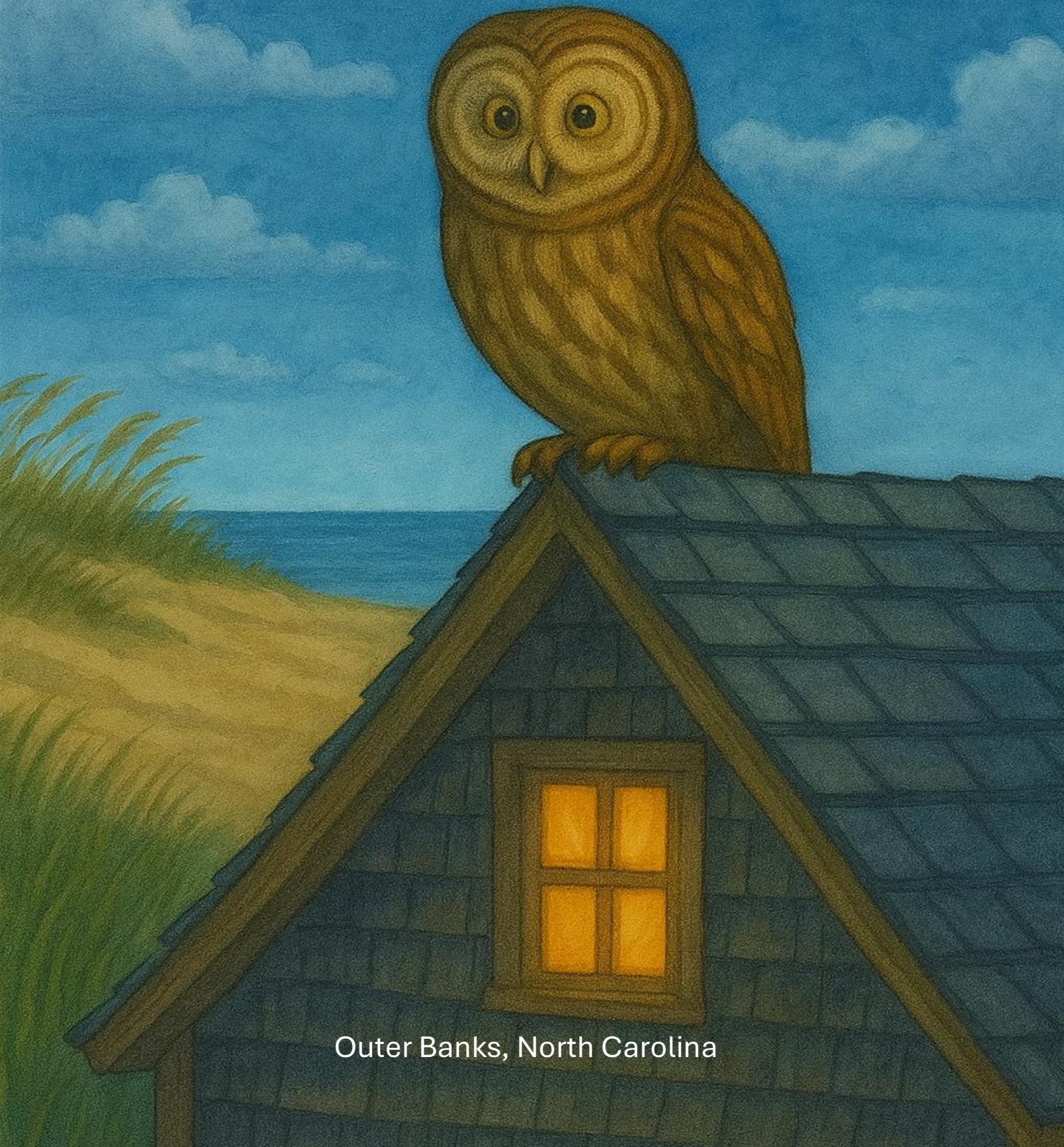


# Ollie's Lesson



Outer Banks, North Carolina



## Forward

This storybook was created by the Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

We believe that small stories can spark big change. That is why we have made this book available as a free resource for parents, teachers, and community members.

All materials in this book may be freely downloaded, shared, printed and used for educational or nonprofit purposes.

