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Opening extract from  
**The Tales of Mr and  
Mrs Bartholomew Fox**

Written by  
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## THE DAY THE BADGERS WERE INVITED TO LUNCH

‘Today, Mrs Fox, I think we’ll have our lunch  
upon the lawn.’

‘Oh Mr Fox! How pleasant dear!’ said his wife  
with a little yawn.

‘It’s early yet, dear Mr Fox, so I have time to  
see

If our larder is quite full of food as we will need  
plenty.’

‘And Mrs Fox I think ’twould be the nicest thing  
to do

To invite our friends the Badgers, so they can  
be there too.’

So Mrs Fox she hurried off to search her pantry  
store,

While Mr Fox went to the Badgers who only  
lived next door.

The Badgers were all very pleased, ‘We’d be  
delighted to attend!

You really are a generous fox and such a special  
friend!

And what I think, dear Mr Fox, would make  
our lunch more fun

Is that if we provide the music, we can all dance  
in the sun!’

‘Oh what a splendid thing my friend!’ said Mr Fox with glee.  
‘You really are the very best a Badger friend could be.’  
Then to his house he hurried back with the greatest speed,  
‘Oh Mrs Fox I have some news, the very best indeed!’



But Mrs Fox was crying hard, a sight that was quite rare.

‘Oh Mr Fox! Oh what to do? Our pantry’s nearly bare!

Now we can’t invite our friends. It’s really such a shame;

Without the food to share with them our lunch is not the same!

‘And I’ve only told the children and they’re excited so,

But now I have to tell them I’m afraid they cannot go!’

‘Do not worry Mrs Fox, everything will be all right,

I think I have a cunning plan to help us in our plight.

‘This is the very season when all the crops are due –

If we gather some together then we can make a stew.’

‘Why, Mr Fox, how clever, but we must work quite fast

Till everything is ready and we’ll have lunch at last.’

So off they hurried, paw-in-paw, both searching  
high and low  
Until they found the special place where all the  
veggies grow.  
'Look here! I say! Oh Mrs Fox, I've carrots, beans  
and peas.  
Can you find me some tomatoes and potatoes if  
you please?'

'I have them now, dear Mr Fox. But something  
else I see,  
Some lovely herbs and meaty roots to make the  
stew tasty!'  
They picked some blackberries for dessert then  
went to see the Bees  
'Dear friends, do you think that you could help  
with honey, if you please?'

Back to their house they ran again and, grabbing  
up their pot,  
Out on their lawn they made a fire and safely  
cooked the lot!  
And just in time, as coming from the other house  
they saw  
The Badger family, strolling down and waving  
with their paws.



‘Hello you Foxes! Oh how busy you two must  
have been.  
What tasty food! What great delights! The best  
we’ve ever seen!’  
And then they ate and sang and danced, having  
great fun all the while,  
Then Mr Fox looked to his wife, who gave a  
happy smile.