainingly poetic rendition and adaptation of the same, her own [Armadilly Chili](#)).

A sweet message regarding the importance of not only friendship (and that sharing and the need to apologise and act contritely when necessary are important), but also that the company of friends always makes eating more communal and fun, and I for one also much relish and appreciate that while Miss Billie Armadilly obviously learns and realises this important lesson, her friends also have done so, also have understood their own roles played, for when they return, after having been at first turned away from sharing Miss Billie's chili, they return with apologies, and bearing conciliatory gifts of food and drink (so that in the end, the armadilly chili is but the main course of a fun and entertaining dinner party). And as to Will Terry's accompanying illustrations, they are bright and expressive (and I do love the colour schemes used, especially how the many hues of red and brown so totally bring out the ambience and atmosphere of the American Southwest, the arid desert landscapes of the latter). However, I for one, have definitely found at least some of the depicted characters a bit aesthetically creepy and strange (not really all that frightening, but still a trifle potentially uncanny, especially Tex and Taffy, a tarantula and a horned toad). Three stars!

And finally, I do feel it most necessary to point out I would absolutely NOT IN ANY WAY recommend the Kindle version of [Armadilly Chili](#), for while the illustrations have survived the transfer to an e-book format relatively intact (although a few of them do appear a bit out of focus), the text is so freaking tiny as to basically be illegible, even when zooming in, even when wearing reading glasses (I actually ended up purchasing a traditional paper copy of the book, because there was no way that I could read, that I could even adequately decipher the text on my Kindle for iPad, and I really do not want others to have the same issues and to be forced to basically purchase two copies of [Armadilly Chili](#)).

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## **SamZ says**

A cute retelling of "The Little Red Hen" with a Southwestern flare! I also loved the way everyone came together at the end to share a pot-luck meal and some friendship.

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## **Cheryl says**

Wow. My personal favorite fable of all time is The Little Red Hen. I \*so\* empathize with everyone gathering 'round the kitchen as the food is coming out of the oven, but not before. At the same time, it's in my nature to see all perspectives, to try to respect others' points of view. And yet, I could never find a way to forgive the lazy animals, or the family members. Until now. After 4 decades, I finally found a fresh take on a story that really needed it.

Thank you Helen Ketteman!

Lively illustrations, critters that aren't pigs and chickens, perfectly rhythmic text, bright colors.... Oh this is a wonderful book. Read it for yourself though, as I don't want to spoil the creative ending that makes it so perfect for me.

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## **Leslie Miller says**

Like

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## **Amanda says**

Full disclosure: on my own I'd probably give this book 4 stars, but with my kids input (they LOVED it; so much so that we read it approximately 39 times in the three weeks we had it on loan from the library...) I had to bump it up another. Any book that so completely captures a child's imagination deserves another star, dangit, and this one seemed to capture the interest of all *four of my kids (ages 4-11)*. *The illustrations are so vivid and colorful that I was immediately drawn in (plus, Miss Billie's angry expressions are CLASSIC), and the story didn't disappoint. It was a great balance of re-telling and new perspective with plenty of style thrown in which made it an easy one to read aloud in funny voices. :D*

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## **Kathryn says**

This was a fun take on "The Little Red Hen" with lots of Southwestern "flavor" -- I half expected a recipe for "Armadilly Chili" but then, given that beetles is one of the ingredients in the story, perhaps it's better that we have no recipe to replicate! ;-)

I actually didn't like the beginning of the story. I couldn't understand why the armadillo was so miffed at the other creatures for going off and playing instead of helping her with the chili. In "The Little Red Hen" it

seems pretty clear that all the animals live together and that the food is communal, thus, they should share the work load. Here, it just seemed like the armadillo had a whim to make some chili and expected her friends to help her out at the drop of a hat, even if they had other plans. But, of course, I have felt a little grumpy-jealous when my friends get to go off and play when I'm stuck work-work-working, and the sweet ending with its message of friendship makes up for the rather prickly beginning.

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### **Lynn Davidson says**

This is a southwestern twist on the story "The Little Red Hen." Miss Billie Armadilly can't get help making her chili, so when those friends come by later expecting to eat it they get turned away. Everyone has a change of heart which makes for an especially lovely ending. Great illustrations in bold colours.

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### **Jenny says**

This is such a fun and fresh take on The Little Red Hen, albeit one with a completely different lesson. The armadillo is grumpy because none of her friends will help her cook her chili. When her friends return, chilled and hungry and hoping for some chili, she doesn't feel like sharing when they didn't help make the chili. But eating the chili just isn't the same when you are eating it alone.

While the original is a cautionary tale against laziness and encourages industry, this tale encourages compassion, sharing, and kindness.

I really enjoyed the illustrations and the book.

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### **Judith says**

I love, love, love, love, love, love this book. It's hilarious! It's part of my second-grade Folktales Around the World unit and the kids love it. I also love doing all the Texan character voices during my read-aloud. Highly recommended!

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