

Jaguar said hello, but Hare pretended not to know Jaguar. Jaguar threatened to eat Hare. Hare told Jaguar that he was holding up the wall and if he moved it would fall down. He knew a place “where there is a perfect piece of wood we could use to hold the wall in place”. Hare tricked Jaguar into holding up the wall. As soon as Jaguar was holding the wall, Hare took off.

Jaguar waited and waited but Hare did not return. He looked up at the wall he was holding. There were no cracks that he could see. Jaguar has been duped. He chased after Hare. As Jaguar leapt through the undergrowth of the forest until he began to hear Hare’s laughter. Hare was bouncing on an elasticized vine, Hare laughing loudly.

Jaguar took hold of the vine. He pulled it tighter and tighter, and then he released it.

Woosh! Hare flew through the trees, over their tops and into the night sky. Higher and higher he went until...

Poomph. He landed on the moon. So, the next time you see a full moon, have a look up there. You will see on the moon’s surface the image of Hare looking down back to Earth, wondering how he is going to get home.

Simon Brooks, storyteller
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Jaguar and Hare

retold by Simon Brooks

There was an old couple who lived in South America. They were very poor. Their home was nothing more than an old hut, and their only possessions were a knife and a young jaguar and a hare. The couple had no food in the house and being too old to hunt they decided to eat their pets.

Jaguar heard the old man and the old woman, and told Hare that the couple were going to “eat them up.” Hare replied that they had said they were going “to heat them up some hot chocolate and give it to him first” but Jaguar would not believe Hare. Hare tricked Jaguar into the cage and took off. Old man looked about for Hare and not seeing him went to kill Jaguar, but the animal broke free of the small wooden cage and ran out into the forest after Hare.

Jaguar followed Hare’s scent through the now moonlit forest to a cave. Moving slowly around the fire in the entrance, so as not to singe his fur, he failed to see Hare run to the back of the cave. Hare pressed against the wall at the back of the cave hoping that Jaguar would not see him in the shadows. Jaguar came into the cave and found Hare still with his back pressed against the wall.



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