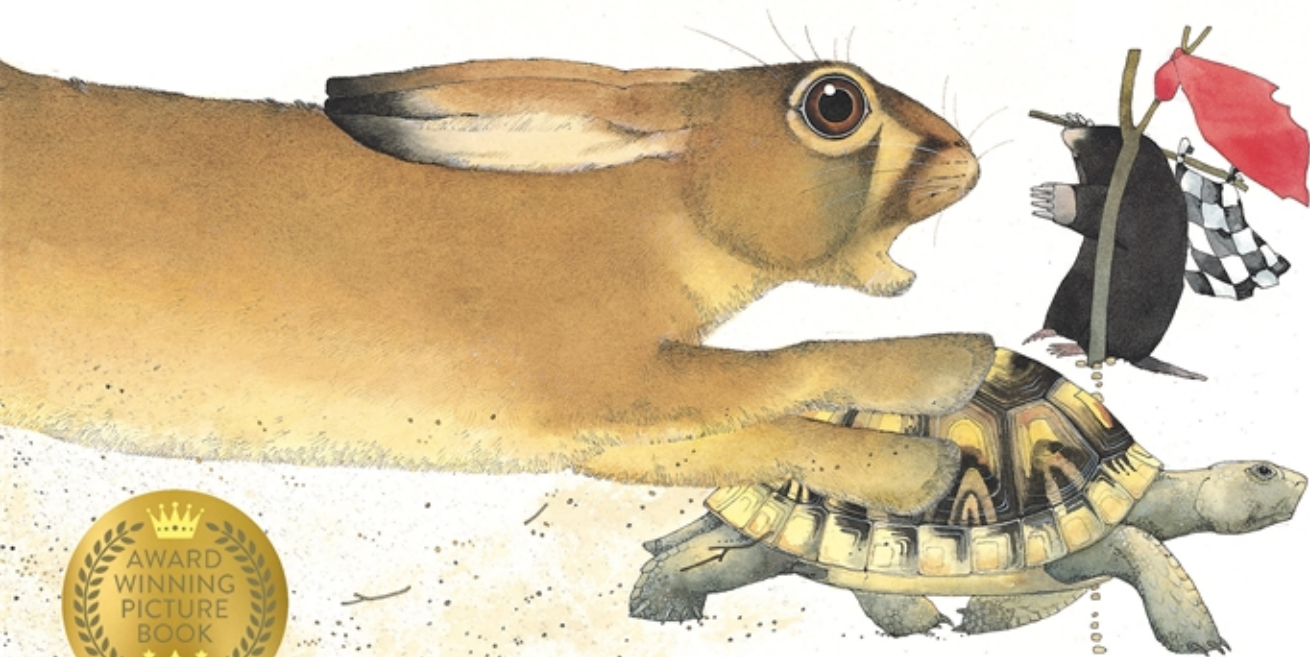


THE HARE *and the* TORTOISE

Retold & Illustrated
by HELEN WARD



THE
HARE *and
the* TORTOISE

To tortoises everywhere

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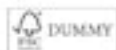
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THE HARE *and the* TORTOISE

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



The hare hurtled 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...

