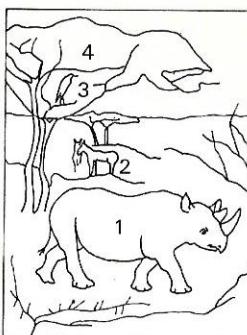
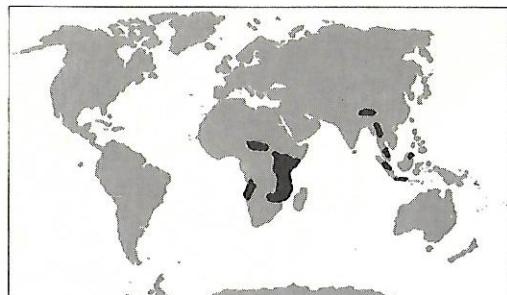




A POLE STAR BOOK

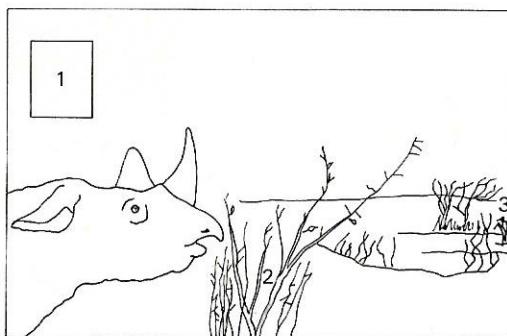
The Rhinoceros

If you compare these outlines with the pictures in the book you will be able to find the names of the trees, plants, animals and birds. The map shows the countries where the rhinoceros lives.



