E. Serova

HEDGEHOG GLOVES

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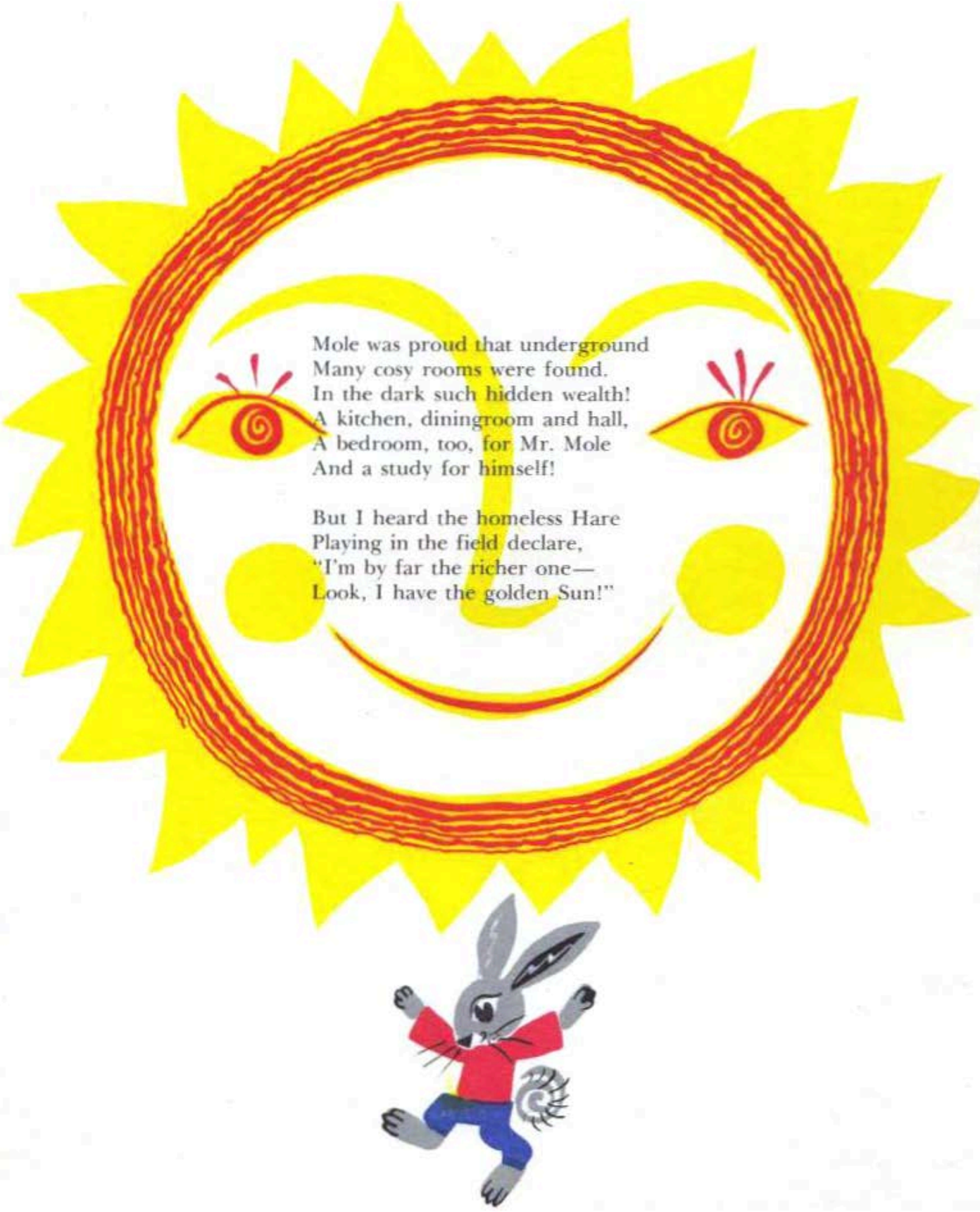
RIDDLES, JOKES AND TALES ABOUT OUR FRIENDS WITH TAILS

Translated from the Russian by Tom Botting

Drawings by B. Kalaushin

PROGRESS PUBLISHERS
MOSCOW

WHO IS RICHER?



