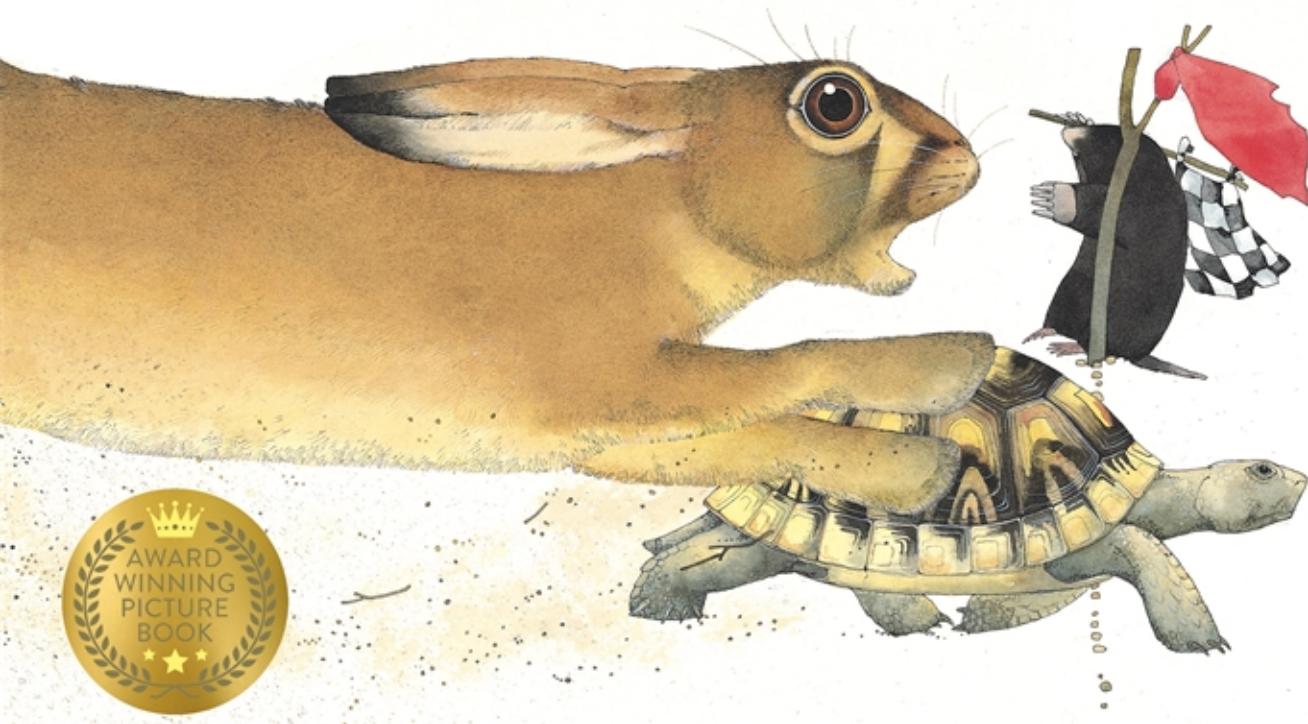




THE HARE *and* *the* TORTOISE

Retold & Illustrated
by HELEN WARD



THE
HARE *and* *the* TORTOISE

To tortoises everywhere

This edition published in the UK in 2021 by Templar Books

First published in the UK in 1998 by Templar Books,

an imprint of Hachette Books UK,

The Plaza, 888 King's Road, London, SW10 0SZ.

Owned by Bonnier Books

Forsvärpen 86, Stockholm, Sweden

www.templarbooks.co.uk

www.bonnierebooks.co.uk

Copyright © 1998 by Templar Books

1 3 6 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

All rights reserved.

Edited by AJ Ward

Project editor on this edition, Samuel Fern

Designed by Mike Jolley

Additional design by Ted Jennings

Production by Nick Read

This book was drawn in ink and painted

in watercolour and gouache on watercolour paper.

It was set in 25pt Bemhard Madura.

ISBN 978-1-787-419-41-4



THE

HARE *and* TORTOISE

Retold &

Illustrated by

HELEN WARD





There once was a very fast hare...
and a very slow tortoise.





The hare hopped everywhere causing havoc.



The tortoise
was an altogether more
thoughtful animal.

One day the hare was carelessly sprinting along
when he tripped over the tortoise and
tumbled into a spiny bush...



which hurt.



The hare shouted at the tortoise.
The noise attracted a crowd.

The hare called the tortoise slow-witted and stupid.

