

# Chain of *Love*



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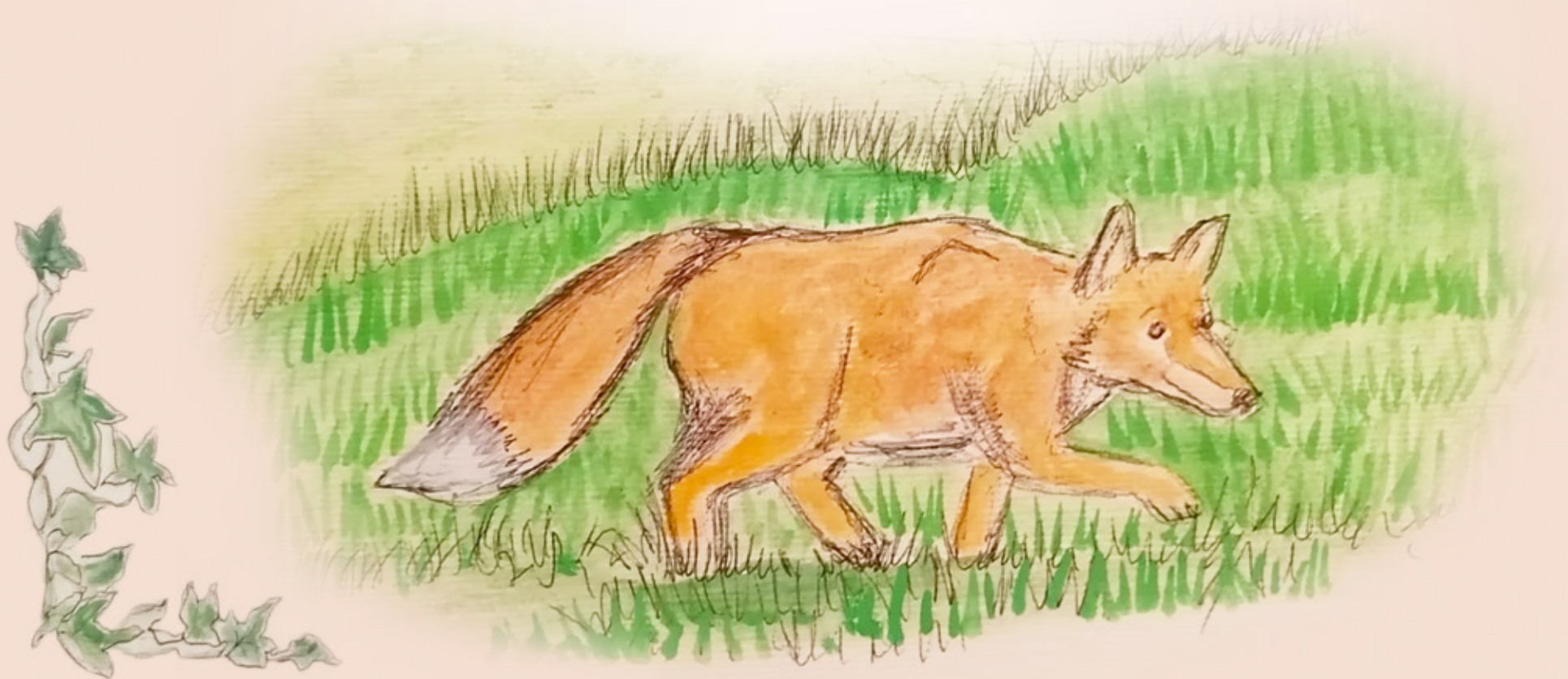
Written and illustrated by Catherine Gormley