Mole was proud that underground
Many cosy rooms were found.
In the dark such hidden wealth!
A kitchen, diningroom and hall,
A bedroom, too, for Mr. Mole
And a study for himself!

But I heard the homeless Hare
Playing in the field declare,
"I'm by far the richer one—
Look, I have the golden Sun!"

RIDDLE-DEE-DEE

Who is she? What do you think?
—A little minx dressed up in...

(mink)

VIXEN

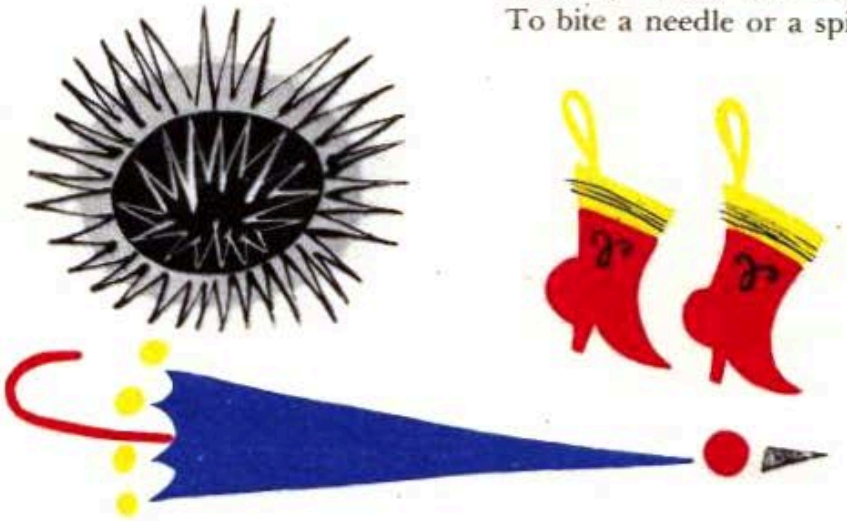
Ginger-Coat, they say.
I've no shame, they say.
I eat ducks and chicks,
They say.
Always up to tricks,
They say.

Poppycock those cockerels crow!
You ask me—I ought to know.

WHO IS IT?

On my back and sides there grow
Pointed spikes as strong as steel.
If I'm scared by any foe
Pins and needles he shall feel!

I shout, "Wolf, how would you like
To bite a needle or a spike?"



Wolf replies, oh, so polite,
"Thanks, I shall not eat tonight!"

HEDGEHOG GLOVES

Baby Hedgehogs—good as gold!
I know why they're not too bold....

Mother keeps the ones she loves
Well in hand with hedgehog gloves!