The tortoise did not say what he
thought of the hare.

Instead, he challenged the hare to a race.

The hare laughed so much that he hurt even more.

News of the challenge spread far and wide.

From all corners of the Earth an audience began to gather.

A course was marked out...



An unbiased referee was found. At last the great day arrived!

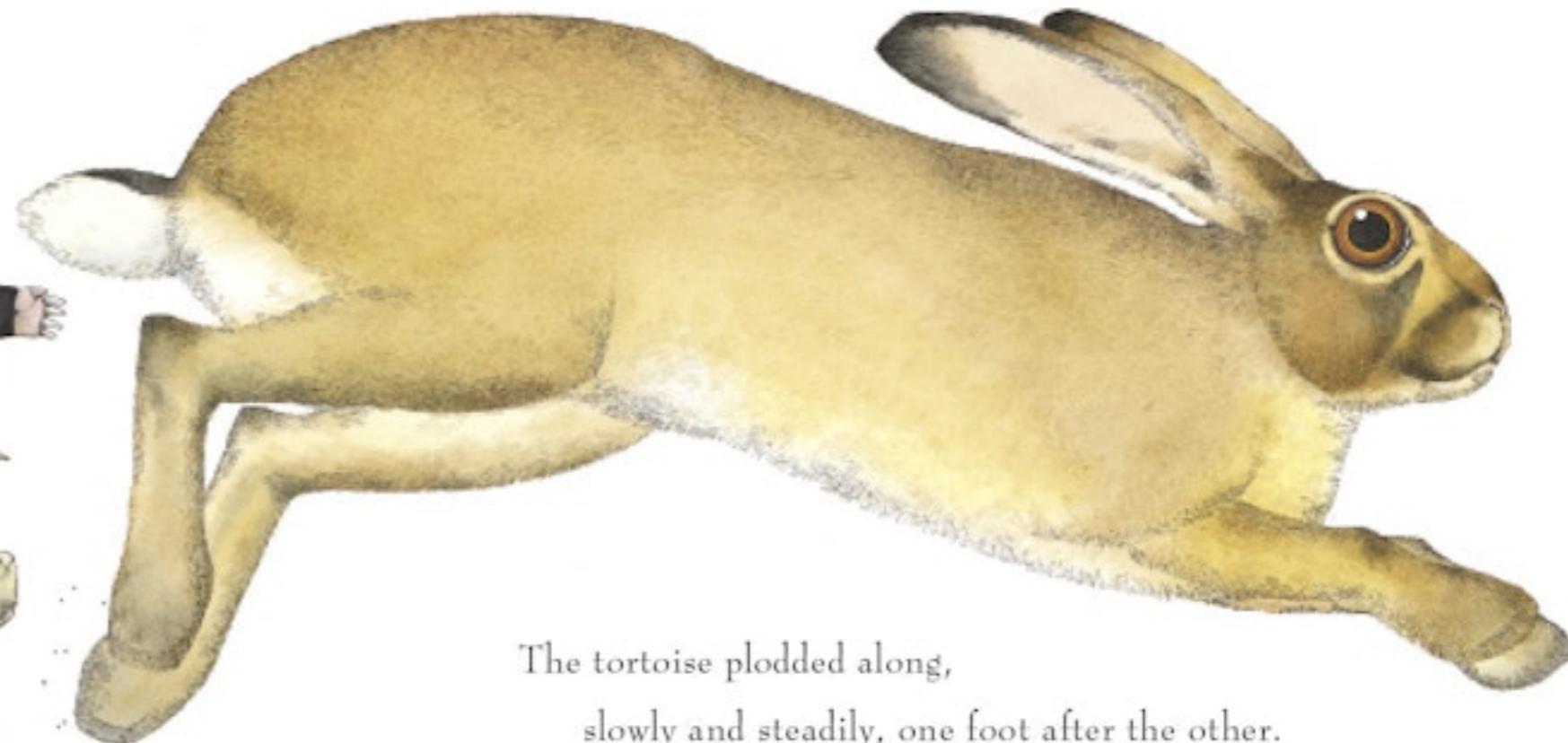
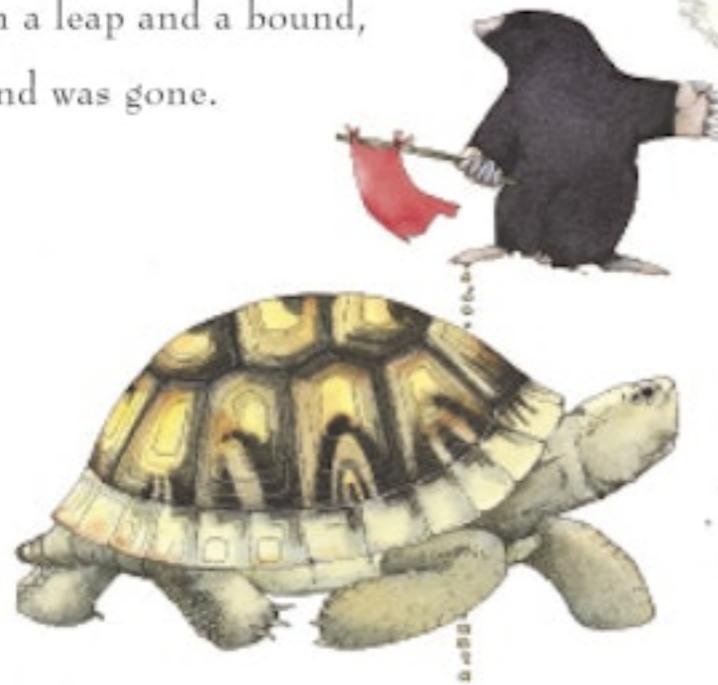
The referee said,

