

How the Easter Bunny Came to Be

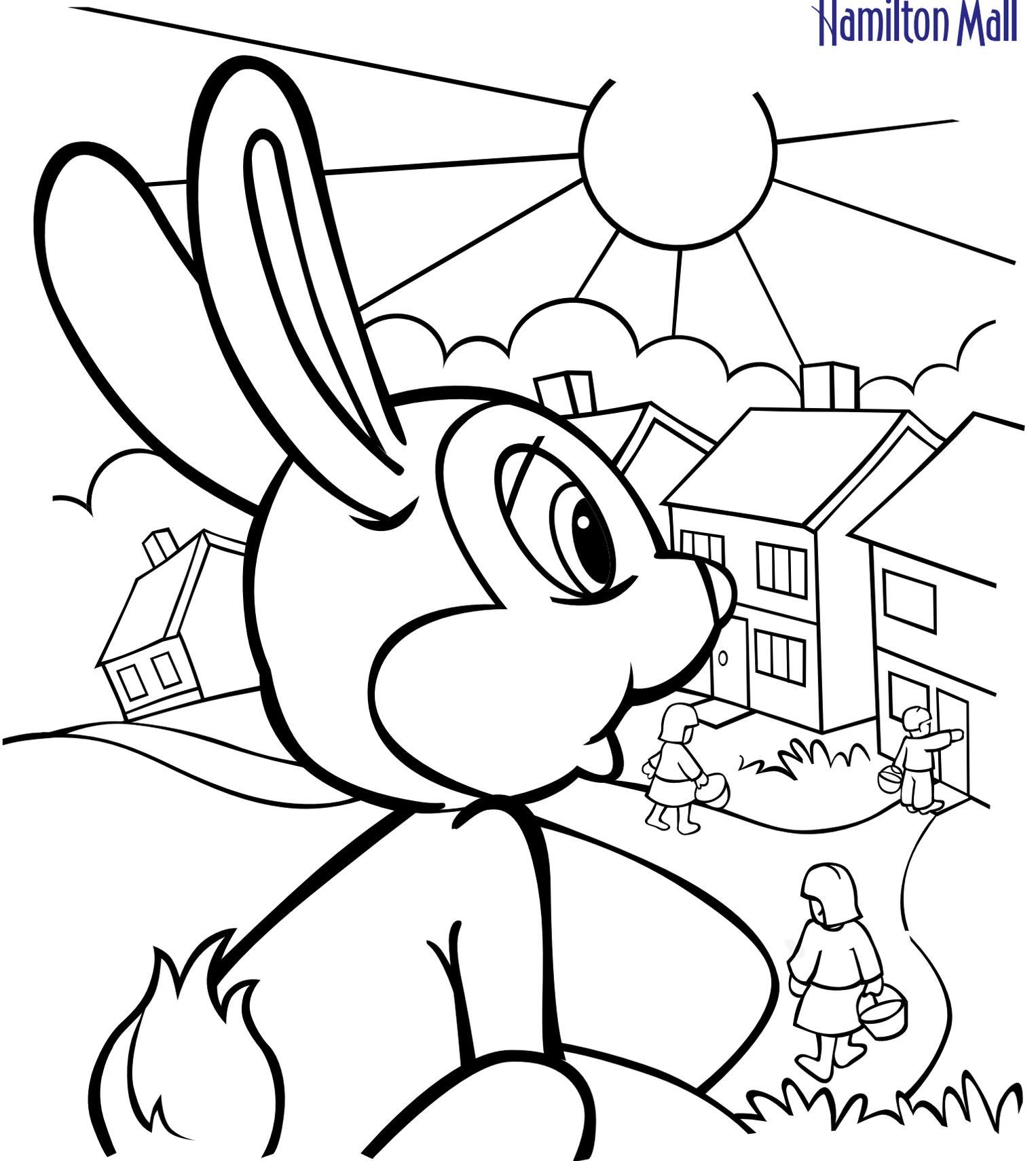
Fun Time
Storybook



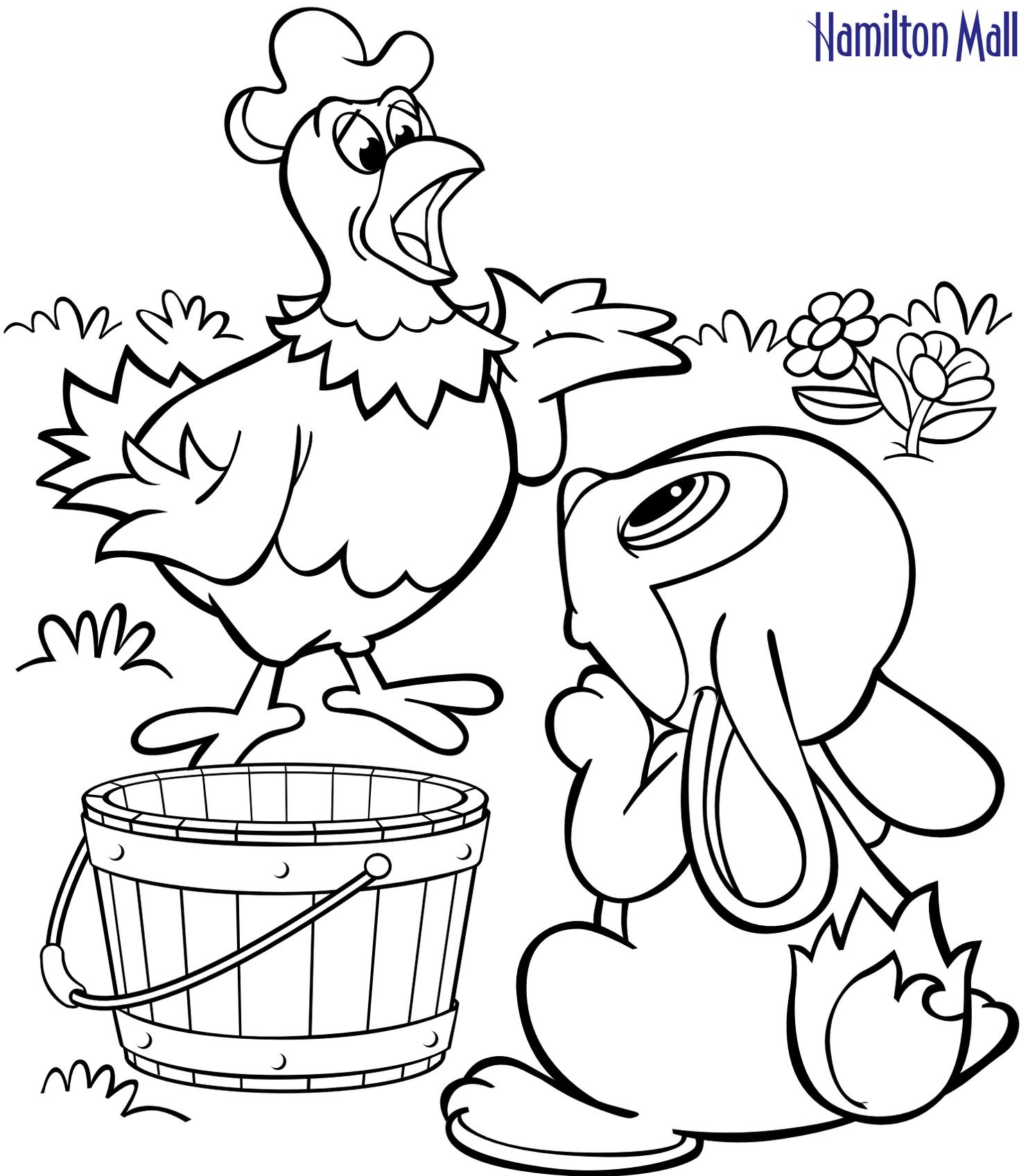
Hamilton Mall



