



WHAT AM I?

a collection of short stories

by
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and
Renée LaTulippe

 ALL ABOUT *Reading*

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Third Edition

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Marie Rippel: "Twist and Stomp" – "The Grump"
"The Bantam Spy Club" – "Open Rink"
"The Bake Sale" – "Matt the Musk Ox"
"Whale Songs" – "Champ" – "Pine Tree Pet Shop"

Renée LaTulippe: "An Elf in the Swiss Alps" – "Broken Robot"
"Skunk Hotel" – "Jake the Snake" – "What Am I?"

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"The Bantam Spy Club" – "Open Rink"
"The Bake Sale" – "Whale Songs"
"Skunk Hotel" – "Champ" – "Pine Tree Pet Shop"

Dave LaTulippe: "An Elf in the Swiss Alps" – "Broken Robot"
"Matt the Musk Ox" – "Jake the Snake" – "What Am I?"

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To the reader –

*between these covers
you will find
silliness and facts
of every kind ...*

especially for you

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Twist and Stomp



“You can win this! Trust me—you are the best,” said Fox.





“Stunt 1 will be the pigs,” said Fox.



“Stunt 2 will be the dogs. And then you will be up next.”

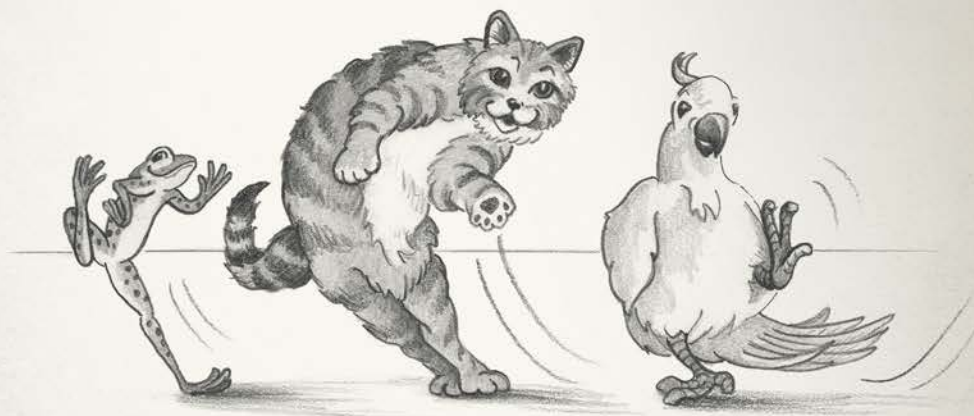


“You are up!” said Fox. “Swing with the song.”



“Stomp with the drums.”

“Slip and spin.”



“Twist and flex.”



