The Rabbit & the Hare

ILLUSTRATED TALES

Barbara Purchase
To Mitchell Temkin and Mary Corcoran for their invaluable assistance and guidance

Copyright © 1982 by The Nicholson Press

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Published in Canada by John Wiley and Sons Canada Limited
22 Worcester Road Rexdale, Ontario M9W 1L1
The Nicholson Press
9 Sultan Street
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1L6

First Edition 1982

Designed by Maher & Murtagh

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 0-47l-79854-1
ISBN 0-47l-79865-7 (Paperback)

Canadian Catalogue in Publication Data
Main entry:
The rabbit & the hare
ISBN 0-471-79854-1
1. Rabbits in literature 2. Rabbits in art 3. Rabbits in Religion, Folklore, etc.
4. Rabbits—Quotations, Maxims, etc.
L Purchase, Barbara, 1950-
SF453.25 R33 G36.9322 C82-0994072-0
The editor wishes to thank the following sources for kind permission to include the following illustrations in this book:

Chapter One
The Albertina, Vienna, for "The Hare" (detail) by Albert Durer.
The Cooper-Bridgmian Library, London for #4965: "Stray Rabbits" (1858) by Robert Collinson, courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum;
#6643: Needlework picture embroidered in silk on woven canvas, English, circa 1720, courtesy the Victoria and Albert Museum.
The Ann Ronan Picture Library, London for #3550: "Hare Pursued by Hounds," from Le Voluex, Paris, 3 March 1876;
#2013/5V8: "Rabbits (Lepus cuniculus)" from The Royal Natural History, Frederick Warne & Co., London (circa 1855).
#55//68: "A Hare" from Thomas Bewick, Select Fables, Newcastle, 1820;
#35//74: "Hares and Young (Lepus cuniculus)" and "Hares and a Leveret (Lepus europaeus)" from The Penny Magazine, London 25 October 1841.
Insel Verlag, Frankfurt am Main, for "Ich horte war was du nicht siehst," by Almust Gernhardt and Robert Gernhardt, © 1975 by Insel Verlag.
Lepus Variabilis Pall. hybrida.

Chapter Two
Houghton Mifflin, Boston, for an illustration by A. B. Frost from Uncle Remus and His Friends by Joel Chandler Harris, published 1892.
Temps Illustration of the White Rabbit from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, circa 1865.
Illustration to "The Rabbit's Bride" from Grimm's Fairy Tales.

Chapter Three
Jonathan Cape, for "The Valley of Peace" by Wayne Anderson, from Raysmagic, © 1974.
Nature Magazine, April 1955, for "How the Rabbit Stole the Otter's Coat" from A Cherokee Indian Myth retold by Dorothy Pletcher.
Ann Ronan Picture Library, London for #3551: "End of the Hare Season" from Punch, London 22 March 1844;
#1860/rev/h: "A Rabbit Drive in California" from The Picture Magazine, London, 1894;
De Lepore
Andrea Alciati, Cari Laris non Iuctandum
Emblema C. LIII

Chapter Four
#85//369 and #85//374: "Hare" and "Rabbits" from Thomas Bewick, A General History of Quadrupeds, Newcastle, 1790. 
1 Burning the Wind  
Poets, novelists, hunters and naturalists admire the silent, watchful nature and lightning speed of the elusive rabbit and its cousin the hare.

2 There Once Was a Rabbit  
By all accounts rabbits and hares are exceedingly complex animals. At one and the same time they're lazy, industrious, clever, gullible, meek and vexatious - ideal subjects of legends and cautionary tales.

3 Prince With a Thousand Enemies  
Stories, poems and essays maligning the rabbit are as numerous as they are impassioned. Perhaps the detractors envy its fertility or are incensed by its vegetable-patch larceny. More likely, though, they find its fleeting presence somewhat too disturbing to dismiss.
4 Four-Footed Beasts
Rabbits and Hares enjoy remarkable fecundity and display curious sexual and social habits. But no less extraordinary, as observers such as Claudius Aelianus and Edward Topsell have noted, are their amazing physical attributes.

5 Of Prophecy and Superstition
Apparently feet aren't the only charmed parts of the rabbits' and hares' anatomy. Hare-skin garters induce swiftness in the water; burning hare fat prompts scandalous behavior in both men and women; rabbit rennet taken as a beverage prevents pregnancy. And the rabbit as a whole makes an enchantingly delicious stew.

6 Signs of Sorcery
The symbolism, myth and magic of rabbits and hares have been debated by writers down through the ages. Only one indisputable fact emerges from the controversy: these creatures have always been, and continue to be, the mystics of the animal world.

Appendix