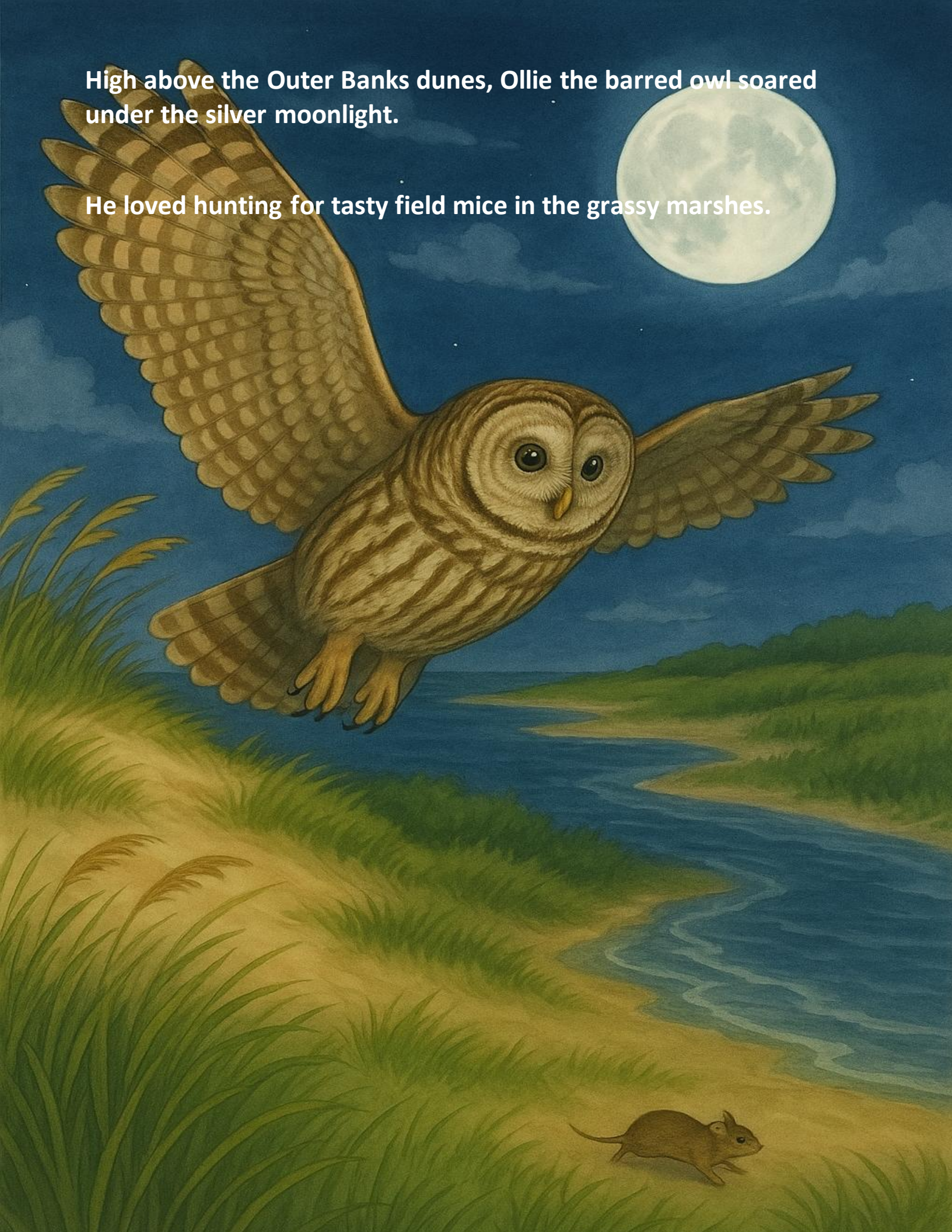
To learn more, access additional resources at: [www.theobcc.org](http://www.theobcc.org).





High above the Outer Banks dunes, Ollie the barred owl soared under the silver moonlight.

He loved hunting for tasty field mice in the grassy marshes.





One night, he spotted an easy catch—a mouse moving slowly near a cottage porch.

“Perfect midnight snack,” Ollie hooted.





But just as he swooped, his friend Finn the fox called out,  
“Ollie! Don’t eat that one!”





Ollie landed with a puzzled blink. "Why not? It's right there."

"That mouse might have eaten rat poison," Finn warned. "If you eat it, the poison goes into you, too. It can make you very sick—or worse."





Ollie's feathers ruffled. "But rat poison is for rats and mice... why would it hurt me?"