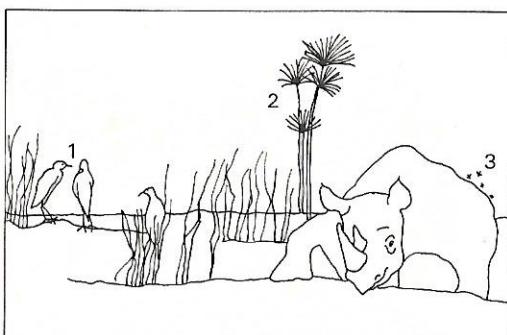
Page 1

1. Black rhinoceros
2. Zebras
3. Cattle egret
4. Acacia tree



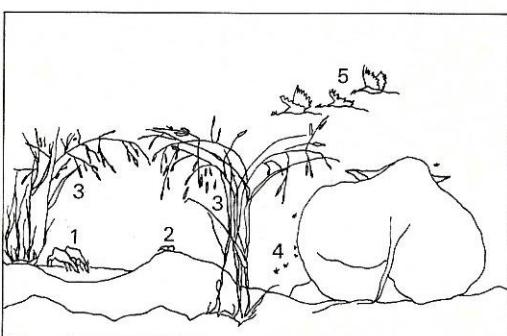
Pages 2 and 3

1. Mouth and nostril of rhinoceros
2. Acacia thorns
3. Marabou storks



Pages 4 and 5

1. Cattle egrets
2. Papyrus reeds
3. Flies



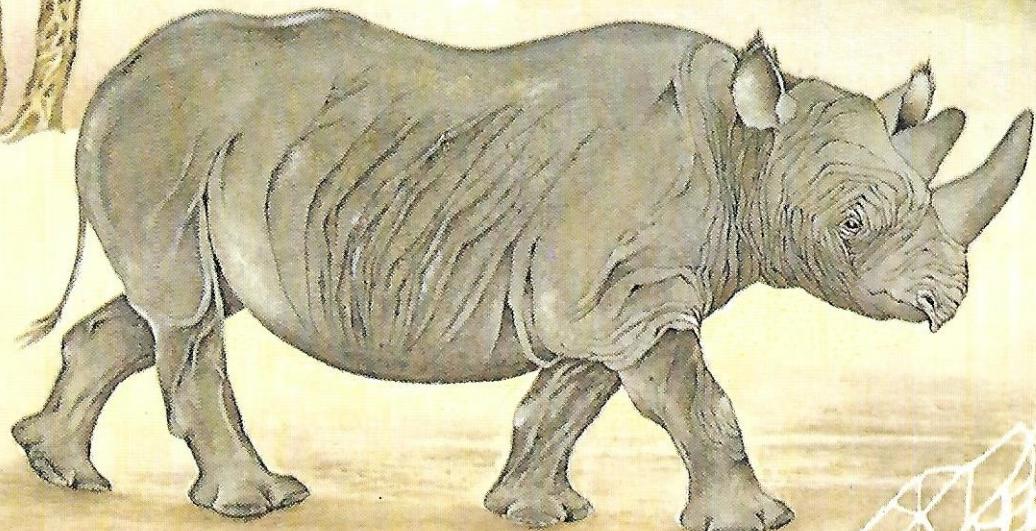
Pages 6 and 7

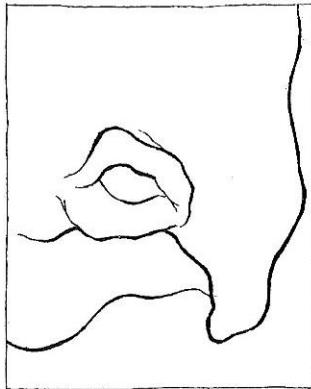
1. Impalas
2. Dung beetle
3. Sweetgrass
4. Flies
5. Crowned cranes

See also the inside back cover

1-50
110

The Rhinoceros





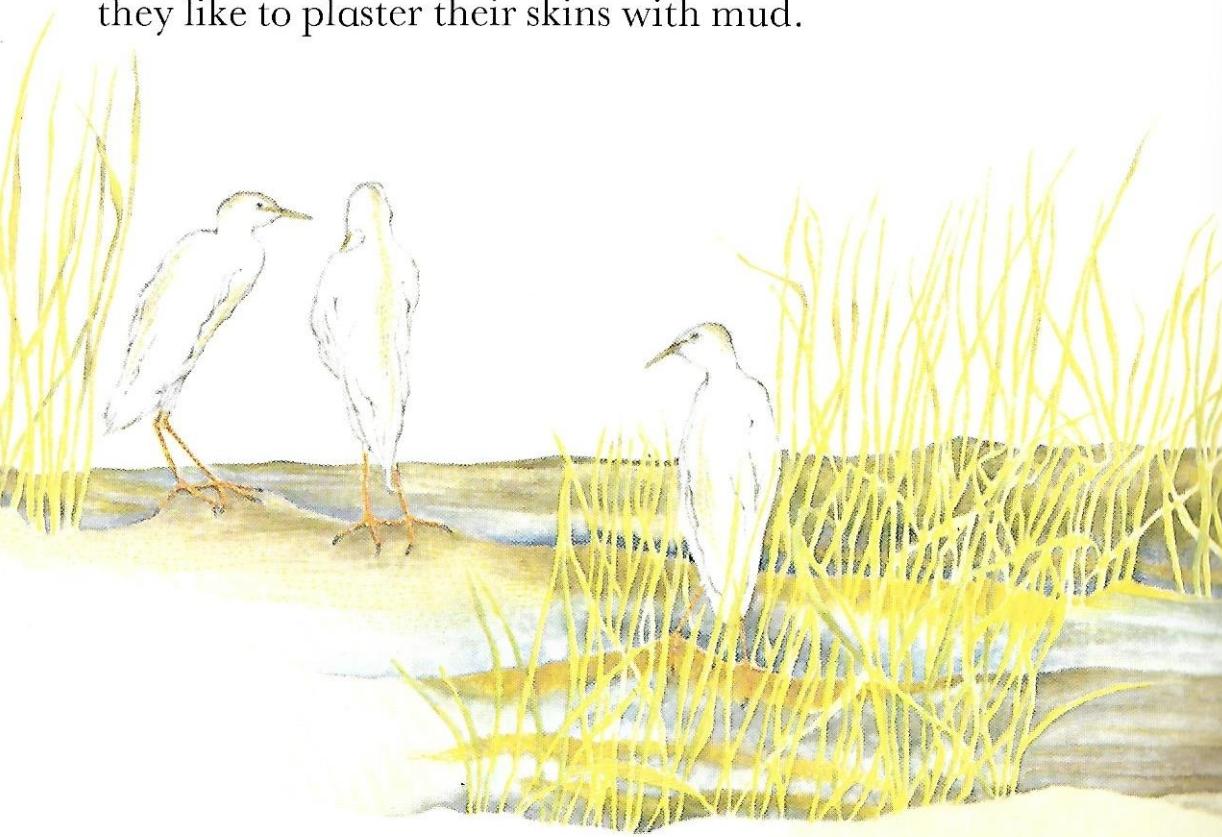
Kulu the black rhinoceros,
lives in a part of Africa
where few trees and bushes grow.
He eats mostly leaves and twigs
from the sharp thorn bushes.
With his long upper lip, he pulls
at the branches, and chews.



