

***Zero the cow***

By Alexander Laird

## *Chapter's*

**Chapter 1 Zero on the way to the farm**

**Chapter 2 Zero in the pen**

**Chapter 3 Zero meets the animals**

*Zero the cow*  
*Chapter 1*  
*Zero on the way to the farm*

Zero gazed out the trailer window. He wondered why he was in this thing. Eight hours later Zero saw that the man forgot to bolt the padlock. With a push of his nose, CLANG!!, Zero shoved the



padlock off the bar. Up in the drivers seat, the driver heard the clang. The driver, Harry, hurriedly put on the brakes and opened up the cab door. He stuck his large face out the door and noticed that the door of the trailer had come open. Harry jumped out of the cab, and just as he jumped out, Zero jumped out of the trailer. Harry reached into his truck and grabbed a halter. Harry started running after Zero.

Zero noticed that the man was chasing him. Zero thought to himself, Oh I can never make it. So he stopped and started grazing on grass. The man tied him to the fence row that Zero stood by. Harry walked back to the trailer and noticed Zero had no more cow food, so he walked up to the cab and got some more cow food and put it in Zero's feed bin. He also noticed that he had not bolted the padlock. Harry thought, *No wonder he got out!* Harry did not say it out loud because he couldn't talk.

Harry let Zero graze on the grass a little while, then he brought him back into the trailer. Zero was happy now that Harry had fed him, and didn't want to escape again. Then they started on their way.

About four hours later, Zero looked out the window and saw a big barn that he wanted to live in. There was a silo in the farm and he thought it was full of corn. He loved corn, which he liked to call corn bits. He wished he could go there and jump into that silo, full of corn bits. Zero loved corn bits. Then all of a sudden the truck turned into the BIG farm. Zero jumped up into the air and mooed for joy. Zero walked over to the door and waited for Harry. He loved farms. Zero would call this place home! But Zero did not know if he was going to live there. Harry might know the owner and was just visiting him. That would not be fair. Zero wanted to get out of the trailer.

## Chapter 2

# Zero in the pen

Zero finally got to go out of the trailer, but he did not know he was going to live there. Zero ran to the pen when he found out that he was going to live there. All the animals were gossiping about him. They *all* knew he was coming. Zero paid no attention. The lamb said to his mother, “We have to be careful about him. He does not mind gossiping.”

Zero did not want to meet the animals yet. They were not being nice. Then Zero got out of his pen and ran to the silo, but he could not get in it. Zero was *mooring* more than ever, as the farmer and Harry were trying to catch him. Harry signed “He did not do this in the trailer, but he did get out.” At last they caught him.

“Boy he’s a tricky cow,” said Farmer Joe. Then Zero laid down and went to sleep.

The next day Harry left the farm. Zero did not like that, Zero liked Harry, so Zero charged the fence and broke through, and ran to Harry and stopped him. Farmer Joe ran outside and put a halter on Zero, and he led him back to the barn. All the animals laughed at him, Zero looked away.

The time came for the people to go to church, Zero loved the sound of cars going away, because that meant he could try to get out, but he could not.

One day Zero saw a dove fly by.

The dove swooped down down down down and went right past Zero. Zero asked the dove what he was doing. The dove replied, “I am looking for a place to land. I love flying, though my wing’s get very, very tired.”

Zero hesitated, and said “I have a nice perch over here for you to land on.”

“Thank you,” said the dove, and the dove landed. The dove changed the subject and said, “It’s quiet.”

“Yes, it is,” said Zero. “The animals don’t know me yet. Well... very well that is.”

## Chapter 3

# Zero Meets the Animals

It was a quiet day in the barn for the cow. “No friend to talk to, a quiet day,” said Zero. He wished the animals would talk to him.

Then one day Zero heard a voice say, “Hello Zero.”

“Who said that?” said Zero.

The barn animals laughed and said “It is us, the barn animals.” They said, “We all think that you’re strange.”

“You don’t know how to only let nice words out,” the dove said. Zero nodded his head.

“HEY,” said the sheep, “you never talk to us, so we can laugh at you.”

“How would you like it if I laughed at you?” said Zero.

“Snort. I would not like that,” said a pig.

“Well that is how I feel,” said Zero.

“HM. We never thought of that. We’re sorry,” said all the animals.

“It’s OK. I forgive you,” said Zero. “Do you want to play?”

“Sure,” said the animals.

“How about tag?” said a Chicken.

“Are you sure you’re not Chicken?” said the horse.

“Yep,” said the Chicken.

And from that day on, they always loved  
each other.

**THE END**

## MY LIFE.

My name is Alexander, but everybody calls me Alex. I am nine years old. I got the name Zero from a cow that we have. We also have one horse, one dog, three cats, four other cows, and a fourteen-acre farm. We also have one bird in the house. I wrote this story in 1997.