

Translated extract from

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**Sybille Hein**  
**Tina Turnip's Tribulations**

**Translated by Richard Goddard**



## Tina Turnip's Tribulations

Tina Turnip has a dream:  
How she wants to be a queen!

Cows are very well, of course...  
But she swaps hers for a horse.

And on the present evidence,  
She needs a royal residence.

A horse, a castle, something's  
missing...  
Aha! She needs a king for kissing.

And who will wave the wedding  
banners?  
60 subjects with nice manners.

Peace, joy, ice-cream: what a  
treat!  
Her happiness is quite complete.

It seems to her.

'Till ten past four.

An ogre knocks upon the door.  
It tears the castle from the hill  
And swallows it just like a pill.

All her subjects do a runner  
The king won't stop until Vienna.  
They all escape at the last minute,  
Except for Tina, who's right in it.

Tina Turnip, farmgirl queen  
Trips up and is quickly seen.

"Help!" she cries, and starts to scream,  
"Come back this instant! Save your  
queen!"

But not one subject's left to hear her,  
Just the ogre, looming nearer.  
"Oh, to be back on the farm!"  
She squeals, and wriggles in alarm.

But that's not the path she's followed,  
Instead she's picked up and is  
swallowed.

There the story ends no doubt:

An ogre's guts have no way out.

Unless...

...It starts to thrash about,  
to groan and quiver, pant and shake,  
Which Tina finds quite hard to take.  
She's plenty to complain about...

Until the ogre spits her out.

And landing safely in the grass  
She wonders how it came to pass.

But then she sees her barnyard pals  
Are hanging on the ogre's tail.  
They've tripped it up just like a thief,  
And given it all sorts of grief.  
It turns a shade it didn't ought to 'a'  
And falls into the duck pond water.

Tina Turnip, farmgirl queen  
Is happier than she's ever been.  
She runs up to her four-legged  
friends,

And shyly tries to make amends:  
"Good day, M'dears, I meant no harm,  
Let's all go back to Turnip Farm."

Then Tina Turnip let's it rip  
And boots her crown into a skip.

As soon as Tina's through the door,  
She goes to bed and starts to snore.

And from the rustling pillows, deep,  
She starts to murmur in her sleep.  
And in her dreams, she has the  
thought,  
"I'd like to be an astronaut!"

Ten thousand stars shine down to  
show  
Ten thousand lights from long ago.

The End