```
JUST SO STORIES By Rudyard Kipling HOW THE WHALE GOT HIS THROAT IN the sea, once upon a time, O my Best Beloved, there was a Whale, and the garfish, and the grafish, and the crab and the dab, and the plaice and the dace, and the skate and his mate
and the mackereel and the pickereel, and the really truly twirly-whirly eel. All the fishes he could find in all the sea, and he was a small 'Stute Fish, and he swam a little behind the Whale's right ear, so
o as to be out of harm's way. Then the Whale stood up on his tail and said, 'I'm hungry.' And the small 'Stute Fish said in a small 'Stute Fish said in a small 'Stute Fish said the Whale. 'What is it like?' 'Nice,' said the small 'Stute Fish. 'Nice but n ubbly.' 'Then fetch me some,' said the Whale, and he made the sea froth up with his tail. 'One at a time is enough,' said the 'Stute Fish. 'If you swim to latitude Fifty North, longitude Forty West (that is magic), you will find, sitting on a raft, in the middle of the sea, with nothing on but a pair of blue canvas breeches, a pair of suspenders (you must not forget the suspenders, Best Beloved), and a jack-knife, one ship-wrecked Mariner, who, it is only fair to tell you, is a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity.' So the Whale swam and swam to latitude Fifty North, longit
ude Forty West, as fast as he could swim, and on a raft, in the middle of the sea, with nothing to wear except a pair of suspenders, (you must particularly remember the suspenders, Best Beloved), and a jack-knife, he found one single, solitary shipwr
cked Mariner, trailing his toes in the water. (He had his mummy's leave to paddle, or else he would never have done it, because he was a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity.) Then the Whale opened his mouth back and back and back till it nearly touched his tail, and he swallowed
d the shipwrecked Mariner, and the raft he was sitting on, and his blue canvas breeches, and the suspenders (which you must not forget), and the jack-knife--He swallowed them all down into his warm, dark, inside cup-boards, and then he smacked his lips--so, and turned round three times on his tail. But as soon as the Mariner, who was a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity, found himself truly inside the Whale's warm, dark, inside cup-boards, he stumped and he thumped and he bumped, and he pranced and he danced, and he banged and he crawled and he hit and he bit, and he leaped and he creeped, and he hopped and he dropped, and he crawled and he sighed, and he stepped and he leaped and he danced hornpipes where he shouldn't, and the Whale felt most unhappy indeed. (Have you forgotten the suspenders?) So he said to the 'Stute Fish, 'This man is very nubbly, and besides he is making me hiccough. Whale shall I do?' 'Tell him to come out,' said the 'Stute Fish. So the Whale called down had between the hornois to the shipwrecked white-cliffs-of-Albion, head to be have yoursed you that he had be account to the Mariner. You so the Whale support and all the head and he had be accounted by the Mariner and the state had be accounted by the Mariner and the state had be accounted by the Mariner and the state had be accounted by the Mariner and the state had be accounted by the Mariner and the state had be accounted by the Mariner and the state had be supported by the state of the state of the state had be accounted by the state of the state
tute Fish to the Whale. 'I ought to have warned you that he is a man of infinite-resource-and-sagacity.' So the Whale swam and swam, with both flippers and his tail, as hard as he could for the hiccoughs; and at last he saw the Mariner's natal-shore and the white-cliffs-of-Albion, and he rushed half-way up the beach, and opened his mouth wide and wide, and said, 'Change here for Winchester, Ashuelot, Nashua, Keene, and stations on the Fitchburg Road;' and just as he said 'Fitch' the Mariner walked out of his mouth. But while the Whale had been swimming, the Mariner, who was indeed a person of infinite-resource-and-sagacity, had taken his jack-knife and cut up the raft into a little square grating all running criss-cross, and he had tied it firm with his suspenders (now, you know why you were not to forget the suspenders!), and he dragged that grating good and tight into the Whale's throat, and there it stuck! Then he recited the following Sloka, which, as you have not heard it, I will now proceed to relate--. By means of a grating I have stopped your ating. For the Mariner he was also an Hi-ber-new that the stopped out on the stopped o
ow down, prevented him eating anything except very, very small fish; and that is the reason why whales nowadays never eat men or boys or little girls. The small 'Stute Fish went and hid himself in the mud under the Door-sills of the Equator. He was afraid that the Whale might be a
ngry with him. The Sailor took the jack-knife home. He was wearing the blue canvas breeches when he walked out on the shingle. The suspenders were left behind, you see, to tie the grating with; and that is th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   e end of that tale. WHEN the cabin port-holes are dark and green
