

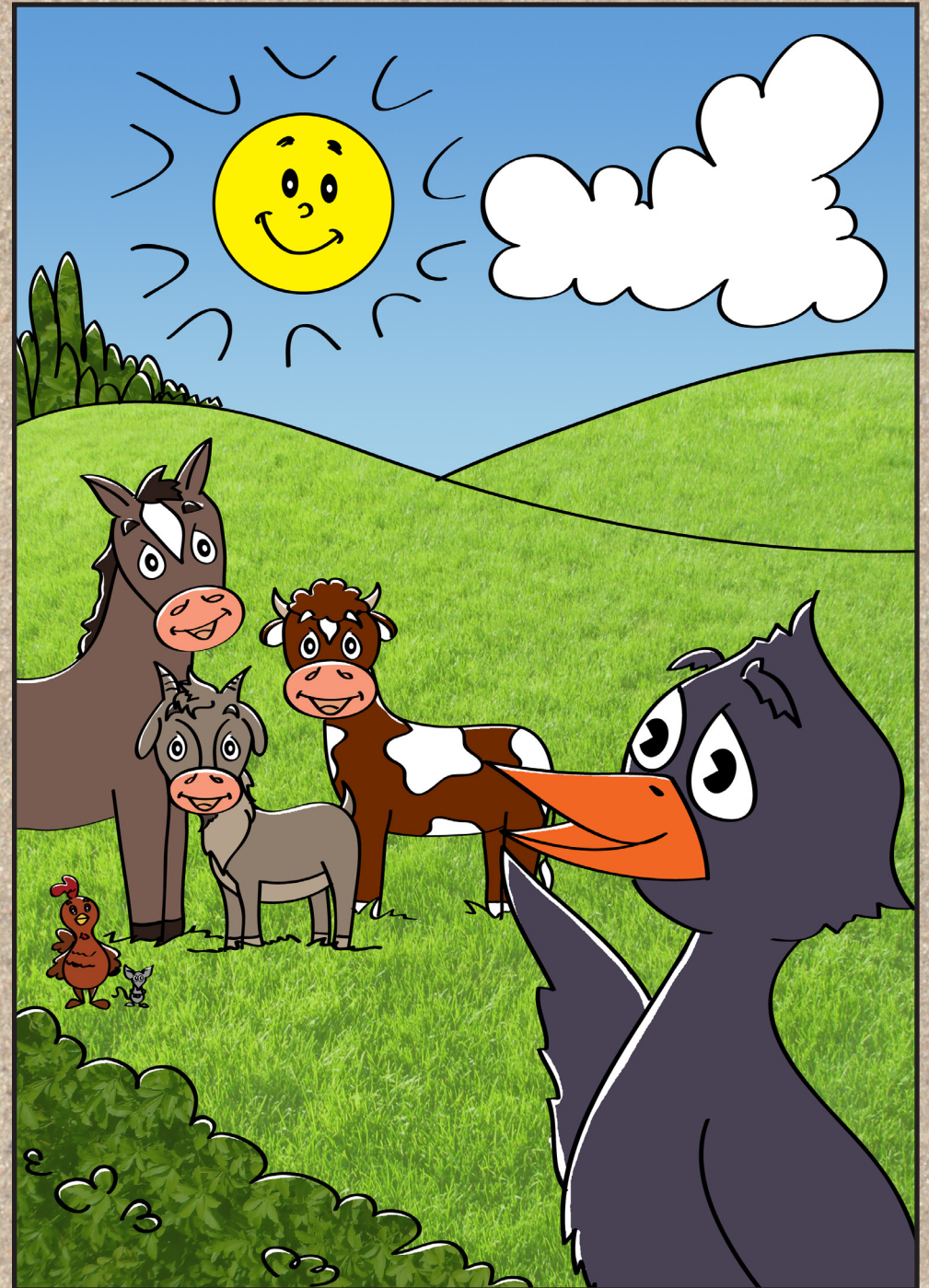
THE LIFE OF FRIENDS

OUR WORDS



DO YOU KNOW WHAT OUR WORDS CAN DO—
THE ONES WE TELL EACH OTHER?
THE RIGHT WORDS CAN MAKE ANOTHER'S DAY,
WHILE WRONG WORDS CAN HURT AND SMOTHER.