"On your marks... get set... GO!"

The hare hurtled forward

in a leap and a bound,

and was gone.



The tortoise plodded along,

slowly and steadily, one foot after the other.

He was soon left far behind.



The hare raced to
the river and
leaped...

from stone...



to stone...

towards the far bank...



...but he did not quite get to where he thought he was going.



The tortoise crossed more easily.





Next, the hare found himself in the thick of a very peculiar forest.



He was scratched and tired when he
reached the other side.

So the hare decided to take a nap...



After all, it was obviously going to take the tortoise
a very long time indeed to scramble through
those trees...

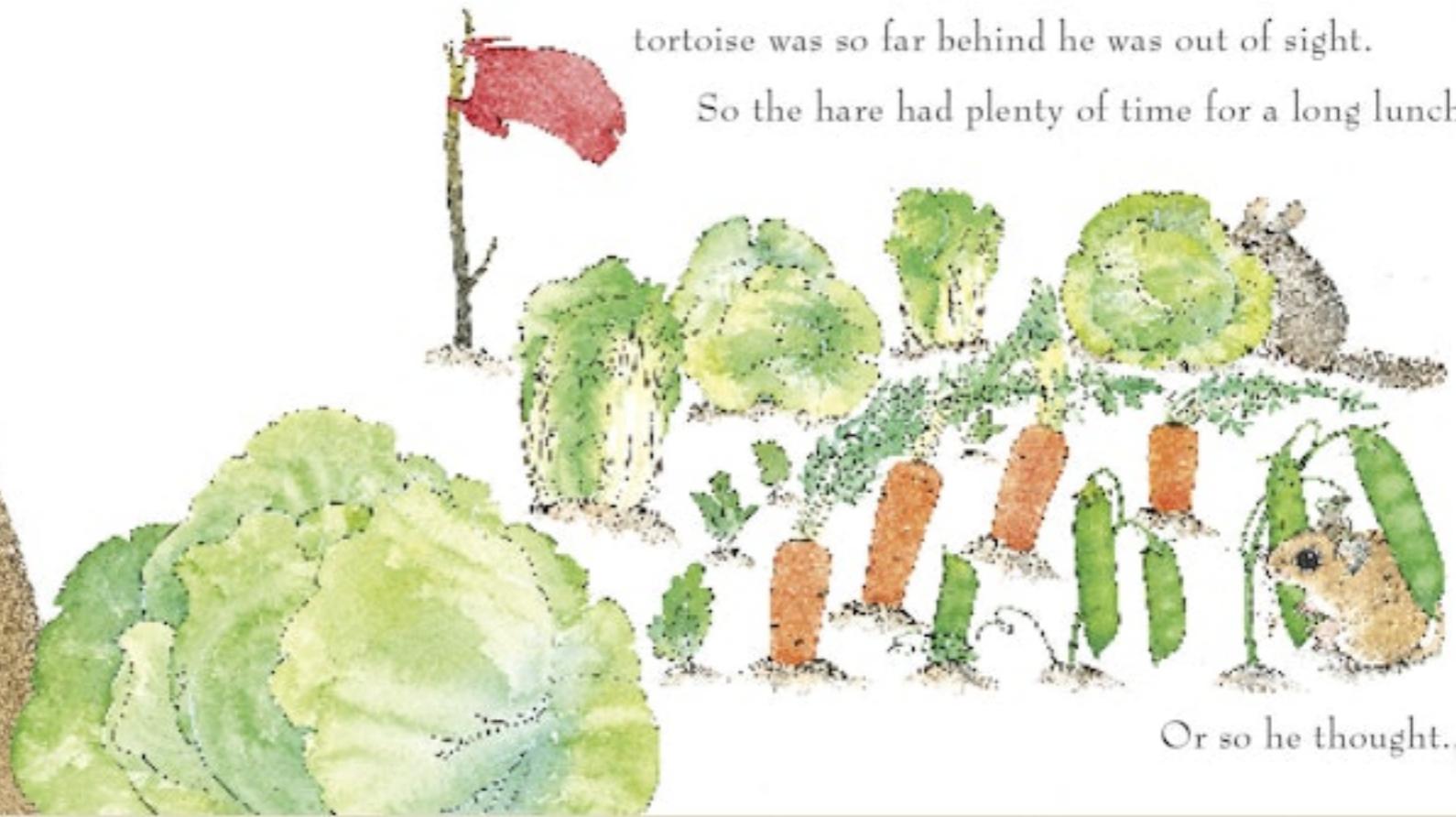


The hare woke to find that food had grown while he slept.

He looked around and was pleased to see that the

tortoise was so far behind he was out of sight.

So the hare had plenty of time for a long lunch.



Or so he thought...



The hare had very nearly eaten everything when he was surprised to hear the sound of cheering.



Horrified to see that the cheering was not for him, he ran as fast as a hare with a long lunch inside him could run.

Not fast enough! The patient, plodding tortoise
had beaten him to the finishing post.

But although the hare was not fast enough
to win the race,

he was running too fast to stop.

He fell into an even spinier bush
than before...



But this time
he said nothing.



KEY TO THE ANIMALS

There Was Once a Very Fast Hare...