Because of the seas outside; When the ship goes wop (with a wiggle between) And the steward falls into the soup-tureen, And the trunks begin to slide; When Nursey lies on the floor i dressed, Why, then you will know (if you haven't guessed) You're 'Fifty North and Forty West!' HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP NOW this is the next tale, and it tells how the Camel dall, and the Animals were just beginning to work for Man, there was a Camel, and he lived in the middle of a Howling Desert because he did not want to work; and besides, he was a H
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   mmy tells you to let her sleep, And you aren't waked or washed or
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            n a heap, And Mu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   g hump. In the beginning of years, when the world was so new an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   r himself. So he ate sticks and thorns and tamarisks and milkweed
and prickles, most 'scruciating idle; and when anybody spoke to him he said 'Humph!' Just 'Humph!' and no more. Presently the Horse came to him on Monday morning, with a saddle
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  on his back and a bit in his mouth, and said, 'Camel, O Camel, com
e out and trot like the rest of us.' 'Humph!' said the Camel; and the Horse went away and told the Man. Presently the Dog c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 amel, come and fetch and carry like the rest of us.' 'Humph!' said th
                                                                                                                                                                                 ame to him, with a stick in his mouth, and said, 'Camel, O C
                                                                                                                                                                                    mel, O Camel, come and plough like the rest of us.' 'Humph
e Camel; and the Dog went away and told the Man. Presently the Ox came to him, with the yoke on his neck and said, 'Ca
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ' said the Camel; and the Ox went away and told the Man. At the end
of the day the Man called the Horse and the Dog and the Ox together, and said, 'Three, O Three, I'm very sorry for you (
                                                                                                                                                                                       with the world so new-and-all); but that Humph-thing in the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                Desert can't work, or he would have been here by now, so I am goin
g to leave him alone, and you must work double-time to make up for it.' That made the Three very angry (with the world s
                                                                                                                                                                                          o new-and-all), and they held a palaver, and an indaba, an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                d a punchayet, and a pow-wow on the edge of the Desert; and the C
amel came chewing on milkweed most 'scruciating idle, and laughed at them. Then he said 'Humph!' and went away again is Magic), and he stopped to palaver and pow-pow with the Three. 'Djinn of All Deserts,' said the Horse, 'is it right for any one wling Desert (and he's a Howler himself) with a long neck and long legs, and he hasn't done a stroke of work since Monday mph!''' said the Dog; 'and he won't fetch and carry.' 'Does he say anything else?' 'Only "Humph!"; and he won't plough,' said the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            s, rolling in a cloud of dust (Djinns always travel that way because it i
he Djinn. 'Well,' said the Horse, 'there's a thing in the middle of your Ho
                                                                                                                                                                                             Presently there came along the Djinn in charge of All De
                                                                                                                                                                                              to be idle, with the world so new-and-all?' 'Certainly not
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ' said t
                                                                                                                                                                                               orning. He won't trot.' 'Whew!' said the Djinn, whistling, 't
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       hat's my Camel, for all the gold in Arabia! What does he say about it?' 'He says "Hum
                                                                                                                                                                                                e Ox. 'Very good,' said the Djinn. 'I'll humph him if you will kindly wait a minute.' The Djinn rolled himself up in his dust-cloak, and took a bearing a
cross the desert, and found the Camel most 'scruciatingly idle, looking at his own reflection in a pool of w
Djinn sat down, with his chin in his hand, and began to think a Great Magic, while the Camel looked at
said the Djinn; and he went on thinking Magics, with his chin in his hand. 'Humph!' said the Camel.