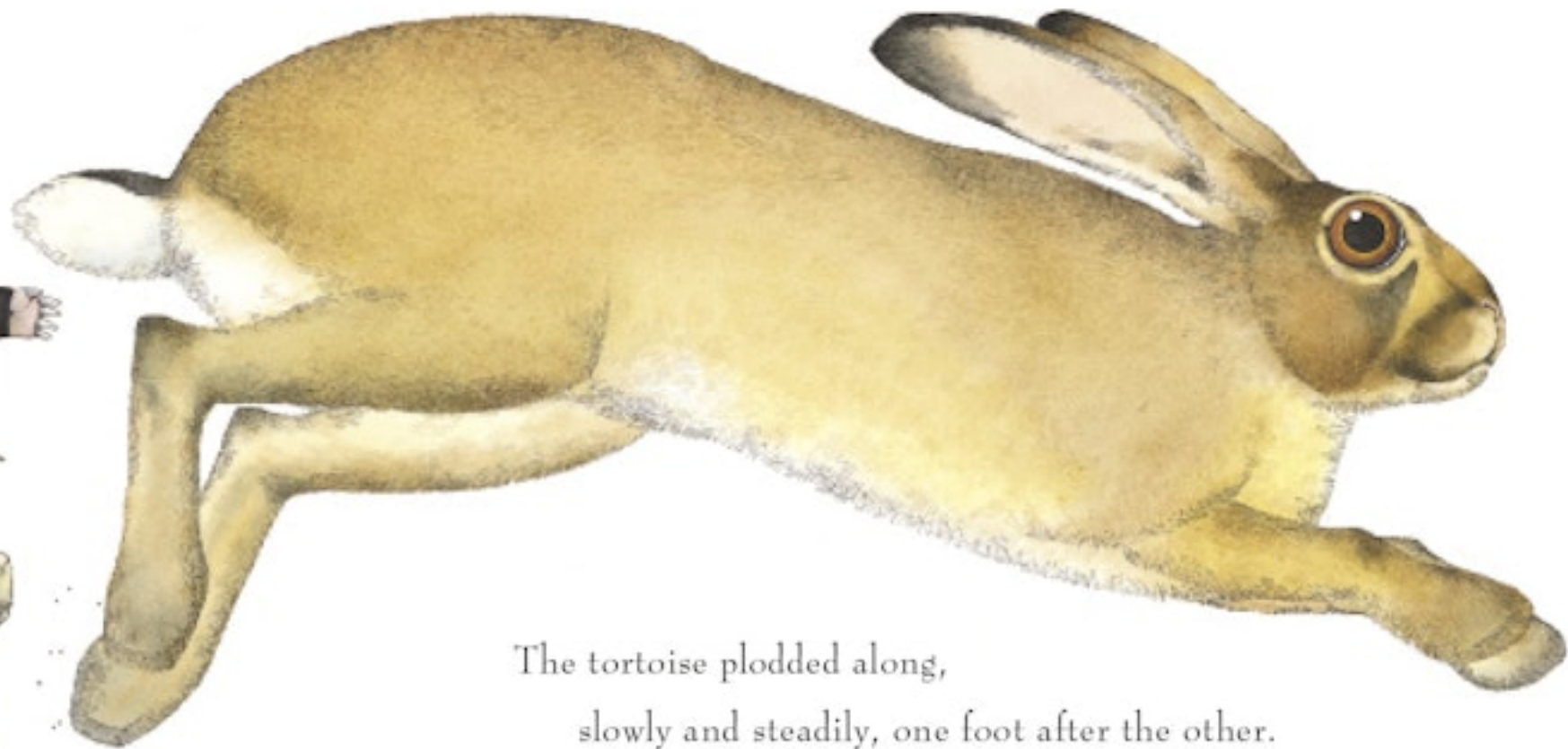


An unbiased referee was found. At last the great day arrived!

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...

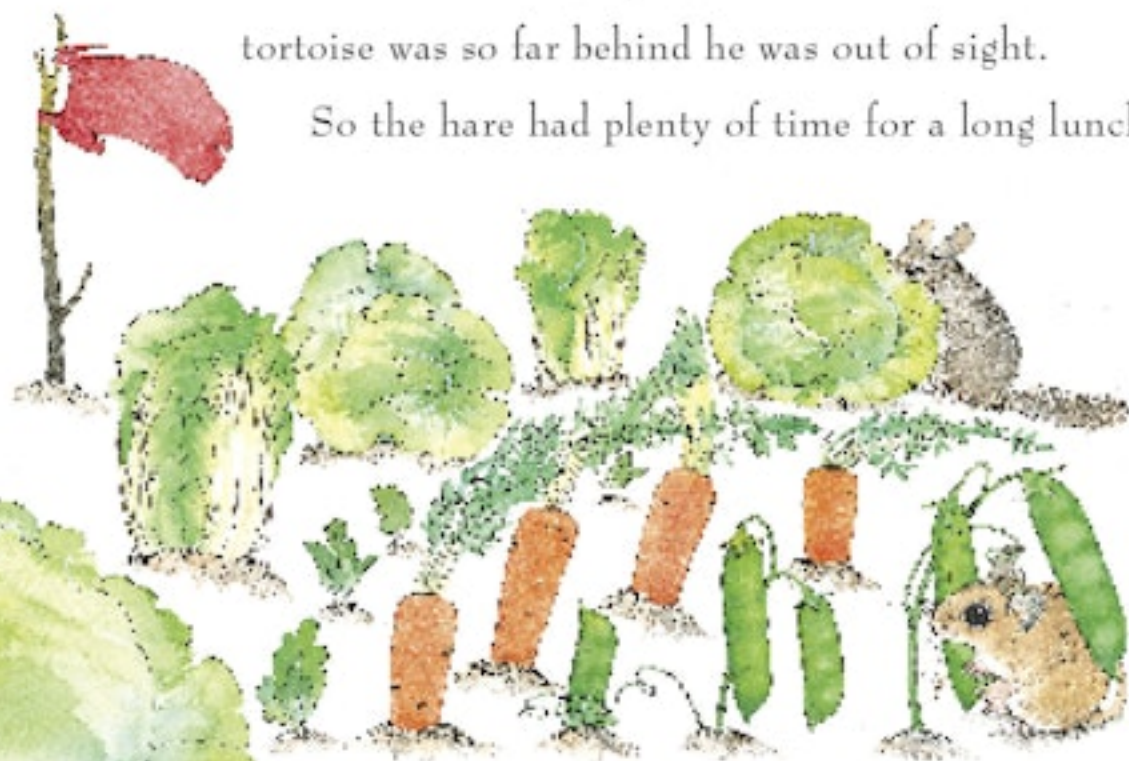




The hare woke to find that food had grown while he slept.

