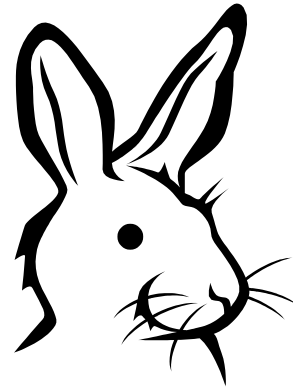


**Subcontracting in the Serengeti** retold by [Jeff Johnson](#) (based loosely on a [Samburu](#) story)

Rabbit knows that a leopard lives near him.  
Rabbit is afraid the leopard will someday kill and eat him.  
Rabbit wants to kill leopard, but cannot do it himself.



Rabbit hires mongoose to kill leopard.  
Mongoose wants to, but cannot do it himself.

Mongoose hires bat-eared fox to kill leopard.  
Bat-eared fox wants to, but cannot do it himself.

Bat-eared fox hires jackal to kill leopard for him.  
Jackal wants to, but cannot do it himself.

Jackal hires cheetah to kill leopard.  
Cheetah wants to, but cannot do it himself.

Cheetah hires hyena to kill leopard.  
Hyena wants to, but cannot do it herself.

Hyena hires crocodile to kill leopard.  
Crocodile wants to, but cannot do it himself.

Crocodile hires lioness to kill leopard.  
Lioness agrees and can do it, but asks high price: 1000 shillings.

Crocodile goes back to hyena. Says his price to kill leopard is 1500 shillings.  
Hyena goes back to cheetah. Says her price to kill leopard is 2000 shillings.  
Cheetah goes back to jackal. Says his price to kill leopard is 2500 shillings.  
Jackal goes back to bat-eared fox. Says his price to kill leopard is 3000 shillings.  
Bat-eared fox goes back to mongoose. Says his price to kill leopard is 3500 shillings.  
Mongoose goes back to rabbit. Says his price to kill leopard is 4000 shillings.  
Rabbit tells mongoose: "4000 shillings! That is way too much. I'll pay only 2000 shillings."

Mongoose goes back to bat-eared fox and says, I'll pay only 1750 shillings.  
Bat-eared fox goes back to jackal and says, I'll pay only 1500 shillings.  
Jackal goes back to cheetah and says, I'll pay only 1250 shillings.  
Cheetah goes back to hyena and says, I'll pay only 1000 shillings.  
Hyena goes back to crocodile and says, I'll pay only 750 shillings.  
Crocodile goes back to lioness and says, I'll pay only 500 shillings.  
Lioness demands at least 750.

Crocodile goes back to hyena, demands at least 1000.  
Hyena goes back to cheetah, demands at least 1250.  
Cheetah goes back to jackal, demands at least 1500.  
Jackal goes back to bat-eared fox, demands at least 1750.

Bat-eared fox goes back to mongoose, demands at least 2000.  
Mongoose goes back to rabbit, demands at least 2250.

Rabbit agrees, pays mongoose 2250 shillings.  
Mongoose goes back to bat-eared fox, pays him 2000.  
Bat-eared fox goes back to jackal, pays him 1750.  
Jackal goes back to cheetah, pays him 1500.  
Cheetah goes back to hyena, pays her 1250.  
Hyena goes back to crocodile, pays him 1000.  
Crocodile goes back to lioness, pays her 750.

Lioness goes and finds leopard and says, "Sorry, I have been hired to kill you so you won't kill the rabbit."

Leopard says "What? Why? The rabbit is too small for me to be interested in eating him. He doesn't have enough meat on him. Please don't kill me. Tell the rabbit he is safe from me, and in fact I will protect him from others."

Lioness goes back to crocodile, gives money back, and explains why.  
Crocodile goes back to hyena, gives money back, and explains why.  
Hyena goes back to cheetah, gives money back, and explains why.  
Cheetah goes back to jackal, gives money back, and explains why.  
Jackal goes back to bat-eared fox, gives money back, and explains why.  
Bat-eared fox goes back to mongoose, gives money back, and explains why.  
Mongoose goes back to rabbit, gives money back, and explains why.

Rabbit, hearing that the leopard does not plan to eat his baby and will protect his family, is happy. He thanks the mongoose for the good news.