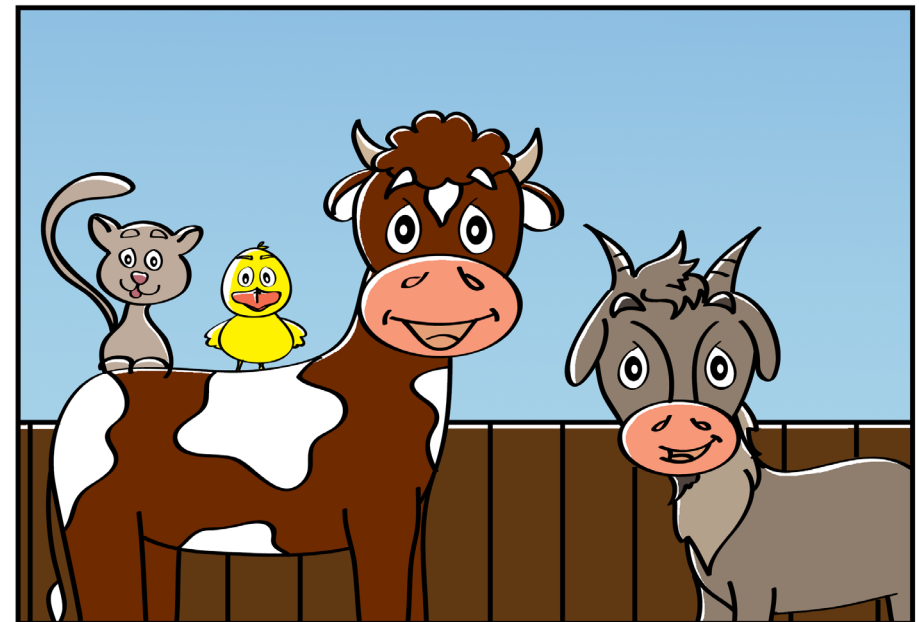
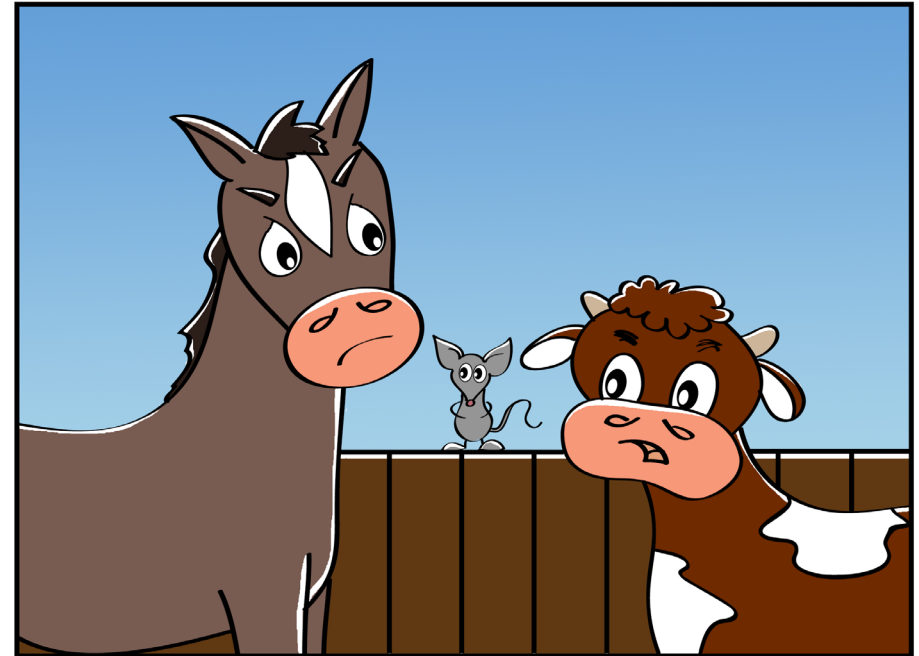
MY FRIENDS AND I HAVE MADE A VOW,
UPLIFTING WORDS TO SPEAK.
AND IF WE'VE BEEN TOLD IN CONFIDENCE,
TO NOT REPEAT OR TWEAK.



