

# BURRY COTTON TAIL

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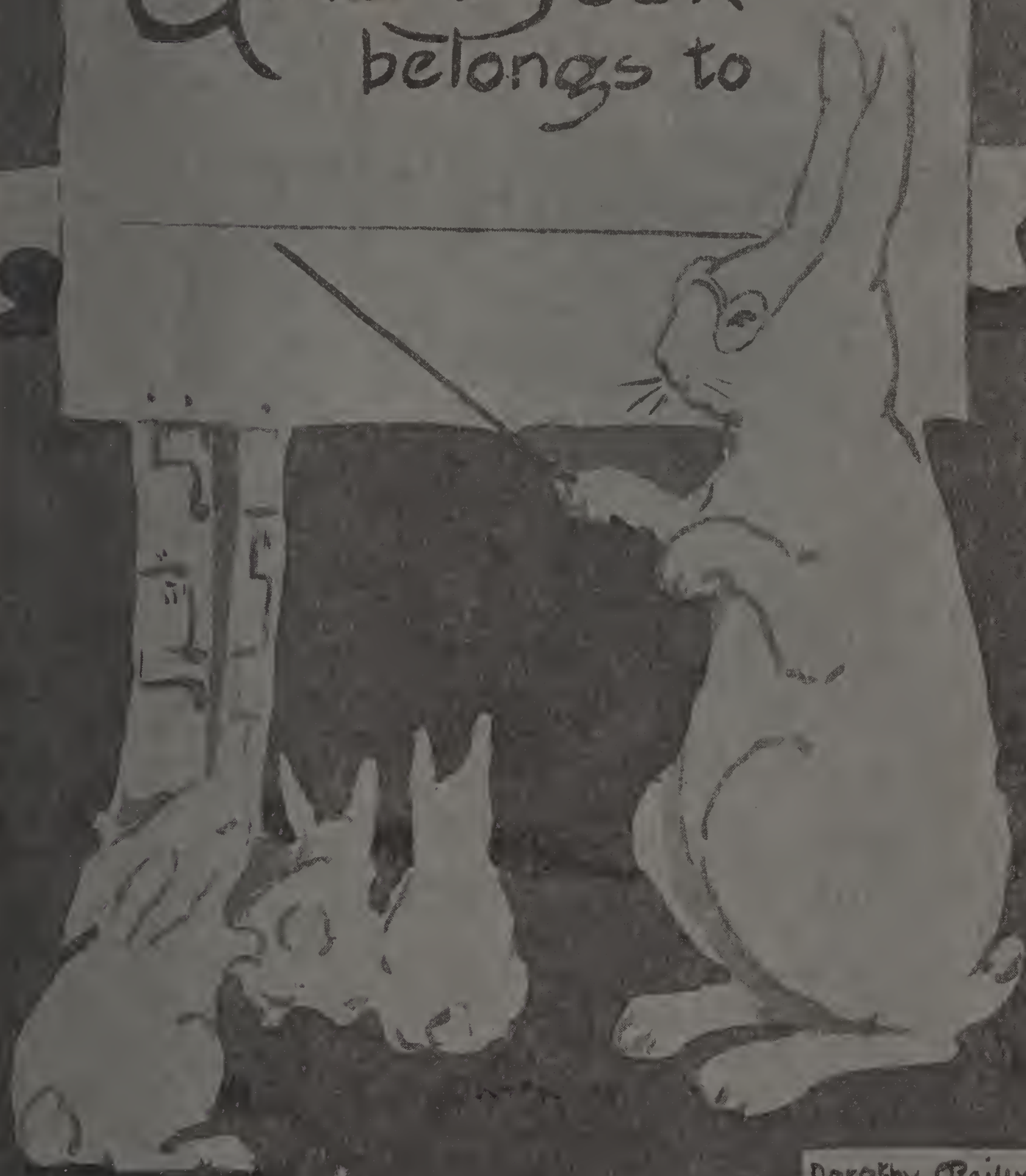


# LAURA R. SMITH





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# Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr.

A Sequel to  
The Tale of Bunny Cotton-Tail

*By* LAURA ROUNTREE SMITH

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CHICAGO



To a small house in the woods  
A little rabbit came.  
Then said Bunny Cotton-Tail,  
"I wish I knew your name!"



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# BUNNY COTTON-TAIL JR.

## CHAPTER I

ONE winter evening Bunny and Susan Cotton-Tail were sitting before the fire, warming their paws.

“Oh, dear! oh, dear!” cried Susan Cotton-Tail.

“Why! what is the matter?” asked Bunny. “Have you lost your glasses?”

“Oh, dear! oh, dear!” said Susan again. “We are growing old, Bunny, and we have no little Cotton-tails for company!”

“Where are all our grandchildren?” asked Bunny Cotton-Tail. “Where is

Snubby-Nose? Where is Bunny Bright-Eyes?"

"Oh, dear! oh, dear!" said Susan. "I wish we had a little rabbit that would live with us always!"

Just then they heard something.

"What is that?" cried Bunny.

"What is that?" cried Susan.

It was a little voice they heard.

"Somebody come quick! Somebody come quick!" it called.

Bunny Cotton-Tail went to the front door, and out in the yard he saw a little rabbit, half-buried in a snowdrift!

Bunny ran out and picked up the little rabbit and carried him into

the house. He set him down before the fire.

“Well, who are you?” asked Bunny Cotton-Tail.

“And where did you come from?” asked Susan.

“How did you get here?” asked Bunny Cotton-Tail.

“Are you hungry?” asked Susan.

The little rabbit stood quite still. He did not answer at all, but blinked his eyes and waved his long ears to and fro.

“Perhaps he is deaf and dumb,” said Susan.

“Perhaps his tongue is frozen,” said Bunny Cotton-Tail.

Just then the strange little rabbit jumped closer to the fire and burned his paw on the hot bricks of the hearth. Then he set up a howl.

Bunny and Susan were busy, you may be sure. They got liniment and flour and put them on the burned paw and bound it up.

"He is not deaf and dumb!" said Bunny Cotton-Tail, with a twinkle in his eye.

Then the little rabbit began to talk very fast.

"I don't know who I am," he said, "but some one put me into a basket and I jumped out and ran away!"

"My fur and whiskers! it is a cold



night to run away!" said Bunny Cotton-Tail.

"What is your name?" asked Susan Cotton-Tail.

The little rabbit shook his head.

"I don't know," said he.

"We must find you a name," said Susan, and she put on her spectacles and began reading names from the dictionary.

Suddenly Bunny Cotton-Tail set up a shout. He laughed so hard that Susan looked at him sharply over her spectacles.

What do you suppose made Bunny Cotton-Tail laugh?

"I have a name for this little

fellow," he cried. "We will call him Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr."

"Of course!" cried Susan. "He looks like you, and he has burned his paw!"

(Bunny Cotton-Tail had once burned his paw when he was reading by candle-light.)

"Hurrah!" the strange little rabbit cried. "I have a name! And I am like the Teddy Bears; I have come to stay."

"Who are the Teddy Bears?" Bunny Cotton-Tail asked. "We know all about the old bear Grandpa Grumbles, but we have never heard of the Teddy Bears."