                                                                                                                                                                                                  long and bubbling friend,' said the Djinn, 'what's this I hear of your doing no work, with the world so new-and-all?' 'Humph!' said the Camel. The
                                                                                                                                                                                                  s own reflection in the pool of water. 'You've given the Three extra work ever since Monday morning, all on account of your 'scruciating idleness
                                                                                                                                                                                                  'I shouldn't say that again if I were you,' said the Djinn; you might say it once too often. Bubbles, I want you to work.' And the Camel said 'Humpl
                                                                      w his back, that he was so proud of, puffing up
                                                                                                                                                                                                  and puffing up into a great big lolloping humph. 'Do you see that?' sáid the Djinn. 'That's your very own humph that you've brought upon your ve
  again; but no sooner had he said it than he sa
                                                                           , and you've done no work since Monday, w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   he work began. Now you are going to work.' 'How can I,' said the Camel, 'with this humph on my back?' 'That's made a-purposé,' said
 y own self by not working. To-day is Thursday
he Djinn, 'all because you missed those three d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               for three days without eating, because you can live on your humph; and don't you ever say I never did anything for you. Com
                                                                                        ays. You will be able to work no
                                                                                       ave. Humph yourself!' And the C
e out of the Desert and go to the Three, and beh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   mel humphed himself, humph and all, and went away to join the Three. And from that day to this the Camel always wears
humph (we call it 'hump' now, not to hurt his fe
                                                                                     elings); but he has never yet ca
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         t up with the three days that he missed at the beginning of the world, and he has never yet learned how to behave. TH
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ump we get From having too little to do. Kiddies and grown-ups too-oo-oo, If we haven't enough to do-oo-oo
 E Camel's hump is an ugly lump Which well you
                                                                                                                                                                is th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ead And a snarly-yarly voice. We shiver and scowl and we grunt and we growl At our bath and our boots a
mp-- Cameelious hump-- The hump that is black and blue! The cure for this ill is not to sit s
 We get the hump-- Cameelious hump-- The hump that i
                                                                                s black and blue! We climb out of
                                                                                                                                                               bed with a frouzly h
nd our toys; And there ought to be a corner for me (And I know there is one for you) When
                                                                                                                                                                we get the hu
                                                                                                                                                              I you gently p
well as you-oo-
till, Or frowst with a book by the fire; But to take a large hoe and a shovel also, And dig til
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   erspire; And then you will find that the sun and the wind. And the Djinn of the Garden to
o, Have lifted the hump-- The horrible hump-- The hump that is black and blue! I get it as grown-ups too! HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN ONCE upon a time, on an uninh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    oo-- If I haven't enough to do-oo-oo-- We all get hump-- Cameelious hump-- Kiddies and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       on the shores of the Red Sea, there lived a Parsee from whose hat the rays of the sur
                                                                                                                                                              abited island
 were reflected in more-than-oriental splendour. And the Parsee lived by the Red Sea with
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        and his knife and a cooking-stove of the kind that you must particularly never touch
                                                                                                                                                               nothing but his ha
                                                                                                                                                               made himsel
                                                                                                                                                                                      f o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          which was two feet across and three feet thick. It was indeed a Superior Comestibl
And one day he took flour and water and currants and plums an d sugar and things, and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ne
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   cake
(that's magic), and he put it on stove because he was allowed
                                                                                             to cook on the stove, a
                                                                                                                                                               nd h
                                                                                                                                                                              e b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            and he baked it till it was all done brown and smelt most sentimental. But just as
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ne Rhinoceros with a horn on his nose, two piggy eyes, and few manners. In the in it anywhere. He looked exactly like a Noah's Ark Rhinoceros, but of course
he was going to eat it there came down to the beach fr
                                                                                              he Altogether Uninhab
                                                                                                                                                                 ited I
                                                                                                                                                                                  nt
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              r o
se days the Rhinoceros's skin fitted him quite tight.
                                                                                                         There were no w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             les
much bigger. All the same, he had no manners
                                                                                                     then, and he has n
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    nners now, and he never will have any manners. He said, 'How!' and the Pars
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ma
ee left that cake and climbed to the top of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         thin go
                                                                                                     a palm tree with no
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ut
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      his hat, from which the rays of the sun were always reflected in more-than-
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ose, and the cake rolled on the sand, and he spiked that cake on the horn
oriental splendour. And the Rhinocero
                                                                                                      s upset the oil-sto
of his nose, and he ate it, and he we
                                                                                                        nt away, waving h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           tail,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         e desolate and Exclusively Uninhabited Interior which abuts on the islan
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          Equinox. Then the Parsee came down from his palm-tree and put the sto
ds of Mazanderan, Socotra, and Pro
                                                                                                         montories of the
ve on its legs and recited the followin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            not heard, I will now proceed to relate:-- Them that takes cakes Which
                                                                                                           g Sloka, which, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ou ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            an you would think. Because, five weeks later, there was a heat wave in
he Parsee-man bakes Makes dreadful mistakes. And there
                                                                                                             was a great deal
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ore in t hat
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             at; but the Rhinoceros took off his skin and carried it over his shoulded
 the Red Sea, and everybody took off all the clothes they had.