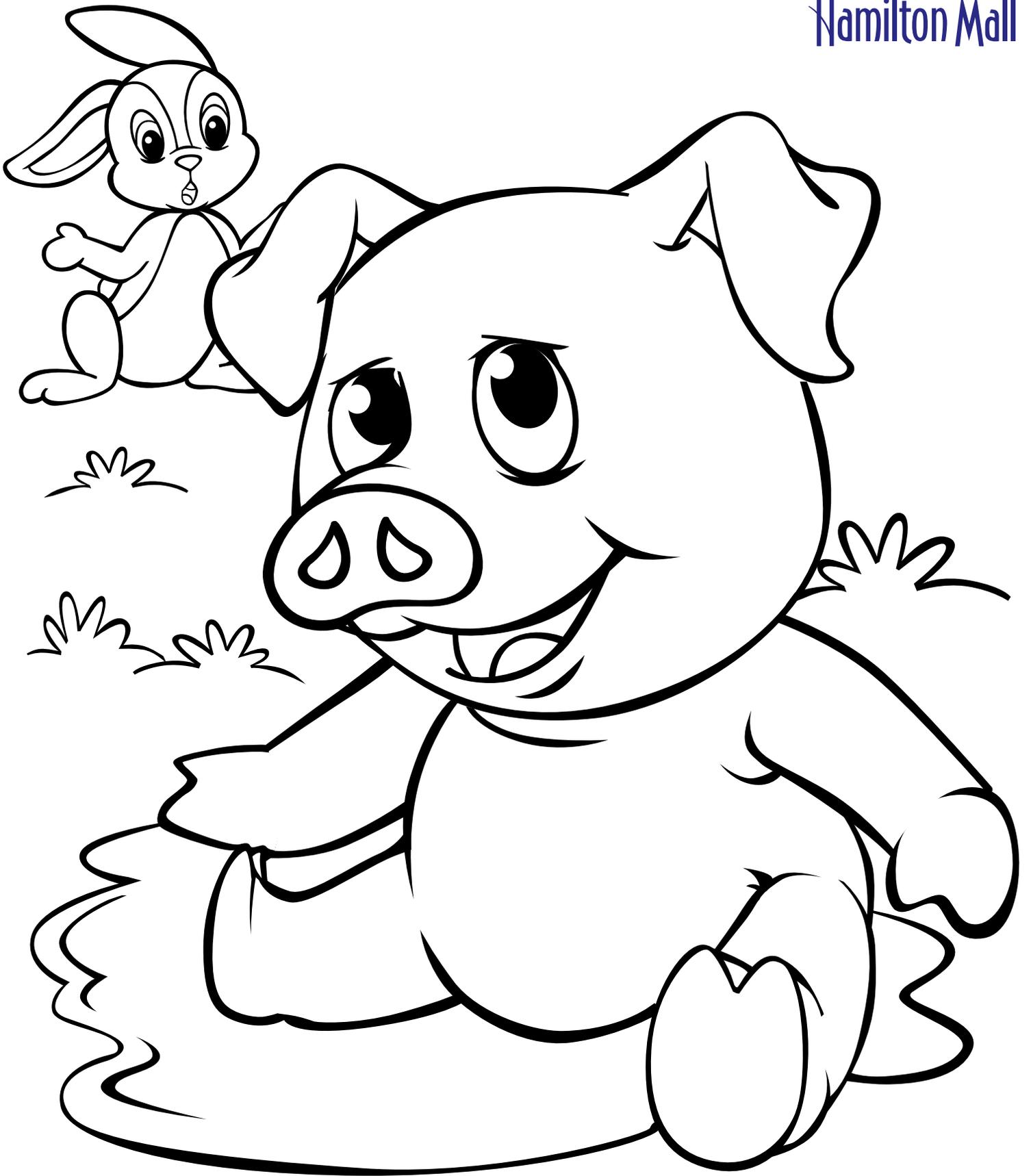
A long time ago there was a curious cottontail rabbit who lived in a hollow tree in the woods. He had soft, brown fur and a white bushy tail and liked to surprise his friends by hiding treats near their burrows. The rabbits called him Little Bunny because he was so playful.