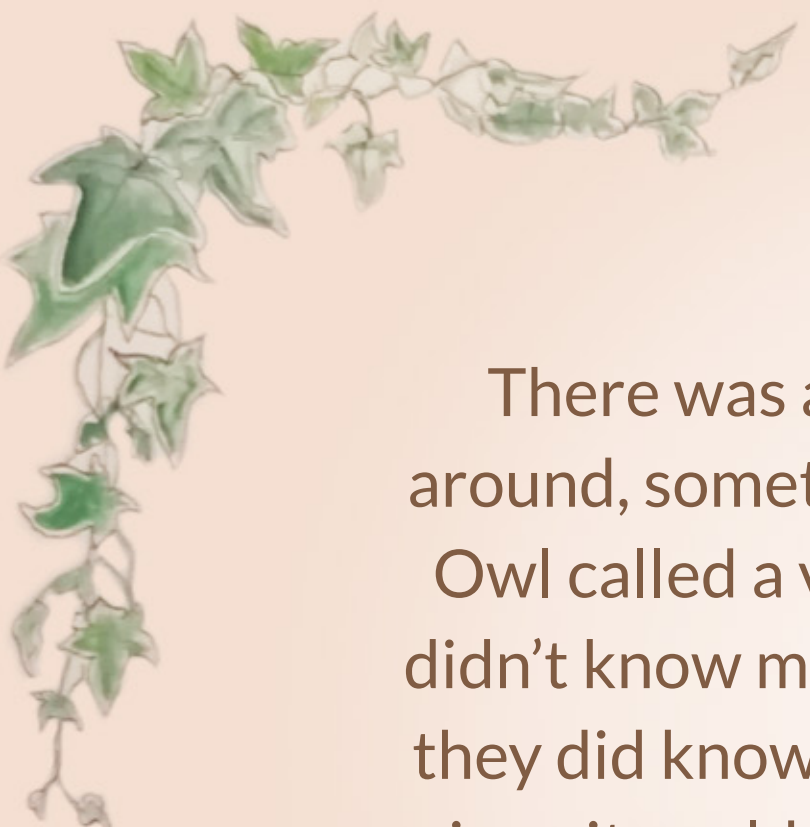
Down by Peacock Lane, little Foxglove  
was really beginning to miss his friends.  
He hadn't seen them in such a long time.





A lockdown had been declared by the Wise Old Owl, which meant the animals weren't allowed to leave their homes for fun, games or activities. Only Foxglove's parents would leave their burrow, and only for things they really needed to do, like hunt for food.





There was a sickness going around, something the Wise Old Owl called a virus. The animals didn't know much about this, but they did know if they caught the virus, it could make them sick or be passed on to the other animals around them.



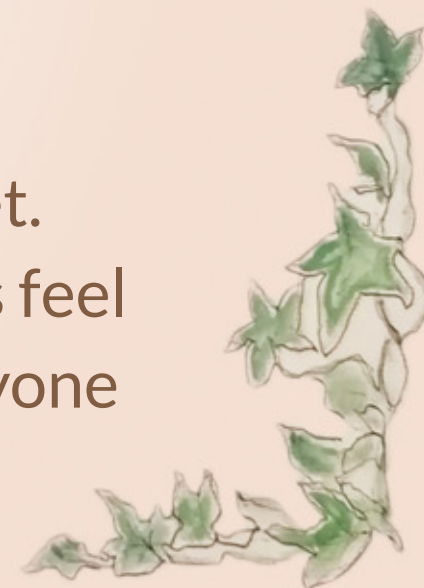




The Wise Old Owl had flown over the close-knit community of Peacock Lane so that everyone could hear his message. He told the animals to stay at home. He also told them to wash their paws as often as possible to keep them clean and keep each other safe from the invisible virus.



Foxglove's mum knew that Foxglove was upset. She explained that, "Most of us who get the virus feel like we have a cold or a flu, but just to keep everyone safe we must stay at home."





