

## An Unlikely Pair

A Grouse and a Mouse  
seem an unlikely pair.  
One covered with feathers,  
The other with hair.  
One can take to the sky.  
One can easily disappear.  
Actually, that trait they share.

Remarkable perhaps,  
But the truth about these chaps  
Is they have more in common than you think

Despite their differences,  
sharing their experiences,  
Believe it or not,  
A Mouse and a Grouse  
could even become  
best friends.  
Consider their homes.  
They both love to build nests.  
From the Appalachian Mountains  
to the wilds of the West.

But not up in trees,  
No, instead, in the leaves.

Down on the ground  
is where they are found.

At least, usually.  
There they could meet,  
serendipitously.

They are neighbors after all.  
Sharing the same space  
Running the same race  
Survival their shared goal.

Forest dwellers for life.  
Despite all the strife.  
Coyotes, owls, foxes  
And the like.  
All smack their lips at the sight.  
Of a Grouse or a Mouse.

A delicious meal, not easily enjoyed,  
when instinct is used and rapidly deployed.  
Camouflage and subterfuge.  
These are the weapons a Mouse and Grouse use.

Lacking might or defense, they must live by the ruse.

Stealthy and clever,  
they stay out of view.

A Mouse prefers night,  
while a Grouse prefers day.

They could watch over each other that way.

One sleeps, while the other feasts  
And keeps eyes peeled for hungrier beasts.

They even enjoy the same cuisine.

Pretty much everything.

Motley diners, not picky,

that keeps them tricky,

riches of the forest a buffet.

Insects, seeds, tree buds and more.

Availability the main ingredient for the smorgasbord.

Both start out small.

But determined are they all.

A grouse can eat and walk in a day!

Now here they diverge.

**Because mice are born with the urge**

**for mother's milk,**

**sight, steady legs and fur.**

**But quickly they grow and develop.**

**Fully fledged.**

**Eager to explore.**

**Leaping into the world they emerge.**

**Alone, but not afar.**

**In the same circumstance, they are.**

**Unknowing their future travails**

**But together perhaps, they could easily prevail.**

**A Grouse and a Mouse.**

**Isn't it amazing?**

**Some may say crazy.**

**That overcoming adversity**

**could be solved by diversity.**

**It may seem implausible.**

**but a Mouse and a Grouse**

**Show it is possible.**

**An ideal to strive for indeed.**

**Because the best of friends  
are always in need.  
And most easily found  
when hearts and minds are free.  
Life could be so much more serene  
If simply we agreed  
that all that really matters is  
we, not me.**