Then Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. cried out:

“Where is my traveling bag? I must have my traveling bag! Somebody please find it, quick!”

Bunny went out and looked in the snowdrift where Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. had been found and there, sure enough, was a brown leather traveling bag.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. opened the bag and took out a little Teddy Bear.

Then he told Bunny and Susan that all the children liked Teddy Bears, and Bunny said:

“We have lived in the woods so

long that we don't know what is going on in the world."

Then Susan got a blue ribbon and tied it around the Teddy Bear's neck.

Suddenly Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. said, "Show me Grandpa Grumbles, the big bear!"

Bunny Cotton-Tail shook his head and laughed.

"I can't show him to you to-night," he said.

And Susan said, "I will get some cookies and then we will go to bed."

So they all ate some cookies and then they went to bed.

After Bunny and Susan had gone to bed, Bunny said:



“Why doesn’t that youngster put out his light?”

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. still had his candle burning.

Susan crept out of bed and went on tip-toe to the door of the room where Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. was.

What do you suppose that little rabbit was doing? He was reading by candle-light!

“Ha, ha!” cried Susan, “we have given you the right name, sure enough! Bunny Cotton-Tail always used to sit up late and read by candle-light.”

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. looked rather ashamed, but all he said was, “Oh, my sore paw! how it does hurt!”

Susan said: "You dear little fellow! I will take you into our room to sleep."

So Susan took Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. in her arms and carried him into the other room. Then she and Bunny went up into the garret and brought down a nice little crib.

Bunny and Susan put the crib beside their large bed and laid Bunny Jr. in it. Then Bunny put out the light.

"Now, we will go to sleep," said he.

But Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. sat bolt upright in bed.

"What is that sound?" he said in his squeaky little voice.

"I don't hear any sound," said Susan Cotton-Tail.

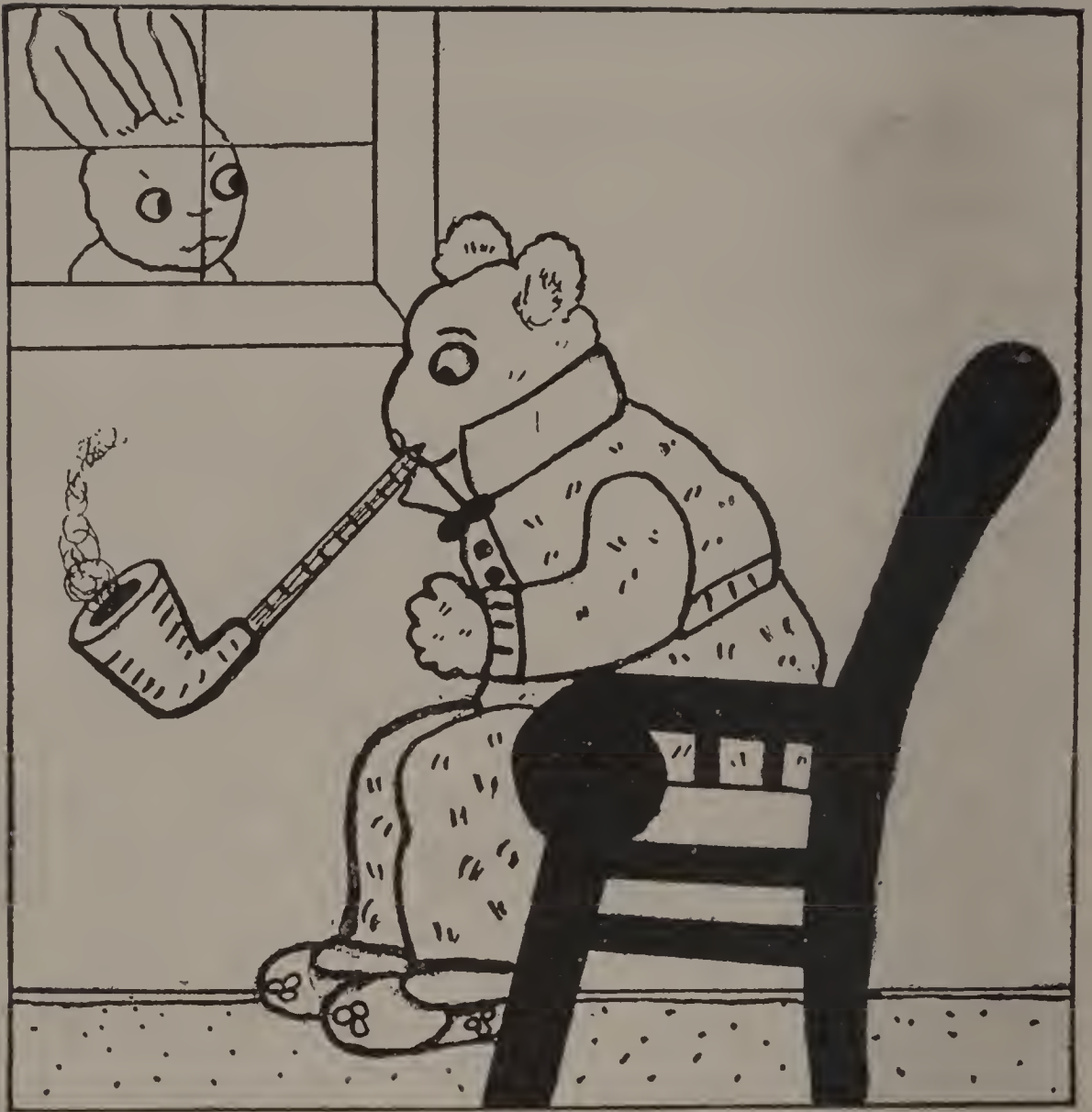
Still Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. sat up in bed.

"I hear a sound; yes, truly, I hear a sound," said he.

"It is some one at the front door," said Susan. "Go down and see who is there."

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. jumped out of his crib and went downstairs as fast as his little legs could carry him.

"He is a brave little fellow to go down in the dark," said Bunny Cotton-Tail.



Poor old Grandpa Grumbles  
Is such a lonesome bear!  
No one likes to live with him—  
'Tis sad, I do declare!



## CHAPTER II

BUNNY COTTON-TAIL JR. opened the door and there stood a big old bear.

The old bear said, "It is a cold night to keep company waiting on the doorstep!"

"Will you come in?" asked Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr., politely.

The bear came in, and he shouted:

"What is your name? Where are Bunny and Susan? It is too late to talk. Let us go to bed!"

He had shocking manners!

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. called Bunny and Susan.

"Do come downstairs," he said.  
"We have a visitor."

"Turn on the gas or light a candle!" cried the bear.

Then Bunny and Susan came downstairs in their dressing gowns.

"Oh, ho!" cried Bunny. "What are you doing out at this hour of the night, Grandpa Grumbles?"

Then the old bear began to grumble.

"It's a lonesome business, living all alone in the woods," he said; "a very lonesome business."

Susan Cotton-Tail had lighted a candle, and then Grandpa Grumbles caught sight of the Teddy Bear.

"How do you do, sir?" he shouted, "How do you do?"

The Teddy Bear sat perfectly still in the chair where Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. had put him.

“Where is your tongue? Speak up, sir!” shouted Grandpa Grumbles.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. began to laugh and he laughed until he cried.