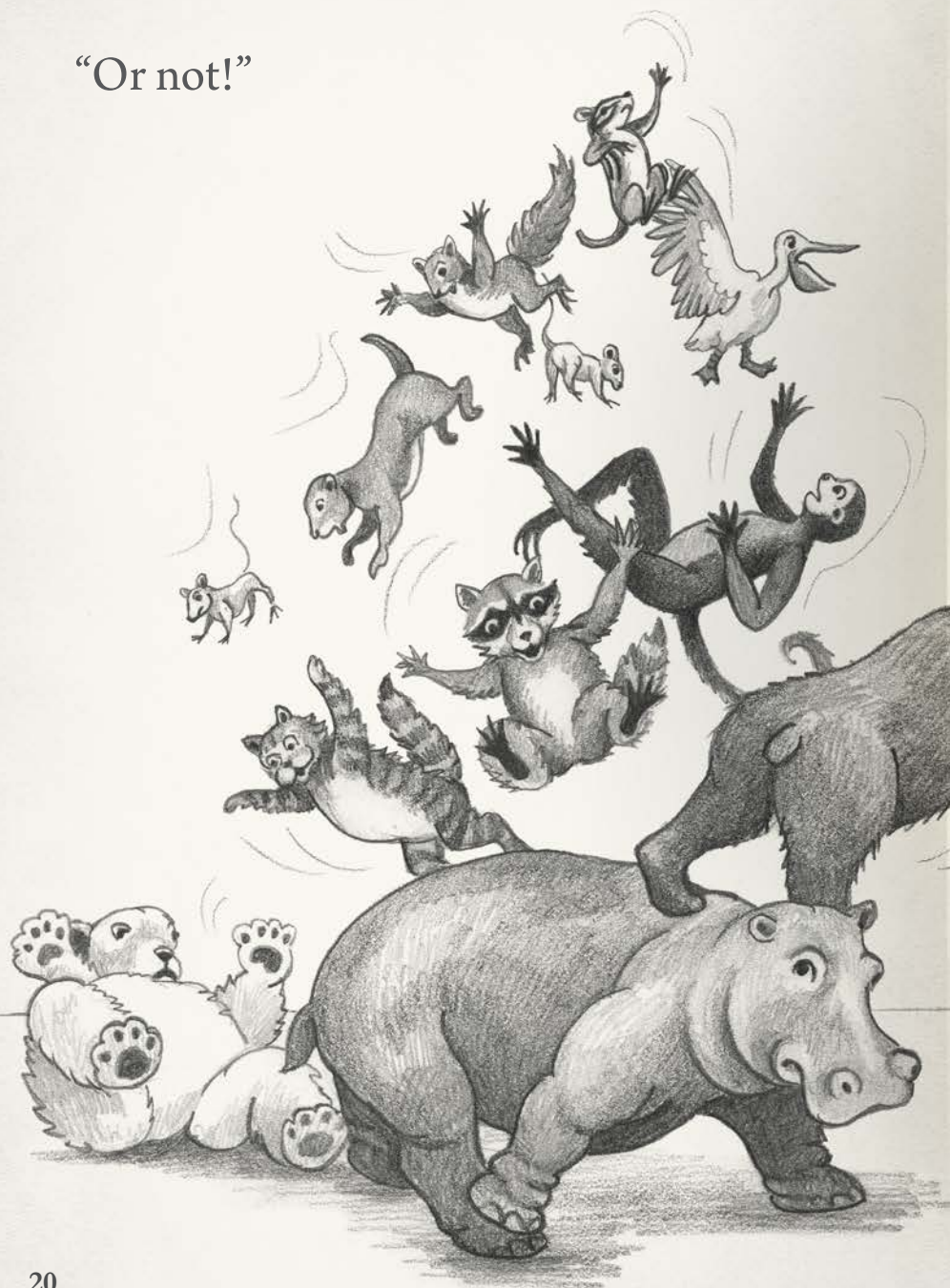
“Hop up. This is the big end,” said Fox.

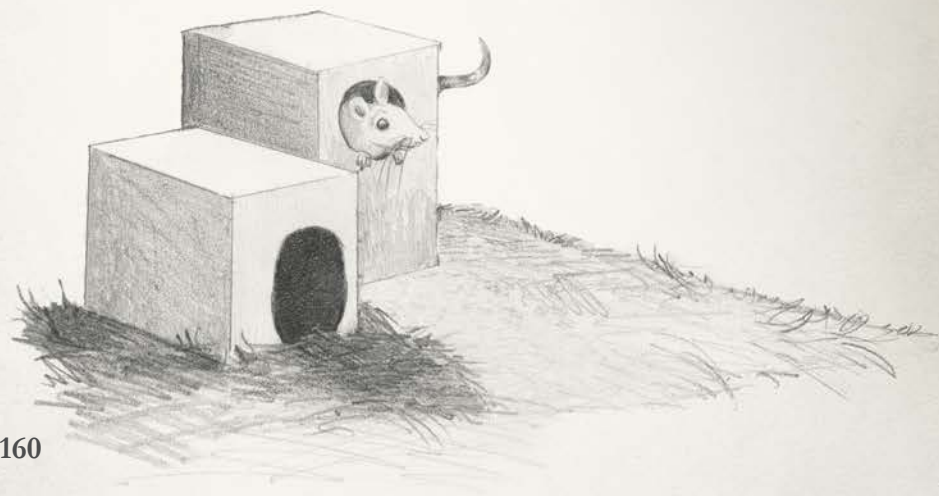


“Grasp his hand. Stand on top. You can win!”



