

# HIGH NOON

## ON COME ALONG SLOUGH

**Bruce Campbell**

Illustrated by Hilary Glass

Humans have despoiled Come Along Slough's habitat, endangering the survival of the animals who live there. Food is scarce. In an effort to fight chronic hunger, a shaky alliance of carnivores and herbivores creates a governmental body called the United Slough of Animals. The USA imposes strict eating quotas, but Coyote and Elrod the Stoat are shameless scofflaws and don't want Big Government meddling with their natural right to eat their fill of Rabbits. Only "trickle down gastronomics" works for them. Owl, Muskrat, River Otter, Crow, Raccoon, Hummingbird, Squib Dog, and many other animals try to respect the rules, but after the Rats invade Come Along Slough, the USA slides into deeper crisis.

"How it is that animals understand things I do not know, but it is certain that they do understand. Perhaps there is a language which is not made of words and everything in the world understands it. Perhaps there is a soul hidden in everything and it can always speak, without even making a sound, to another soul."

—The Little Princess, Francis Hodgson Burnett

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** BRUCE CAMPBELL lives in Portland, Oregon, where he operates a small urban farm close to a golf course recently rewilded into a nature park. He was a high school environmental science teacher and has traveled extensively throughout the world. He co-authored with Nancy Henry an environmental memoir entitled *This Rough Magic: At Home on the Columbia Slough*. He has published short stories in Timberline Review, Fabula Press, and the Tishman Review, and won awards in the Kay Snow Writing Contest. He has also placed in the San Francisco Writing Contest and the Tucson Festival of Arts.

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