Kulu the rhinoceros looks very old and ugly.
He is like some pre-historic monster.
He has two horns of tightly packed hair.
With these he defends his land, or territory.
He is always on the lookout for trouble.
His large ears pick up every sound,
and his wide nostrils sniff out every scent.
But his small eyes cannot see very well.



When he has finished his morning meal,
Kulu plods off to his pool, or wallow.
There he has his morning bath.
He rolls his body round and round,
until he is covered all over
with a thick grey coating of mud.
As rhinos have no fur
to keep off insects which bite and sting,
they like to plaster their skins with mud.

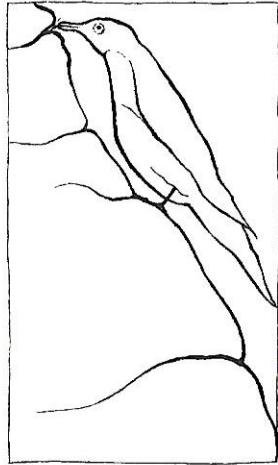




When he feels cool and comfortable again,
Kulu lies under the hot African sun.
The mud soon dries into a hard grey crust.
The insects leave him alone for a while.
Rhinos often have cuts in the folds of their skin.
The smell of these cuts brings lots of flies,
which lay their eggs in the open wounds.







Kulu cannot brush off the flies.
His tail is too short to reach.
He cannot get at them to scratch.
His legs are too short and clumsy.
It is just as well he has some help.
A small friend called a tick bird
sits on his neck, and pecks at
the maggots in the folds of skin.

