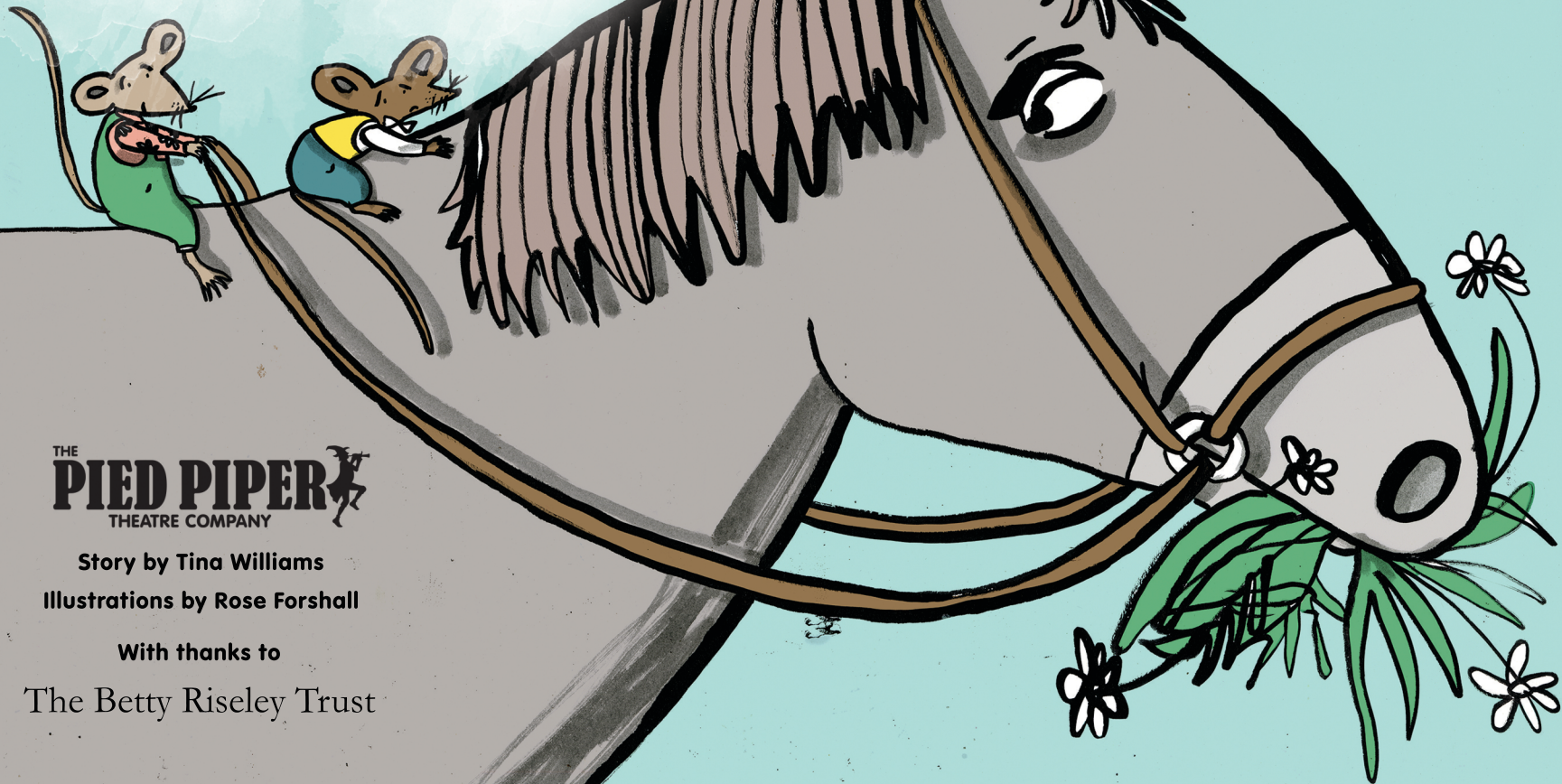


# The Town Mouse & The Country Mouse



THE  
**PIED PIPER**  
THEATRE COMPANY

Story by Tina Williams

Illustrations by Rose Forshall

With thanks to

The Betty Riseley Trust

# The Town Mouse & The Country Mouse

It was winter in the countryside and Country Mouse was gathering food. She was looking forward to a visit from her cousin Town Mouse.

It was winter in the city and Town Mouse was getting ready to visit his cousin in the countryside. The cousins hadn't seen each other since they were tiny baby mice and they wondered what each other would look like.

“Probably just like me!” they thought.

Country Mouse set out to meet Town Mouse. They sniffed at each other and noticed that although they were both mice, they looked very different. Town Mouse had beady eyes and a longer tail.

Country Mouse was smaller and her fur was cleaner. Town Mouse was very excited and very loud.