“Or not!”





Pine Tree Pet Shop



Miss Finch runs the Pine Tree Pet Shop on Reed Street. She broke her leg last week.

I have been at the store a lot to help her. I sweep, ring up sales, and help with odd jobs.

“I need to go home to rest my leg,” said Miss Finch. “Can you run the store?”

“Yes, I will be glad to help!” I said.

Miss Finch gave me a pat on the back. “Thanks. I am glad I can trust you.”

Then Miss Finch left to go home. I get to run the store by myself!



“What jobs can I do?” I ask myself.

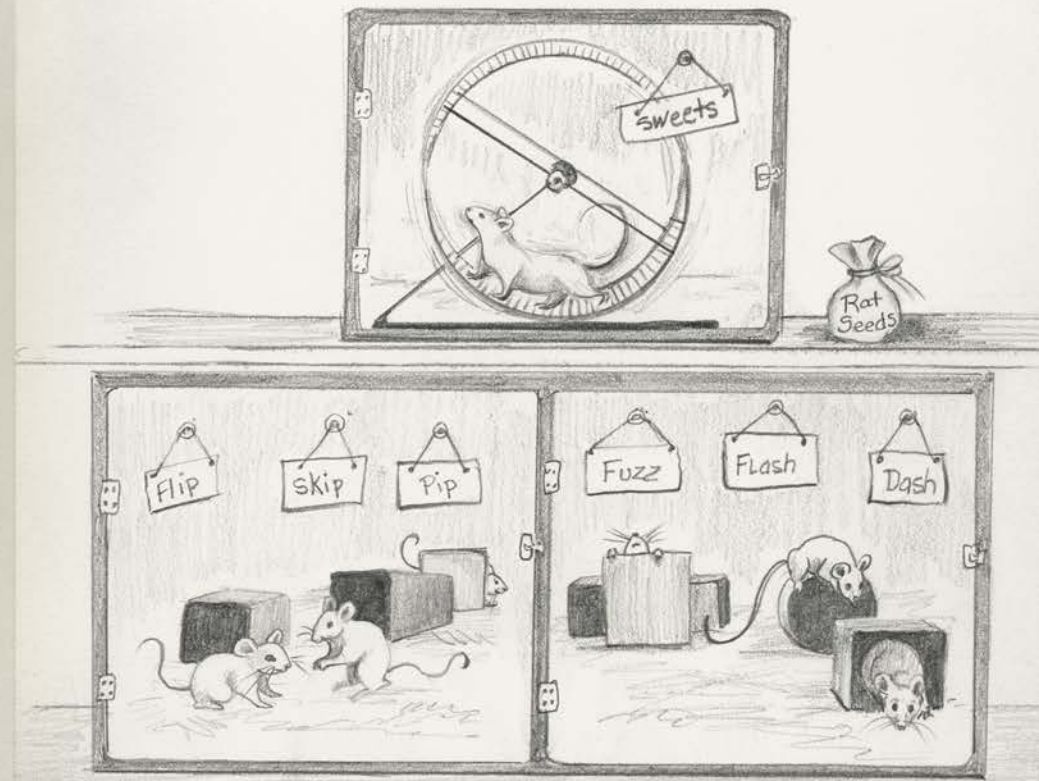
I check on the pet rats.

When the rats came to the shop last week, my job was to hand-tame them. I gave them names: Flip, Skip, Pip, Fuzz, Flash, Dash, and Sweets.

The rats need more seed.
I feed them.

Next, I set boxes in the tank for them to shred and nest in.

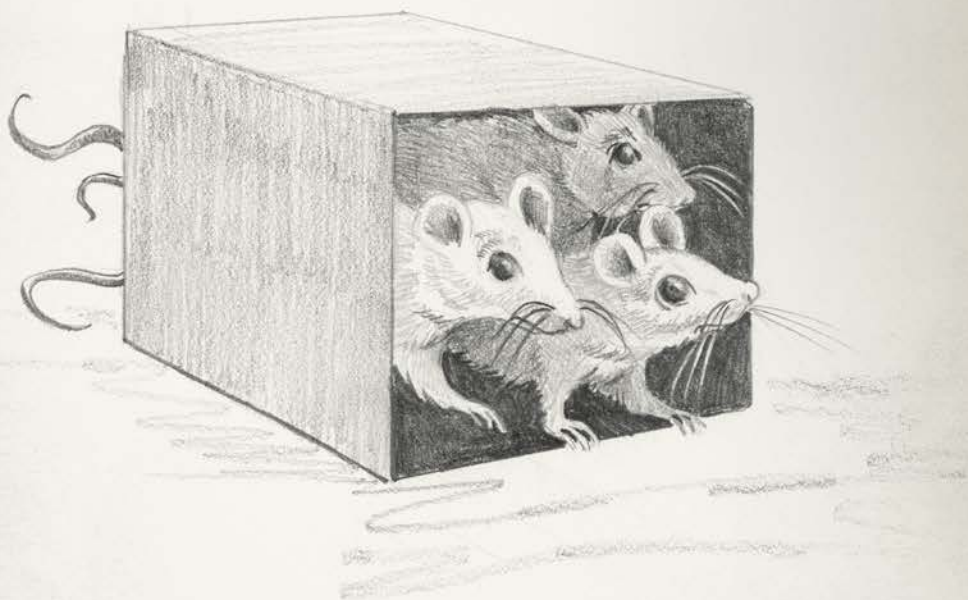
Sweets runs on the wheel while the rest of the rats sniff the boxes.



Then the rats stop.

Quick as a wink, the rats dive into the boxes.

Why did the rats hide?



No! I see what made them hide!

I freeze. A green snake stares back at me.

A snake—not in his tank!