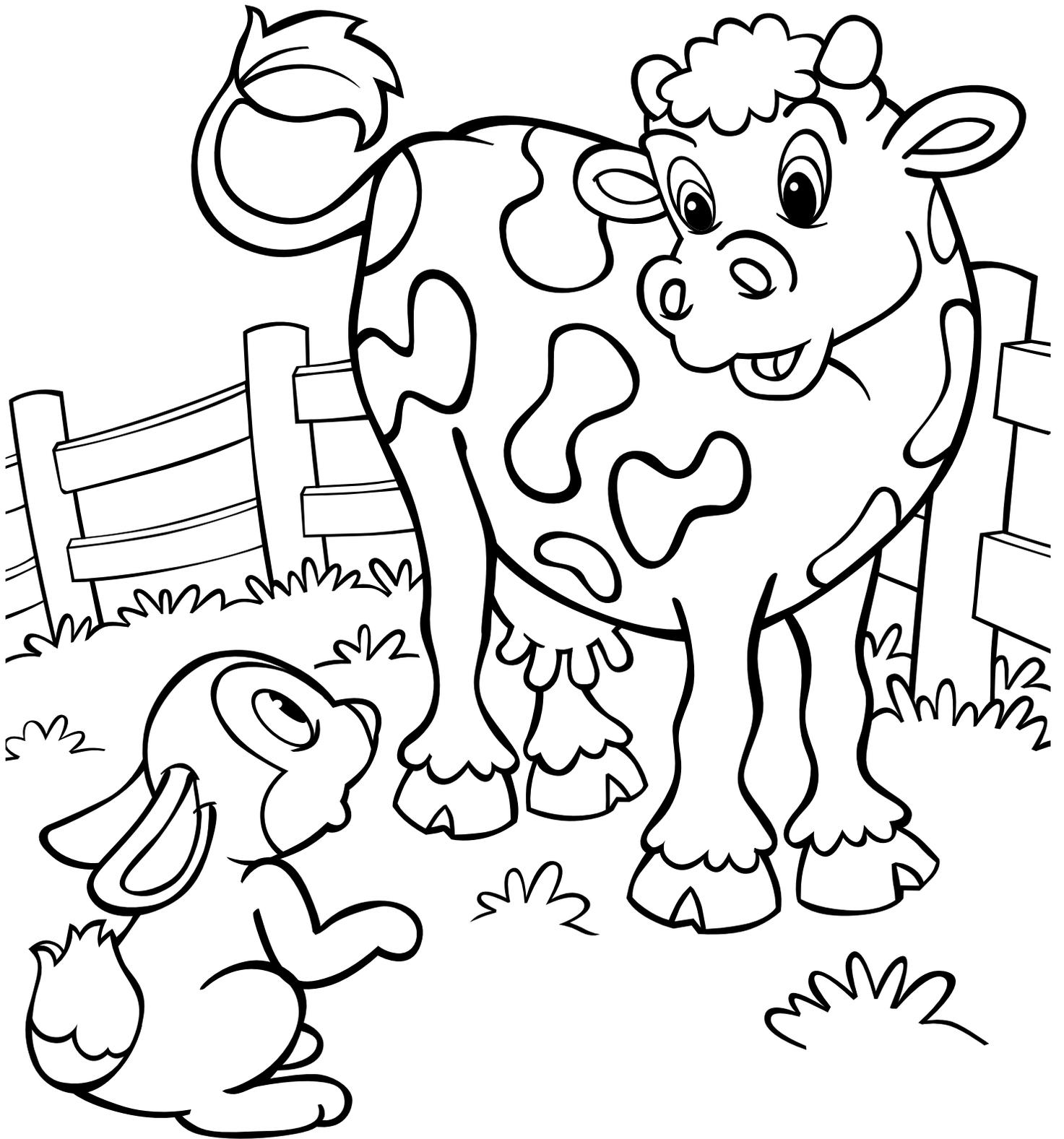
One spring day Little Bunny hopped down a trail in the woods. The path ended in a farm where the homes for workers all stood in a row. Children were going inside with baskets of eggs.



Just then a hen strutted up to Little Bunny. “I laid all those eggs for Easter,” she boasted. “What are you doing for Easter? The holiday is tomorrow.” Little Bunny hung his head. He didn’t know what he could do for Easter, so he decided to ask other farm animals what they were doing.



“Excuse me,” said Little Bunny to a big fat pig. “What are you doing for Easter?”
“Waiting for scraps,” replied the pig who laughed so hard he rolled over and over
in a puddle of mud.



Little Bunny hurried over to a cow by a fence. "Excuse me," said Little Bunny. "I'm curious; what are you doing for Easter?"

"Silly rabbit," answered the cow. "I give a lot of rich cream for Easter desserts."