                                                                                                                The Parsee too
r as he came down to the beach to bathe. In those days it butto
                                                                                                                ned underneath
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ee buttons and looked like a waterproof. He said nothing whatever ab
out the Parsee's cake, because he had eaten it all; and he never
                                                                                                                 had any manne
                                                                                                                                                                                           rs
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  , since, or henceforward. He waddled straight into the water and ble
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             hen
w bubbles through his nose, leaving his skin on the beach. Prese
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    by and found the skin, and he smiled one smile that ran all round
                                                                                                                   ntly the Parse
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            me
his face two times. Then he danced three times round the skin an
                                                                                                                                                                                            ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     hen he went to his camp and filled his hat with cake-crumbs, for
                                                                                                                    d rubbed his
                                                                                                                                                                                                              nd
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       in, and he shook that skin, and he scrubbed that skin, and he ru
he Parsee never ate anything but cake, and never swept out his ca
                                                                                                                                                                                              k t
                                                                                                                     mp. He too
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           t sk
                                                                                                                                                                                                rn
ut
bbed that skin just as full of old, dry, stale, tickly cake-crumbs and
                                                                                                                                                                                                          ed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           cu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        rrants as ever it could possibly hold. Then he climbed to the to
                                                                                                                        some bu
p of his palm-tree and waited for the Rhinoceros to come out of the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         nd the Rhinoceros did. He buttoned it up with the three button
                                                                                                                                         nd p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         n. A
                                                                                                                         water a
s, and it tickled like cake crumbs in bed. Then he wanted to scratch,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           se; and then he lay down on the sands and rolled and rolled
                                                                                                                          but t hat mad
                                                                                                                                                                                                   e it
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        wor
and rolled, and every time he rolled th e cake crumbs tickled him wor
                                                                                                                               se and worse
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                worse. Then he ran to the palm-tree and rubbed and rubb
ed and rubbed himself against it. He r ubbed so much and so har
                                                                                                                          d that he rubbed his
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 n into a great fold over his shoulders, and another fold
nderneath, where the buttons used to be (
                                                                  but he rubbed the butt
                                                                                                                   ons off), and he rubbe
                                                                                                                                                                                         som
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   re folds over his legs. And it spoiled his temper, but it
                                                                                                        bs. They were inside his
didn't make the least difference to the cake-crum
                                                                                                                                                                                        kin and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   tickled. So he went home, very angry indeed and horri
ly scratchy; and from that day to this every rhinoceros has great folds in his skin and a ver
                                                                                                                                                                                      bad tem
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                all on account of the cake-crumbs inside. But the Parsee
                                                                  hat, from which the rays of the sun wer
 came down from his palm-tree, wearing his
                                                                                                                                                                                  ed in mo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              e-than-oriental splendour, packed up his cooking-stove, a
nd went away in the direction of Orotavo, Amygd
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             he Marshes of Sonaput. THIS Uninhabited Island is off Car
                                                                                                                                 s of Ananta
                                                                                                                                                                                rivo, and
e Gardafui, By the Beaches of Socotra And the Pink Arabia
                                                                                                                                  n Sea: But it
                                                                                                                                                                             s hot--to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             hot from Suez For the likes of you and me Ever to go In a
and O. And call on the Cake-Parsee! HOW THE LEOPARD GOT HIS SPOTS
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ybody started fair, Best Beloved, the Leopard lived in a place
                                                                                                                                      IN the days
                                                                                                                                                                           when eve
called the High Veldt. 'Member it wasn't the Low Veldt, or the Bush Veldt, or
                                                                                                                                       the Sour Vel
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        sclusively bare, hot, shiny High Veldt, where there was sand a
                                                                                                                                                                        dt. but the
nd sandy-coloured rock and 'sclusively tufts of sandy-yellowish grass. The
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           he Eland and the Koodoo and the Hartebeest lived there; an
                                                                                                                                         Giraffe and t
                                                                                                                                                                     he Zebra a
d they were 'sclusively sandy-yellow-brownish all over; but the Leopard, he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               yellowish-brownest of them all--a greyish-yellowish catty
                                                                                                                                             was the 'scl
                                                                                                                                                                  usivest sa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                diest-
shaped kind of beast, and he matched the 'sclusively yellowish-greyish-brow
ebra and the rest of them; for he would lie down by a 'sclusively yellowish-gr
                                                                                                                                                nish colo ur of the H
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              h Veldt
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    to one hair. This was very bad for the Giraffe and the Z
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     or clump of grass, and when the Giraffe or the Zebra
