

Idealistic Life



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Based on the book: *And the Pursuit of
Happiness*

By Maira Kalman



Any worthwhile trip begins with a desired destination.

I feel like that's pretty simple to understand. On this particular day though, my birthday, I had no idea where I was heading.

My friend decided to surprise me. We drove for an hour before finally taking a rest.



We decided to stop at a gas station. It was an interesting gas station to say the least.

The gas station included a Subway and a claw machine. Never in my life had I witnessed a claw machine in a gas station.

So, I gave it a shot.

And thus Milto (the unknown animal) joined our trip to the unknown.

Arrival.



I could hardly contain my excitement as we finally reached our destination and I was greeted by some interesting characters.

Like this guy. Who repeatedly tried attacking me. I wasn't pleased.



I have always loved animals and coming to a farm was the best gift I could ask for.

Little did I know that we were not only there to see the animals, but to go horseback riding.

As I was looking at the horses I noticed that a few of them were far too thin.

Naturally, I questioned why the animals were not being fed.



The owner smiled. She could tell I was a bit flustered.

She explained that the farm, Sunrise Stables, was not any old farm.

Sunrise Stables rescues and educates children about animal cruelty.



Apparently, horses being starved to death is quite common.

I went into the school that was attached to the farm.

It had a homey feeling to it. It made me feel connected to the farm.

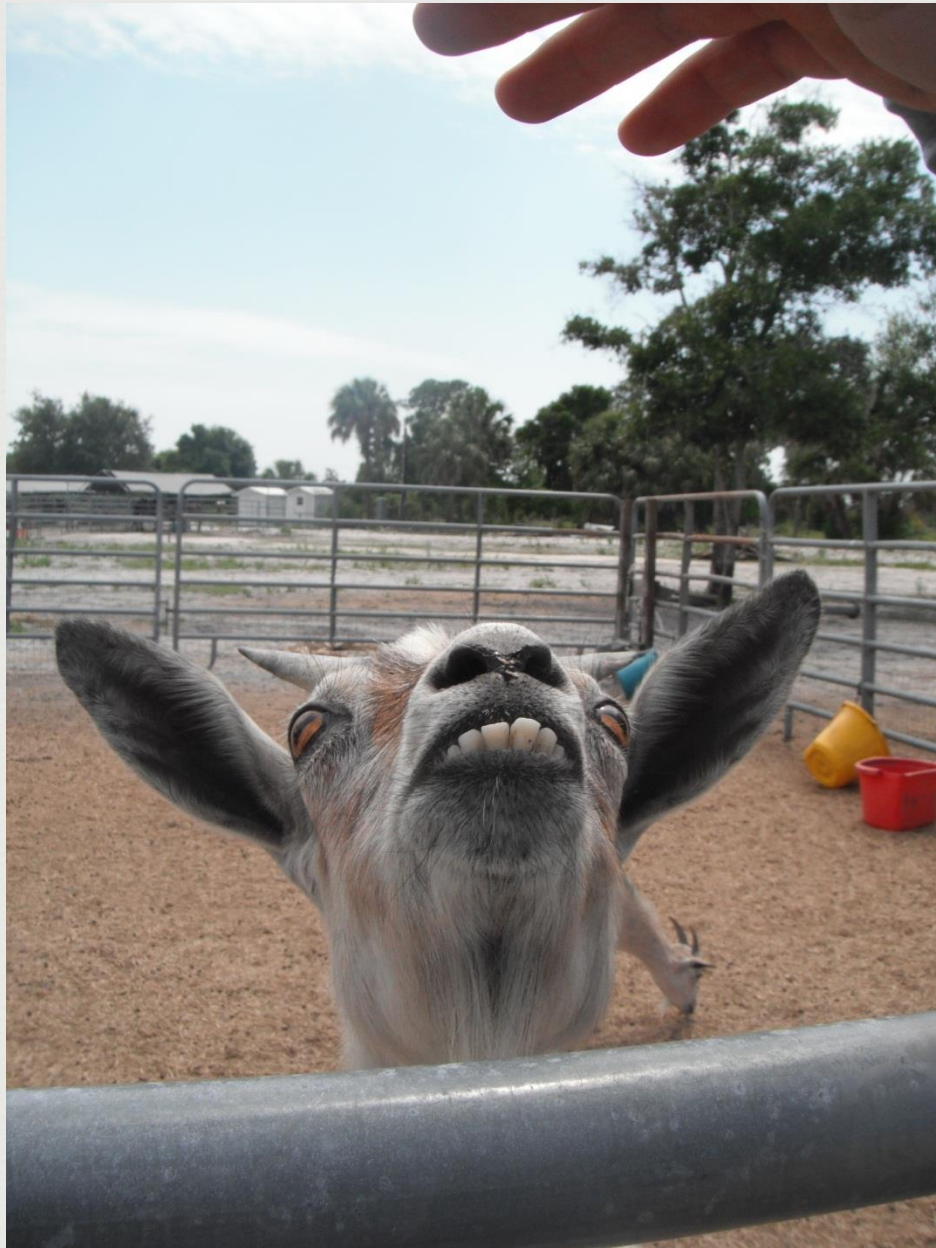
I read a chart that explained that horses are starved to death if they are not fast enough to become racing horses.

Horses just become another cog in the machine. Their life is only worthwhile if there's a profit involved.



All of the people who work on the farm are volunteers. They have a passion for animals and horses and that gives them the initiative to volunteer day after day.

This gives me hope that there are still good people in the world that help any animals.



And when I say any animal, I mean any animal. Even this guy.

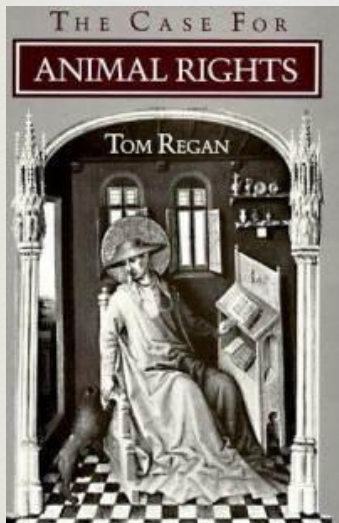
The Case for Animal Rights



I recently read Tom Regan's *The Case for Animal Rights*. Regan explains how people only view animals as a resource. A renewable resource.

I was quite shocked that in such an advanced society we still find a need to exploit animals.

Do we have nothing better to do?





If I could stay at this school at Sunrise, I would.

People coming together for a common cause, and honestly caring is difficult to come by.

That's exactly it. Honest, kind-hearted people are hard to come by.



Being on this farm was idealistic. The best gift and feeling I could ever ask for.

I then wondered if riding horses was using them as a resource.

Not according to Regan it isn't.



Using the animals includes using them as a means for commercial agriculture.

Or for the sport of hunting.

And finally, for scientific purposes.



None of which I agree to or take action in.



Thus, I felt ok riding the horses, and feeding the animals. I knew they were safe.

Home.

As we left the farm, I
felt sadness strike.

Less trees and open fields, and
more gravel and highways. Great.

The animals need my help. I
would be doing them a favor
and not to mention I would
be far happier there than I
ever would feel at school.

I wondered if I could stay
at the farm forever. I
believe I could.



I knew the plan I had would be an idealistic life for me. Yet, I remain here at school.

I know the smart and logical choice is to stay in school, but what I truly desire remains on the farm. My idealistic, simple life.