“He is only a make-believe bear, Grandpa Grumbles,” said Susan.

Then Grandpa Grumbles began to scold, but Bunny got him a rocking-chair and made him sit down.

“What brings you out so late?” Susan asked.

Grandpa Grumbles carried a huge green cotton umbrella. He shook it now, in a fierce way, and said:

"I tell you it's a lonesome business, living alone. My little rabbit friend went away, and there I sit all alone for breakfast, dinner, and supper. I think I will advertise for a boarder."

"Will you come and live with us?" asked Susan, rubbing her sleepy eyes.

"I like my own home," said Grandpa Grumbles. "You must find some one to stay with me."

"Let us sleep on the matter," said Bunny Cotton-Tail, and they all started for bed.

"Very steep stairs for an old man," said Grandpa Grumbles.

"Lean on my shoulder; I will help you," said Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr.



Bunny and Susan whispered to each other till very late that night, but Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. fell fast asleep at once.

Next morning Grandpa Grumbles woke early.

"Somebody get my breakfast, quick!" he called.

Then those dear little rabbits got up and got breakfast. Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. carried Grandpa Grumbles's breakfast up to him on a tray.

"The coffee is too hot, and the toast is cold," said the old bear crossly. He was very rude!

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. said:

"I should like to see your little

house in the woods. I should like to visit you."

"Too many visitors," shouted Grandpa Grumbles. "They all wish to visit me, but no one will stay!"

Bunny and Susan put on their thinking-caps and thought hard all the morning. They were trying to think of some one who would live with Grandpa Grumbles.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. was a clever little rabbit. He got dinner all by himself. He found a high-chair in the dining room and he said:

"Ho, ho! I shall have some fun."

He put a chair at the table for Bunny and Susan, and a chair for

Grandpa Grumbles, and one for himself. Then he put the high-chair at the table and in it put his Teddy Bear.

When Bunny Cotton-Tail and Susan and Grandpa Grumbles came out to dinner, they all set up a shout and cried:

“See the Teddy Bear! See him sitting at the table!”

Just then there was heard a crash and Bushy-Tail the fox jumped in through the window.

Bunny Cotton-Tail scolded and Grandpa grumbled, and Susan said under her breath, “I must hide my cookies.”

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. sat very still in his chair.

Then the most surprising thing happened! Bushy-Tail caught sight of the Teddy Bear and he cried:

“Oh, oh, oh! I don’t like the looks of that stranger!”

Then Bushy-Tail jumped out of the window and was gone.

“He did not steal any cookies this time,” said Susan.

“He has broken my window again,” said Bunny.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. said, “Three cheers for my Teddy Bear!”

Then Grandpa Grumbles got up and cried:

“Hurrah! hurrah! I will have a Teddy Bear! I must have a Teddy Bear!”

Then Bunny Cotton-Tail and Susan and Bunny Jr. laughed and shouted:

“Hurrah! Grandpa shall have a Teddy Bear!”

“Where shall you get one?” asked Susan.

Grandpa Grumbles shook his head sadly.

“We will go to town and get you a Teddy Bear,” Bunny Cotton-Tail cried.

So next day Bunny and Susan went to town, to buy a Teddy Bear. That is to say, they started for



town. They had to go through the woods to get there.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. stayed at home, to keep house.

Grandpa Grumbles said he must go home.

"I wish you could spend the day with me," said Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr.

Grandpa Grumbles shook his head and said:

"How can I stay with you when there may be a mouse in my mouse-trap! The mice will eat me out of house and home!"

So Grandpa Grumbles went home to see if there was a mouse in his mouse-trap.

“Don’t let any one in,” Susan called to Bunny Jr., as she went down the road.

“You have forgotten the broken window,” said Bunny Cotton-Tail.

But Grandpa Grumbles had not forgotten the broken window. He came back that very day, and put in a new glass.

Then he said to Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr:

“Put your Teddy Bear in the window and Bushy-Tail will not come in.”

So the Teddy Bear stood in the window, and Bushy-Tail did not come back that day.



See the little Teddy Bears!

They are bright, you know.

With our friends the Cotton-Tails  
Through the woods they go.

### CHAPTER III

BUNNY and Susan Cotton-Tail went happily down the road until they came to the deep woods.

“Oh, oh, oh!” cried Susan Cotton-Tail, “I have hurt my ankle!” Sure enough, she had hurt her ankle so she could not take a step.

Bunny Cotton-Tail was a clever rabbit.

“Wait here, my dear,” he said. “I shall soon be back.”

Now where do you suppose Bunny Cotton-Tail went? He went to a wood-cutter’s house and borrowed a wheelbarrow.

When Susan Cotton-Tail saw Bunny

coming with the wheelbarrow, she laughed and said:

“Oh, ho! so I am to have a ride!”

Bunny helped Susan into the wheelbarrow, and he wheeled her along through the woods.

Suddenly he stopped short and began to whistle.

“What is the matter?” asked Susan.

“My fur and whiskers!” said Bunny, “I believe we are lost!”

“What fun!” cried Susan. “I am not a bit afraid.”

“But we are going to town to get a Teddy Bear for Grandpa Grumbles,” said Bunny.

Then he started on, and all day



he wandered about in the woods, trying to find the right road. At last it grew dark.



Suddenly Susan sat straight up in the wheelbarrow and pointed ahead. "What is that?" she cried out.

"It is a light," said Bunny.

"Let us go on," said Susan.

So they went on, and they soon came to the dearest little house in the world. There was a candle in one of the windows.

Bunny left Susan in the wheelbarrow and went up to the door and knocked. And who do you suppose came to the door? Two dear little bears, and they waved their paws, which meant for the visitors to come in.

The little bears were real, live Teddy Bears, and when Susan saw them she was so surprised and delighted that she forgot all about

her hurt ankle. She hopped out of the wheelbarrow and she and Bunny went into the little house.

The Teddy Bears were so young that they had not yet learned to talk, but they could understand all that was said to them.

“Will one of you go to live with Grandpa Grumbles?” Bunny asked.

Both the Teddy Bears shook their heads. Whatever one bear did, the other did.

Teddy Boy went and got Susan a plate of cookies, and Teddy Girl got Bunny a plate of cookies.

Then Bunny Cotton-Tail said, “It is getting late.”

“May we stay here to-night?” asked Susan.

The little bears nodded their heads and they took Bunny and Susan into the next room, where there were two beds.

Then Susan and Bunny kissed the Teddy Bears good-night, and the little bears trotted off to their own little beds.

So they all went to sleep, and when they opened their eyes it was morning.

The two Teddy Bears got a fine breakfast, and Bunny and Susan enjoyed it, you may be sure!

“Now, will you go home with us?”

asked Susan when breakfast was over.

This time the Teddy Bears nodded their heads, and Bunny Cotton-Tail cried:

“My fur and whiskers! what shall we do with the wheelbarrow?”

“We will wheel the Teddy Bears in it, and you may take it back to its owner to-morrow,” said Susan.

So the Teddy Bears jumped into the wheelbarrow, and Bunny and Susan wheeled them home.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. ran down the road to meet them. He hugged both the Teddy Bears at once and said to Bunny:



“Grandpa Grumbles has put new glass in the window, and he says he is tired waiting for you!”