WE MIGHT THINK WE'RE WELL MEANING
WHEN WE REPEAT SOME PRIVATE THING.
BUT WHAT ARE WE ACTUALLY DOING
IF OUR WORDS DEGRADE OR STING?

NOW, IT IS GOOD WHEN WE TALK
IN HELPFUL WAYS THAT ENCOURAGE
OR WHEN WE TELL AN IMPORTANT FACT
THAT HELPS ANOTHER FLOURISH.

LIKE MY FRIENDS AND I,
WHO OFTEN SHARE FARMYARD NEWS.
WE ENJOY KEEPING ALL INFORMED;
WE GIVE OUR PERSONAL VIEWS.

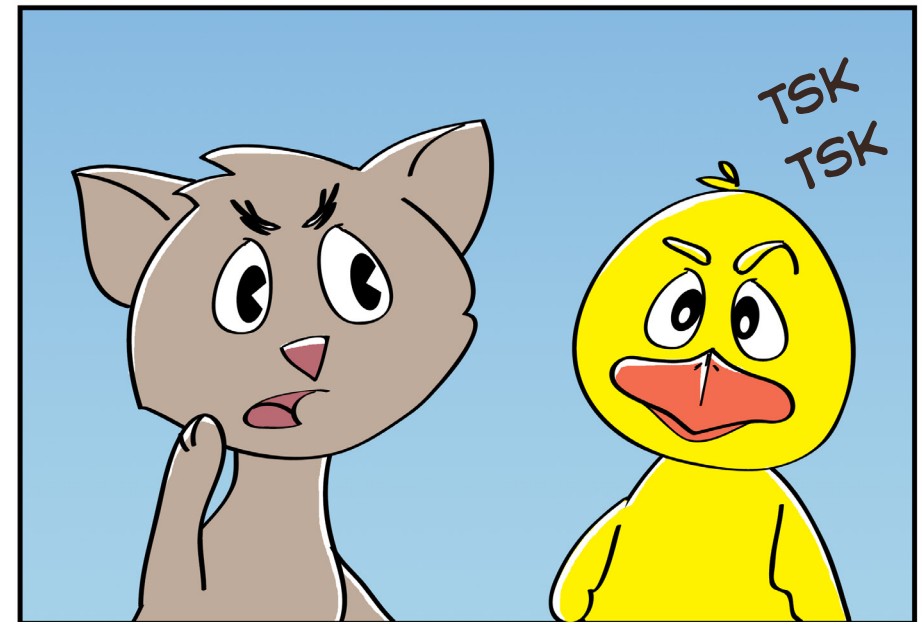
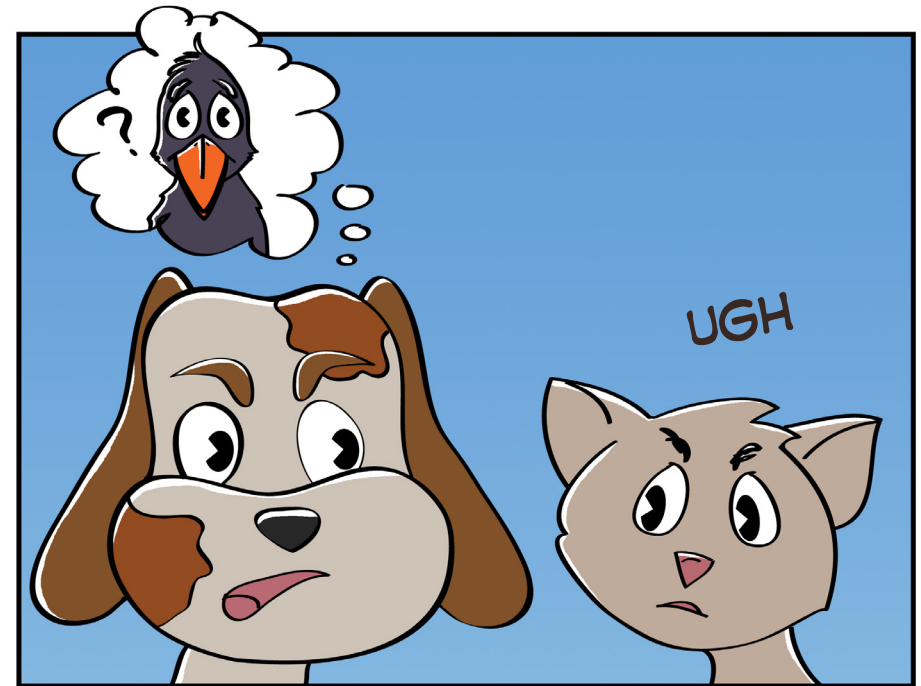


