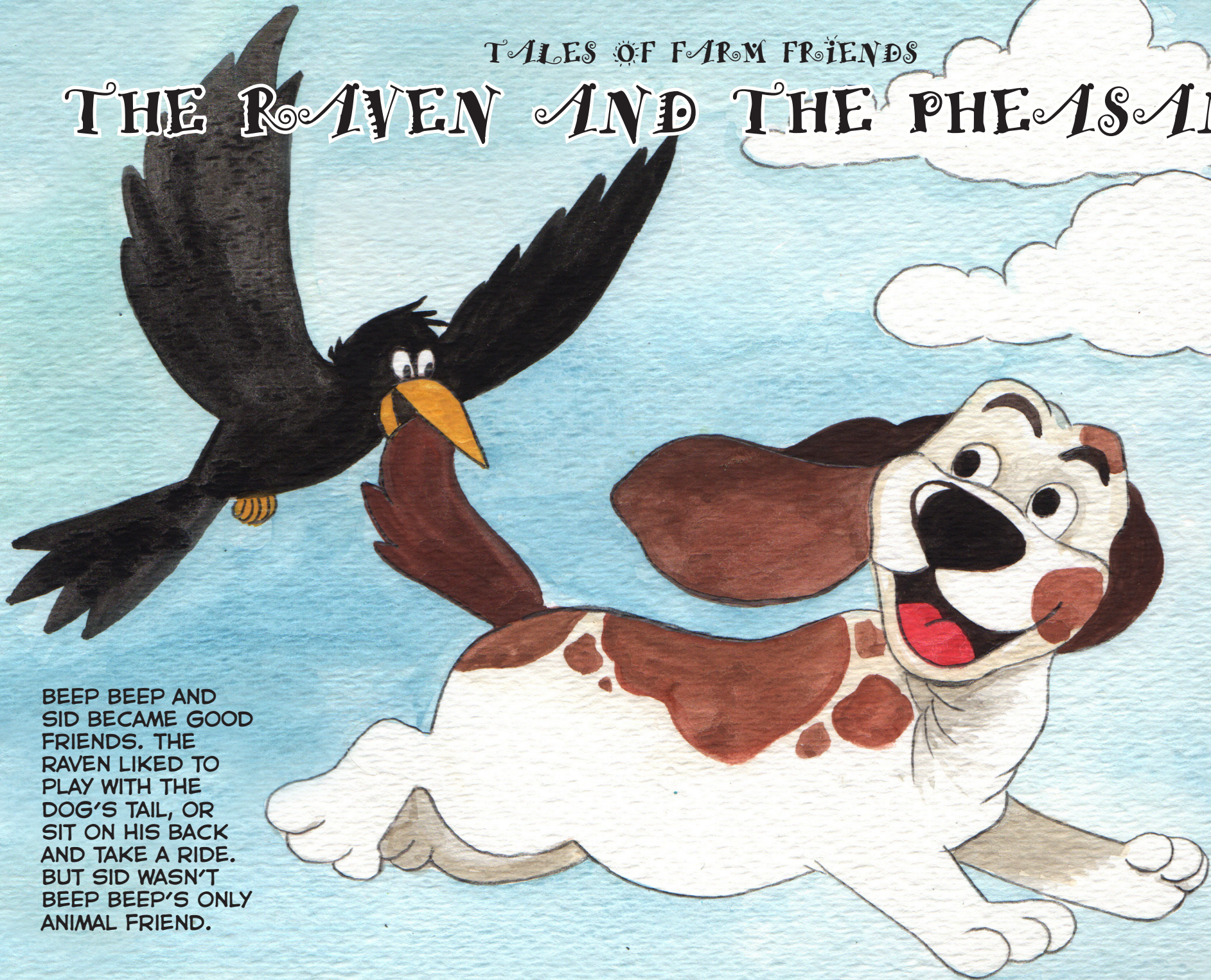



TALES OF FARM FRIENDS

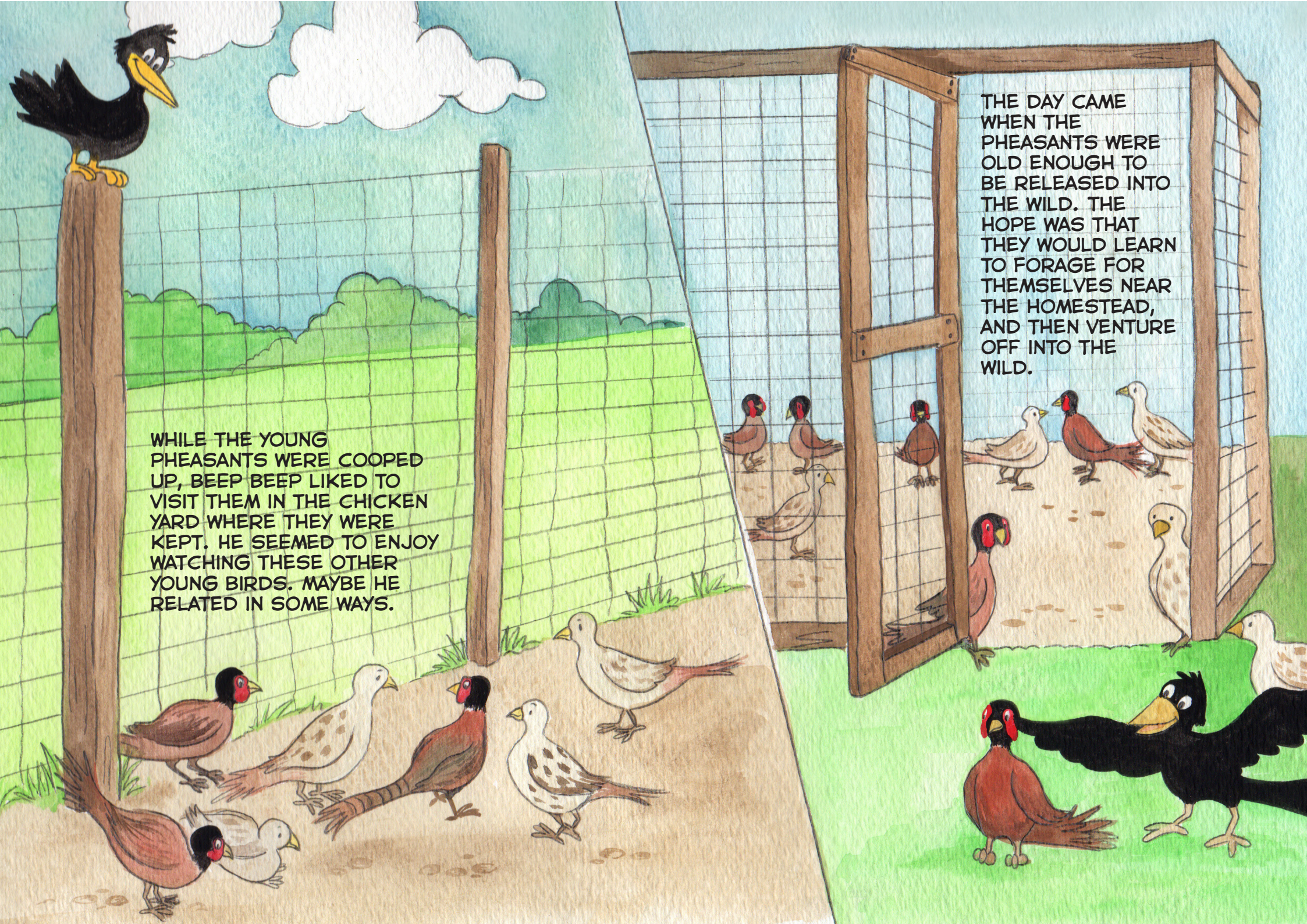
THE RAVEN AND THE PHEASANTS



BEEP BEEP AND SID BECAME GOOD FRIENDS. THE RAVEN LIKED TO PLAY WITH THE DOG'S TAIL, OR SIT ON HIS BACK AND TAKE A RIDE. BUT SID WASN'T BEEP BEEP'S ONLY ANIMAL FRIEND.

A watercolor illustration of a boy with dark hair and a brown shirt, leaning over a wooden fence to look at a group of small, brown and white pheasant chicks. The chicks are gathered on a yellow straw-covered floor around a red, cone-shaped feeder and a small grey dish. A large, grey, dome-shaped lamp hangs from the ceiling, casting a bright yellow light on the scene. The background is a simple yellow wall.

THAT SUMMER, ONE OF MY BROTHERS
WAS RAISING PHEASANTS FOR A WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT. HE BROUGHT HOME 100
PHEASANT CHICKS WHEN THEY WERE JUST
A DAY OR TWO OLD, WITH A PLAN TO RAISE
THEM UNTIL THEY WERE OLD ENOUGH TO
CARE FOR THEMSELVES, AT WHICH TIME HE
WOULD LET THEM FREE INTO THE WILD.