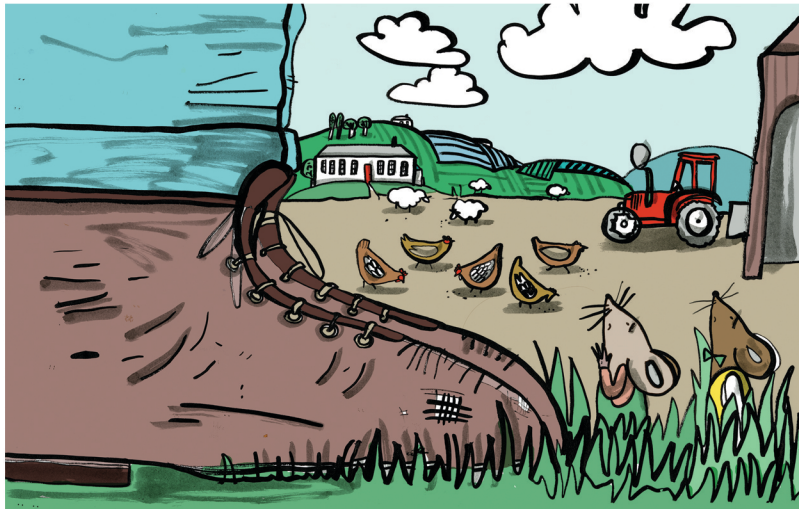
“You have to be quiet in the country”, said Country Mouse. “Or you'll wake up the owls and they'll gobble you up!”

Country Mouse was ready for bed, but Town Mouse was used to sleeping in the day and going out at night. He found it very difficult to get to sleep.

The next day, the mice were woken up by the cockerel. “Cock-a-doodle-do!”



Town Mouse was tired; he didn't want to get up and he didn't like the other animals in the countryside. He was scared to try the food that Country Mouse offered him. Hazelnuts and seeds might not be very tasty. He was frightened by the chickens and by the 'two legs', the mousey name for humans, who were spraying the fields.



Town Mouse decided that he didn't like the country; it scared him. He wanted to go back to the town. He had a big argument with Country Mouse and they parted badly.

Time passed and the two mice felt sad.

"I wish I hadn't fallen out with Country Mouse", thought Town Mouse. "Sometimes it's lonely in the city."

"I miss having Town Mouse for company", thought Country Mouse. "Sometimes it's lonely in the country."

Town Mouse was sorry for the way he'd behaved and Country Mouse felt that she'd been mean; she could have been more welcoming, more understanding of how scared Town Mouse had been. Town Mouse decided to invite Country Mouse to his home in the city. He set off to find her. Country Mouse decided to visit Town Mouse. She wanted to say "Sorry". They met each other along the way and went off back to the city together. Country Mouse found the city noisy and smelly. There was so much traffic and she was frightened of being squished by a big red double decker bus.

Town Mouse lived on a rubbish heap. He cleared a space to sleep, but Country Mouse was used to sleeping at night and going out in the day.



“It’s better to go out at night in the city”, explained Town Mouse, “Shops are closed, pubs are closed, less traffic and not so many ‘two legs’ about.” Country Mouse found it very difficult to get to sleep.

Town Mouse woke Country Mouse in the middle of the night. Country Mouse was tired. They went off to find some food.

“Best place is near the take away”, said Town Mouse. Country Mouse didn’t know what a ‘take away’ was.

“It’s where the ‘two legs’ drop litter”, said Town Mouse, finding some cold chips and some pizza crusts. The take away was next to a shop selling TVs, and Country Mouse was frightened by the ‘two legs,’ singing on the television screen. She then saw a ‘two leg’ asleep on a park bench and wondered why he wasn’t in his bed.

“There are lots of dangerous things in the city”, said Country Mouse.

“You wait till you see an alley cat!” said Town Mouse. He stopped suddenly.

“I think I can smell something”, said Country Mouse, twitching her nose.

“I think I can hear something”, said Town Mouse, moving his ears.

“I think I can see something”, said Country Mouse. “Look there!”

“It’s a cat!” said Town Mouse. “Run!”

They ran into a building through a tiny hole in the wall and then down a crack in the floorboards. They huddled together terrified. There was a loud thumping sound. Country Mouse thought it sounded like thunder.

“It’s the ‘two legs’”, said Town Mouse. Country Mouse was very scared. She’d never been so close to a human.

“Some of them are scared of us”, said Town Mouse.

“Some of them are even scared of spiders”, said Town Mouse.

After a while Town Mouse thought they should get back to the rubbish heap.

“Quickest way”, he said, “The early morning bus!”

“Bus! But we’ll get squished!” cried Country Mouse.

“We’re going on the bus, not under it! Leap on and get under the seats!”



Country Mouse hated the bus. The city scared her; she wanted to go back to the country. They argued about which was best, town or country. They couldn't agree on anything and Country Mouse stormed off home towards the country. After a while she stopped and turned around and went back.

"I'm sorry for the way I behaved", she said. "I don't want to fall out with you again."

"I'm sorry I was mean", said Town Mouse. "I could have been more welcoming, more understanding when you were scared. Will you stay?" Country Mouse would like to have stayed for the company but she couldn't change how she felt. She was a country mouse and happy in the country. Town Mouse couldn't change how he felt either. He was a Town Mouse and he was happy in the town.

"But we can still be friends, can't we?" asked Country Mouse.

"Of course we can", replied Town Mouse. "We can still be friends."

Country Mouse made her way back to the country as the sun came up and weakly shone on the frozen fields.

"Home Sweet Home!" she thought.

Town Mouse buried himself in the dark of his rubbish heap and cuddled down for a sleep until the night came round again.

"Home Sweet Home!" he thought as he dozed off with a big satisfied snore.