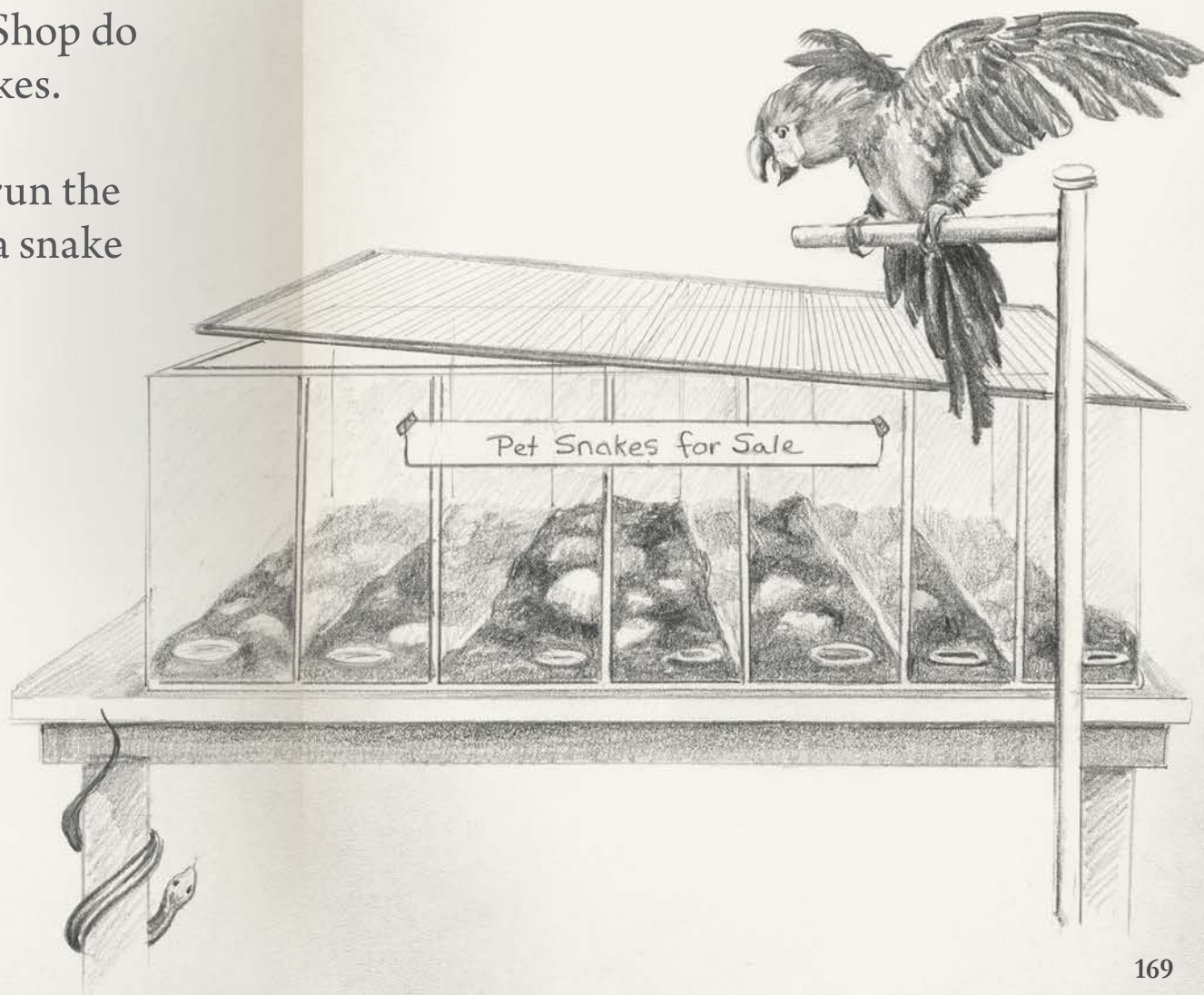
I must get that snake back in his tank!

But I cannot. I cannot make myself pick up the snake and set it back in its tank.

