



It was inevitable that the post-predatorial age should bring about a change in the rabbits' general outlook. They began to be seen above ground at all times of night and day. In the absence of the predators, there was no need to remain close to the warrens. Some of them began regular outings. They saw much and learned a great deal. They became very modern, forward-thinking and sure of themselves. They came to be known as the Fat Rabbits Urging Modern Perspectives (FRUMP).

‘However, not all rabbits felt comfortable with the Frump lifestyle. Some members of the Old Generation Rabbit Elders (OGRE) even saw them as a bad influence on the young ones. But they kept their opinions

to themselves because the Frump daily grew in numbers and influence.

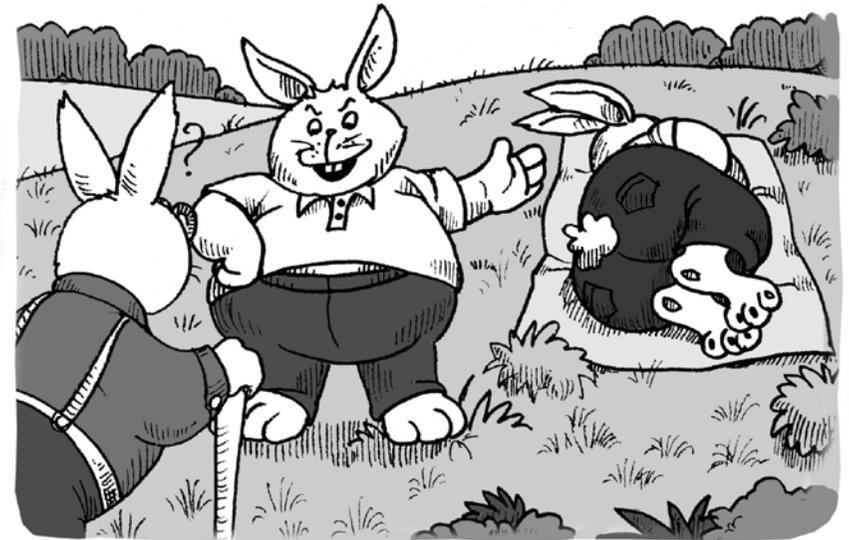
‘The Frump impulses were also slowly changing. Since there was no need to run every time a twig snapped or dart to safety whenever a leaf rustled, the rabbits’ high-strung natures and jumpy dispositions were gradually giving way to calm and placid personas. They could finally indulge in pursuits requiring long, deep focus.

‘It is an undeniable fact that persons of composed nature and tranquil mind are generally a little bit on the plump side. There’s no explanation for this phenomenon, nothing anyone can do about it. The Frump, too, grew heavier and rounder around the waist and rump. Before long, the warren entrances had to be widened to facilitate their entry and exit. But they kept growing bigger, and the family gatherings became too suffocatingly tight and snug.

‘The warrens all had the same conventional architecture. They were built keeping in view the natural topography of the land, surrounding environment and quality of soil. Some had been dug decades

earlier. Their passages could not always be widened without risk of damage to the supporting walls.

‘The Ogre saw this as a wonderful opportunity to send the Frump away and curtail their influence. They asked them to move to a new region where they could build warrens that would accommodate their Frump sizes.



‘But the Frump stunned the Ogre schemers with their rejoinder: What was the need to dig and burrow deep in the absence of any attackers? It only made sense to burrow

when living above ground threatened rabbit life. In the post-predatorial age, burrowing was pointless, futile and passé.

‘The Ogre thought it a preposterous concept. Many younger rabbits thought it too radical a position as well, but nobody could deny the inherent logic of the idea. It made excellent sense.

‘Soon thereafter, a number of Frump began living above ground.

‘The whole concept of aboveground living seemed very daring, übermodern and chic, but the actual living part was rough. The temperatures fell at night and rain and dew-showers disrupted the rabbits’ sleep. Without supporting walls to rest against, they often toppled over the moment they dozed off. All of that was most inconvenient.

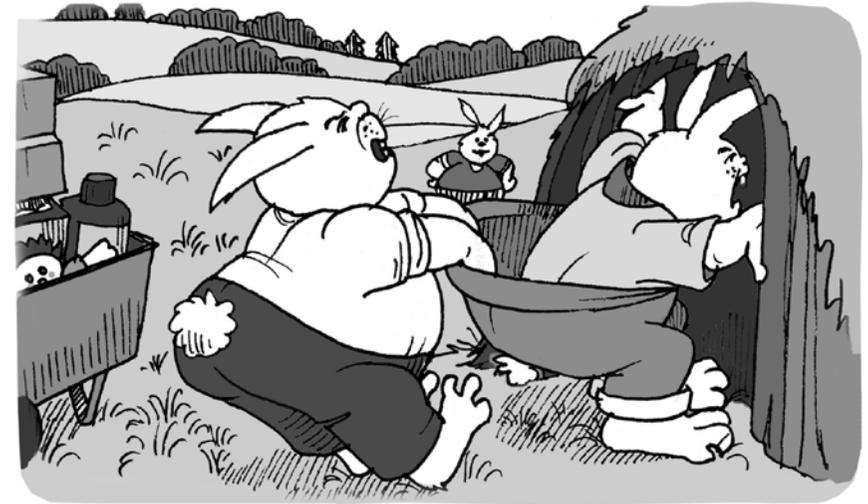
‘Tired of getting up heavy-headed every morning with body aching and limbs sore from cold and damp, one Frump in an inspired moment rang up a housing solutions provider to ask if they could help him.

‘After some preliminary correspondence, during which other Frump also got involved, the housing solutions provider sent a team of designers and engineers to do a feasibility study.

‘The Frump explained them the Alt philosophy and took them on a tour of the grounds. The engineers and designers jotted down their requirements. Afterwards they all sat down and the designers opened up the product catalogues. They discussed a few ideas with the engineers who explained how from their existing product line a perfectly workable solution could be found for the Frump housing needs.

‘The whole thing was really quite simple. All it took to create a New Era Rabbit Den (NERD) was a single-door, weatherproof, plywood cabinet lined with linoleum and equipped with a light box. A duplex model came with two cabinets interconnected with industrial-grade ducts. All of them were stackable and had built-in, add-on options. The Frump’s growing size was no problem either. The shelves were adjustable, and the ducts came in different diameter sizes.

‘The following week a Nerd model was installed near a warren entrance. In the first week thirty Nerds were ordered, seven of them duplex suites. The next week there were sixty-five orders, of which twenty were duplexes. Three of them were ordered by Ogre families. The Nerd’s simple and elegant design had won over many of its detractors.



‘The Alt now began to gain critical mass. More and more Ogre families began moving households. But not every family had an easy time of it.’