This file is typed up as per the original novel. It is a series of extracts from “Watership Down”. The print copy of the novel uses the same symbol for an apostrophe as for the closing single quote. Some apostrophes at the beginning of a word have been deliberately changed to the opening single quote for demonstration purposes.

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‘Now one evening, when El-ahrairah and Rabscuttle were sitting on a sunny bank, Prince Rainbow came through the meadows and with him was a rabbit that El-ahrairah had never seen before.

‘“Good evening, El-ahrairah,” said Prince Rainbow. “This is a great improvement on the marshes of Kelfazin. I see all your does are busy digging holes along the bank. Have they dug a hole for you?”

‘“Yes,” said El-ahrairah. “This hole here belongs to Rabscuttle and myself. We liked the look of this bank as soon as we saw it.”

‘“A very nice bank,” said Prince Rainbow. “But I am afraid I have to tell you, El-ahrairah, that I have strict orders from Lord Frith himself not to allow you to share a hole with Rabscuttle.”’

As they squatted, looking at the bird—for they both sensed intuitively that it would not rise—it suddenly burst into loud, raucous cries—‘Yark! Yark! Yark!’—a tremendous sound at close quarters—that split the morning and carried far across the down. Bigwig and Silver turned and ran.

‘Vat for ‘elp me?’

‘Never mind. We make you safe. Big hole. Food too.’

The bird considered. ‘Legs fine. Ving no good. ’E bad.’

‘Well, walk then.’

‘You ’urt me, I ‘urt you like dam”.’

‘Hazel-*rah?’* interrupted Bigwig. ‘Frith in a wasps’ nest! The day I call you Chief Rabbit, Hazel, that’ll be the day, that will! I’ll stop fighting that day.’

‘“But he was” shouted Hufsa. “He was singing ‘O Slug-a-moon! O Slug-a-moon! O grant—’”

‘Doctor’s got summin’ better to do than bide about wi’ old rabbit. You jus’ give ’im ’ere now.’

‘Bust ’is rope an’ off. I know’d that old rope were gett’n on like, but I didn’t reckon ’e could bust ’im. Anyways, I go’ go in to Newbury s’mornin’. ’F’e turns up agen you’d best tie ’im up proper.’

‘I’ll look out fer ’im, Dad,’ said Lucy. ‘I’ll ge’ bi’ o’ breakfast up to Mum now.’

‘Ah, that’s a good girl. I reckon she’ll be right’s a trivet tomorrer.’