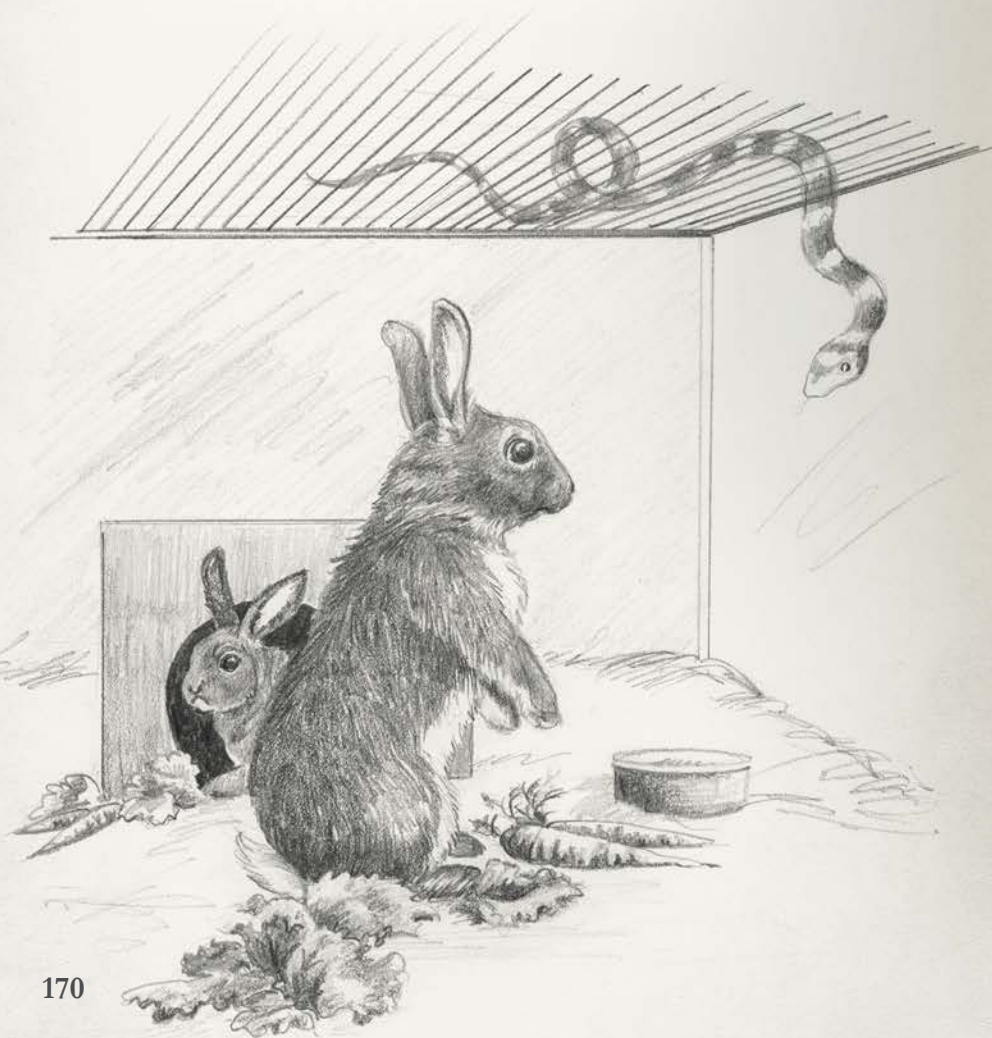
The snakes at Pine Tree Pet Shop do not bite, but I do not like snakes.

But Miss Finch thinks I can run the shop, so I must do it. Even if a snake gets free.

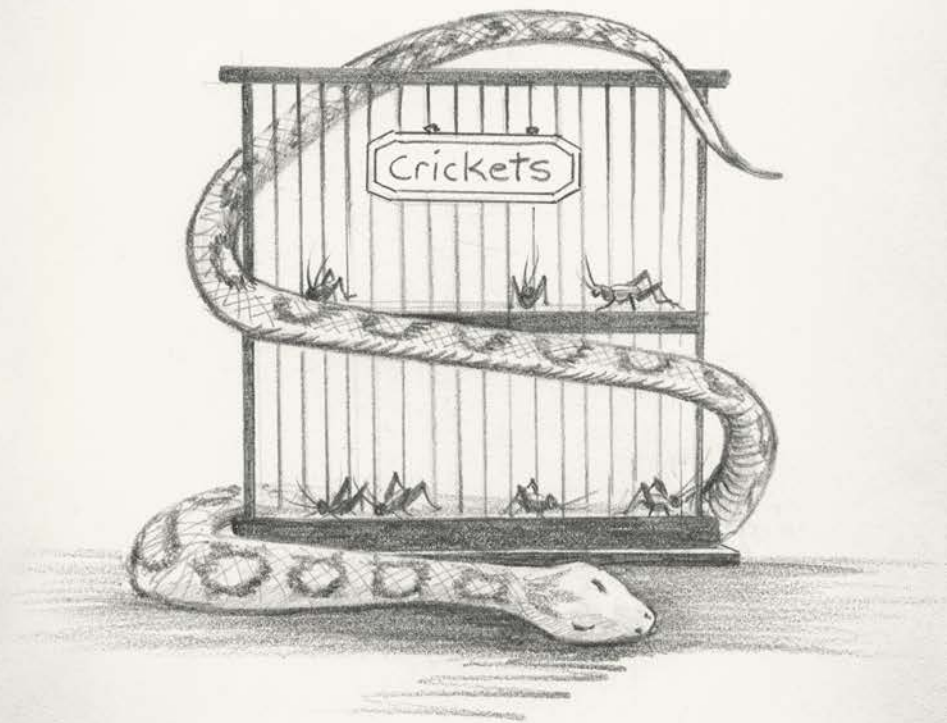
I peek into the tank. Not a snake is left! Seven snakes are free! I feel my skin creep.