BUT SOMETIMES THERE WERE JUICY BITS
THAT WE'VE TOLD ABOUT ANOTHER,
THINGS THAT WERE BEST KEPT SECRET
TO SHELTER OUR SISTER OR BROTHER.



ONE TIME BEEP BEEP TOLD ME SOMETHING.
IN PRIVATE HE WAS CONFIDING.
HE NEEDED TIME TO AIR HIS THOUGHTS,
BUT GOSSIP HE WASN'T PROVIDING.

BEEP BEEP AND I HAD BEEN CLOSE FRIENDS,
BUT IT'S SO SAD WHAT HAPPENED:
I TOLD THE CATS, AND SOON WE WERE
ALSO TELLING THE DUCKS AND CHICKENS.



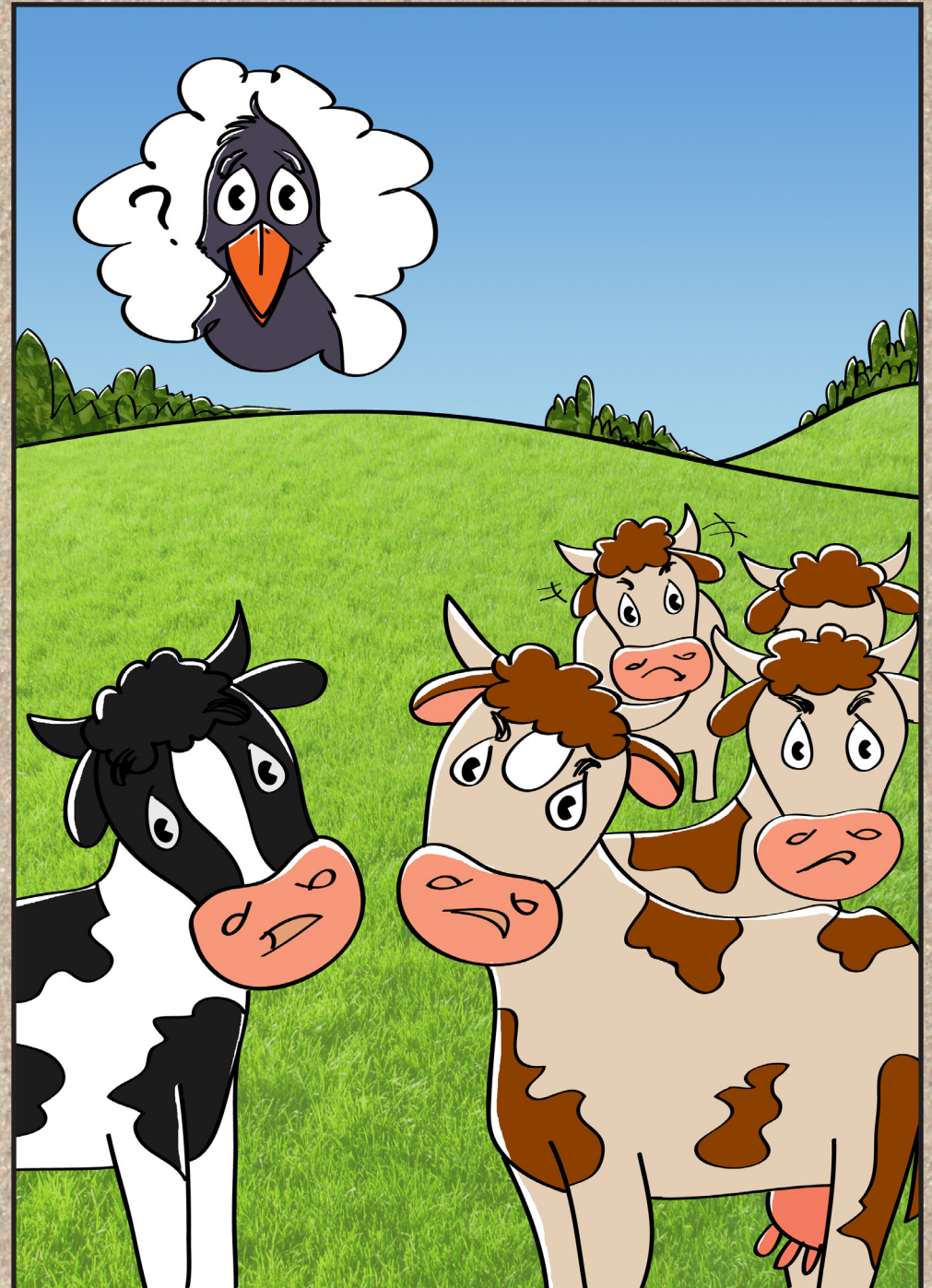
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT'S NOT SO BAD
BECAUSE MANY OTHERS DO IT.
BUT IF YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS,
ONE DAY YOU'LL LIKELY RUE IT.



