

The Elephant



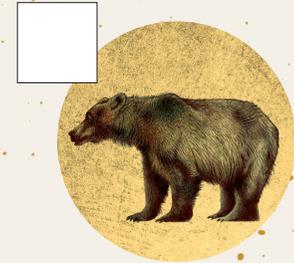
There is nothing on the land as large as a large elephant – they are the greatest of us. The biggest ever recorded was an African male in Angola, standing four metres at the shoulder, and eleven thousand kilograms (the weight of a rubbish truck, carrying a vending machine and a grand piano.)

The Pangolin



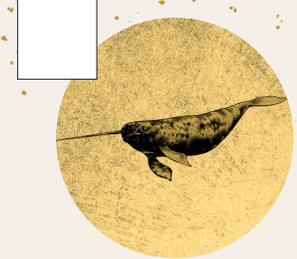
The pangolin is known as a scaly anteater, because of its diet and because it's the only mammal entirely covered in scales, but the description does not acknowledge the fact that the scales are the same shade of grey-green as the sea in winter, and the face that of an unusually polite academic.

The Bear



In the eighteenth century, bear grease was said to be a cure for baldness, and it added a glistening sheen to the wigs of the upper classes.

The Narwhál



The great mystery of the narwhal is the purpose of its tusk. Appearing when the calf is about a year old, as short and thin as a little finger, it grows for nearly ten years until it's as wide as twenty-five centimetres at the base.

MUSEUM SPOTTING CHECKLIST

FIND ALL THE ANIMALS IN THE MUSEUM TO BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING *THE GOLDEN MOLE & OTHER VANISHING TREASURE*

The Seahorse



The seahorse is the only species in the animal kingdom in which the male gives birth. The female deposits her eggs in the male's abdominal pouch, in a process that looks like a more intimate version of using a post box.

The Spider



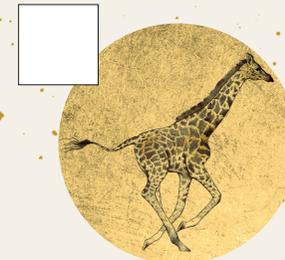
Spider silk weights almost nothing – a thread of silk long enough to loop the Earth would weigh less than five hundred grams – but is one of the strongest materials on the planet: five times stronger than a strand of steel of the same thickness.

The Wombat



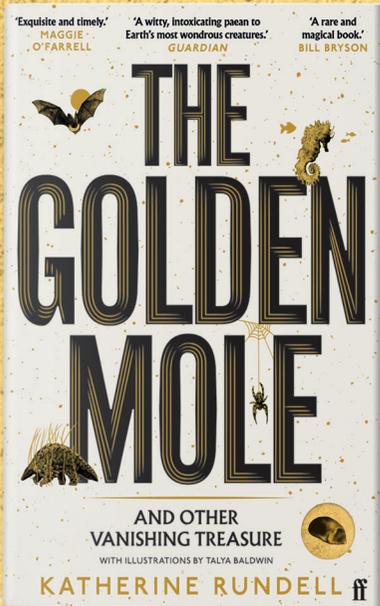
Despite the fact that they do not look streamlined, a wombat can run at up to forty kilometres an hour, and maintain that speed for ninety seconds. They can also fell a grown man, and have the capacity to attack backwards, crushing predators against the walls of their dens with the bone-hard cartilage of their rumps.

The Giraffe



Once full grown giraffes can gallop at sixty kilometres an hour on feet the size of dinner plates, but it remains safer not to: they self-entangle.



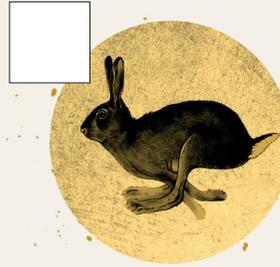


The Swift



The swift weighs less than a hen's egg, with wings like a scythe and a tail like a fork. It eats and sleeps on the wing.

The Hare



Hares have always been thought magic. In their long-limbed, quivering beauty, they were believed to be walking, breathing love potions: charms born ready-made.

The Seal



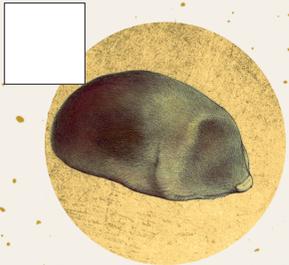
Though no seal can breathe underwater, elephant seals can dive more than two kilometres deep, and high levels of myoglobin, aiding the storage of oxygen in the muscles, allow them to hold their breath for up to two hours.



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The Golden Mole



Iridescence turns up in many insects, some birds, the odd squid: but in only one mammal, the golden mole. Some species are black, some metallic silver or tawny yellow, but under different lights and from different angles, their fur shifts towards turquoise, navy, purple, gold.



The Bat



The bat, flying through the night, sends out a screech. The echo, bounding off the objects around it, returns to the bat's ears and allows it to form a picture built from the sound wave.

The Hedgehog



Each hedgehog has around six thousand hollow spines, nut-brown at the base, rising to a strip of black and changing at the very tip to the purest white.

The Hermit Crab



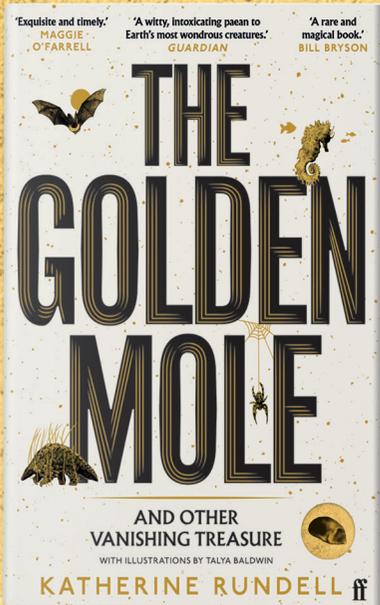
Hermit crabs are not, in fact, hermitical: they're sociable, often climbing on top of one another to sleep in great piles, and their group behaviour is so intricately ordered that they make the politics of Renaissance courts look simplistic.

The Lemur



There are at least 101 species and subspecies of lemur in Madagascar; there were once lemurs the size of small men, but after humans arrived on the island two thousand years ago the larger lemurs were hunted to extinction.





‘The Earth is so various and so startling that our capacity for wonder, huge as it is, can barely skim the edges of the truth.’

In *THE GOLDEN MOLE*, Katherine Rundell takes us on a globe-spanning tour of the world’s strangest and most awe-inspiring animals, including pangolins, wombats, lemurs and seahorses. But each of these animals is endangered. And so, this most passionately persuasive and sharply funny book is also an urgent, inspiring clarion call: to treasure and act to save nature’s vanishing wonders, before it is too late.

To be in with a chance of **WINNING *THE GOLDEN MOLE & OTHER VANISHING TREASURE***, complete the checklist and email a picture of the checklist to Faber Books. You can email us directly on books@faber.co.uk or by scanning the QR code below.