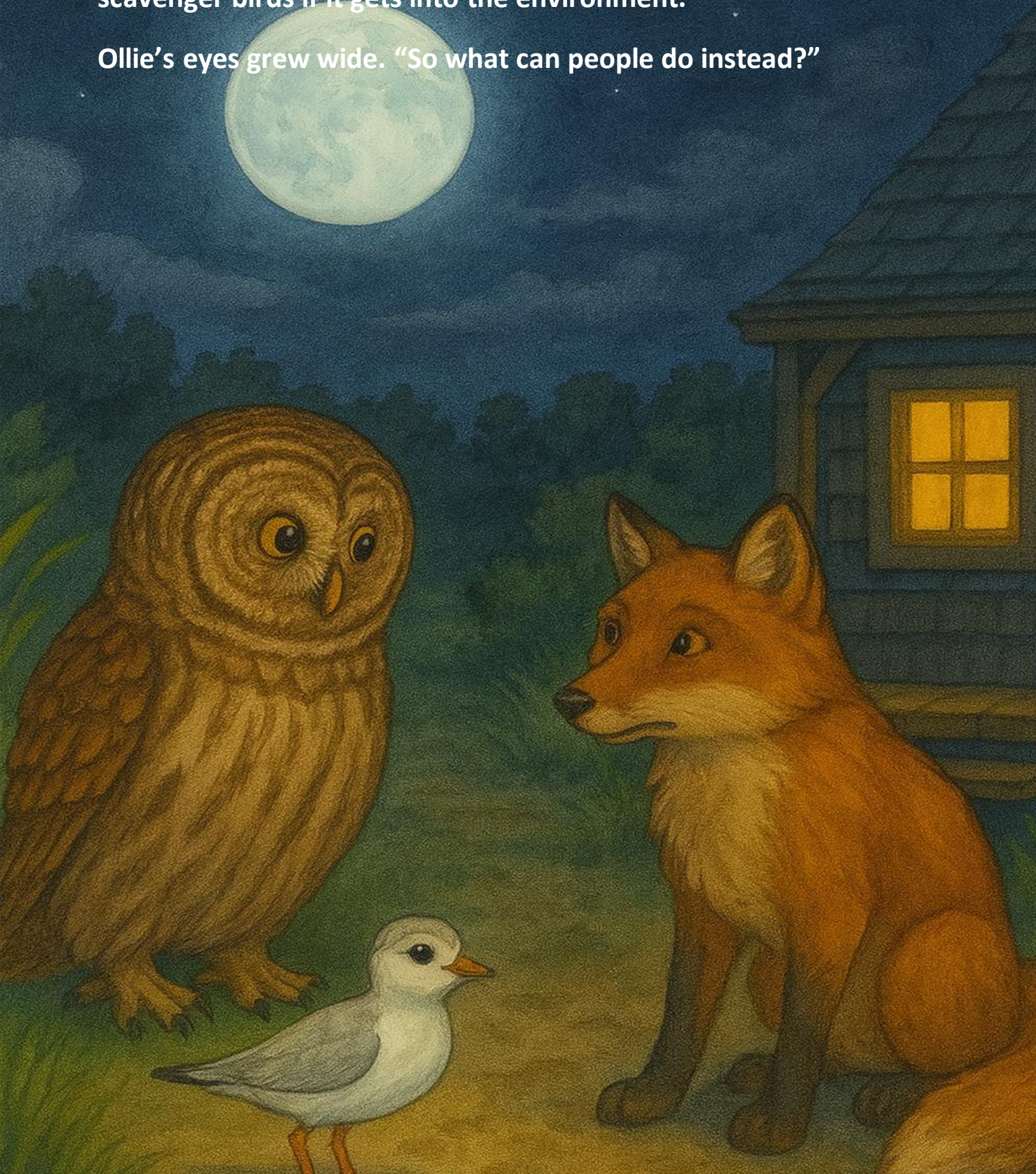
Finn explained, "Rat poison doesn't stop working when the rat dies. Any animal that eats the poisoned animal—hawks, owls, foxes, even pets—can be harmed."





Their friend Piper the piping plover hopped over. "And it's not just you two! Poison can hurt crabs, turtles, and even scavenger birds if it gets into the environment."