                                                                                                                                                     eyi sh-browni
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                stone
or the Eland or the Koodoo or the Bush-Buck or the Bonte-Buck came by he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        out of their jumpsome lives. He would indeed! And
                                                                                                                                                        would surp
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                se them
also, there was an Ethiopian with bows and arrows (a 'sclusively greyish-brow
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         was then), who lived on the High Veldt with the Le
                                                                                                                                                    nish-yellow
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               h man he
opard; and the two used to hunt together--the Ethiopian with his bows and arr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               Leopard 's
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 clusively with his teeth and claws--till the Gir
                                                                                                                                                ows, and th
affe and the Eland and the Koodoo and the Quagga and all the rest of them did
                                                                                                                                           n't know wh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               h way to jum
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        p, Best Beloved. They didn't indeed! Af
                                                                                                                                        anything th
er a long time--things lived for ever so long in those days--they learned to avoid
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             t looked like
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               a Leopard or an Ethiopian; and bit
by bit--the Giraffe began it, because his legs were the longest--they went away fi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            eldt. They scu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ttled for days and days and days
 If they came to a great forest, 'sclusively full of trees and bushes and stripy, spec
                                                                                                                          kly, patchy-bl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           tchy shadows
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               and there they hid: and after anoth
er long time, what with standing half in the shade and half out of it, and w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         dows of the trees falling on them, the Giraffe grew
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         pery-slidy sha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      tle wavy grey
hem, and th
blotchy, and the Zebra grew stripy, and the Eland and the Koodoo grew darker, with li
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         lines on their backs like bark on a tree trunk; and s
o, though you could hear them and smell them, you could very seldom
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      en only when you knew precisely where to look. The
 had a beautiful time in the 'sclusively speckly-spickly shadows of the forest, while the Leo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      e Ethiopian ran about over the 'sclusively greyish-yell
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ard and th
owish-reddish High Veldt outside, wondering where all their breakfasts and their dinners and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     s had gone. At last they were so hungry that they ate
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 heir tea
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                -ache, both together; and then they met Baviaan-the d
Baviaan (and it was a very hot day), 'Where has all the ga
ats and beetles and rock-rabbits, the Leopard and the Ethiopian, and then they had the Big Tum
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                my
og-headed, barking Baboon, who is Quite the Wisest Animal in All South Africa. Said Leopard t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              resent habitat of the aboriginal Fauna?' (That meant just th
me gone?' And Baviaan winked. He knew. Said the Ethiopian to Baviaan, 'Can you tell me th
e same thing, but the Ethiopian always used long words. He was a grown-up.) And Bavia
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           winked. He knew. Then said Baviaan, 'The game has gone int
o other spots; and my advice to you, Leopard, is to go into other spots as soon as you
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       n.' And the Ethiopian said, 'That is all very fine, but I wish to kn
ow whither the aboriginal Fauna has migrated.' Then said Baviaan, 'The aborigin al F
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       oined the aboriginal Flora because it was high time
or a change; and my advice to you, Ethiopian, is to change as soon as you can
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 hat puz
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        zled the Leopard and the Ethiopian, but they set off
to look for the aboriginal Flora, and presently, after ever so many days,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         high, tall forest full of tree trunks all 'sclus
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      oss-hatched with shadows. (Say that quickly aloud, a
ckled and sprottled and spottled, dotted and splashed and slashed
                                                                                                        and h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         hed and cr
nd you will see how very shadowy the forest must have been.) 'Wha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     he Leopard, 'that is so 'sclusively dark, and yet so full
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     this,' said t
of little pieces of light?' I don't know, said the Ethiopian, 'but it ough can't see Giraffe.' 'That's curious,' said the Leopard. 'I suppose it is bec
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   al Flora. I can smell Giraffe, and I can hear Giraffe, but I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             be the aborigin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               we have just come in o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ut of the sunshine. I can smell Zebra, and I can hear Zeb
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ps we've forgotten what they were like.' 'Fiddle!' said the
ra, but I can't see Zebra.' 'Wait a bit, said the Ethiopian. 'It's a long time sinc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            e've hunted 'em. Perha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            s about seventeen feet high, of a 'sclusively fulvous golden
Leopard. 'I remember them perfectly on the High Veldt, especially their mar
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            w-bones. Giraffe
yellow from head to heel; and Zebra is about four and a half feet high, of a's
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         colour from head to heel.' 'Umm, said the Ethiopian, looking
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          vely grey-fawn
nto the speckly-spickly shadows of the aboriginal Flora-forest. 'Then they o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          to show up in th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         is dark place like ripe bananas in a smokehouse.' But they d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      hem, they never sa wone of them. 'For goodness' sake,' sai candal.' So they waited till dark, and then the Leo
dn't. The Leopard and the Ethiopian hunted all day; and though they could
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        hem and hear t
                                                                                                                                                                                   m
d the Leopard at tea-time, 'let us wait till it get s dark. This dayl
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                g
s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         is a perfect s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ey waited till dark, and then the Leop
                                                                                                                                                                           u
                                                                                                                                                                                    n
ard heard something breathing sniffily in the s
                                                                       tarlight that fe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        tripy throug
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   h the br anc
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             hes, and he jumped at the noise, and
it smelt like Zebra, and it felt like Zebra, and wh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       down it ki
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ed like Zebra, but he couldn't see it. So
                                                                            en he knoc
                                                                                                                                                                              е
                                                                                                                                                                                      d
he said, 'Be quiet, O you person without any form
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 g to sit on your head till morning, because th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      m goin
ere is something about you that I don't understand
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ly he heard a grunt and a crash and a scramble
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      sent
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ee. It smells like Giraffe, and it kicks like Giraffe.
and the Ethiopian called out, 'I've caught a thing that
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      n
d
                                                                                                                                                                                   c a
but it hasn't any form.' 'Don't you trust it,' said the Leo
                                                                                                                                                                                   a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          it on its head till the morning--same as me. They
aven't any form--any of 'em.' So they sat down on them h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      right morning-time, and then Leopard said, 'What ha
ve you at your end of the table, Brother?' The Ethiopian scr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  his head and said, 'It ought to be 'sclusively a rich fulvo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    h
us orange-tawny from head to heel, and it ought to be Giraffe;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    S C
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ered all over with chestnut blotches. What have you at your e
                                                                                                                              nd said, 'It ought to b
nd of the table, Brother?' And the Leopard scratched his head a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  sively a delicate greyish-fawn, and it ought to be Zebra; but it is cov
ered all over with black and purple stripes. What in the world ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Zebra? Don't you know that if you were on the High Veldt I could se
                                                                                                                            ve you been doing to yo
e you ten miles off? You haven't any form.' 'Yes,' said the Zebra
                                                                                                                          'but this isn't the High Veldt.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ou see?' 'I can now,' said the Leopard. 'But I couldn't all yesterday. How
is it done?' 'Let us up,' said the Zebra, 'and we will show you. Th
                                                                                                                 ey let the Zebra and the Giraffe get u
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Zebra moved away to some little thorn-bushes where the sunlight fell all stripy
, and Giraffe moved off to some tallish trees where the shadows fe
                                                                                                        Il a Il blotchy. 'Now watch,' said the Zebra a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   Giraffe. 'This is the way it's done. One--two--three! And where's your breakfas
t?' Leopard stared, and Ethiopian stared, but all they could see were stripy shadows and blotched shadows in the fore
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 t never a sign of Zebra and Giraffe. They had just walked off and hi
dden themselves in the shadowy forest. 'Hi! Hi!' said the Ethiopian. 'That's a trick worth learning. Take a lesson by it, L
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          rd. You show up in this dark place like a bar of soap in a coal
-scuttle.' 'Ho! Ho!' said the Leopard. 'Would it surprise you very much to know that you show up in this dark place like
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ustard-plaster on a sack of coals?' 'Well, calling names wo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             n's advice. He told me I ought to change; and as I've nothin
n't catch dinner, said the Ethiopian. 'The long and the little of it is that we don't match our backgrounds. I'm going to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Bav
 յ to change except my skin I'm going to change that.' 'What to?' said the Leopard, tremendously excited. 'To a nic
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             king blackish-brownis h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         co lour, with a little purple in it, and touches of slaty-blue. It w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             0
 ll be the very thing for hiding in hollows and behind trees.' So he changed his skin then and there, and the Leopa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         he had never seen a man change his skin before. 'But what a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          was more excited than ever;
bout me?' he said, when the Ethiopian had worked his last little finger into his fine new black skin. 'You take Baviaan's ad
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          e too. He to old you to go into spots.' 'So I did,' said the Leopard. I went into other spots as fas
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            C
t as I could. I went into this spot with you, and a lot of good it has done me.' 'Oh,' said the Ethiopian, 'Baviaan didn't mean
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     in Sou th Africa. He meant spots on your skin.' 'What's the use of that?' said the Leop
ard. 'Think of Giraffe,' said the Ethiopian. 'Or if you prefer stripes, think of Zebra. They find their spo ts
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       tisfaction.' 'Umm,' said the Leopard. 'I wouldn't look like Zebra--not for eve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ve them per-feet sa
r so.' 'Well, make up your mind,' said the Ethiopian, 'because I'd hate to go hunting without you, b ut I must if you i nsist
n't make 'em too vulgar-big. I wouldn't look like Giraffe--not for ever so.' 'I'll make 'em with the tips of my fingers,' said the E
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             against a tarred fence.' 'I'll take spots, then,' said the Leopard; 'but do
t on my skin still. Stand over!' Then the Ethiopian put his five finger
                                                                                                                                                                                                0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      looking like a sun-flower
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            iopian. 'There's plenty of black lef
s close together (there was plenty of black left on his new skin still) and pressed them all o ver the Leopard, and wherever th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               e black marks, all close together. You can see them on any Leopard's
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              five fingers touched they left five
 skin you like, Best Beloved. Sometimes the fingers slipped and the marks got a little blu rred; but if you look closely at any L
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  e are always five spots--off five fat black finger-tips. 'Now you are a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              pard now you will see that the
 beauty!' said the Ethiopian. 'You can lie out on the bare ground and look like a heap o 🛭 f pebbles. You can lie out on the naked
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     of pudding-stone. You can lie out on a leafy branch and look like
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ocks and look like a piece
 sunshine sifting through the leaves; and you can lie right across the centre of a p 🌣 ath and look like nothing in particular. Thi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             of that and purr!' 'Bu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         t if I'm all this,' said the Leopard, 'why didn't you go spotty too
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           they went away and lived happily ever afterward, Best Belov
   'Oh, plain black's best for a nigger,' said the Ethiopian. 'Now come along and ˈwe'll see if we can't get even with Mr. One-Tw
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          hree Where's your
ed. That is all. Oh, now and then you will hear grown-ups say, 'Can the Ethiop ian change his skin or the Leopard his spots?'
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ld keep on saying such a silly thing if the Leopard and the E
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         't think even g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   rown-ups wou
thiopian hadn't done it once--do you? But they will never do it again, Best
                                                                                                                      Beloved. They are quite contented as they a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     AM the Most
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             iaan, saying in most wise tones, 'Let us melt into the lands
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         Wise Bav
cape--just us two by our lones.' People have come--in a carriage--calling. But
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           -Nurse says she don't
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             care. Let's go up to the pig-sties and sit on the farmyard ra
                                                                                                                                                   Mummy is there.... Yes,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           c an go if you t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ake me-
ils! Let's say things to the bunnies, and watch 'em skitter their tails! Let's--o
                                                                                                                                                                  h, anything, d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             y, so long
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    as it's y
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ou and m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            e, And going truly exploring, and not being in till tea! Here's
your boots (I've brought 'em), and here's your cap and stick, And here's
                                                                                                             your pipe and tobacco. Oh, come alon
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              E ELE
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               PHA
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             NT'S CHILD IN the High and Far-Off Times the Elephant, O
                                                                                                                                                                           g out of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             uick. TH
Best Beloved, had no trunk. He had only a blackish, bulgy nose, as big a s a boot, th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         de to side; but he couldn't pick up t hings with it. But there was one Elephant--a new Elephan
                                                                                                                                                              at he coul
                                                                                                                                                                                  d wriggle
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           bout fr om s
--an Elephant's Child--who was full of 'satiable curtiosity, and that mean
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ions. And he lived in Africa, and he filled all Africa with h
                                                                                                                                                                          s he as
                                                                                                                                                                                        ked eve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      so man
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   уq
is 'satiable curtiosities. He asked his tall aunt, the Ostrich, why her tail-feath
                                                                                                                               ers grew just so, and his tall
                                                                                                                                                                                  aun t the Ost rich sp anked him
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            with her hard hard
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  claw. He asked his tall uncle, the Giraffe, what made his
skin spotty, and his tall uncle, the Giraffe, spanked him with his hard, har
                                                                                                                    d hoof. And still he was full of 'satiable cur
                                                                                                                                                                                       tios ity! He asked hi s broad
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     aunt, the Hippopotamus
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  why her eyes were red, and his broad aunt, the Hippopo
tamus, spanked him with her broad, broad hoof; and he asked his hairy
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   him with his hairy, hairy paw. And still he was full of 'sa
                                                                                                             uncle, the Baboon, why melons tasted just so, and
                                                                                                                                                                                         his hairy uncle, the Bab
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               oon, spanked
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       of 'satiable curtiosity! One fine morning in the middl
tiable curtiosity! He asked questions about everything that he saw, o
                                                                                                                         , or felt, or smelt, or touched, and all his uncle s and h is aun ts
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              spanked
                                                                                                                                                                        t he had never asked b efor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                       e. He ask ed, 'What does the Crocodile have for dinner?' T
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         hen everybody said, 'Hush!' in a loud and dretful to
e of the Precession of the Equinoxes this 'satiable Elephant's Child
                                                                                                             asked a new fine question tha
ne, and they spanked him immediately and directly, without stopp
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      inished, he came upon Kolokolo Bird sitting in the middle of a wait-a-bit t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            horn-bush, and he said, 'My father has spanked
                                                                                                    ing, for a long time. By and
                                                                                                                                                                                    by, when that wa s f
me, and my mother has spanked me; all my aunts and uncles have spanked me for my 's
                                                                                                                                                                                         atiable curtiosi t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     y; and still I want to kno
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             w what the Crocodile has for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               dinner!' Then Kolokolo Bird said, with a mourn
ful cry, 'Go to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Lim
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            out.' That very next
                                                                                          popo River, all set
                                                                                                                                                                                            about with fe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ver-trees, and find
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  morning, when there was nothing left of the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    tiable Elephan
Equinoxes, because the Precession had preceded accord
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        t's Child took
                                                                                         ing to preced
                                                                                                                                                                                              ent. this 'sa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      a hundred pounds of bananas (the little s
hort red kind), and a hundred pounds of sugar-cane (t
                                                                                                                                g purple kind), and seventeen melons (the g reeny-cr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ackly kind
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ), and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          said to all his dear families, 'Goodbye
                                                                                      he lon
 am going to the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo
                                                                                          River, all se
                                                                                                                                                    t about with fever-trees, to fin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ut what the Crocodile has for dinner.