When they got to the house, there stood Grandpa Grumbles, green cotton umbrella and all.

When he saw that Bunny and Susan had brought two Teddy Bears, he shouted:

“I will keep only one of them! I will keep only one of them! I cannot fill my house with Teddy Bears.”

Then the Teddy Bears looked as though they would cry, for they did not wish to be separated.

“No tears, now, my fine fellows!”

Grandpa Grumbles said, "no tears! I can take you both for a while, but I may take you home any day."

Susan said: "They are such dear little bears, Grandpa! I know you will wish to keep both of them."

"We'll see," said Grandpa Grumbles. "We'll see. You never can tell! But no tears, my fine fellows, no tears!"

Then they all laughed, for Grandpa Grumbles was such a funny old bear. He always grumbled, no matter what happened.



Poor old Susan Cotton-Tail  
Will not speak a word.  
She has lost her spectacles,—  
'Tis really quite absurd!

## CHAPTER IV

MR. AND MRS. TEDDY BEAR lived with their two children in the woods. They had gone away for a short visit, and when they got back Teddy Boy and Teddy Girl were gone!

Mr. Teddy Bear walked all around the house and he said, "I do not see the print of their little feet!"

Of course the little bears had not left the print of their feet around the house, for Bunny and Susan had taken them off in the wheelbarrow! Besides, it was snowing hard and the snow had covered up even the tracks of the wheelbarrow.

Mrs. Teddy Bear said, "Where can

my dear little children be?" and began to cry.

Just then Mr. Teddy Bear set up a shout.

"Visitors have been here! Visitors have been here!" he cried.

"How do you know?" asked Mrs. Teddy Bear.

Mr. Teddy Bear did not answer a word, but he got up on a chair and waved a pair of spectacles to and fro.

"They must belong to the person who has taken our little bears away," said Mrs. Teddy Bear.

"We will go to see Mr. Owl," said Mr. Teddy Bear. "He is a



wise old fellow; he will tell us where to look for our children."

So Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Bear put on warm wraps and went out.

In the meantime Grandpa Grumbles had taken Teddy Boy and Teddy Girl home. They were so little that he carried them in his overcoat pocket.

"It is pretty dark in this pocket," thought Teddy Boy.

"It is pretty lonely here," thought Teddy Girl.

But they did not say a word, for they were such little bears that they had not yet learned to talk.

It happened that Grandpa Grum-

bles was thinking about that very thing. As he went along he began to sing in a gruff voice:

“Grandpa Grumbles in the woods  
Has a house so wee;  
But there’s room for Teddy Boy,  
Teddy Girl, and me!  
Your voices, my dear little bears,  
I think I should have heard.  
Now you are old enough to talk,  
Your silence is absurd!”

Then what do you suppose those funny little bears did? They both tried to talk at the same time, and they found they could talk as well as anybody! They soon learned the nonsense rhyme that Grandpa Grumbles had made up.

When they came to Grandpa’s

house, Teddy Boy said "I am afraid to go in!"

And Teddy Girl said, "I am afraid to go in!"

For once Grandpa Grumbles was just as pleasant as could be, and he talked so kindly to those two dear little bears that soon they were quite willing to go into his house. So he opened the door and took Teddy Boy and Teddy Girl in.

He gave them each a little red rocking-chair by the fire. He also gave them each a lump of sugar, and for a while they were as happy as could be.

Then two great tears began to

roll down Teddy Boy's cheeks, and Teddy Girl began to cry, "Boo-hoo!"

"We wish to go home!" they both sobbed.

Then Grandpa Grumbles went and got them each an apple, and said, "If you are good, I will tell you a story!"

But Teddy Girl and Teddy Boy made such a fuss that Grandpa could not tell a story. Teddy Boy said, "I want my Ma!" and Teddy Girl said, "I want my Pa!" and poor old Grandpa Grumbles did not know what to do!

I suppose Teddy Boy and Teddy Girl would have kept on crying for

an hour, if something surprising had not happened. Suddenly a queer foxy voice cried out:

“Here I am in the kitchen, and supper is ready!”

And there at the kitchen door stood Bushy-Tail, with a long calico apron on. He had a fine supper ready, but he would not sit down at the table himself. He served the supper.

Grandpa Grumbles looked up from his plate only once, and then he said, “Bushy-Tail, what made you think of this?”

Bushy-Tail looked cross-eyed (he always looked cross-eyed when he



felt wicked) and he said, "I have an ax to grind."

Do you know what Bushy-Tail meant? He meant there was something he wished Grandpa Grumbles to do for him.

When they had finished supper Teddy Boy and Teddy Girl ran to the front window, and what do you suppose they saw? Why, Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Bear coming along the path through the woods!

Teddy Boy rapped on the window, and Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Bear turned and ran up the walk. In less than no time they had those two dear little bears in their arms.

“Take them home!” growled Grandpa Grumbles. “Too many visitors!” Then he waved his green cotton umbrella in a very fierce way.

So all the Teddy Bears said, “Good-evening,” and went home.

Bushy-Tail looked cross-eyed again. Then he said:

“You need company and I need a home. Suppose I should live with you!”

Grandpa Grumbles shook Bushy-Tail’s paw, but he grumbled:

“I don’t believe you mean it, and I don’t believe we shall get on together at all; but you may stay, if you will work.”



Now, little Bunny Cotton-Tail,  
You'll find it a safe rule  
To leave old Bushy-Tail alone,  
Or he'll cry, "April Fool!"

## CHAPTER V

SUSAN COTTON-TAIL sat by the fire. She felt very sad, for she had no glasses.

Poor Susan could hardly see at all without her glasses, so she sat by the fire and sighed.

Bunny Cotton-Tail said: "My dear Susan, where do you think you lost your glasses?"

Susan shook her head. She felt too sad to speak.

"Let me go and try to find your glasses," said Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr.

"I cannot remember being out of the house," said Susan at last.

Then Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. cried,

“Why, you went to get the Teddy Bears!” and Susan said, “Why, sure enough! I went to get the Teddy Bears!”

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. did not say another word. He just slipped out of the house very quietly, and ran down the road. Where do you suppose he was going?

He was going to ask the Teddy Bears if they had seen Susan Cotton-Tail's glasses.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. ran very fast and he got out of breath, of course; so when he came to Grandpa Grumbles's house he sat down on the doorstep to rest.



Grandpa Grumbles happened to look out of the window, and he shouted:

“Too many visitors! I will not invite you in!”

“I don’t wish to come in!” said Bunny Jr. “Grandma Susan Cotton-Tail has lost her glasses, and I thought I’d ask the Teddy Bears if they had seen them.”

Just then Bushy-Tail opened the door and ran out. He had a big bag of cookies in his paw. When Grandpa Grumbles saw that he was going to be left alone in the house he changed his tune, and called:

“Come in, little Cotton-Tail. The

Teddy Bears have gone home, but come in and rest a while."

Then Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. went in and talked to Grandpa Grumbles. He was so tired that he stayed till it grew very late.

"You had better spend the night with me," said Grandpa Grumbles at last. "You can look for the glasses to-morrow."

So Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. took a candle and went upstairs.

Pretty soon he heard the patter, patter, of feet outside the house. He looked out of the window and saw Bushy-Tail coming up the walk.