WELL, I CERTAINLY CAN ATTEST:
IT'S NOT SOMETHING WE ARE PROUD OF.
THE PROCESS AT FIRST CAN SEEM FUN
TO TALK OF OTHERS AS IF BENEATH US.



THEY WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES
CAUGHT UP IN A GOSSIP FRENZY.
YES, THAT IS WHAT IT TRULY WAS.
IN MY CASE, IT WAS FUELED BY ENVY.



AS YOU KNOW, I WAS THE NEWCOMER,
WHO ALSO WASN'T BORN THERE.
I THOUGHT I COULD LIFT MYSELF UP
BY VERBALLY DEGRADING ANOTHER.

I'D PASS ON SOME SPITEFUL THING,
DEMEAN A BARNYARD FRIEND,
FOR THE SAKE OF FEELING SUPERIOR.
BUT THIS TACTIC KNOWS NO END.



THOSE LITTLE UNKIND COMMENTS
HAVE A WAY OF MAKING ROUNDS.
IT'S EASY TO SHARE A JUICY BIT,
NO MATTER HOW RUDE IT SOUNDS.



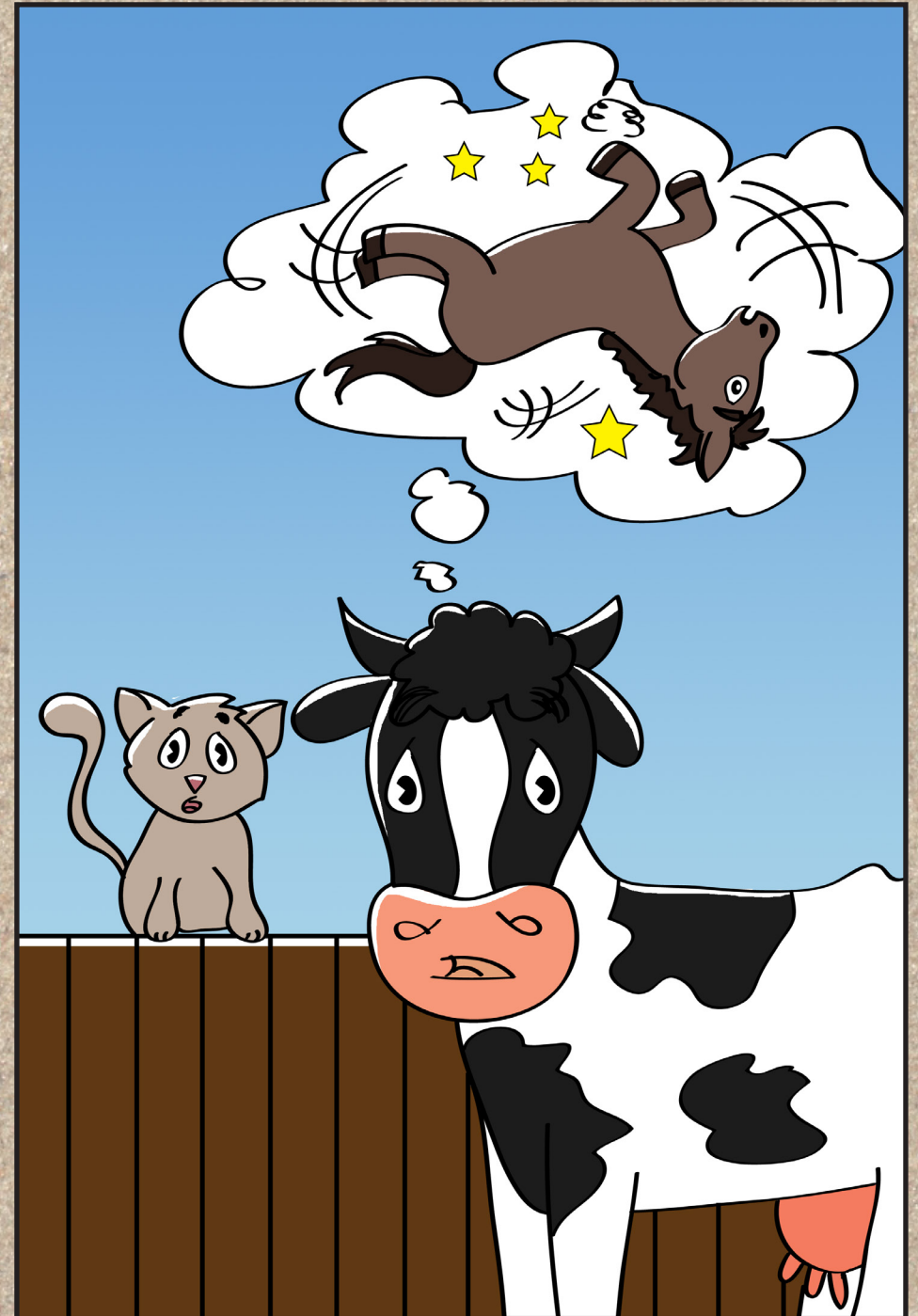


IT SEEMS IT WAS CONTAGIOUS
RETELLING THOSE JUICY BITS.
AND OFTEN WE WOULD EMBELLISH,
NO DESCRIPTIVE WORDS TO OMIT.



WE ALL KNEW IT WAS TIME
TO PUT AN END TO THIS DESTRUCTION.
THE JOY WE HAD SHARED BETWEEN US
WAS BEING REPLACED BY SELF-ABSORPTION.

