

As you enter the next room, you hear a rustling in the dark, followed by a hiss. Four eyes peer out of the shadows, watching you. You stand perfectly still, making sure not to move, as a creature steps out into the light and looks you over.

At first, it just seems like an odd looking, out of place chicken – perhaps a little bit bigger than other chickens you might have seen, but other than that, just a regular bird. But something about it seems off, and after a moment, you realize what it is – this bird doesn't have a tail. Then, you realize that you're wrong. It does have a tail, but its tail is a living snake, a second pair of eyes that stare at you.

“What are you doing in my larder?” the creature squawks at you. You explain that you're just trying to find your way to the Griffin's tower, and it calms down considerably. “Oh, okay then. I don't like people poking around in here, but if you're just passing through it's no problem. The ladder up into the Clock tower is right over there.”

You are ready to leave, but curiosity overtakes you, and you ask the creature what it is.

“I shall answer your question,” it hisses, “with a song.” Then, it throws back its bird head and begins to crow.

*I am the mighty cockatrice
I like to eat up grains of rice
But I also enjoy munching mice
I do not like the cold or ice
I've said it once and I will say it thrice
I am the Cockatrice!
I am the Cockatrice!*

“Myself, along with the Griffin, the Dragon, and a few others, all came to live here with the Wizard. The Wizard was the only person we had ever met who didn't treat us like monsters. I was very young when I met the Wizard, so I was mostly raised here.”

This reminds you of the egg you found, and you show it to the Cockatrice, but the creature just shakes both of its heads. “I don't know whose egg that is, but it's not mine.” It bids you a fond farewell, and goes back to singing as you make your way up the stairs.

Can you find any other words that rhyme with Cockatrice?

NICE
NOSE
PRICE
PRINCE

LACE
LICE
ADVICE
ADVANCE

