



HEGE Siri

TUNELLEN

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TEKST: HEGE SIRI
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ILLUSTRASJON:
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In the darkness underground they are alone.
The long ears move.
They stop. Listen.

He is white. She is brown like a hare.

An illustration of two rabbits, one brown and one white, standing in a dark tunnel. The background is a bright yellow light source, with black particles falling from it. The rabbits are facing each other, and the white rabbit has a small red tongue sticking out. The brown rabbit is on the left, and the white rabbit is on the right.

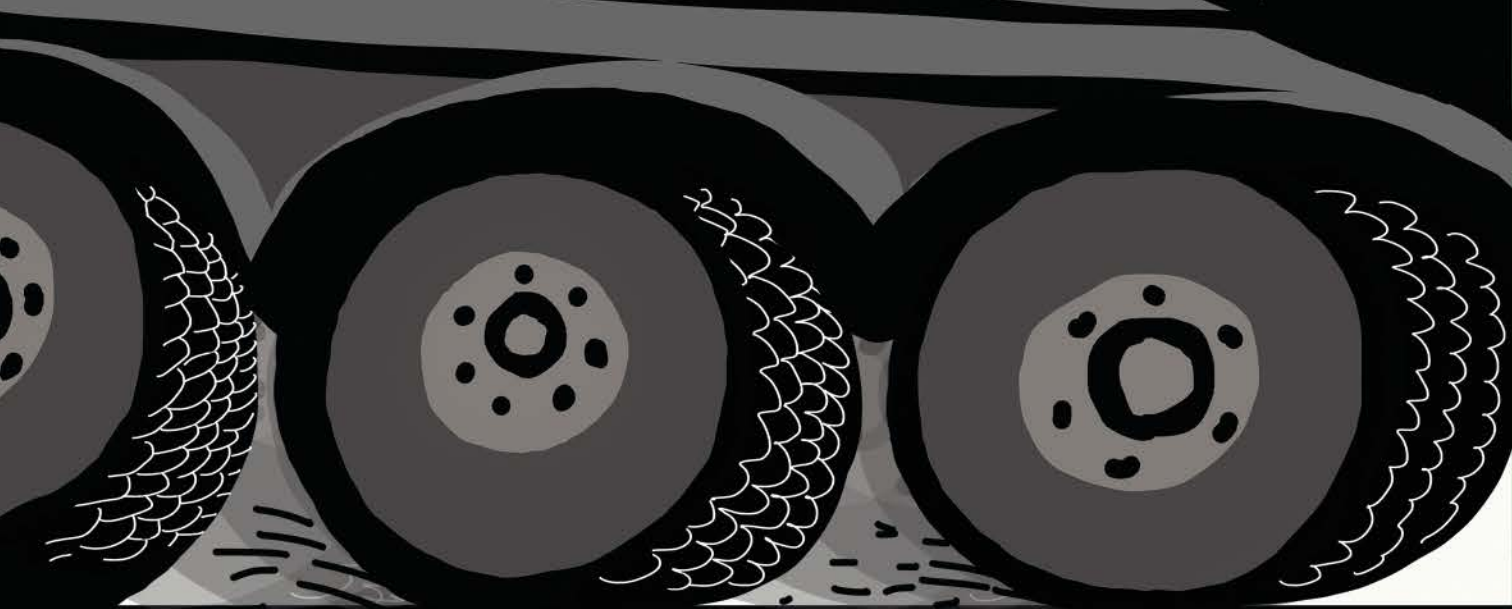
They breathe quickly. The whiskers vibrate.
The front legs are like drumsticks.

They dig a path underground. The two of them.
They dig their way between rocks. Through sand.



Past the cavities of the mice,
and the earthworms' tunnels.
Past the beetles, which have their paths destroyed.
Past a spider that they don't hear.

But the rabbits don't think about all this.
They listen. And dig. Listen. And dig.



Then they hear the sound of loosening stones.
Just like small sighs, before the stones fall down on the floor of the tunnel.