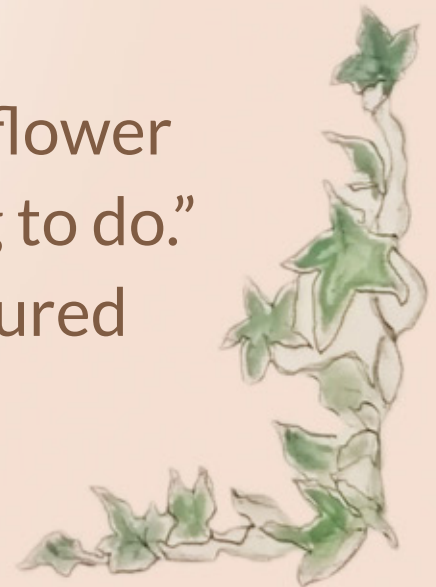
“I really miss my friends,” the little fox said,  
with a tear in his eye.



“I know you do, and you  
are being very patient,” said  
his mummy. “You should do  
something that you like,  
that would make you feel  
happy again.”



A little tear ran down his nose. "I miss making wildflower chains with my friends. That was my favourite thing to do." At that moment, the little fox cub ran to his treasured items box. He smiled again.







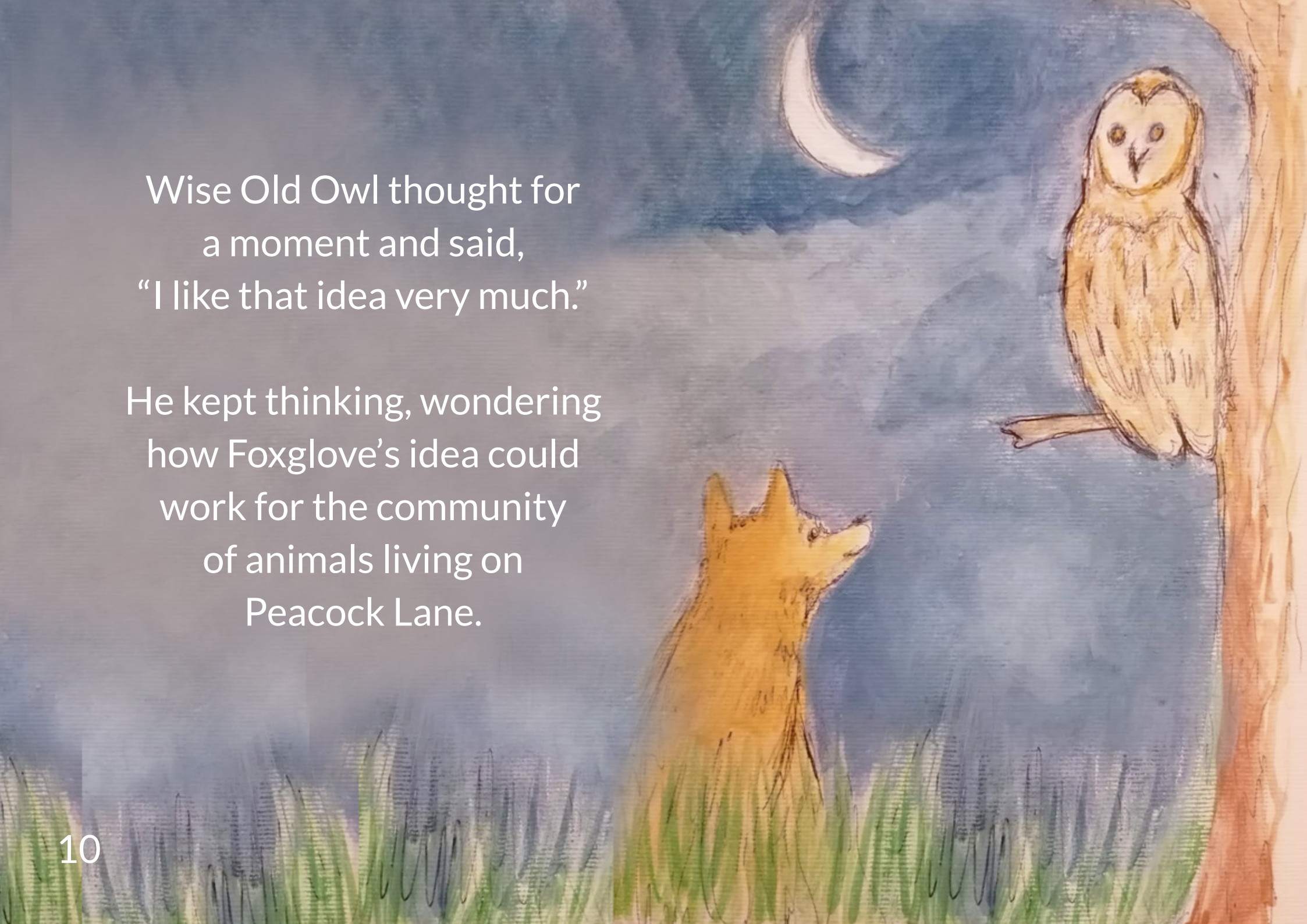
The next day little Foxglove began to make an extra special wildflower chain, one which he knew Fern would love when he next got to see her.