All species of hare are fast runners, thanks to their long hind legs and strong leg muscles. The common hare (*Lepus capensis*), illustrated throughout this book, is found in many parts of the world. It was introduced into the Americas, Australia and New Zealand from its original home in Europe so that it could be hunted for food and sport. Unlike many other small mammals, it does not run away, but relies on its speed and vigilance to escape danger. Just as well, then, that grown male hares can reach speeds of up to 70km per hour - faster than the world's fastest cheetahs!

...And a Very Slow Tortoise

Although not the slowest creature on the planet, tortoises have a long-standing reputation for slowness. Most move at speeds of around only 360m per hour - in other words, it would take 3 hours for our hare to travel

a mile! The belief that tortoises hardly move at all is not helped by the fact that, when threatened, they will not try to flee like most other animals. Instead, a frightened tortoise will stay perfectly still, stretching its head and feet beneath its armoured shell, in the hope that this will provide sufficient protection from its enemies. The tortoise painted throughout this book is known as Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*), the species most commonly supplied to the pet trade.

Cassing Heron

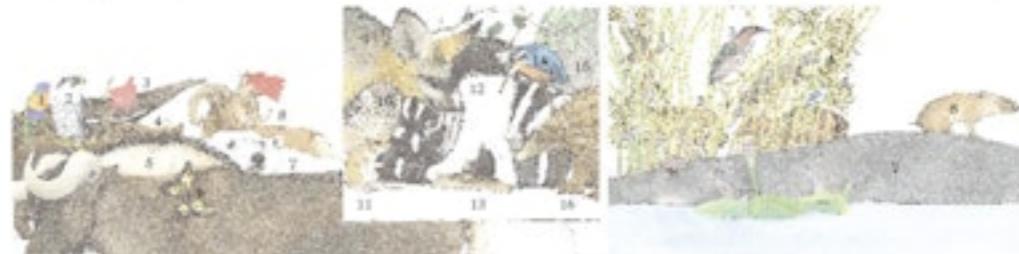
None of these creatures is speedy enough to get out of the way of a lurying heron. In the case of the addle snail, that's hardly surprising since it is one of the slowest creatures on the planet, taking an hour to move only 4.6m. From left to right you can see an osprey, cockchafer, garden dormouse and quail, as well as the Roman or addle snail.

An Altogether More Thoughtful Animal
How thoughtful of the tortoise to provide this deaf morgan with a look-out post! The morgan is a speedy mole-catcher, often kept as a pet in its original home of Asia.