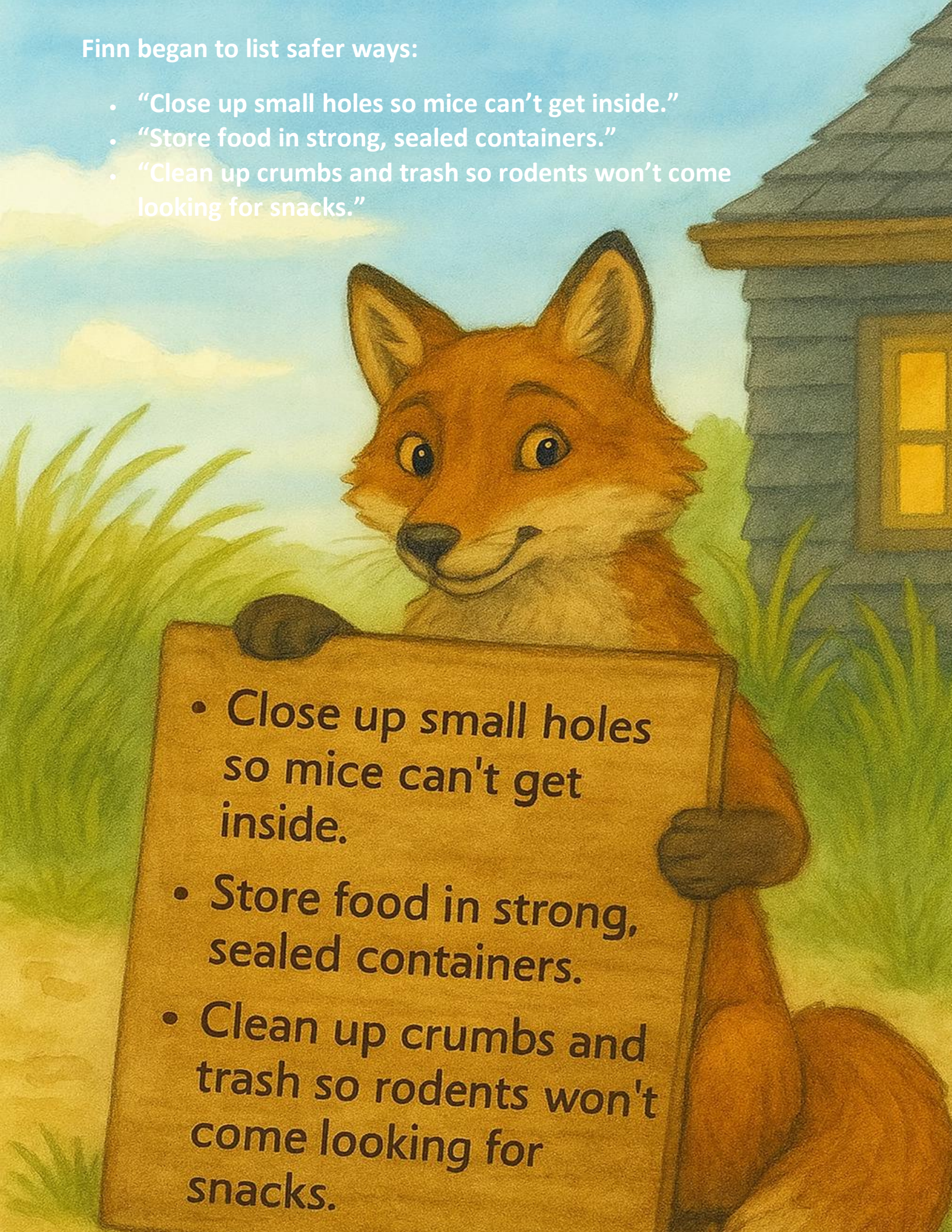
Ollie's eyes grew wide. "So what can people do instead?"





Finn began to list safer ways:

- “Close up small holes so mice can’t get inside.”
- “Store food in strong, sealed containers.”
- “Clean up crumbs and trash so rodents won’t come looking for snacks.”

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Piper added, “And if trapping is needed, use snap traps or live traps—no poison! Or call pest control experts who use wildlife-safe methods.”

Ollie gave a firm nod. “If people choose safer ways, wildlife stays healthy, and the Outer Banks stays wild and beautiful.”

From that night on, Ollie watched over the dunes—not just to hunt, but to share his big warning:

“No poison, more life!”





# Did you Know?

Rat poison is bad. It makes animals  
sick,

Owls, foxes, and pets –  
It harms them quick!

Instead, use traps

Close holes up right

And keep food sealed.

