


**Darkness has fallen again in the back
Underneath patches of stars**


**I wonder who's out there in the dead of night
Peering at me from afar**





**Sometimes I hear a soft
hoot from above
And hope they are
finding some respite**

**Some days I hear simply nothing at all
When the air is cold, still, and desolate.**

A winter scene with snow falling. In the foreground, a large bird with a bright orange head and white wings is shown in profile, facing right. In the background, a smaller bird with a similar orange head and white body is perched on a dark tree trunk. The scene is set in a snowy forest with dark, bare trees and a light blue sky.


**And even when things overwhelm me
And with all the burdens I hold
The place in the back understands me
A piece of the universe, my home**

So somewhere far, far away in the back
Mr. Rabbit enjoys his late lunch
Chewing on corn, the last shoots of fall,
and scraps, mm *munch munch munch*

A fox hops along, humming her song
A squirrel stores up seeds and nuts
The owl still sleeps, and only just peeks,
When the moon shows her shine in the dusk








**Humanity can be crushingly much
The cars and the trains and the news
It's chaos all inside and above and around me
It's shortening my haphazard fuse**

**The one thing I know, one thing I can do
Is care, respect and give love
To tread very lightly, to feed and adore
The land and all that it does**

**And even when things overwhelm me
And with all the burdens I hold
The place in the back understands me
A piece of the universe; I am home**



**Thank you said the rugged raccoon,
Sincere gratitude nods the wise owl,
The buck bowed his head low in a kind of salute
The coyotes joined chorus with howls**

**Us too said the thimble size toads
And the bumble bees danced to agree
For respecting your piece of the universe ...**

And choosing to share it with me

