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Opening extract from

Murray the Horse

Written by

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Illustrated by

Frank Rodgers

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For Evan
My best pal and inspiration – G. P

For Lois, Jack and George – F. R

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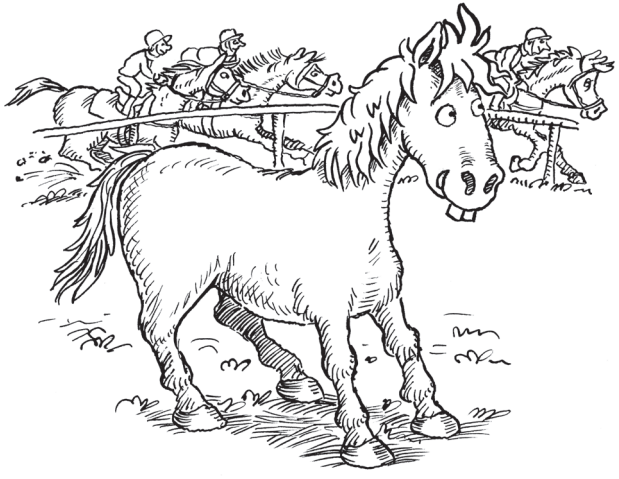
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On a warm summer's day at a race track in Surrey,

something **odd** happened to a racehorse called Murray.

The events that unfolded were certainly strange,

events that by chance caused his whole life to change.

Murray decided – as a young foal –

to make championship-racing his ultimate goal.

He dreamed of success, of riches and fame;

dreamed fans the world over would cheer out his name.



He came from a family of true sporting glory,

where triumph and praise was a regular story.

His parents won trophies and medals galore

and hoped beyond hope that their son would win more.

But despite Murray's plans to reach stardom some day,

there was one major problem that stood in his way.

A difficult hurdle he couldn't get past . . .

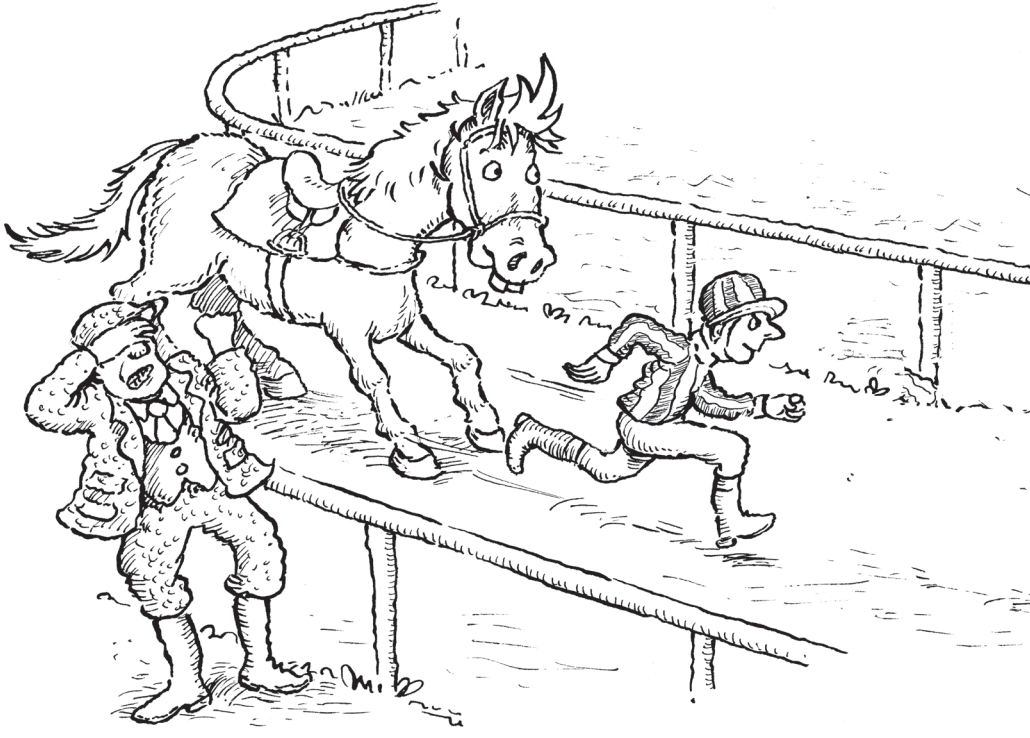
Murray the horse wasn't that fast!

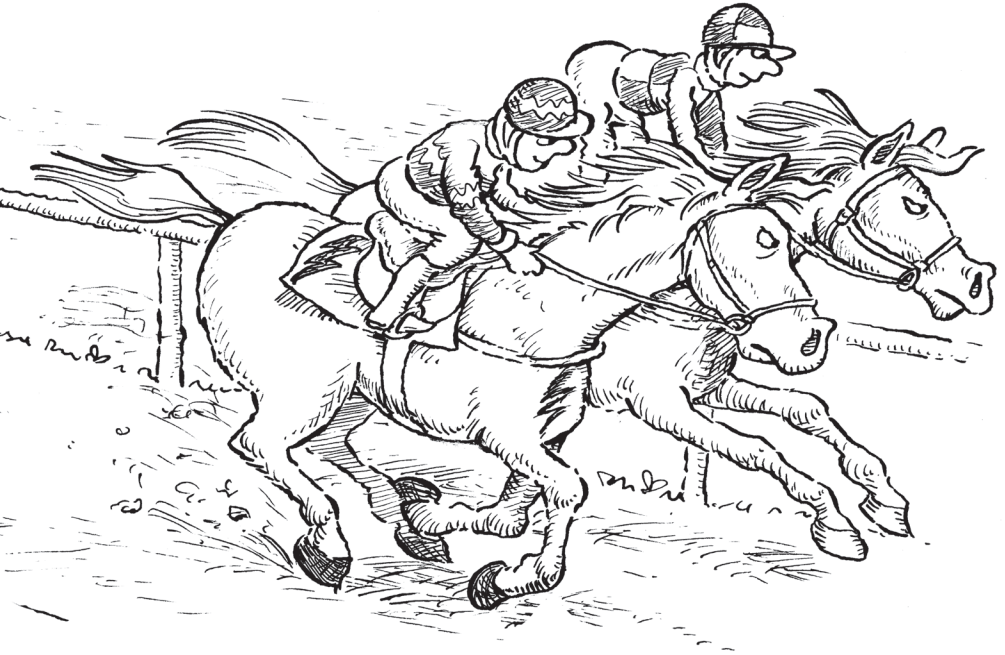
He trained as often as any horse could,

but this dutiful racehorse just wasn't that good.

His trainer once dubbed him, **'A racing disaster!'**

claiming that **'*Jockeys* could even run faster!'**





To make matters worse, Murray lived in a stable

with racehorses FAR more athletic and able.

There was **Big Brandy Wilson** and

his brother **Ned Plumb**,

who were cousins of horseracing legend **Red Rum**.

There was **Bucky the stallion** and

Old Reggie Clover,

each of them champions several times over.



But the fastest of all was a racehorse called **Pete**,

who was known to his fans by the name

'Thunder-Feet'.

Compared to these marvels, Murray was small

and had never been trusted by jockeys at all.

Instead, he was used as a ground steward's horse,

carting equipment around the racecourse.