And they all spanked him once more for luck, thou
                                                                                           gh he asked them most politely to stop. Then he went away, a little war m, but not at all asto nished, eating melons, and throwing the rind about, because he could not pick it up. He went from Graham's Town to Kimbe
rley, and from Kimberley to Khama's Country, and from Khama's Country he went east by north, eating melons all the time, till at last he came to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, precisely as Kolokolo Bird had said. Now you must be came to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, precisely as Kolokolo Bird had said. Now you must be came to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, precisely as Kolokolo Bird had said. Now you must be came to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, precisely as Kolokolo Bird had said. Now you must be came to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, precisely as Kolokolo Bird had said. Now you must be came to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, precisely as Kolokolo Bird had said. Now you must be came to the banks of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees, precisely as Kolokolo Bird had said. Now you must be came to the banks of the great grey-green, green grey-green, green grey-green, green grey-green, green grey-green, green grey-green, green 
Rock-Snake curled round a rock. "Scuse me,' said the Elephant's Child most politely, 'but have you seen such a thing as a Crocodile?' said the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake, in a voice of dretful scorn. 'What will you ask me next?' "Scuse me,' said the Elephant's Child, 'but could you kindly tell me what he has for dinner?' Then the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake uncoiled himself very quickly from the rock, and spanked the Elephant's Child with his scalesome, flailsome tail. 'That is odd,' said the Elep
hent's Child, 'because my father and my uncle and my aunt, not to mention my other uncle, the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake, and helped to coil him up on the rock again, and went on, a little warm, but not at all astonished, eating melons, and throwing the could not pick it up, till he trod on what he thought was a log of wood at the very edge of the great grey-green, greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever-trees. But it was really the Crocodile, O Best Beloved, and the Elephant's Child most politely, 'but do you happen to have seen a Crocodile in these promiscuo us parts?' Then the Crocodile winked the other eye, and lifted half his tail out of the mud; and the Elephant's Child most politely, 'but my father has spanked me, my mother has spanked me, not to mention my tall uncle, the Giraffe, who can kick ever so hard, as well as my broad aunt, the Hippopotamus, and my hairy uncle, the Baboon, and including the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake, with the scalesome, flailsome tail, just up the bank, who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank, who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank, who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank, who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank, who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank, who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank, who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite the bank who spanks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite them.
he wept crocodile-tears to show it was quite true. Then the Elephant's Child grew all breathless, and panted, and kneeled down on the bank and said, 'You are the very person I have been looking for all these long days. Will you please tell me what you have for dinner?' 'Come hither Little One,' said the Crocodile, 'and I'll whisper.' Then the Elephant's Child put his head down close to the Crocodile caught him by his little nose, which up to that very week, day, hour, and minute, had been no bigger than a boot, though m
uch more useful. 'I think, said the Crocodile-and he said it between his teeth, like this.-'I think to-day I will begin with Elephant's Child!' At this, O Best Beloved, the Elephant's Child was much annoyed, and he said, speaking through his nose, like this, 'Led go! You are hurtig be!' The
en the Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snake scuffled down from the bank and said, 'My young friend, if you do not now, immediately and instantly, pull as hard as ever you can, it is my opinion that your acquaintance in the large-pattern leather uister' (and by this he meant the Crocodile) 'will jerk you into yonder limpid stream before you can say Jack Robinson.' This is the way Bi-Coloured-Python-Rock-Snakes always talk. Then the Elephant's Child sat back on his little haunches, and pulled, and pulled, and his nose began to stretch. And the Crocodile
floundered into the water, making it all creamy with great sweeps of his tail, and he pulled, and pulled, and pulled, and pulled, and pulled, and be Elephant's Child spread all his little four legs and pulled, and pulled, and pulled, and his nose kept on stret
ching; and the Crocodile threshed his tail like an oar, and he pulled, and pul
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