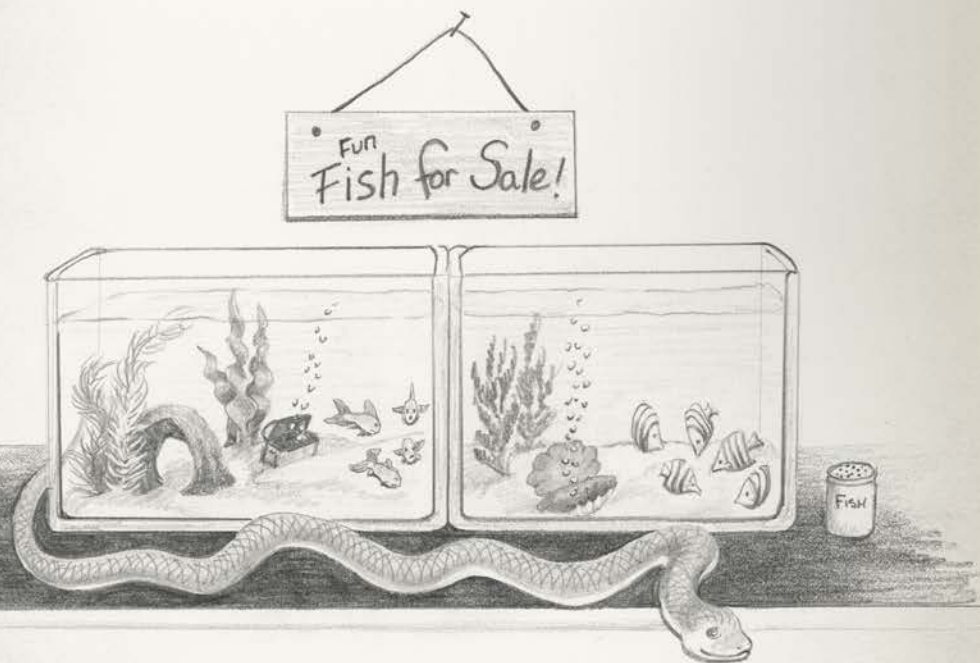
A snake greets the rabbits.



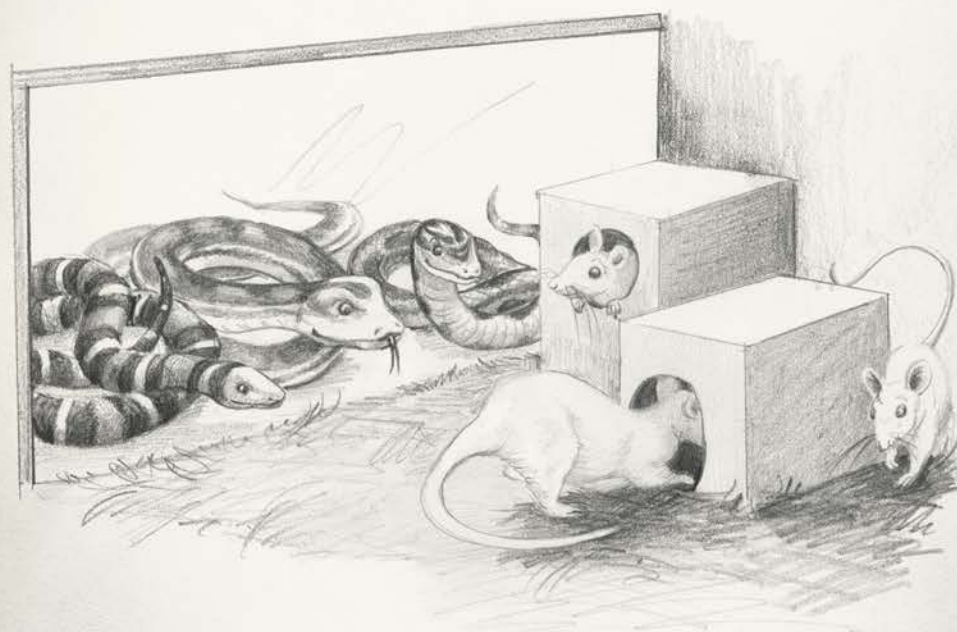
A snake sleeps by the crickets.



