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Aesop's Forgotten Fables

Written by

Fiona Waters

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For Eloïse, Ema, Felix, Julian, Linda, Malala Y, Natassia,
Nathan, Oriana, Sofia, Timothee and Yannick. FT

For Henry Morton-Robinson with love. FMW

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FULVIO TESTA

Aesop's FORGOTTEN FABLES

Retold by FIONA WATERS



ANDERSEN PRESS



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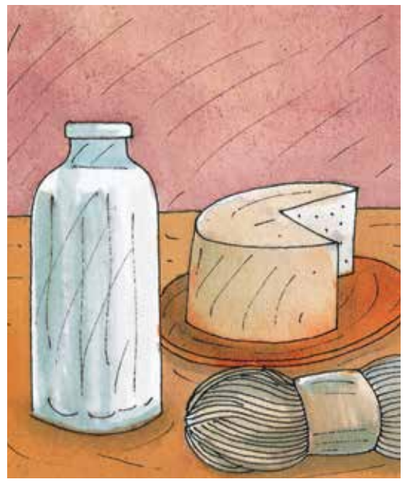
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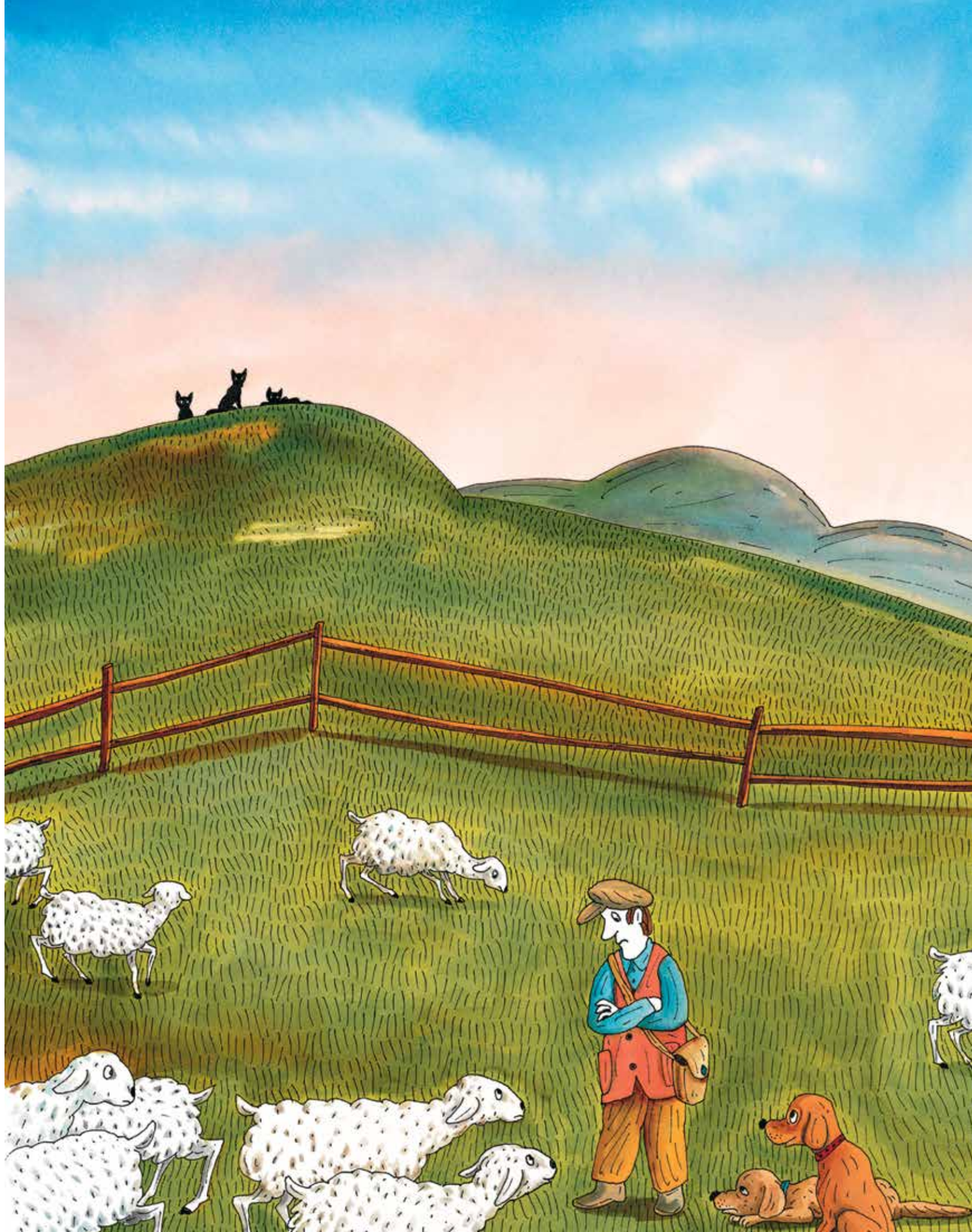


The Sheep and the Dogs



A shepherd was walking amongst his sheep one day, checking all was well with them with his trusty dogs by his side. Two of the sheep stood out a little from the rest of the flock and began speaking to the shepherd.
"We find your treatment of us very odd and indeed a little unfair," the one sheep began.
"Yes, and we give you wool and milk and lambs, but all you give us in exchange is grass - and we have to look for that ourselves," added the other sheep.
The shepherd scratched his head, not quite sure what to make of this complaint.
"And then we see you treating those dogs quite differently," continued the first sheep. "As far as we can see, they do nothing at all and yet you share your lunch with them."
The dogs sat up and barked at the silly sheep.
"Do nothing at all? Do nothing at all?" one said.
"What do you mean, we do nothing at all?" said the other.
"Why you ridiculous creatures, you wouldn't be here if it wasn't for us! Thieves would steal you, wolves would eat you!" said the first dog.
"In fact," said both dogs together, "if we were not here, you would be too terrified even to come out to graze!"
The sheep looked at each other foolishly and then turned quietly and walked back to join the rest of the flock.
For the dogs were quite right, and the sheep were never heard to make a complaint ever again.

BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE INSTEAD OF BEING JEALOUS OF WHAT SOMEONE ELSE POSSESSES.



The Eagle and the Crow



A crow was hopping around a field of sheep, quietly minding his own business looking for flies and insects to eat. All of a sudden, there was a great whirring of wings and a huge eagle swooped down. Reaching out, the eagle grasped hold of a lamb in his talons and bore his prize away to his hungry chicks high in their mountain eyrie.

The crow was mightily impressed with this feat. The eagle had looked so strong and graceful. The foolish crow decided that he would be able to pull off just such a trick and so he flew up into a tree and launched himself at the nearest sheep.

Unfortunately, the nearest sheep was no small lamb, but a large fat ram and there was no possible way that the crow could ever have lifted him off the ground. His claws became entangled in the ram's woolly coat and as he flapped and tried to disentangle himself, he made such a commotion that the shepherd heard and came running over to see what was going on. As soon as he saw the crow, the shepherd held on to him fast and quickly, clipped his wings and then stuffed him into a cage. In vain did the crow squawk and shriek, but he was trapped.

Later that evening, when the shepherd went home for his supper, he brought the cage with him to show his children.

"What kind of bird is that, Father?" they asked.

"It is a crow," the shepherd replied, "but he thinks he is an eagle."

And the poor crow just hung his head in shame.

IF YOU ATTEMPT WHAT IS BEYOND YOUR POWER, YOU WILL ONLY COURT MISFORTUNE AND RIDICULE.