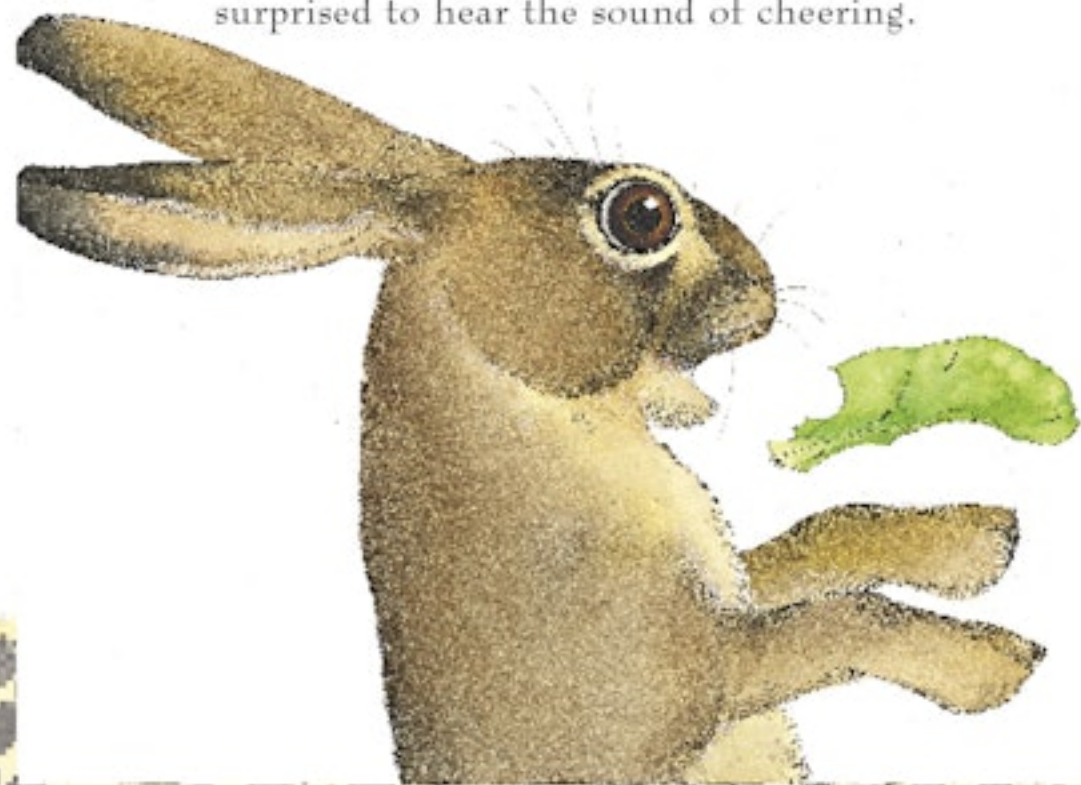
He looked around and was pleased to see that the
tortoise was so far behind he was out of sight.

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 brown 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 burrow, 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 racehorse!

...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, retracting its head and feet beneath its armored shell, in the hope that this will provide sufficient protection from its enemies. The tortoise pictured throughout this book is known as Hermann's tortoise (*Tortue hermanni*), the species most commonly supplied to the pet trade.

Causing Havoc

None of these creatures is speedy enough to get out of the way of a hurrying hare. In the case of the white rabbit, that's hardly surprising since it is one of the slowest creatures on the planet, taking an hour to move only 4.5m. From left to right you can see an collared lizard, cockchafer, garden dormouse and quail, as well as the Roman or white rabbit.



An Altogether More Thoughtful Animal

How thoughtful of the tortoise to provide this dead invertebrate with a lock-out post! The invertebrate is a speedy make-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 crowd shows, from left to right, the dead invertebrate, common chameleon, European quail, female fox, impatiens, short-horned grasshopper and a banded snail.

From All Corners of the Earth... (see left)

Amongst the animals that have gathered from 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 131km per hour or more, knocking its prey of other smaller birds to the