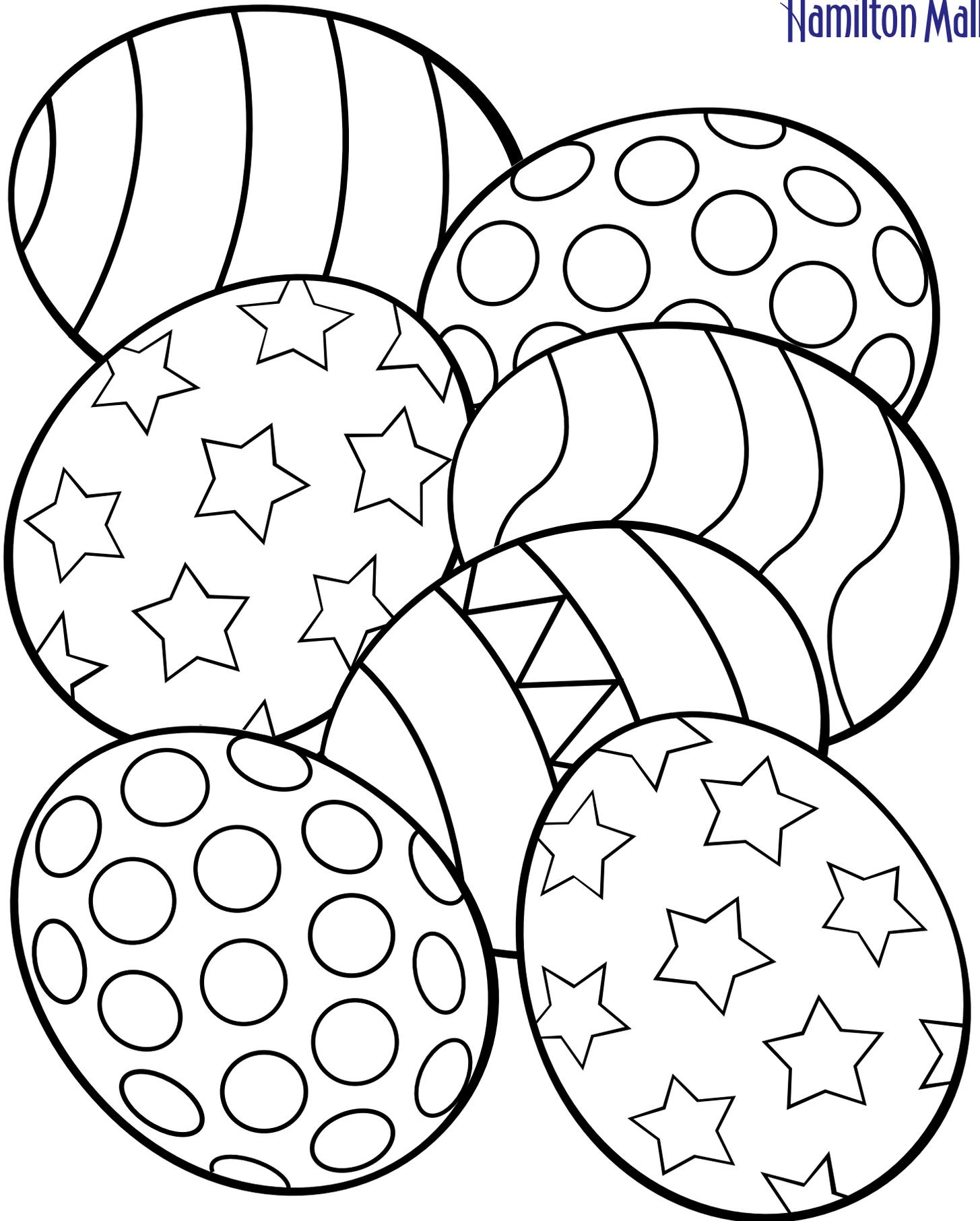
At that moment a tall handsome horse trotted by. His coat was shiny and clean. Little Bunny ran up to the horse. "Excuse me," he said. "I want to know what I can do for Easter. Can you help me?"



The horse nodded his head and led Little Bunny to a barn. Just then Little Bunny heard footsteps coming into the barn.



He hid under the straw and watched the children set down baskets with eggs, paints and brushes. He marveled at how beautiful they made the eggs, every shade in the rainbow - red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet.



When the children finished they left the painted eggs on a table to dry.
“We’ll get them tomorrow,” they said as they left.