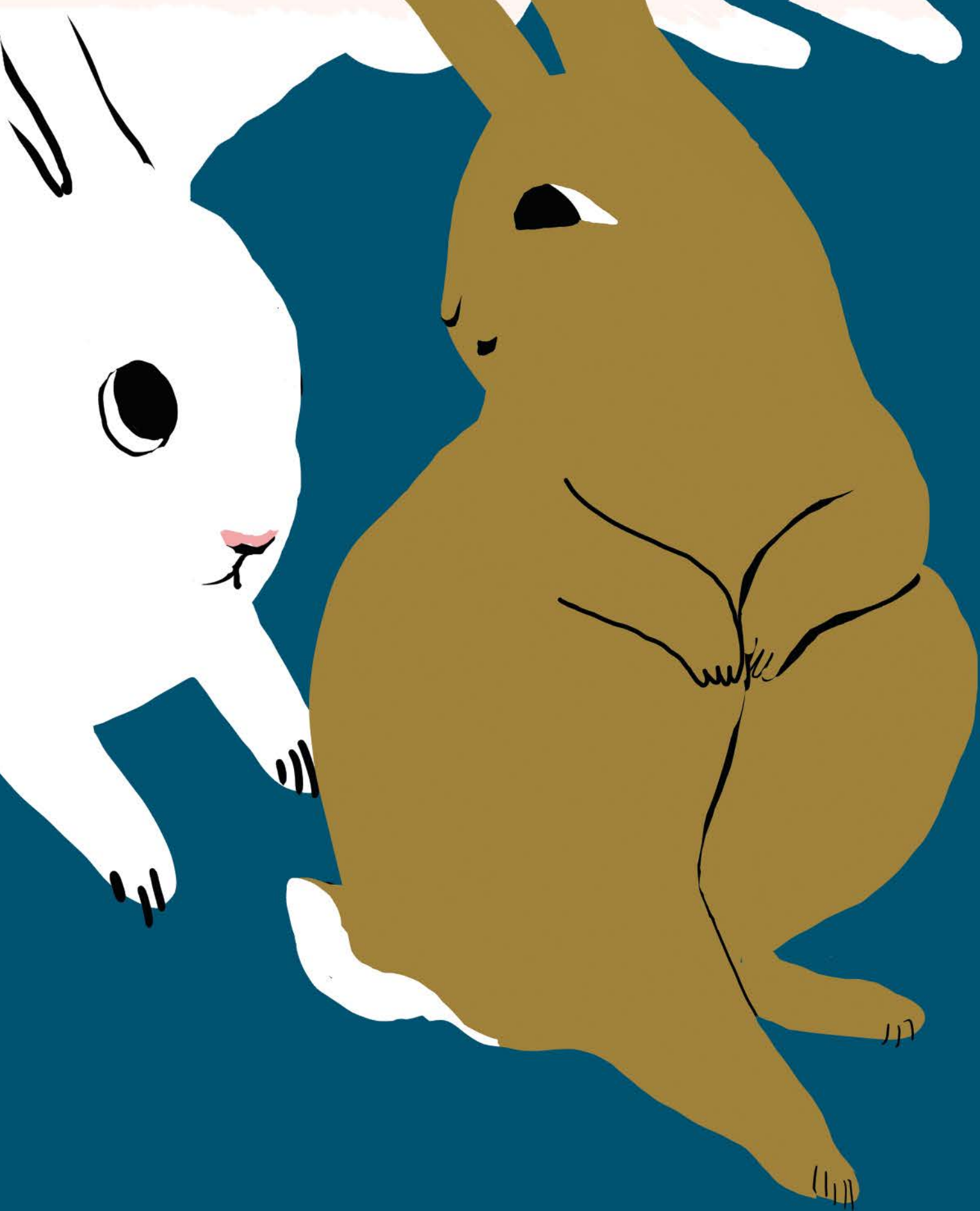
Soon after the noise comes blaring over them.
The motor hums. Just like thunder. The ground shakes.
Before the sound of the car disappears and is completely gone.



She remembers the first time a car approached.
They had dug for hours when he suddenly cried:
– OUT!
They turned and crawled out of the tunnel as fast as they could.
Then they escaped into the woods.



She is a good runner, but not good enough. She is better at digging.
Hares however, she thinks, they are excellent sprinters .
Hares can run far in a short time.



- You know the hares? she says.
- Yes, what about them? he says.
- Well, hares should be thankful for those long legs, she says.
- Indeed? Thankful for what? he says.
- It's the powerful thigh muscles that allow them to run so fast, she says.
- Yes, that's true, he says.
- We don't run that fast. But we are better at digging, she says.
- Yes, that's true, he says.
- Hmm, she smiles.

They continue to dig.

They are sweethearts.

He goes first. He digs. She does like him.

They dig a path under the road. A tunnel.

Just the right size for a rabbit to crawl through it.

Just the right size for a rabbit to turn around and run back again.

Just the right size for a fox not to squeeze into it.

Just the right size for a dog to get nothing but the paws into the opening.

