

Harriet's Hare

Dick King-Smith

- 1 Harriet walked into the middle of the circle. It was big, perhaps twenty metres across, and all the corn in it was squashed down to the ground, flat, as though an enormously heavy weight had rested there.
- 4 As she stood there now, in the stillness, with no sound but distant birdsong, a hare suddenly came out into the corn circle and stopped and sat up. It turned its head a little sideways, the better to see her.
- 7 Harriet stood stock-still. Aren't you handsome, she thought, with your tawny coat and your black-tipped ears and your long hind legs. Don't run away. I won't hurt you.
- 10 For a moment the hare stayed where it was, watching her. Then, to her great surprise, it lolloped right up to her.
- 12 Surprise is one thing, but total amazement is quite another, and that was what Harriet next felt when all of a sudden the hare said, loudly and clearly, "Good morning."
- 15 Harriet pinched herself, hard. Wake up, she thought. This whole thing is a dream, hares don't talk, and then she said it aloud: "Hares don't talk."
- 17 "I'm sure they don't as a general rule," said the hare, "but I'm a rather unusual hare."
- 19 "You certainly are," said Harriet. "Are you anything to do with this corn circle?"
- 21 For a moment the hare didn't answer but fell to grooming its face. Then it said, "What's your name?"
- 23 "Harriet."
- 24 "Can you keep a secret, Harriet?"
- 25 "Yes."
- 26 "I," said the hare, "am a visitor from outer space."
- 27 "You mean ... this circle was made by your spacecraft?"
- 28 "Yes."
- 29 "So you come from another planet."
- 30 "Yes, I come from Pars."