Bushy-Tail bounded into the house and shouted in a very loud voice:

“I’ve found Susan Cotton-Tail’s glasses! I’ve found Susan Cotton-

Tail's glasses! And I am going to keep them; do you hear?"

"Oh, ho!" thought Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr., "we will see whether you keep poor Grandma Susan's glasses or not!"

"Poor Susan cannot see at all without her glasses," said Grandpa Grumbles.

"I am going to keep them!" shouted Bushy-Tail. "If you say another word about it, I will break them in pieces!"

Grandpa Grumbles went upstairs to bed, scolding and grumbling all the way.

Bushy-Tail lay down on a rug by

the fire, and soon they were all asleep.

Very early next morning the most surprising thing happened! The door-bell rang three times and Bushy-Tail went to the door, but there was no one there.

Then the door-bell rang twice and Grandpa Grumbles went to the door, and what do you suppose he saw? Teddy Boy and Teddy Girl standing on the doorstep! Teddy Boy wore a little blue coat and blue cap, and Teddy Girl wore a little red coat and red cap.

Before Grandpa Grumbles could say a word, Teddy Boy jumped



into one of his coat pockets and Teddy Girl jumped into another coat pocket, and so they went into the house. And those funny little bears shouted:

“Ma and Pa have gone away, and so we have come to stay with you, Grandpa!”

“Perhaps I shall go away, too,” said old Grandpa Grumbles, but he laughed when he said it.

Bushy-Tail looked cross-eyed and he said:

“Why don’t you visit me? I have a nice home in the woods.”

But all that the little bears said was, “We are hungry!”

“Somebody get breakfast! It must be high time!” shouted Grandpa Grumbles.

Bushy-Tail put on Susan Cotton-Tail’s glasses, just for fun, and began to get breakfast. And Grandpa Grumbles took off the Teddy Bears’ coats and caps.

When they sat down at the table the little bears behaved quite badly. Teddy Boy said, “I don’t like coffee,” and Teddy Girl said, “I don’t like tea.”

But Grandpa Grumbles was not a bit cross. He only laughed and said: “I believe even Teddy Bears can grumble.”

Grandpa always forgot to be cross when any one else grumbled.

"Oh! oh! oh!" shouted Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. just then. "See the butterfly! See the butterfly with yellow wings!"

Now of course it was much too cold for butterflies, but no one thought of that.

"Where? where? where?" they all shouted at once, and everybody jumped up from the table and ran to the window.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. said: "Lend me those glasses, quick, so I can see better!"

So Bushy Tail gave Bunny Cotton-

Tail Jr. the glasses, and they all cried:

“Show us the butterfly! Where is the butterfly?”

And what do you suppose happened next?

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. ran out at the door and away, as fast as his little legs could carry him, and he had Susan's glasses held tight in his paw!

“That sly little rabbit has played a trick on me!” cried Bushy-Tail. “Now I have a bone to pick with him. I meant to have some fun with those glasses, and I will yet!”

“Where on earth did you get Susan

Cotton-Tail's glasses?" asked Grandpa Grumbles.

"Mr. Teddy Bear gave them to me," said Bushy-Tail.

He did not tell Grandpa that Mr. Teddy Bear had asked him to take the glasses to their owner. He just went on scolding about what Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. had done.

Bushy-Tail made such a noise that Grandpa Grumbles could not stand it. So he got the little red coat and cap and put them on Teddy Girl, and he got the little blue coat and cap and put them on Teddy Boy. Then he put those two dear little Teddy Bears on a sled and



took them for a long ride through the woods.

Bushy-Tail was left alone, and he began to repeat poetry. This is the verse he said:

“Now, little Bunny Cotton-Tail,  
You’ll find it a safe rule  
To leave old Bushy-Tail alone,  
Or he’ll cry, ‘April Fool!’”

Then Bushy-Tail began to chuckle. He sat down in a chair and laughed aloud. He laughed so hard that he fell out of the chair. And what do you suppose amused him?

He was thinking about some jokes he would play on April Fool’s Day. And it was coming soon.



"I will play a fine joke on Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr.," Bushy-Tail said.

Bushy-Tail was still laughing when Grandpa Grumbles and the Teddy Bears got home.

Everybody was cheerful, for Grandpa had given Teddy Boy and Teddy Girl a fine ride. And those two little bears liked the sled so much that they sat on it all day long and played they were riding.



If I had my glasses  
I could see quite well.  
Where I may have lost them  
I really cannot tell.

## CHAPTER VI

BUNNY COTTON-TAIL JR. hurried homeward. He was so glad he had Susan Cotton-Tail's glasses!

"I wonder what trick Bushy-Tail will play next," he said to himself. He had no sooner spoken than a voice said:

"Bushy-Tail is a sly old fox;  
Now he will have some fun.  
April Fool's Day is almost here,  
So Bunny had better run!"

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. looked up. There, in a tree, sat Mr. Owl.

"Hello, Mr. Owl!" said he. "How do you happen to know so much about me?"

Will you believe it? The owl did



not answer; he pretended to be asleep.

It was evening when Bunny Jr. got home and the house was quite dark. He tried to open the door, but it was locked.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. did not know what to make of this, so he sat down on the doorstep, to think. Then he looked about and there, on the house, he saw a big sign:

To LET.

Then Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. began to cry.

“What does this mean?” he sobbed.  
“Where are Grandpa Bunny and

Grandma Susan? Where have they gone?"

Just then the funniest thing happened. Bunny Cotton-Tail stuck his head out of the window and called, "Is the skating good?"

Then Bunny Jr. sat up straight and sobbed, "Oh, Grandpa! I am so glad you are at home!"

Bunny Cotton-Tail came down and let the little fellow in. And Bunny told Bunny Jr. that Susan was so put out about her glasses that she had gone to bed. She said she was as blind as a bat, and it made her feel one hundred years old to be so blind.

"Why did you put up that sign, 'To Let'?" asked Bunny Jr.

"I heard that there was a famous eye doctor in the woods, and that he was looking for a house," said Bunny Cotton-Tail. "I hoped he might see the sign and come here. Then Susan could get some new glasses."

"Oh, let me pretend to be the eye doctor!" said Bunny Jr. "What fun! Ha, ha, ha!"

Bunny Cotton-Tail and Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. whispered a long time together by the fire. First Bunny Cotton-Tail would chuckle, and then Bunny Jr. would giggle.

At last Susan woke up.

“Who is in my house at this hour of the night?” she called down to Bunny.

“It is an old friend of mine,” he answered. “I am sorry we wakened you.” Then Susan said:

“If I had my glasses,  
I could see quite well;  
Where I may have lost them  
I really cannot tell!”

Bunny Cotton-Tail whispered something to Bunny Jr. and they crept upstairs and went quietly to bed.

Early next morning, while Bunny was giving Susan her breakfast, there was a rap at the front door and in walked a funny little creature. He

had on a suit of green clothes and a green cap, and he carried a green bag.

"I am the eye doctor," he said in a shrill little voice, "and I have come to rent this house."

"Oh, oh, oh!" cried Susan, "do give me a pair of glasses!"

The little eye doctor said: "I must see the house first. How can I fit glasses if I have no house to live in?"