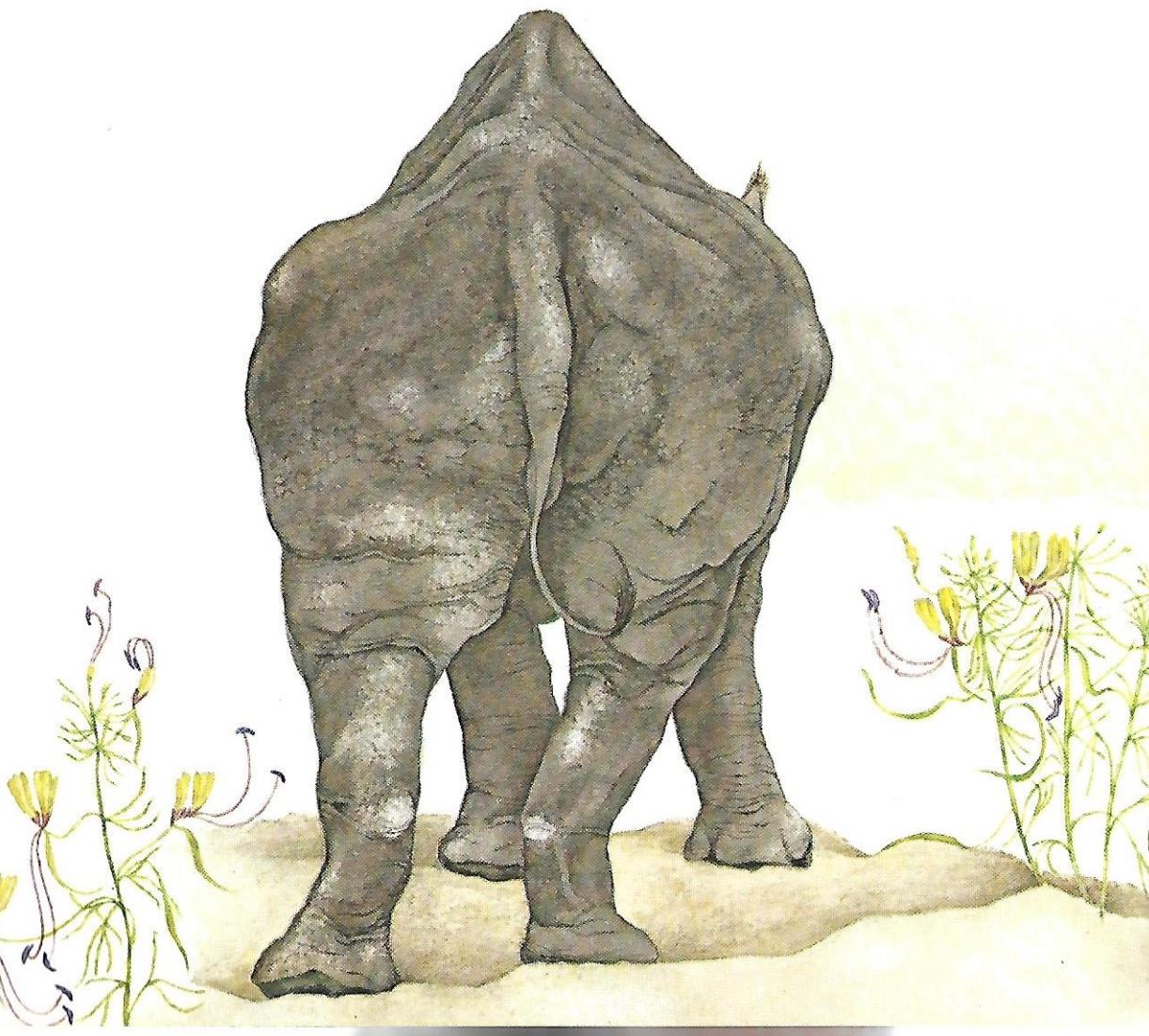


Apart from the tick bird, Kulu the black rhino
has no friends among the other African animals.
He is always so cross and ready to charge.
Even the fierce lion keeps out of Kulu's way.

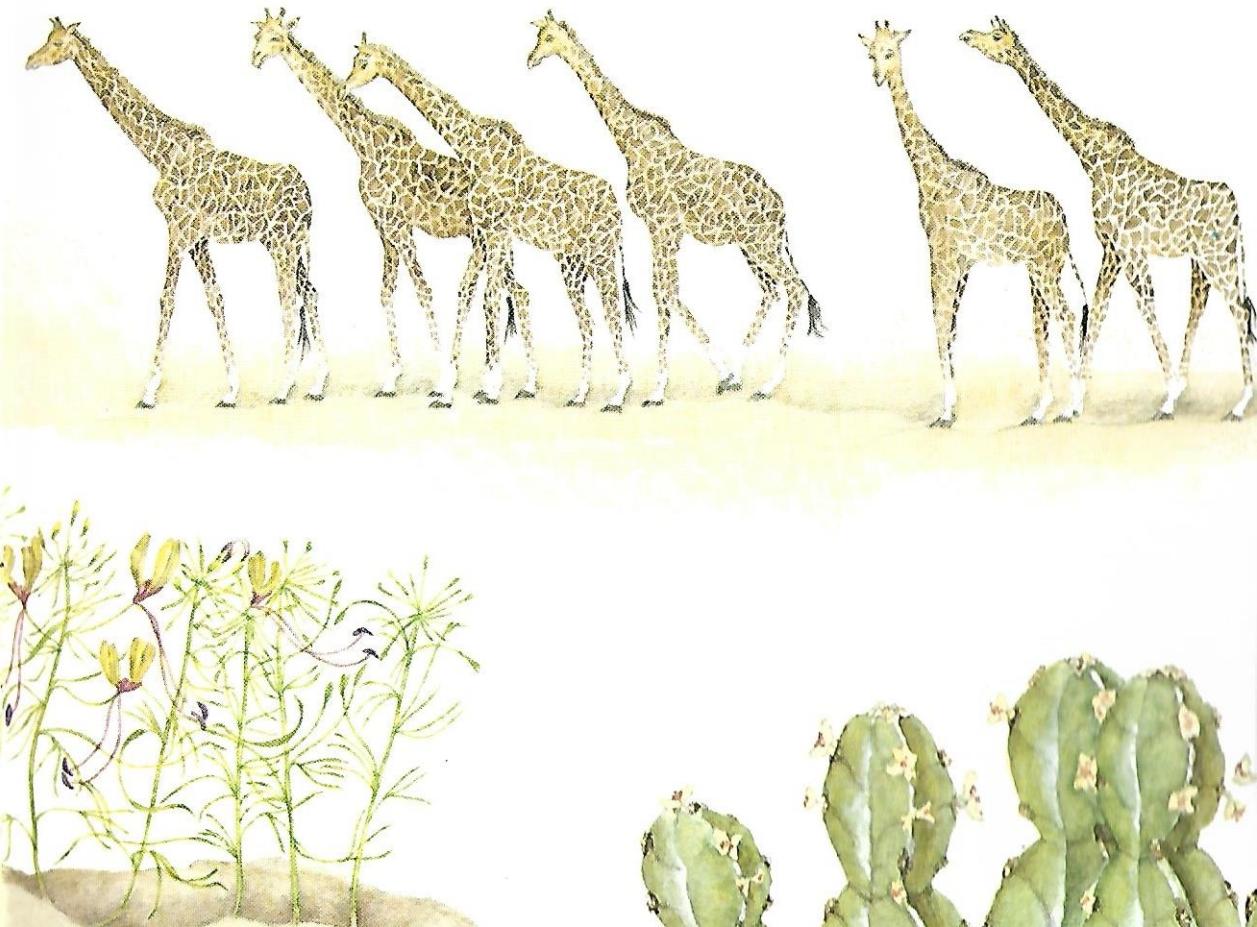
Look! Can you see some giraffes coming?
Kulu hears something moving in the distance.
He lowers his head and stamps on the ground.



