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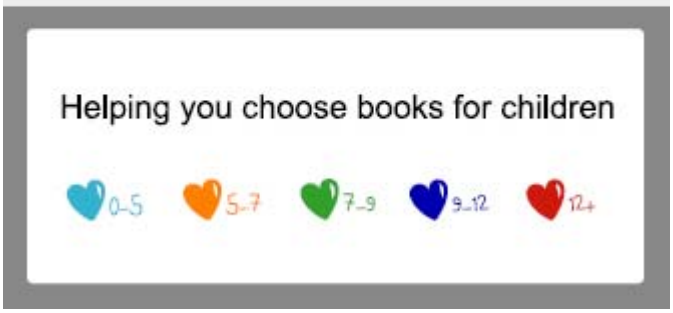

opening extract from

The Trouble with Owls

written by

Hilda Offen

published by

Happy Cat Books

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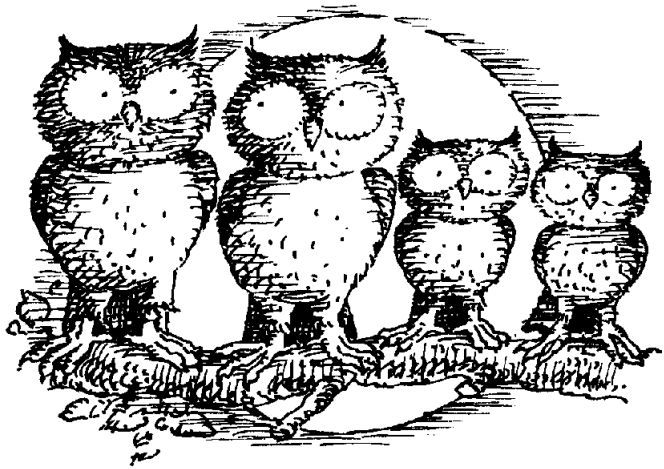


Chapter 1

The Howletts sat in a row.

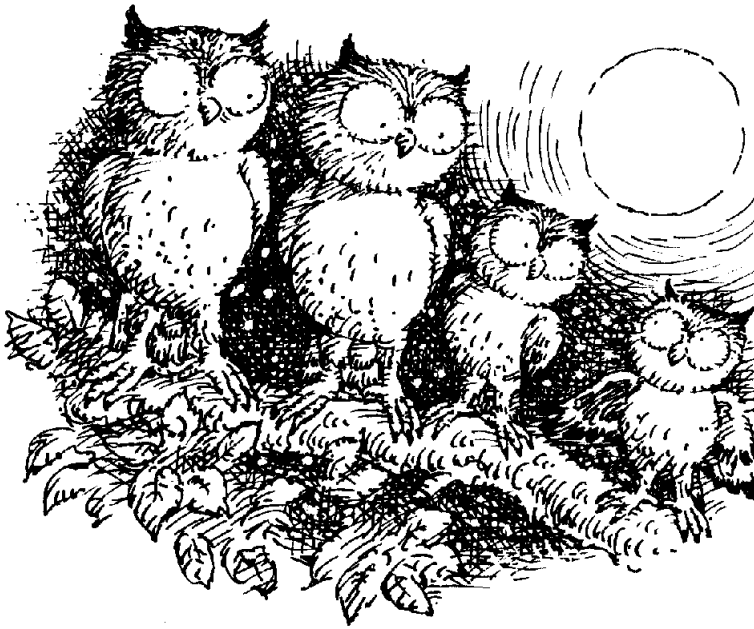
"How lucky we are!" said Mr Howlett.

"Indeed, my dear," said Mrs Howlett. "We're very, very lucky!"

"Very, very, very lucky!" said Wendy Howlett.

There was a pause.

"Why are we lucky?" asked Wally.



They turned their heads and stared at him.

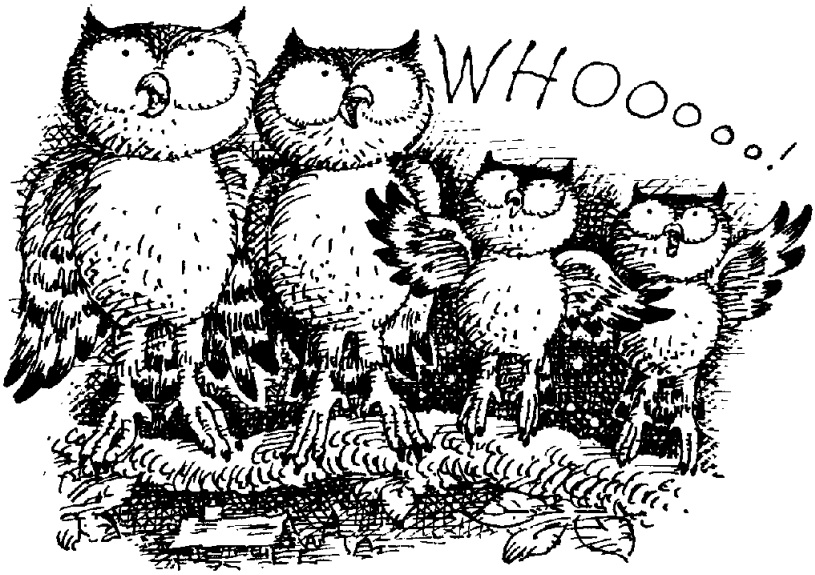
"What a silly question!" said Wendy. "We're lucky because we have the Honeybells."

"They're so kind and clever," sighed Mrs Howlett.

"And they just happen to be the most interesting family in the whole world!" said Mr Howlett.

They shifted on their branch and

stared down at the house below. Light shone from its windows and spilled onto the lawn.



"Let's show them how much we appreciate them," said Mr Howlett.

They each took a deep breath and drew themselves to their full height.

"Tu-whit-tu-whit-tu-WHOOOOO!" they chorused. "WHOOOOO!"

Inside their cosy house the Honeybells frowned.

"It's those owls again!" said Mr Honeybell. "They're very noisy."

"And nosy!" said Mrs Honeybell. "I get the feeling they're watching us all the time."

"And they're messy, too," said Melissa Honeybell. "They're always dropping things on my head – twigs and beetles' wings and those yukky pellets."

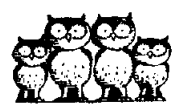
"Why, oh why," said Mrs Honeybell, "did they have to come and live in our tree?"

"I like owls," said Michael.

They turned and stared at him.

"Why?" they cried.

"Oh – I don't know," said Michael. "I think they're interesting, that's all."

"Huh!" snorted Mr Honeybell. "Noisy, nosy and nasty! That's what they are!"

"Tu-whit-tu-whooo!" cried the Howletts in their tree. "Tu-whit-tu-whit-tu-WHOOOOOOOO!"