"Please help me!" said Susan. "I am as blind as a bat to-day."

Then the eye doctor put a pair of black glasses on Susan and she said, "I cannot see at all."



Then he tried some other glasses on her and she said, "I see everything upside down!"

Then he put her own glasses on her and she cried, "I can see everything in the room!"

"I will rent this house to-morrow," said the eye doctor, in his funny little voice. "Show me all over the place now!"

"Oh, dear! we don't wish to rent our house!" said Susan.

But the eye doctor said he must have it, and Bunny took him all over the house.

"It is perfect," said the doctor. "Every room is pleasant. I will

move in to-morrow." Then he bowed politely and went away.

"Oh, oh!" cried Susan. "Bunny dear, why did you put up that sign 'To Let'? I knew it would get us into trouble."

"Never mind," said Bunny. "We will go on a visit, my dear."

So Bunny and Susan got out their traveling bags and packed.

Next morning they were sitting by the fire, talking.

Bunny Cotton-Tail said, "You can see well now, Susan."

"Yes," Susan replied, "but I don't wish to leave my own dear little home!"

Susan Cotton-Tail was wiping her eyes when the most surprising thing happened. In came the eye doctor with a single bound. He took off his hat and coat, and made a bow and said:

“Good-morning! How did you like my joke?”

When Susan saw that the eye doctor was not a stranger, but only Bunny Jr., she laughed until she cried.

“But where did you get the glasses you gave me?” she said. “They fit as well as my own.”

“They are your own,” laughed Bunny Jr.

Then Bunny Jr. told the whole story, and he said:

"I wonder if Bushy-Tail has forgotten that it is almost time to play April Fool jokes."

"I am afraid not," said Bunny Cotton-Tail. "He plays jokes on us all the year round."

"He will play a joke on me, I know," said Bunny Jr., "because I played one on him."

"I am glad you did play one on him," cried Bunny Cotton-Tail, "for you got Susan's glasses back."

Susan Cotton-Tail said, "Bunny dear, please don't put out any more signs. I was afraid we surely

should have to rent our house this time."

Then Bunny Cotton-Tail laughed and said, "I will take down the sign." He went out to take it down, and Bunny Jr. helped him.





Bushy-Tail's a sly old fox,  
He never kept a rule.  
He likes to play some silly trick,  
And then cry, "April Fool!"

## CHAPTER VII

APRIL FOOL'S DAY had come and was almost over. The Cotton-Tails thought Bushy-Tail had forgotten all about it.

Evening came and Bunny Cotton-Tail cried, "I hear wheels!"

"Some one is out for a drive," said Susan.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. clapped his little paws and cried, "They are stopping here! They are stopping here!"

Sure enough, a big wagon drawn by two horses was stopping in front of the Cotton-Tails' house. It was driven by a large, odd-looking rabbit

whom the Cotton-Tails never had seen before, and it was pretty well filled with animals.

Bunny Cotton-Tail and Susan and Bunny Jr. all ran to the front door.

"Hurry, hurry! get in!" called the large, odd-looking rabbit. "You are all invited to go for a drive, and to take supper with me afterward. Hurry, hurry!"

Now, it seemed strange to go for a drive and to take supper with a rabbit whom nobody knew. But the wagon was full of the Cotton-Tails' friends. There were Grandpa Grumbles and the Teddy Bears,

and ever so many others, and they all seemed to be having such fun!

So Bunny helped Susan into the wagon and hopped in after her. After him hopped Bunny Jr.

The odd-looking rabbit cracked his whip and off they went, and everything was as jolly as could be.

The animals laughed and sang as they drove through the woods, and everybody was quite sorry when the odd-looking rabbit stopped his horses in front of a little house.

"Hurry, hurry! get out, and go in!" he cried. "Hurry, hurry! for supper is all ready. I know it is, because I got it before I left home."

So every one got out of the wagon and went inside. Teddy Boy

carried Grandpa Grumble's big green umbrella.

"My fur and whiskers, but it is cold for the first of April!" cried Bunny Cotton-Tail.

"That's why I have a fire in the stove," said the odd-looking rabbit.

"Heigh-ho for





the fire!" they all shouted. "What a nice coal stove!"

Then they all crowded around the stove.

"I don't feel a bit of heat," said Bunny Cotton-Tail.

"But I see the fire," said Susan.

"I see the fire, too," cried one after another of the animals.

Then one of the Teddy Bears opened the door of the stove, and what do you suppose?

There was a candle burning inside, and no fire at all!

The animals all laughed and shouted with glee.

"What a joke!" they cried.

Then they all sat down at the supper table, and the odd-looking rabbit said, "Have some pudding. Help yourselves."

Grandpa Grumbles tried to help himself to pudding, but the spoon stuck fast in the dish and he could not get it out. Then the other animals tried, one after another, but no one could get the spoon out.

Then the odd-looking rabbit said: "Have a cookie. Every one must have a cookie!"

All the animals took cookies. The first one cried, "It burns my mouth!" and another one cried, "It burns my mouth!" and of course the

cookies burned their mouths, for they were full of red pepper!

Just at that minute the odd-looking rabbit made a bow and off came his ears! He made another bow and off came his head! Then he jumped out of the rabbit skin and stood before them, and they all shouted, "Bushy-Tail!"

"April Fool!" cried Bushy-Tail. Then he dashed through the window and was off and away before the party could say a word.

"Oh, ow!" cried Teddy Boy. "I want my Ma!"

"Oh, ow!" cried Teddy Girl. "I want my Pa!"

For once, Grandpa Grumbles was the most cheerful one of the party. He said:

“April Fool’s Day comes only once a year, my children. And now we must find our way home.”

Bunny Jr. said: “The wagon is still hitched outside.”

“Come to my house,” cried Grandpa. “Spend the evening with me.”

So they all scrambled back into the wagon and drove to Grandpa Grumbles’s house. When they got there Grandpa said:

“Susan is a fine cook. She may go to the kitchen and make us something good.”

Susan went to the kitchen and made cookies for them all.

"I hope you didn't put in any pepper!" cried Bunny, and they were very merry indeed.

"What should we do if Bushy-Tail were to come in?" whispered Teddy Boy.

"I know what to do," said Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. "Bushy-Tail always jumps in at the window."

Now, what do suppose that clever rabbit did? He got some of the other animals to help him get a big tub of water and put it in front of the window.

And the very next minute—dash!



splash!—Bushy-Tail jumped through the window and right into the tub of water!

Bushy-Tail choked and gasped. He scrambled out of the tub and the water streamed off his fur. He did not know what to make of it.

“I have come to the wrong house, I guess,” he said. “But I didn’t know it was wash-day!”

With that he turned and jumped out through the window, and was off.