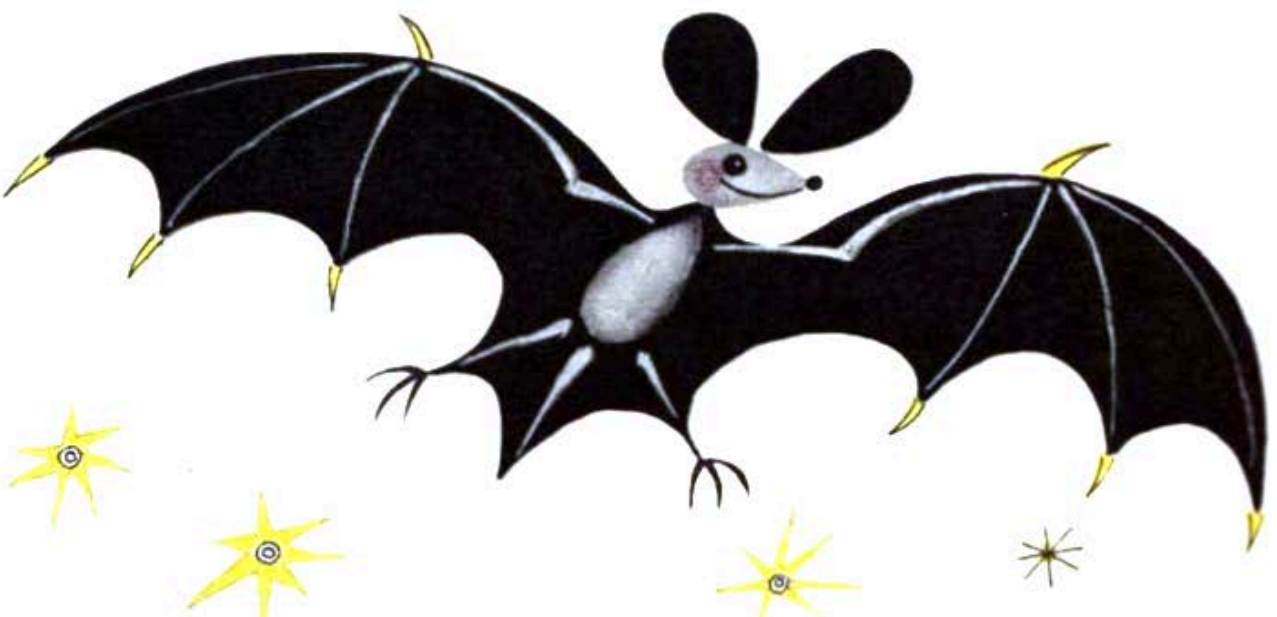
MOOSE'S MEAL

Vixen went to dine with Moose.
He gave her the very best—
Aspen wood fried in its juice—
What dish to give a guest...!

THE MOUSE WITH WINGS

Boastful Mouse when taking tea
Said, "I'll fly. I'm very eager!
Give me wings and you will see
I, the Mouse, shall be an Eagle!"

Mouse got wings and he could fly.
But it's sad to tell you that
What flittered high up in the sky
Was not an Eagle, but a Bat!

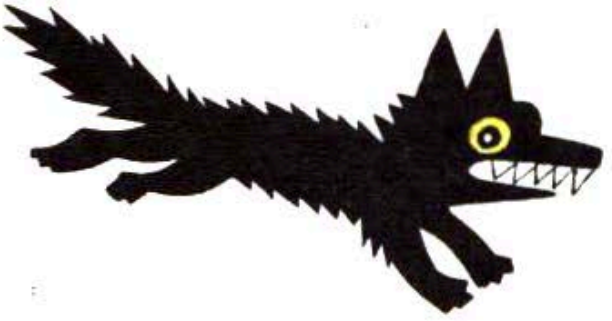


WOLF-CUBS

Wolf-cubs run with padded paws—
Yelp!
Fangs of white in grinning jaws—
Help!

When Wolves attack they never
Growl!
A hunting Wolf won't ever
Howl!

The Wolf's a horrid hungry
Brute!
But runs away when hunters
Shoot!

