Poems & **Lim**er**icks**

By **Mar**ga**ret Wel**wood

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The **Jour**ney

A sn<u>a</u>ke, h<u>e</u> went a-**w<u>i</u>nd**ing
down the r<u>oa</u>d **al<u>o</u>ne**.
Sad and **l<u>o</u>ne**ly, on h<u>e</u> wound,
as c<u>o</u>ld and gr<u>ay</u> as st<u>o</u>ne.

Until h<u>e</u> saw a **hum**ming**bird**—
sh<u>e</u> **hov**ered <u>o</u>ver**head**.
"Why g<u>o</u> **al<u>o</u>ne**?" the br<u>i</u>ght bird chirped.
Let's g<u>o</u> as two **in**stead."

So down the **wind**ing r<u>oa</u>d they went,
one l<u>ow</u> and one up h<u>ig</u>h.
The **friend**ly r<u>oa</u>d **be**l<u>ow</u> them stretched
ben<u>e</u>ath the br<u>ig</u>ht blue sky.

Soon much to their **de**l<u>ig</u>ht they saw
a str<u>i</u>ped and **danc**ing b<u>ee</u>.
She buzzed **a**round the sn<u>a</u>ke and bird,
"W<u>o</u>n't y<u>ou</u> pl<u>ea</u>se come with m<u>e</u>?"

The bird flew h<u>ig</u>h, the bird flew l<u>ow</u>.
The b<u>ee</u> danced **o**ver**head**.
The sn<u>a</u>ke wound h<u>ig</u>h, the sn<u>a</u>ke wound l<u>ow</u>.
None **fol**l<u>ow</u>ed and none led.

Then much to their **sur**pr<u>i</u>se they saw
a sad and **spot**ted cow.
"<u>I</u>'d l<u>i</u>ke to f<u>i</u>nd a friend," sh<u>e</u> said.
"<u>I</u>'ve n<u>o</u> **i**de**a** how."

"S<u>o</u> join us," said the **danc**ing b<u>ee</u>.
"Yes, join us," said the bird.
"Could <u>I</u>? Could <u>I</u>, pl<u>ea</u>se?" sh<u>e</u> asked.
"Of course!" was what sh<u>e</u> heard.

They **bare**ly heard the **ti**ny snail.

His voice was sad and low.

"**I**'ll **nev**er have a friend," he moaned.

"They all say I'm too slow."

The **friend**ly cow, she bowed her head

until it reached the ground.

"Climb up," she said, "and take a ride."

He climbed, and looked **a**round.

Along the **friend**ly road, one danced.

Anoth**er** wound. One flew.

One took a ride. One took a walk.

And how their **friend**ship grew!

Then Snail, as **look**out, saw it first—

a **li**on in the way.

He smacked his lips and growled low.

He thought, "I see my prey!"

And then they heard the **li**on roar.

The cow said, "I must run!"

But Bee said "Wait!" and Bird said "Stop!"

And Snake said "All for one."

"Now I'm a **mis**sile," trilled the bird.

"Me too," shrieked Bee. "**Bal**lis**tic**!"

Could **Li**on feast on **Spot**ted now?

His mood turned **pes**si**mis**tic.

They dive-bombed **Li**on's nose and ears

enough to make him reel,

while Snake and Snail each claimed a place

at **hun**gry **Li**on's heel.

The **hov**er**craft a**round his nose,

the **buzz**ing in his ears,

and Snake and Snail both poised to strike

confirmed the **li**on's fears.

He shook his head and shook his heel,

and loped **to**ward the trees.

None saw his face. None heard him roar.

He **van**ished with the breeze.

That night the sky grew close and dark.

The **au**tumn wind blew cold.

"We need to find a place to rest."

"Let's try the leaves of gold."

The cow l<u>a</u>y down. The bird and b<u>ee</u>
were **nes**tled by her s<u>i</u>de.
The sn<u>a</u>ke curled up. The sn<u>ai</u>l curled in,
qu<u>i</u>te **tuck**ered from his r<u>i</u>de.

Through **win**ter's wh<u>i</u>te and **spring**t<u>i</u>me wind,
and **sum**mer's **flow**er sh<u>ow</u>,
f<u>i</u>ve **trav**elled down the **friend**ly r<u>oa</u>d
with **hap**py talk and hearts **a**gl<u>ow</u>.

What **Hap**pened That Night

One d<u>ay</u> all the **crea**tures got in a big f<u>i</u>ght.
It **start**ed at dawn and it **last**ed till n<u>i</u>ght.

"<u>I</u>'m w<u>i</u>se!" scr<u>ee</u>ched the owl. "Y<u>ou</u>'re not,"
squ<u>ea</u>led the boar.
"If y<u>ou</u> k<u>ee</u>p up this **b<u>oa</u>st**ing, there's **g<u>o</u>**ing to
b<u>e</u> war."

The duck sneered, "I fly and you don't," at the bear.

He roared, "I eat birds," and that gave her a scare.

The fox bragged, "I'm **sneak**y, I'm smart, and I'm quick."

The deer hissed, "Be gone, or I'll give you a kick."

What happened that night changed their lives **ev**er**more**—

the birds and the bear, and the fox, deer and boar.

Some **camp**ers **for**got to **ex**tin**guish** their flames.

The **crea**tures **for**got all their big, **boast**ful claims.

As the wind fanned the flames, and they reached to the sky,

And the trees turned to ash, **crea**tures knew they could die.

"You're **fast**er than me," cried the fox to the
deer.
She said, "Hop on my back, and I'll run far from
here."

"Can you **car**ry my **ba**by way up in the sky?"
The boar begged the owl, who said, "I will try."

The duck told the bear, "I'll be **look**out for
you."
The bear said, "I'll **fright**en the next **hunt**ing
crew."

The **ba**by was saved as the owl flew fast,
The duck helped the bear till the **dan**ger was
past.

The deer took the fox. There was **noth**ing to
fear.
The **wis**dom in **help**ing each **oth**er was clear.

By the time it had rained and the fire was out,
they knew they'd stay friends. There was **nev**er a
doubt.

For what **hap**pened that n<u>i</u>ght ch<u>a</u>nged their l<u>i</u>ves
ever**more**—
the birds and the be<u>a</u>r, and the fox, d<u>ee</u>r and
boar.

There Once Was a **Stu**dent N_amed **Het**ty

There once was a **stu**dent n_amed **Het**ty

Who did all her math in **spa**ghet**ti.**

When it hit the fan,

Sh_e said, "Man, o_h, man!

"My **e_**qua_**tions** and sums are **con**fet**ti.**"

There Once Was a **Sing**er N<u>a</u>med Lil

There once was a **sing**er n<u>a</u>med Lil

Whose voice was s<u>o</u> **ut**ter**ly** shrill,

It cracked **win**d<u>o</u>ws and doors,

And it **shat**tered st<u>o</u>ne floors.

Now that t<u>a</u>kes **in**cred**i**ble skill!

The **Farm**er's **Lull**aby

Snuggle down, **lit**tle one, **snug**gle down,
for the **rab**bit's in the h<u>a</u>y
with her **ba**bi<u>e</u>s soft and gr<u>a</u>y.
Snuggle down, **lit**tle one, **snug**gle down.

Cl<u>o</u>se your eyes, **lit**tle one, cl<u>o</u>se your eyes,
for the **flow**ers are all **clos**ing
and the **ba**by calves are **doz**ing.
Cl<u>o</u>se your eyes, **lit**tle one, cl<u>o</u>se your eyes.

Go to sl__ee__p, **lit**tle one, g__o__ to sl__ee__p,

for the chicks have stopped their **ch__ee__p**ing

and the lambs have stopped their **l__ea__p**ing.

Go to sl__ee__p, **lit**tle one, g__o__ to sl__ee__p.

Dr__ea__m sw__ee__t dr__ea__ms, **lit**tle one, dr__ea__m sw__ee__t

dr__ea__ms,

for the **morn**ing t__i__me will come

with the br__i__ght and **sh__in__**ing sun.

Dr__ea__m sw__ee__t dr__ea__ms, **lit**tle one, dr__ea__m sw__ee__t

dr__ea__ms.