The tall, graceful giraffes
walk by with long, slow steps.
They are looking for their own food.
But Kulu cannot see them clearly.
He thinks it may be other rhinos
Coming to eat his food.



During very dry weather
Kulu will let other rhinos cross his land
in search of water and new wallows.
But at present, there is plenty of water for all.
Kulu allows no strangers on his territory.
He protects his supply of food
with his fierce threatening horn.





Kulu peers at the giraffes with small, angry eyes.
He sniffs the air, and snorts loudly through his nose.
Then he points his horn and charges furiously.
He can run very fast for such a heavy animal,
at speeds of up to 48 kilometres an hour.
The giraffes turn and gallop away from him
as fast as their long legs will go.
A rhino's horn is a dangerous weapon.



In the evening, as the sun goes down,
Kulu comes back to drink at his favourite pool.
Rhinos are in fact pre-historic animals.
They have been on the earth for millions of years.
But now, all over Africa and Asia,
they are hunted and killed.
Today, people are trying to protect them.
As it grows dark, Kulu the black rhinoceros
is still on the lookout for things which move.
His real enemy is the man who carries a gun.





Some facts about the rhinoceros

Kulu is a black rhinoceros.

He has long, pointed lips.

He is usually the colour of the mud in which he likes to roll.

The white rhinoceros is larger, and weighs up to 3,000 kilos.

It can grow to 4.5 metres long, and has square shaped lips.

The black and white rhinos have two horns, and live in Africa.

The Indian rhinoceros has one horn.

His lumpy skin has thick folds, like a suit of armour.

The Javanese rhino is similar, but the Sumatran rhino is different.

Can you see why?

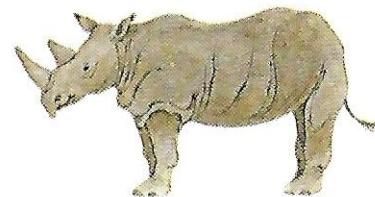
The male rhino is called a bull.

The female is called a cow.

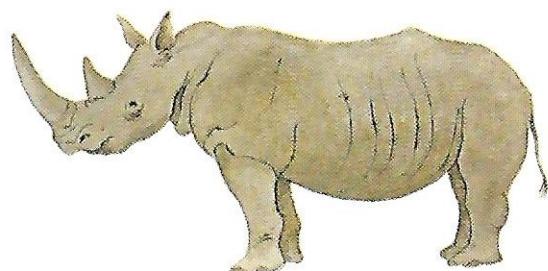
All rhinos are now becoming scarce.

