

Gen. Tso's Chicken



Jenny Sew had a farm – the E-Eye E-Eye O Farm. And on that farm she had some chickens, but that's where the similarity to the more famous Old MacDonald Farm ends. Jenny's chickens never clucked, never so much as made a sound, because they were all dead. The E-Eye E-Eye O Farm, you see, was a wholesaler of chicken carcasses. That may sound unsavory, however buyers for five-star restaurants in a dozen states flocked (ha) to the farm. Chinese eateries in particular favored Jenny Sew's chickens because she liberally coated the skins of each bird with her own "special sauce," the contents of which she refused to reveal. Oriental chefs who knew a good idea when they smelt it served the chicken to their customers with little or no gastronomic tinkering. In no time, the dish became a best seller, outpacing even goo gan ying shi, or "krill on a stick." Sinocuisinologists tried to credit Jenny for her soon-to-be famous menu item but, as so often happens, something got lost in the translation.