The Noise Attracted A Crowd

Apart from the hare and the tortoise, the following crew shows, from left to right, the deaf morgan, common chameleon, European quail, faner lot, impala, short-horned grasshopper and a banded seal.

From All Corners of the Earth... (far left)
Amongst the animals that have graced these far and wide you can see the world's fastest flying bird, the peregrine falcon. This impressive bird of prey will dive through the sky at speeds reaching 231km per hour or more, knocking its prey off other smaller birds to the





ground with a single blow of its sharp talons! At the opposite end of the scale, you can also see the dainty swallowtail butterfly, possessor of the slowest wingspan in the insect world at 300 beats per minute!

1. Rainbow loy
2. Penguin falcon
3. Giant anteater
4. African warthog
5. White-tailed kite
6. Dusky swallowtail butterfly
7. Polar bear
8. American bighorn sheep
9. Bat-eared fox
10. Bouncing owl
11. African gerbil
12. Kingfisher
13. European mole
14. Kingfisher
15. European hedgehog
16. Penguin

But He Did Not Quite Get To Where He Thought He Was Going (previous page, right)

Like the tortoise, the hippopotamus has a reputation for being slow and lazy. True, hippos do spend practically

all day napping but they can actually move quite quickly when they want to, especially when running along the river bottoms. However, they are most often found standing up to their necks in river water or mud beds where they can sleep undisturbed, with only their eyes and nostrils poking up above the surface.

The group of quadrupeds also includes:

1. Pygmy gnu	2. Saaru
3. Cross lizard	4. Egyptian monogome
5. Water chevrotain	6. White-collared kingfisher
7. Hippopotamus	8. Hare

A Very Familiar Forest (above)

Amongst this fine array of legs are those belonging to some of the speediest creatures on earth.

The cheetah is the fastest mammal on land and can reach speeds of over 100kms per hour when chasing its

prey across the African plains. It shares its home with the world's fastest land bird - the ostrich. With its powerful legs, flexible knees and two-toed feet, the ostrich is capable of reaching 72kms per hour - fast enough to outrun most of its enemies, which is just as well since it is too big to fly! Most of the other animals shown are also quick on their feet apart, of course, from the slow loris who, as its name implies, spends most of its life climbing slowly through the branches of its forest home.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Thomson's gazelle | 2. Slow loris |
| 3. Flare | 4. Ostrich |
| 5. Chacma | 6. Cheetah |
| 7. Indian rhinoceros | 8. African elephant |
| 9. Giraffe | 10. Vulture |
| 11. Common stilted | 12. Red river hog |
| 13. Oryx | |



When He Reached The Other Side (above)

Continuing through the forest of legs you can see:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Pronghorn antelope | 2. Giant elephant shrew |
| 3. Boar | 4. Giraffe |
| 5. Goliath beetle | 6. De Beaufort's monkey |
| 7. Zebra | 8. Horse |
| 9. And, of course, a very tired hare! | |

Plenty Of Time For A Long Lunch... Did you spot the chinchilla (top) and northern grasshopper mouse (bottom) hiding amongst the vegetation? Both are used to living in the most inhospitable climates - the chinchilla in the hot, dry deserts of North America, the chinchilla in the cold, rocky mountains of Bolivia and Chile.

The Sound Of Cheering (right)

And so we reach the end of the race! You might have expected the cheetah to have got there before the hare - after all, he is the fastest creature on earth, but somehow even the world's slowest animals have managed to make it to the finishing post as well! The three-toed sloth holds the record for being the slowest mammal, crawling along on the ground at a mere 1.58m per hour.

7. Long-tailed hummingbird - hummingbirds have the fastest wingspan in the bird world, reaching 90 beats a second in some species.

8. European mole - a champion digger, the mole can dig over 200m in a single day.

9. Giraffe - possessor of the longest legs in the animal kingdom, the giraffe can run at 50kms per hour.

10. Monarch butterfly - makes the longest journey of any insect at 3,432kms.

11. Kangaroo - this marsupial can jump almost 8m in a single giant leap and reach a speed of 45kms per hour.

12. Herd snail - Although faster than the albie snail, the herded snail would still take over a week to travel a single kilometre!

13. Three-toed sloth - the world's slowest mammal, moving at only 1.58m per hour.

14. Gentoo penguin - the fastest penguin in the bird world, with a top speed of 27kms per hour.

15. Red dog - the world's slowest canines at 1.8m per hour.

16. And, to finish, who else but the slow and steady Mexican tortoise!



