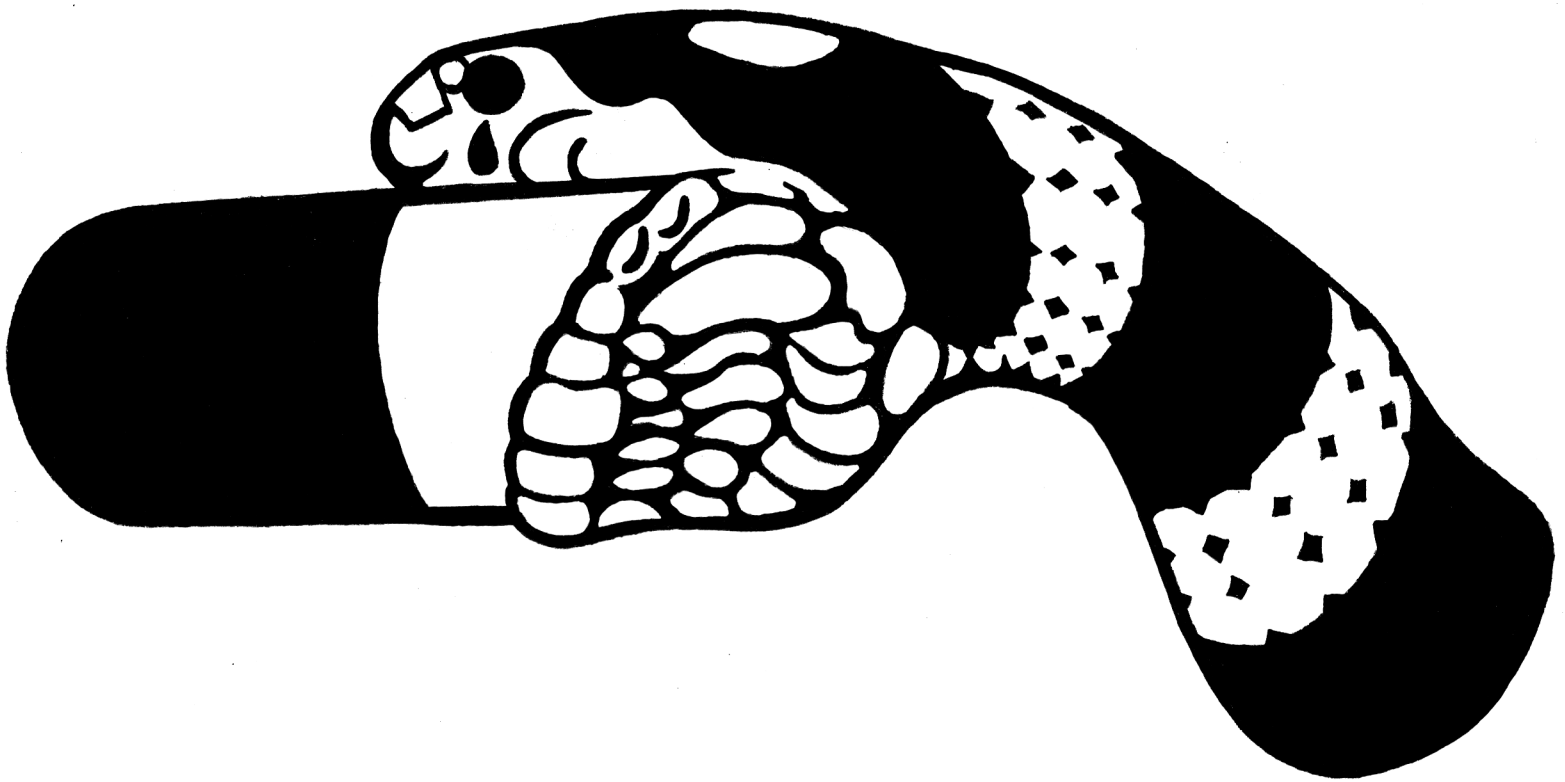


The first was the King Snake to whom he would always feel a sense of gratitude. He had originally hoped that they could become the best of friends. They were friends, but Rabbit always felt a conscious need to be more than gracious to him. This feeling was amplified by the fact that the King Snake was extremely slow in his every response. He would fall asleep between words with his eyes open. It took patience to speak with him.



In a younger day the Snake had taken daring amounts of drugs. One time he passed out under the hot sun. He lay there for hours, unconscious, baking his brain. A human child saw this as an opportunity to drop a rock on his head and run away. Occasions like these were responsible for his spotty consciousness.