BEEP BEEP STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE
TO BRING US BACK TO BEING FRIENDS.
THOUGH HE HADN'T STARTED IT,
HE TOOK ACTION SO IT WOULD END.





I MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE ONE
TO FIRST TELL A FORBIDDEN TALE.
BUT I GOT IN ON THE ACT
MY GOSSIP ABOUT OTHERS DID SAIL.

NOW I WAS LONELY AND HURTING
—AND SO WERE ALL MY FRIENDS.
WITH EACH SUFFERING FROM THE UNKIND WORDS,
IT WAS TIME TO MAKE AMENDS.

I CALLED MY FRIENDS TOGETHER
TO MAKE AMENDS FOR MY PART.
WE LOOKED SADLY AT EACH OTHER
AND THEN TALKED HEART TO HEART.





WE APOLOGIZED TO EACH OTHER
FOR UNKIND TALES WE HAD TOLD.
WE VOWED TO SPEAK SUPPORTIVE WORDS:
TRUE FRIENDSHIP WAS OUR GOAL.

WE EACH BENEFIT WHEN THE OTHER
IS WELL CARED FOR AND IS GLAD.
I LEARNED TO JUDGE MY WORDS BY IF THEY
LIFT UP OR MAKE SOMEONE SAD.



WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER,
A LIFE IS BEST LIVED WITH FRIENDS.
OUR WORDS ABOUT EACH OTHER
FROM NOW ON WILL BUILD AND MEND.