A snake slides by the fish tanks.

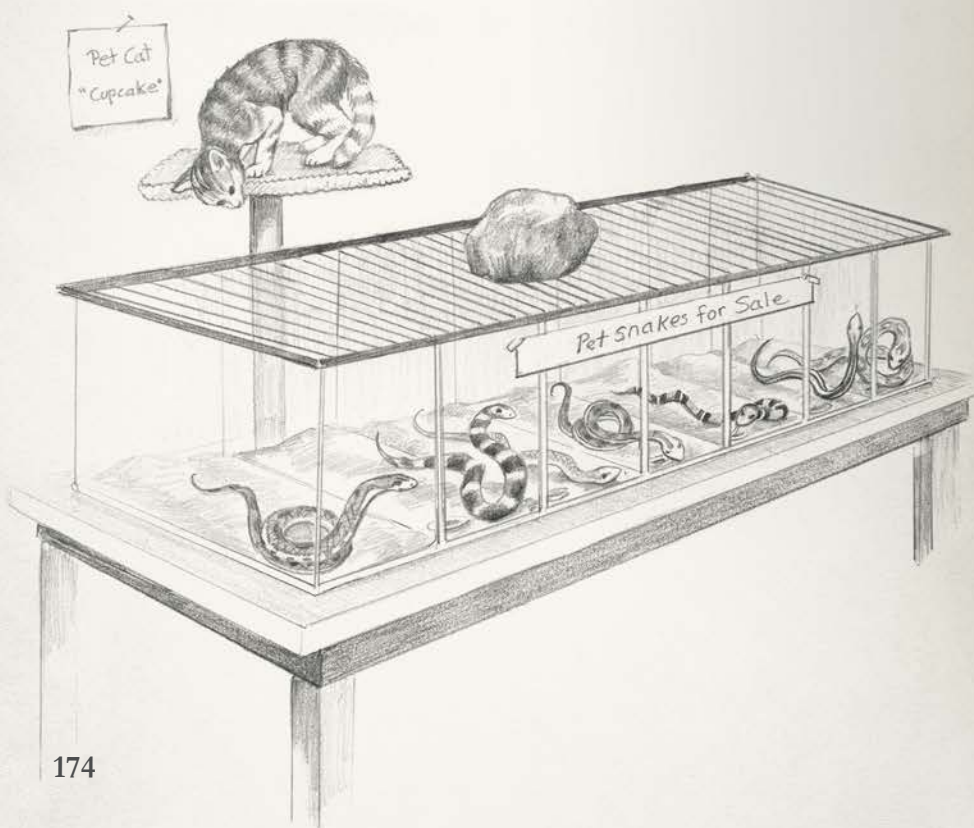


And three snakes peer at the rats.



It scares me, but I grab the snakes
and set them back in the tank. I set
a big rock on the lid of the tank.

I like to take care of the pet shop,
but I do not like those snakes! I
think my next job will be to make
a strong lid from a sheet of steel.
Then those snakes cannot get free!



The End