The second was the Antelope. Rabbit also felt a great deal of gratitude toward the Antelope, for the Antelope had provided Rabbit with a place to work, perform and drink for free. He paid the Rabbit well, gave him the run of the club and treated him like part of the family. The problem being that the Antelope was deranged from years of drug and alcohol abuse. It was said that he had

a different personality in each one of his stomachs, and you never knew which one was about to expel. This was said in spite of the fact that none of the animals knew how many stomachs an Antelope had.

Rabbit tried harder than anyone to like the Antelope. This was done out of genuine gratitude. It was because of this effort that Rabbit would eventually grow to see all of the Antelope's shortcomings as unforgivable.

The third was the cocktail waitress. Rabbit felt gratitude toward her as well.

She became very attracted to the Rabbit. The Rabbit was only attracted to her when he was very drunk, but was never drunk enough to do anything about it.

Still, those moments led her to believe that anything was possible. Every advance that she made toward him only served to push him

away. The perfume she wore to attract males made him sick.

It clung to everything she touched. When she would greet him with a hug he would secretly become angry, knowing that her smell would attach itself to him for the rest of the evening.

She would also hold on to him for much too long, making

sexual humming noises. Her seductive sound became the sound of the smell. It made Rabbit nauseous.

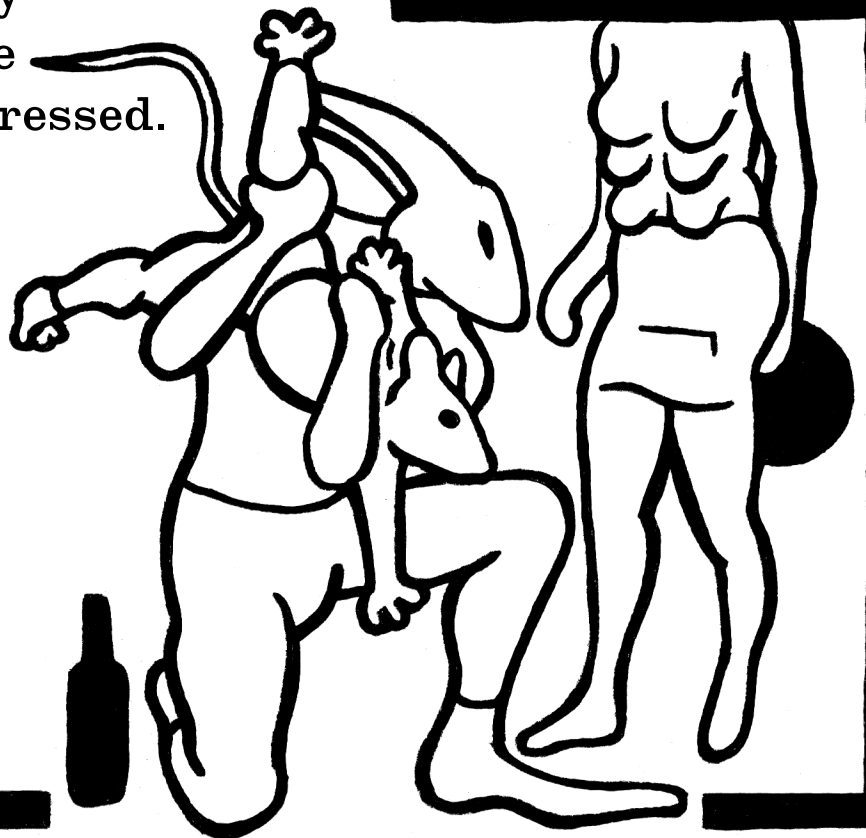


It was no secret that in an earlier day the Waitress had been a prostitute. She still enjoyed dressing like one. The look was inappropriate for someone of her age, but she was such a sweet creature that everyone saw it as endearing.



Once during the high point of her infatuation with the Rabbit, a young male called her "Mutton dressed as Lamb." It was one of the few times that

Rabbit lost his temper. It was the first time that anyone saw the Rabbit take down another animal. They were impressed.



The waitress tried to act grateful to Rabbit for his show of chivalry, but a spiteful tone came across more clearly than gratitude.

Being put in a position where a show of gratitude was necessary was a terrible thing in this world. That's why Rabbit was uncomfortable around those three in particular. He was in their debt, and his attention was the only thing he could give.

They had an
unspoken right
to his ear.