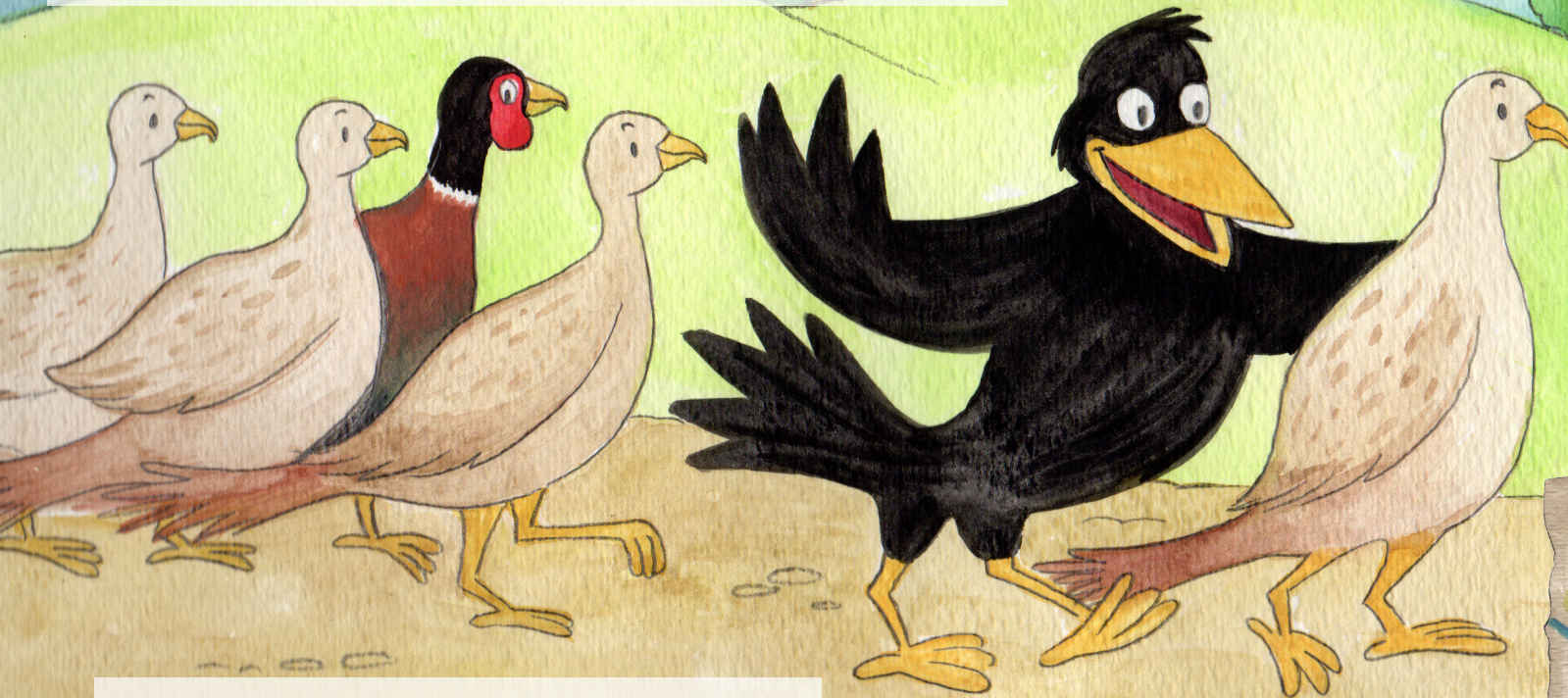


WHILE THE YOUNG
PHEASANTS WERE COOPED
UP, BEEP BEEP LIKED TO
VISIT THEM IN THE CHICKEN
YARD WHERE THEY WERE
KEPT. HE SEEMED TO ENJOY
WATCHING THESE OTHER
YOUNG BIRDS. MAYBE HE
RELATED IN SOME WAYS.

THE DAY CAME
WHEN THE
PHEASANTS WERE
OLD ENOUGH TO
BE RELEASED INTO
THE WILD. THE
HOPE WAS THAT
THEY WOULD LEARN
TO FORAGE FOR
THEMSELVES NEAR
THE HOMESTEAD,
AND THEN VENTURE
OFF INTO THE
WILD.

BEEP BEEP, SEEING THEY NEEDED ASSISTANCE, HOPPED DOWN FROM THE FENCE AND WALKED AMONG THEM. SOON BEEP BEEP WAS ACTING AS A TOUR GUIDE, LEADING THE GROUP OF PHEASANTS AROUND THE HOMESTEAD: FIRST THE SHOP, THEN THE OLD BARN, THEN THE GARDEN, THEN THE HOUSE, AND FINALLY ACROSS THE ROAD TO THE NEW BARN. SUCCESS! THE PHEASANTS STARTED MOVING AWAY FROM THE HOMESTEAD INTO THE WILD.

AND BEEP BEEP HAD THE SATISFACTION OF HAVING HELPED HIS YOUNGER FRIENDS STEP INTO THEIR NEW LIVES.



"DON'T LOOK OUT ONLY FOR YOUR OWN INTERESTS, BUT TAKE AN INTEREST IN OTHERS, TOO" (PHILIPPIANS 2:4 NLT).