Working on the chain made Foxglove very happy, and his mother loved to see the smile on his face.

That night, while she was out hunting, Foxglove's mother saw Wise Old Owl and she told him all about the special wildflower chain Foxglove was making.

Wise Old Owl thought for  
a moment and said,  
“I like that idea very much.”

He kept thinking, wondering  
how Foxglove’s idea could  
work for the community  
of animals living on  
Peacock Lane.





Finally, he said, “I think everyone should make a special wildflower chain and when it is safe for us all to meet again with our family, friends and neighbours, we can join our wildflower chains together to unite us as one...

It will be a Chain of Love.”





That very night, Wise Old Owl flew over the huts, trees and burrows of Peacock Lane, telling all the animals about their new shared project. Over the next few weeks, chains of every colour began to appear proudly outside the homes of all the animals.





Some chains were red, some were green and some were yellow.  
Others had a pattern of two or even three colours.  
Some chains were all the colours of the rainbow.  
Peacock Lane had never looked so bright and beautiful!

The animals of Peacock Lane were  
so excited and looked forward to the special time  
when all their chains would be linked together.






Long days passed and finally Wise Old Owl declared that it was safe for the animals to see family, friends and neighbours again.

The animals of Peacock Lane were all excited when the big day came, but no one was more excited than little Foxglove.

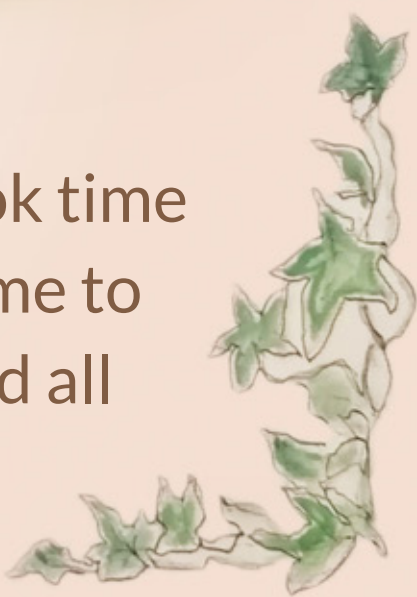




They all set off to meet at Primrose Bank.  
Once they got there, they saw all the beautiful Chains of  
Love that everyone had so thoughtfully and carefully  
made. It was so special to see.



After Foxglove and all the animals of Peacock Lane took time  
to look at each other's special chains, it was finally time to  
join them together. They gathered around and linked all  
their special chains one by one.








Finally, it was  
Foxglove's chain.  
His was the last to be  
added and it linked  
both sides of the chain  
together, completing  
the circle. His little idea  
had united everyone on  
Peacock Lane.

Together the animals sang a special song, "Let us all come  
together with this one Chain of Love..."



As Wise Old Owl flew home on that special night,  
he smiled and hooted...



he said, "The Chain of Love is what unites all  
creatures".








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