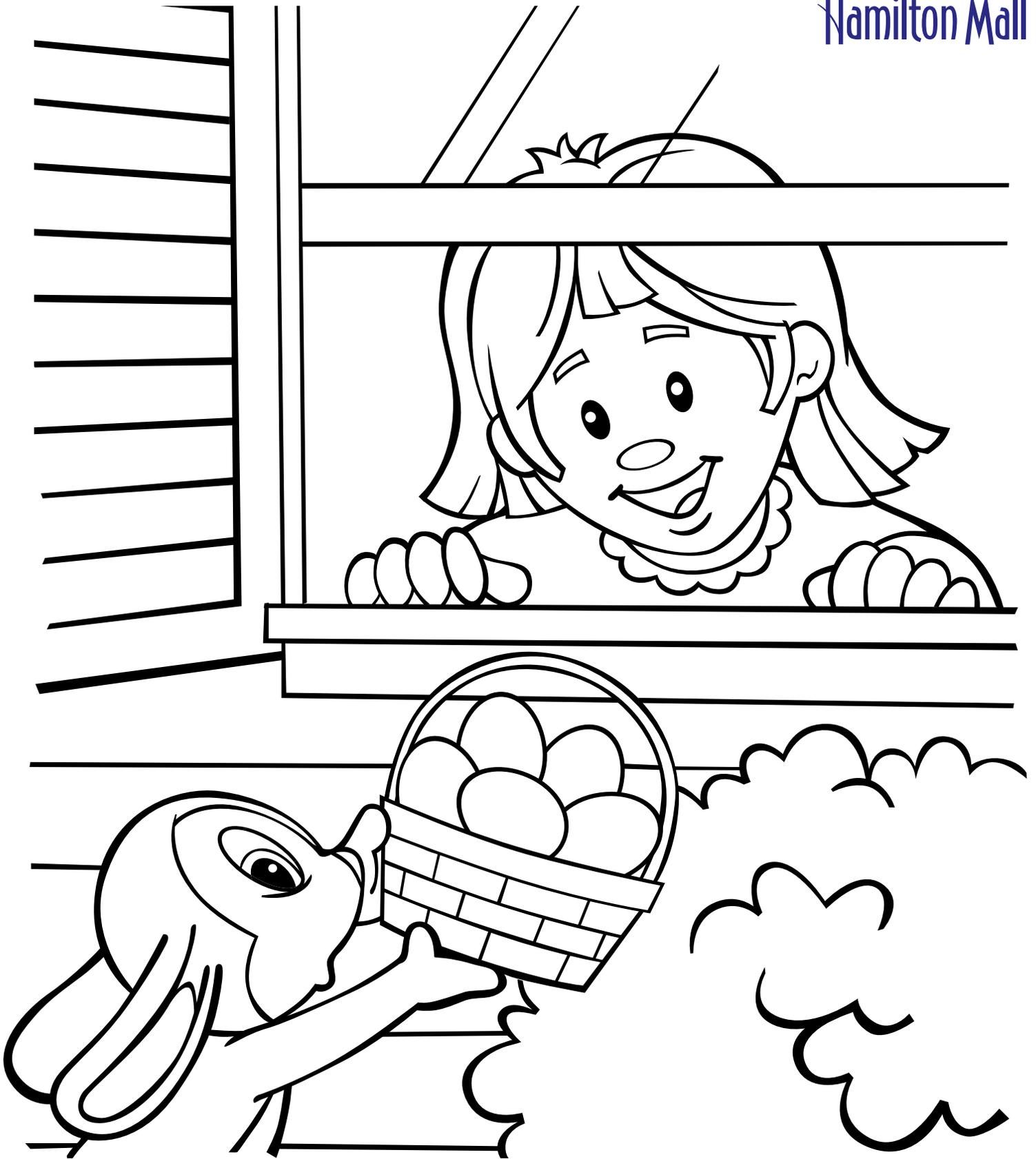
Little Bunny shook the straw away from his fur. He kept staring at the painted eggs. He kept thinking of his friends who liked to hunt for treats. Suddenly he cried, "I know what I can do for Easter! I can set a basket of eggs near each house, but in different places. I can make an Easter egg hunt."



And so in the light of a full moon after all the houses had turned dark he fulfilled his plan. When he grew tired he curled up in the barn and fell asleep.



When he woke up in the morning he gasped. There was one basket left on the table that he had forgotten to hide in his haste to fall asleep. He snatched up the basket and hurried to the last house in the row of yards.