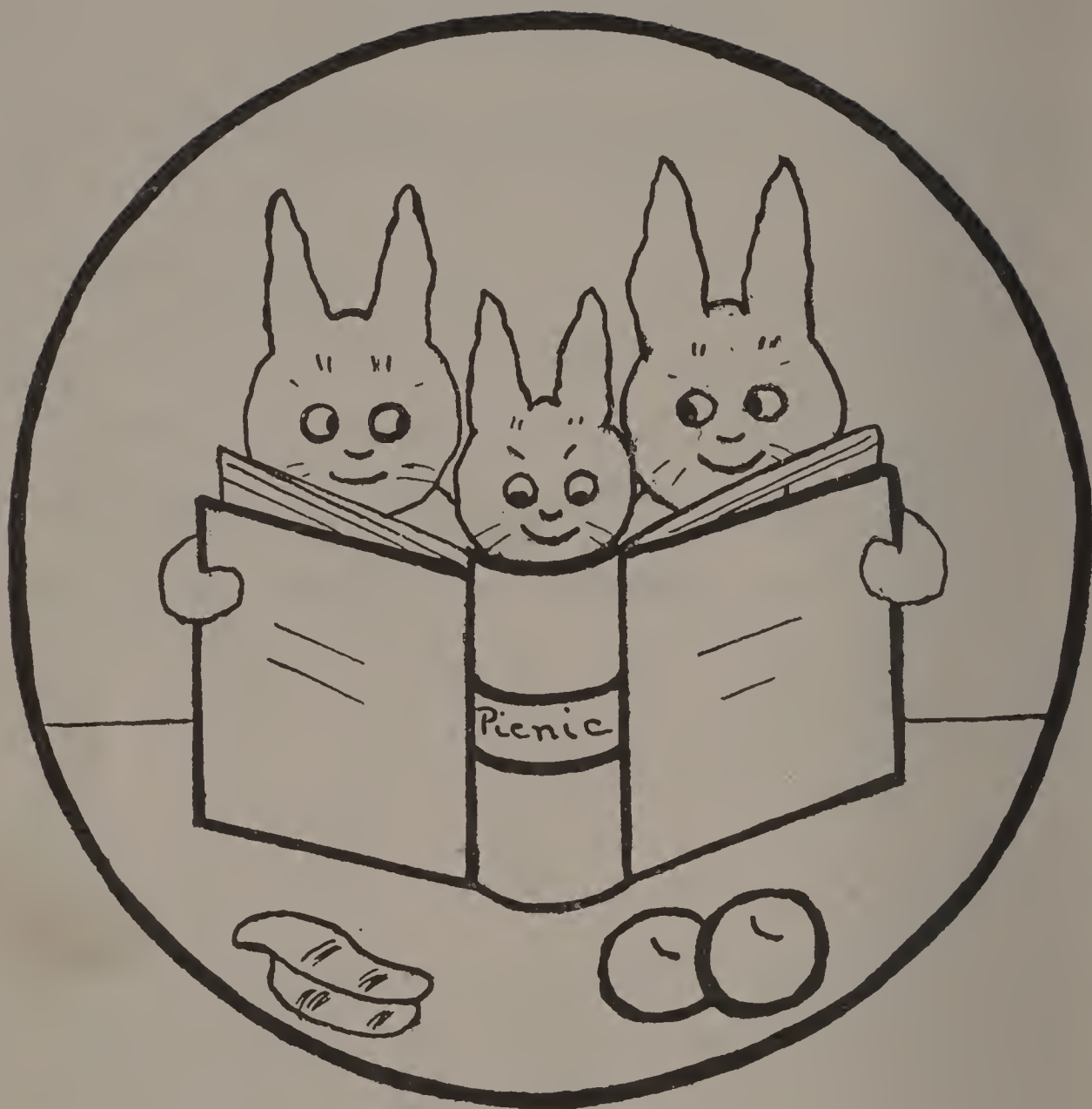
The other animals stuck their heads out at the window and shouted after him, “April Fool! April Fool!”

But Bushy-Tail didn’t even turn around to shake his paw at them.

Grandpa Grumbles laughed till he cried.

“This has been a fine April Fools’ Day!” he shouted.

Bunny Cotton-Tail cried: “Bushy-Tail played a good joke on us, but I think we played a better one on him!”



They said to little Snubby-Nose,  
"For once, if you'll be good,  
You may join our party,  
At a picnic in the wood."

## CHAPTER VIII

ONE beautiful April day Bunny Cotton-Tail was wakened early.

"I hear footsteps on the front walk!" he cried.

"I am getting as deaf as a post," Susan Cotton-Tail said. "I don't hear a sound."

Then there came a rap on the door, and another and another, and Bunny-Cotton Tail Jr. said:

"Why will people rap and not use the door-bell? Shall I let the visitor in?"

Bunny Cotton-Tail drew himself up very tall and said:

"We don't know whether we wish

to let this visitor in or not. I will go to the door."

So Bunny Cotton-Tail put on his dressing gown and slippers and went downstairs. "Thump! bump!" he went, for his old slippers were much too large for him.

When he opened the door what do you suppose happened?

The funniest little rabbit came in and jumped right upstairs, two steps at a time!

"Hello, Susan!" cried the little rabbit. "I am Snubby-Nose Jr."

Then Bunny Cotton-Tail said:

"My fur and whiskers! how much you look like the real Snubby-Nose!"



Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. clasped his little paws together and cried, "Welcome! welcome!"

The new rabbit ran and kissed Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. right on the tip of his nose. Then he jumped on a table and upset a glass of water and ran downstairs, in less time than it takes to tell it.

"He is the real Snubby-Nose, all over again," said Susan.

At breakfast, Bunny Cotton-Tail said, "The weather is so fine we ought to have a picnic."

"A picnic! a picnic!" little Snubby-Nose shouted. "May I go? May I go?"

Just at this minute Grandpa Grumbles came in.

"What are you all so merry about?" he asked.

"We are planning a picnic," Susan said. "But what shall we do if Bushy-Tail wishes to go?"

"I will take care of Bushy-Tail," said Grandpa Grumbles. "You may depend on me."

So the Cotton-Tail family planned the picnic for next day, and they invited all their friends to go.

Quite early, the next morning, the animals met at the Cotton-Tails' house. They all carried baskets and everybody was very happy.

The day was bright and pleasant, and the animals all sang songs as they walked through the woods. Soon they reached a beautiful spot, which they thought was just right for the picnic. It was beside a pretty little stream.

“We had better begin to eat our lunch at once,” said Bunny Cotton-Tail. “Bushy-Tail may turn up at any time and make us no end of trouble.”

Susan Cotton-Tail spread a cloth on the grass and all the animals opened their baskets and helped set the table.

They were all ready to sit down

when Snubby-Nose Jr. cried, "Where is Teddy Boy?" and Bunny Cotton-Tail cried, "Where is Teddy Girl?"

At that very minute a splash was heard and Susan cried:

"Oh, oh, oh! they have fallen into the water!"

The whole company ran farther up the stream and, sure enough, Teddy-Boy had fallen into the water, and Teddy Girl was trying to get him out.

"Help, help!" shouted Bunny Cotton-Tail, and Old Grizzly jumped right into the water and caught Teddy Boy by his little red sweater, and got him out of the water.

Then every one said, "Oh!" and "Ah!" and "Are you hurt, you dear little bear?"

I suppose those animals would have talked an hour, but Snubby-Nose Jr. called out:

"Luncheon is ready. Why not eat it?"

Then they all scampered back to enjoy the picnic.

Suddenly a little squirrel began to chatter. Then a little rabbit began to scold, and soon all the animals were talking at once. Now what do you suppose was the matter? The big cake they had for dessert was gone!