People are trying to breed them in zoos and wildlife parks, before they become extinct.

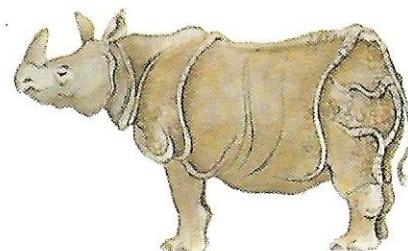
The rhinoceros comes from the same family as the horse and camel.



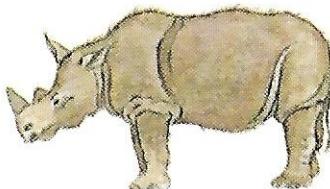
Black rhinoceros



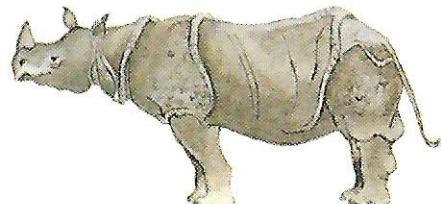
White rhinoceros



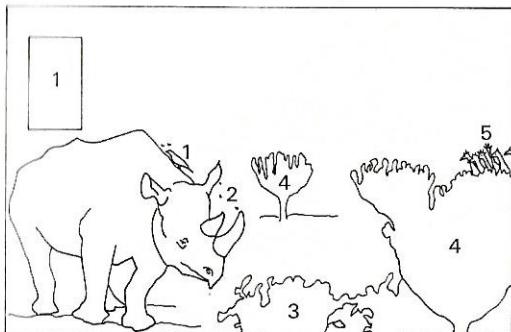
Indian rhinoceros



Sumatran rhinoceros

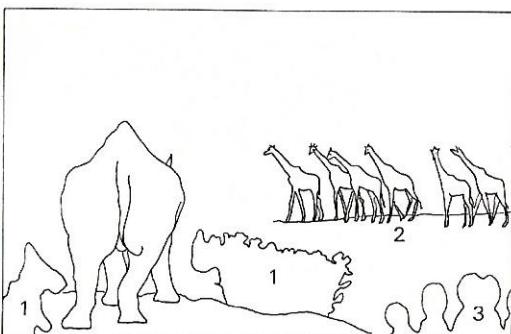


Javanese rhinoceros



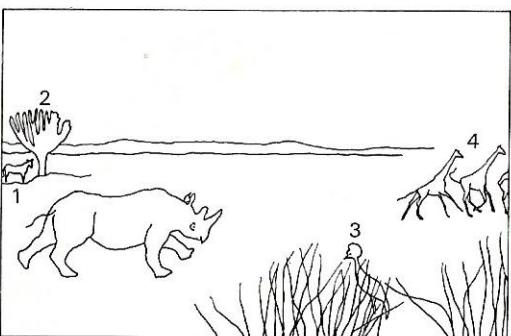
Pages 8 and 9

1. Oxpecker (Tick bird)
2. Flies
3. *Holmskioldia* (Tropical flower)
4. Euphorbia
5. Giraffes



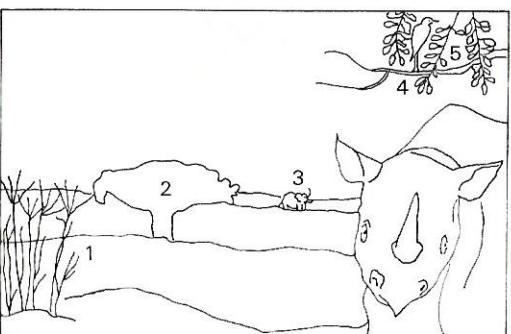
Pages 10 and 11

1. *Cleome* (Tropical flower)
2. Giraffes
3. Euphorbia



Pages 12 and 13

1. Zebra
2. Euphorbia
3. Crowned crane
4. Giraffes



Pages 14 and 15

1. Bermuda grass
2. Baobab tree
3. African elephant
4. Cattle egret
5. Acacia leaves



A POLE STAR BOOK

The Rhinoceros

Barbara Benson

adapted from the Dutch of Francis Brewer

Books in this series

The Beaver

The Camel

The Fly

The Leopard

The Hare

The Hedgehog

The Rhinoceros

The Stoat

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