

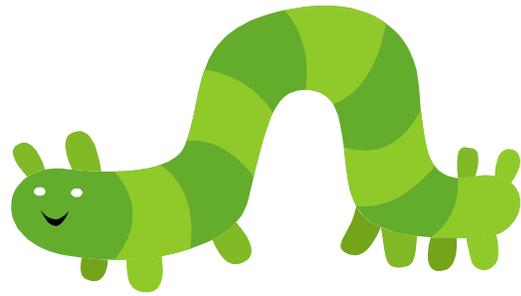
THE OWL AND THE CATERPILLAR

BY

ANI LYNE



And The



By Ani Lyne

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to all children, young and old. May you know that life has so much more for you than what you think you have.



Once upon a time in a land far away, lived a great grey Owl called Randy who slept during the day. At the top of an old pine tree is where Randy would be, making sure all was right, he kept watch at night.



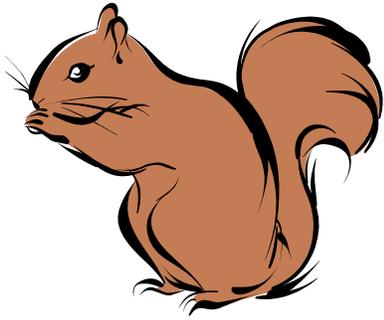
The other animals admired him so; there was nothing that Randy the owl didn't know. Quietly the other animals would go about their day so as not to awaken Randy while they played. They would share with each other Randy's wise words even though some thought Randy was a nerd.



Then one day in July, Randy woke up to a horrible cry. There below his home sweet home curled in a ball was the caterpillar known as Paul. Randy tried as he might to go back to sleep, but caterpillar Paul kept crying with all he had, Randy the owl could not ignore that his friend caterpillar Paul was sad.



Deciding not to be mad at Paul's cries waking him up, Randy flew down to see what was the fuss. Caterpillar Paul was carrying on in such a way, Randy the owl did not know what to say. Clearing his throat of a mouth full of dust, Randy the owl asked, "What's all the fuss?" "I'm crying, said caterpillar Paul, cause I'll never be tall. It's close to the ground I'll always be, only to be crushed under someone's feet."



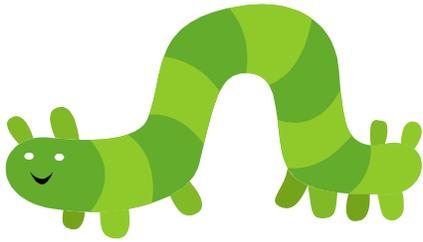
Sitting nearby and listening to them, was another one of their dear friends. Sandy the squirrel chattered away, “Oh Paul what a silly thing to say. You can crawl up walls; looking down on all that’s below, what difference does it make how tall you will grow?”



“But I have a dream, said caterpillar Paul, to be high in the sky, up where rainbows are made I would fly. To soar above rooftops whenever I please. Oh why was I born to crawl among the grass, to roll on the ground and sleep in the leaves?”



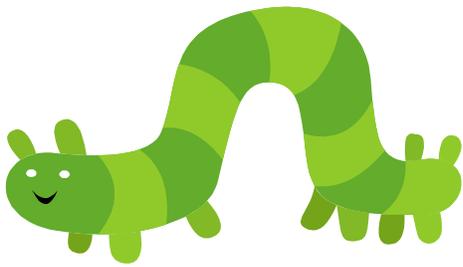
“It’s your dreams that tell you what is right, said Randy the owl, listen to them and you will take flight. I am telling you this here and now, if you pay attention to what this old owl has to say, your dreams will show you just how you will do it one day.”



“It’s impossible can’t you see, said caterpillar Paul,
there’s nothing else I can be. My world will always be crawling, and that’s why I
am here bawling. There’s nothing I can do and that’s why I am so blue.



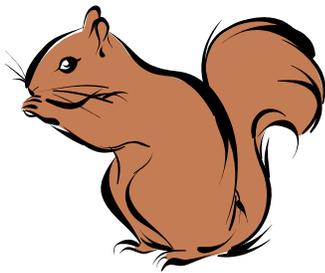
“You limit your world with your words caterpillar Paul, for I know you will do more than just climb up walls. You think your world is made up of what you see today, I tell you my friend, you have a big surprise coming your way.”



“But it’s impossible, cried caterpillar Paul, can’t you see, I can never be more than just me. I’ll always be just a worm with hair, this is the fact that I can’t bear. I will crawl on the ground for birds to eat, or be squashed by someone’s feet.”



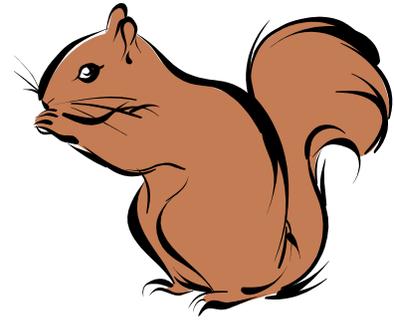
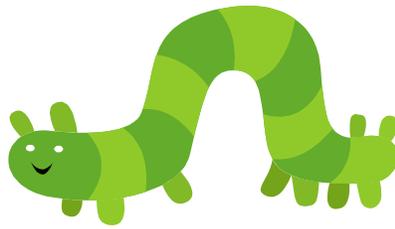
Randy the owl shook his head; he wanted to go back to bed. “Why do you choose not to see, all that you were meant to be? There is so much more that you will become, I tell you one day, you’ll fly up by the sun.”



Sandy the squirrel could not believe what she heard, a caterpillar flying in the sky up with the birds! “But Randy, said Sandy the squirrel, how can that be, he’s a caterpillar and we all know they don’t fly above the trees. It’s not like he can change who he is, can he?”



“Randy the owl cleared his throat to be heard, and said, a time will come with the full moon, when you’ll go off and spin a cocoon. For a time you’ll stay hanging from a branch this way, till enough time goes by and then you’ll fly. You will break through the cocoon and you will see, you are no longer a worm with hair, but will have a short body with beautiful wings.”



Caterpillar Paul began to smile. He knew Randy the owl was right, yes one day he would take flight. Seeing that all was well, and hoping he would not have another incident to quell Randy the owl flew back to his limb, knowing there wasn't much time left before his night would end. Sandy the squirrel ran around and around excited at what she had heard. She couldn't wait to share with all, that caterpillar Paul would not always crawl on the walls, but would one day fly with the birds.

The End