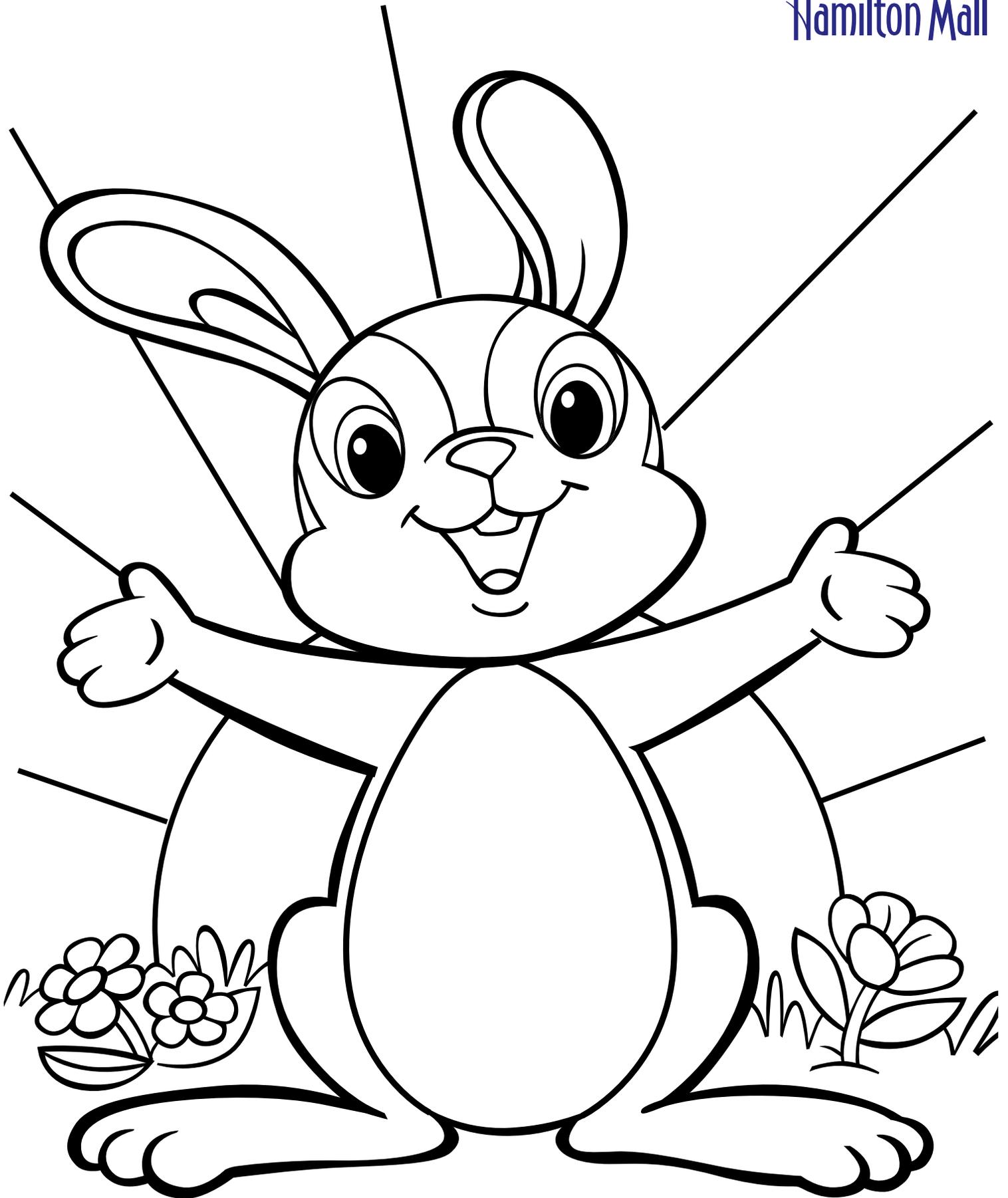
A low window was open. He set the basket of eggs on the window sill just as a little girl looked out. "A bunny!" she cried. "A bunny for Easter! An Easter Bunny!" She ran outside just as the other children were heading for the barn. No baskets were there.



“Our baskets must be hidden too,” they cried.
“Let’s go find them.” Each child looked around his
or her house - in the bushes and flower beds - under steps and porches.
They cheered when they found their baskets. “I wonder where Easter Bunny will
hide my basket next year?”, said a boy.



Sitting behind a tree, Little Bunny smiled, "I did it! I surprised the children for Easter. From now on I'm going to hide their Easter baskets whenever and wherever I can!" And he did, not just on farms but in towns too. Now that is how Easter Bunny came to be.



“HAPPY EASTER EVERYBODY!”