

Harriet's Hare

Harriet's Hare by Dick King-Smith tells the story of a young girl, Harriet, who wakes one day to find a crop circle in her father's wheatfield. The alien that made the crop circle has taken on the form of a hare, and in this extract, Harriet meets the hare for the first time...

The farmhouse and its buildings were tucked into the side of a gentle hill, and in the little flat valley below were two large fields, the nearer one green, the further one gold.

5 In the first, her father's cows would normally have been waiting around the gateway for him to come and fetch them in for morning milking. But now the whole herd was galloping and buck-jumping around the pasture as though something had scared the wits out of them.

10 The second field was of wheat, almost ready for harvesting, that looked from the house above like a square golden blanket, glowing in the morning sunlight. But there seemed to be a hole in the blanket. In one corner of the wheatfield, Harriet could see, there was a perfect circle of flattened corn.

15 It took Harriet a quarter of an hour to dress and slip out of the house and run down the dewy hillside. By now the cows had quietened, and she ran through them to the wheatfield beyond, climbed over its gate and pushed through the standing corn to step into that perfect circle.

What had made it? What had made the noise that had woken her and terrified the cows? Whatever had happened in the field called Ten Acre on Longhanger Farm at the start of this July day?

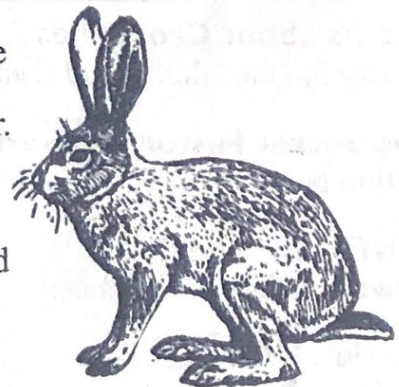
20 Harriet walked into the middle of the circle. It was big, perhaps twenty metres across, and all the corn in it was squashed down to the ground, flat, as though an enormously heavy weight had rested there.

25 As she stood there now, in the stillness, with no sound but distant birdsong, a hare suddenly came out into the corn circle and stopped and sat up. It turned its head a little sideways, the better to see her.

[...]

For a moment the hare stayed where it was, watching her. Then, to her great surprise, it lolloped right up to her.

30 Surprise is one thing, but total amazement is quite another, and that was what Harriet next felt when all of a sudden the hare said, loudly and clearly, 'Good morning.'



Act
6.1.1