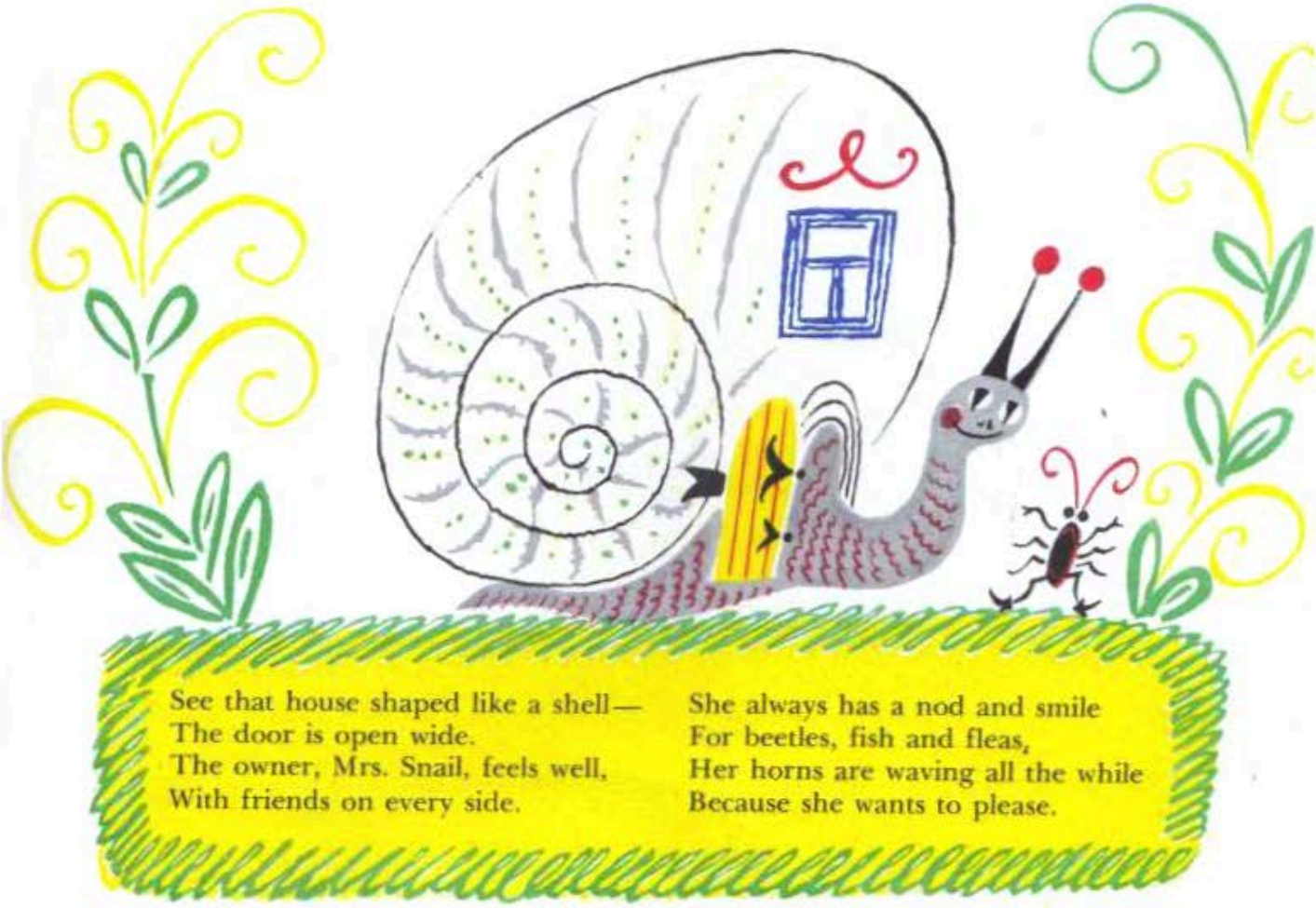


A CHAT WITH A HARE

"I'm a scary little hare
With floppy ears,
One here, one there.
My feet are bare,
Poor little hare—
Always full of fears!"
The baby Hare heard our reply,
"Dear little Hare, you should not cry.

Bare feet
Are fleet feet.
Long ears
Help you hear.
But it's bad,
Yes, very sad,
To be so full of fear!"

SNAIL'S HOUSE



See that house shaped like a shell—
The door is open wide.
The owner, Mrs. Snail, feels well,
With friends on every side.

She always has a nod and smile
For beetles, fish and fleas,
Her horns are waving all the while
Because she wants to please.

© Translation into English, Progress Publishers, 1974

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ЕЖОВЫ РУКАВИЦЫ

На английском языке

С $\frac{70801\text{-}789}{014(01)\text{-}77}$ 164-77

First printing 1974

Second printing 1976

Printed in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics