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Opening extract from

The Tales of Mr and Mrs Bartholomew Fox

Written by

Colleen Laybourne-Smith

Published by **Book Guild Ltd**

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First published in Great Britain in 2011 by
The Book Guild Ltd
Pavilion View
19 New Road
Brighton, BN1 1UF

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Typesetting in Century Schoolbook by Keyboard Services, Luton, Bedfordshire

Printed in Spain under the supervision of MRM Graphics Ltd, Winslow, Bucks

A catalogue record for this book is available from The British Library

ISBN 978 1 84624 588 6

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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.'

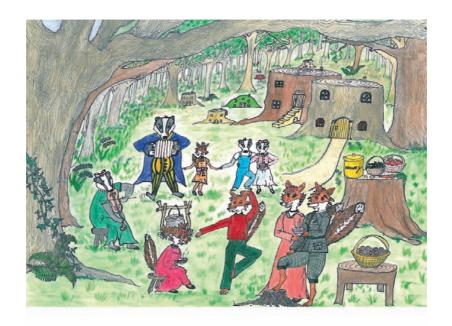
Then to his house he hurried back with the greatest speed,

'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.