

4. The Tortoise and the Hare

NARRATOR: Once upon a time, there was a hare...

WOMAN 2: Just one? Wouldn't that look kinda silly?

NARRATOR: Not that kind of hair. I mean "a rabbit"

WOMAN 2: Oh...why didn't ya say so?

NARRATOR: Because it's an old story. Just go with me here. Now one day this Hare –

WOMAN 2: - rabbit -

NARRATOR: - was feeling pretty good about himself....

HARE: *(she's wearing a set of bunny ears)* Hey...who's that handsome devil in that mirror? That's right, it's me! *(pretends to kiss the mirror)* Who's the cutest bunny of all? That's right, it's you! *(another bunny walks by wearing an Easter egg colored set of clothing, carrying a big basket)*

EASTER: Oy, don't you ever stop talking? *(he pulls his bunny ears down to close out the noise)*

HARE: Oh, look who's here. "Easter Bunny", how goofy is that. You're a rabbit what are you doing handing out eggs? Why don't you hand out things like carrots and broccoli instead?

EASTER: Hm...I'd never thought of that....what do you think *(to audience)* should I leave carrots and turnips instead of candy?...hmmm *(work the kids)* Lemme think about that *(and he wanders off)*

NARRATOR: and having made himself handsome, he went to lunch at Leo The Lion's Lunchroom, where all of the animals of the woods gathered to eat and match wits.

HARE: *Bursts into the room* Alright, let's get this party started!

And all the other patrons of the lunch room groan and turn away from him

HARE: Mr Fun has entered the building! C'mon, let's go out and get a little crazy!

LEO: No thanks. I'm busy running my restaurant.

HARE: Work work work, that's all you suckers ever think about. When are ya gonna learn to have some fun?! (*turns to the tortoise*) Like you, you there...Slowpoke. What's your name?

TORTOISE: (*works it out*) B.....o.....b (*spoken, not spelled*)

HARE: (*mocks his slow speaking style*) B.....o.....b? Phew, good thing they didn't name you "Reginald" or something – we'd be here all day! Well look on the bright side, you may be slow, but at least you'll always have your good looks, eh? (*laughs derisively*). But hey, we can't all be me. There isn't a prettier, faster animal anywhere in the forest. What? Hey, it isn't braggin' if it's true! Face it, I'm faster than any of the rest of you!

TORTOISE: W.....anna bbbb....et?

HARE: Are you kidding me? You think there's someone faster than me? Like who, for instance?

TORTOISE: Like....mmmm.....eee.

HARE; You? (*breaks into laughter*). Yeah right. Dude, you're as slow as a school year. Come on, don't embarrass yourself. Are there any other takers?

TORTOISE: I'll bet you a d...ollar.

HARE: A dollar? You're on!

NARRATOR: The hare was easily excited by small amounts of money.

HARE: Here's the rules. We start right here at Leo's, and run all the way down to the end of the lane. When the race is over, you owe me a buck!

TORTOISE: Not if I win.

HARE: Yeah, that'll happen just as soon as monkeys fly out of my butt. Let's get to it, pokey.

NARRATOR: So the tortoise and the hare lined up on the starting line, and Leo the Lion started the race.

LEO: On your marks....get set....go! (*the hare quickly runs off the stage into the wings, the turtle hasn't moved*). Bob, I said "go"!

TORTOISE: I *am* going....

NARRATOR: Meanwhile, the hare shot out to a comfortable lead, and true to form was feeling pretty darn cocky...

HARE: *(dashes back onstage, downstage from where he left, he looks offstage as if it's where the starting line is – he checks his watch).* Ooh...90 seconds to get to here – you're getting slow, old boy. Wonder where the Green Glacier is? *(looks behind him)* Heh, he's barely past the starting line. *(he stretches, looks ahead of him a few feet to the finishing line)* Oh man, well, I don't want to make it look TOO easy... the finish line's only a few feet away...Hey....maybe I should just go ahead and take a little snooze now.

NARRATOR: And sure enough, the hare laid down by the side of the lane, in a big pile of leaves – and went to sleep! Meanwhile, back near the starting line...

TORTOISE: Doi...doi doi.....singin a happy tune....

NARRATOR: The tortoise was making slow but steady progress *(looks at him)* ...make that "very slow" but steady progress.

LEO: While back in Bunny La La land....the hare was having some pretty unusual dreams....

HARE: Yes, yes...thank you....oh, a gold medal?...you're too kind....s'cuse me, its the phone..... Oprah? World's fastest bunny? Yes, that's me. You want me to be on the show? Ok....let me check my Strawberry ...oh, wait, it's my other line...be right back...hello?...Britney? Is it really you?!! I never thought you'd call! Why yes, I WILL go on a date with you...*(he starts 'dancing' in place on the floor, though he's still 'asleep' – his eyes are closed)*

NARRATOR: And what was supposed to be a short snooze for the hare instead turned in to a three hour sleep!

LEO: And while the hare was dreaming about gold medals, and Oprah, Brittany Spears...

NARRATOR: The tortoise caught up to where the hare was napping.

TORTOISE: My, that's a funny way of running....see you at the finish line.

LEO: And in no time at all, even though he wasn't moving fast, the tortoise was within sight of the finish line!

“ Chariots of Fire ” theme starts. Slow motion sequence of the tortoise crawling to the finish line, as everyone in the background cheers, also in slow motion, all of this under....

TORTOISE: Just keep on keepin’ on.....that’s the pace...slow and steady wins the race....

LEO: And off in the distance....there arose a sound. A noise...it was all the other animals in the forest cheering as the tortoise approached.

TORTOISE: Almost there...just a few more feet....

NARRATOR: The noise finally got so loud – that it woke the hare up from his nap!

HARE: Hey...where am I? *(he squints up to the sun)* and what’s that noise? *(he looks across the stage to see the tortoise ready to cross the finish tape being held by two of the other animals – he screams)* Ach!!! What happened? Quick, gotta go, gotta go *(he immediately falls down to the ground)* Ow, ow, ow.....my leg’s asleep!!! Help!!!

NARRATOR: But no one could hear the hare calling for help because they were all cheering too loudly for the tortoise!

TORTOISE: One more step.....*(and he crosses the finish line....but is moving so slowly that the tape only stretches rather than breaks – big cheer breaks out from everyone else on stage)*

HARE: What?!!! He WON!!!!!! Oh no...how did that happen?!!! *(he limps over to the tortoise, everyone else is still cheering him, and slapping him on the back...er.....’shell’...)* How the heck did you do that? You’re the slowest thing on four legs? How did you beat me?

TORTOISE: I’m not fast...but I’m determined, and sometimes that’s what counts. It’s like my daddy always used to say....

EVERYONE Slow and steady wins the race. The end!