"Who took the cake?" everybody asked.

"It can't have been Bushy-Tail," said some one, "for Grandpa Grumbles has him safely locked up in his house."

Just the same, they could not find the cake.

"The cake certainly is gone," said Susan Cotton-Tail.

At that moment Snubby-Nose Jr. set up a shout.

He pointed with his paw, and all the animals looked. There sat Teddy Boy and Teddy Girl on the big cake, and they were eating little bits of the frosting!

No one thought of punishing the Teddy Bears, for they were so little they did not know any better.

After the meal was over the whole company recited verses and sang songs. Snubby-Nose Jr. said:

“I know a little rabbit;  
His home is in the wood.  
He is not very naughty,  
And not so very good!”

They all shouted, “That rabbit is Snubby-Nose Jr!”

Then Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. said:

“There was a little rabbit  
Who read by candle-light,  
He burned his paw, but did not cry,  
For he was most polite!”

They all cried, "That was Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr!"

Then Susan said, "It is going to storm. We must hurry home."

Sure enough, a big storm was coming up.

They packed one basket full of the good things that were left over, and Bunny Cotton-Tail said:

"Who will leave this at Grandpa Grumbles's house?"

Every one of the animals shouted, "I will! I will!"

At last it was decided that Teddy Boy and Teddy Girl should leave the basket, for they passed Grandpa Grumbles's house on their way home.

Then all the animals went merrily homeward.

When Teddy Girl and Teddy Boy reached Grandpa Grumbles's house they set the basket down on the doorstep and peeped in at the window.

They saw a strange sight!

Bushy-Tail was so angry to think he had not gone to the picnic that he was running up and down the room, lashing his beautiful tail.

"Grandpa Grumbles," he shouted, "why didn't you let me go to the picnic? Why didn't you let me go to the picnic?"

Grandpa Grumbles said, "You do

not know how to behave at picnics, Bushy-Tail. That is why I did not let you go."

"I can behave as well as any one!" cried Bushy-Tail.

"But you never do behave well," said Grandpa. "You make trouble wherever you go."

Then Bushy-Tail lashed his tail and ran up and down some more.

"I will not live with you!" he shouted.

"Beggars cannot be choosers," said Grandpa Grumbles.

The two little Teddy Bears laughed softly and ran homeward through the woods.



“Bushy-Tail was caught in a trap that time,” said Teddy Boy.

“Just think,” Teddy Girl said, “for once Grandpa Grumbles forgot to grumble!”



Poor little Teddy Girl is shy,  
Though she likes well to play,  
And she blushes when they cry,  
“Crown her queen of the May!”

## CHAPTER IX

SUSAN COTTON-TAIL was as busy as could be, and what do you suppose she was doing? She was washing and ironing and baking, for to-morrow would be the first of May.

All the animals where going to have a party on May Day.

Bunny Cotton-Tail was so stiff with rheumatism that he said he could not walk to save his life. He said they must have the party in his yard, and all the animals promised to come.

Bushy-Tail came and set up the Maypole.

"How that fellow can work if he tries!" said Grandpa Grumbles.

All the animals were very merry, you may be sure, thinking about the first of May.

Early next morning there was a knock at the Cotton-Tails' door. Bunny Jr. went to the door, but no one was there.

But what do you suppose was hanging on the door-knob? A beautiful May basket! And it was full of flowers.

"I wonder who sent it," said Susan. Just then there was a great noise outside.

"Oh, oh, oh!" cried Bunny Cotton-Tail, "let me get to the window, quick!" and Bunny Jr. ran out. Susan sat

quite still in her straight-backed chair and said:

“My dears, what is the matter? I am so deaf I cannot hear a fly buzz!”

Now, what do you suppose was the matter?

Grandpa Grumbles came running down the road. He was roaring, and sneezing, and waving his green cotton umbrella.

He ran right into the Cotton-Tails' house.

“Bush-Tail did it!” he cried. “Bushy-Tail did it!” and he sneezed again and again.

They asked Grandpa Grumbles to tell all about it, but he only



walked up and down and roared. And he waved his old green cotton umbrella and sneezed and sneezed until Susan was frightened.

Just at that minute Bunny Cotton-Tail began to sneeze. Then Susan began to sneeze, and Bunny Jr. sneezed, too.

At last Grandpa Grumbles said between sneezes, "It's pepper, in my umbrella!"

With that Bunny Jr. took the green cotton umbrella and started to run out of the house.

"Oh, oh!" cried Grandpa Grumbles, "bring back my umbrella! I say, bring back my umbrella!"

So Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. shook the umbrella and brought it inside again.

“Now,” said Bunny Cotton-Tail, wiping his eyes, “do tell us what has happened.”

Then Grandpa Grumbles said:

“I found a May basket outside my door this morning, and it had fruit in it—a-kitchew!—and I took a bite of the fruit, and—a-kitchew!—how I sneezed! The fruit had red pepper in it! Then I put on my coat and cap, and they were full of red pepper. And my umbrella was full of it, too.”

“Bushy-Tail must have done it,”

said Susan. "It sounds like one of his jokes."

"My fur and whiskers!" said Bunny, "where did he get so much red pepper?"

"Perhaps he borrowed it from the neighbors," said Susan.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. ran out of the room and soon came dancing back. He had Susan's pepper-box in his hand, and it was empty!

"I cannot go home," said Grandpa Grumbles. "Too much pepper!"

"Never mind; you may stay here," said Susan.

Soon the other animals began to come to the party, and all of them

brought baskets for a picnic luncheon. All the little rabbits and squirrels wore stiffly starched dresses. All the older ones wore new sunbonnets.

They danced and sang for a while. Then some one asked, "Who shall be Queen of the May?"

"Teddy Girl shall be Queen of the May!" some one else answered, and all the animals cried, "Yes! yes!"

Teddy Girl blushed away down deep under her fur. Teddy Boy led her to a seat beneath the old apple tree, and they crowned her Queen of the May!

Then they had the Maypole dance. But as they were about to unwind

the ribbons the Maypole fell down, and they all scampered in every direction.

Just then they heard some one calling. They looked around, and up and down. At last some one pointed to the roof of the Cotton-Tails' house.

They all looked up, and there they saw Bushy-Tail sitting, waving his tail.

"Why didn't you ask me to your picnic?" he shouted.

"What shall we do with that fellow!" said Susan.

Grandpa Grumbles shook his umbrella at Bushy-Tail and Bushy-Tail saw him. He was afraid of Grandpa



on account of the trick he had played with the pepper. So he climbed down the water-spout and ran away as fast as his legs could carry him.

Then Grandpa Grumbles set up the Maypole and all the animals danced again and were very merry.

They had a fine feast and when they were ready to go home they said, "Oh, Susan! we did enjoy the party so much!" and "Oh, Bunny! we hope you will invite us again!"

They gathered up their baskets and shook one another's paws and went home.

Old Grizzly carried the little May

Queen on his shoulder, and all the other animals shouted:

“Hurrah for the Queen of the May!”

Teddy Boy called: “Come on, Grandpa Grumbles; it is time to go home.”

Grandpa Grumbles shook his head sadly and waved his green cotton umbrella and said:

“Too much pepper in my house. I cannot go home.”

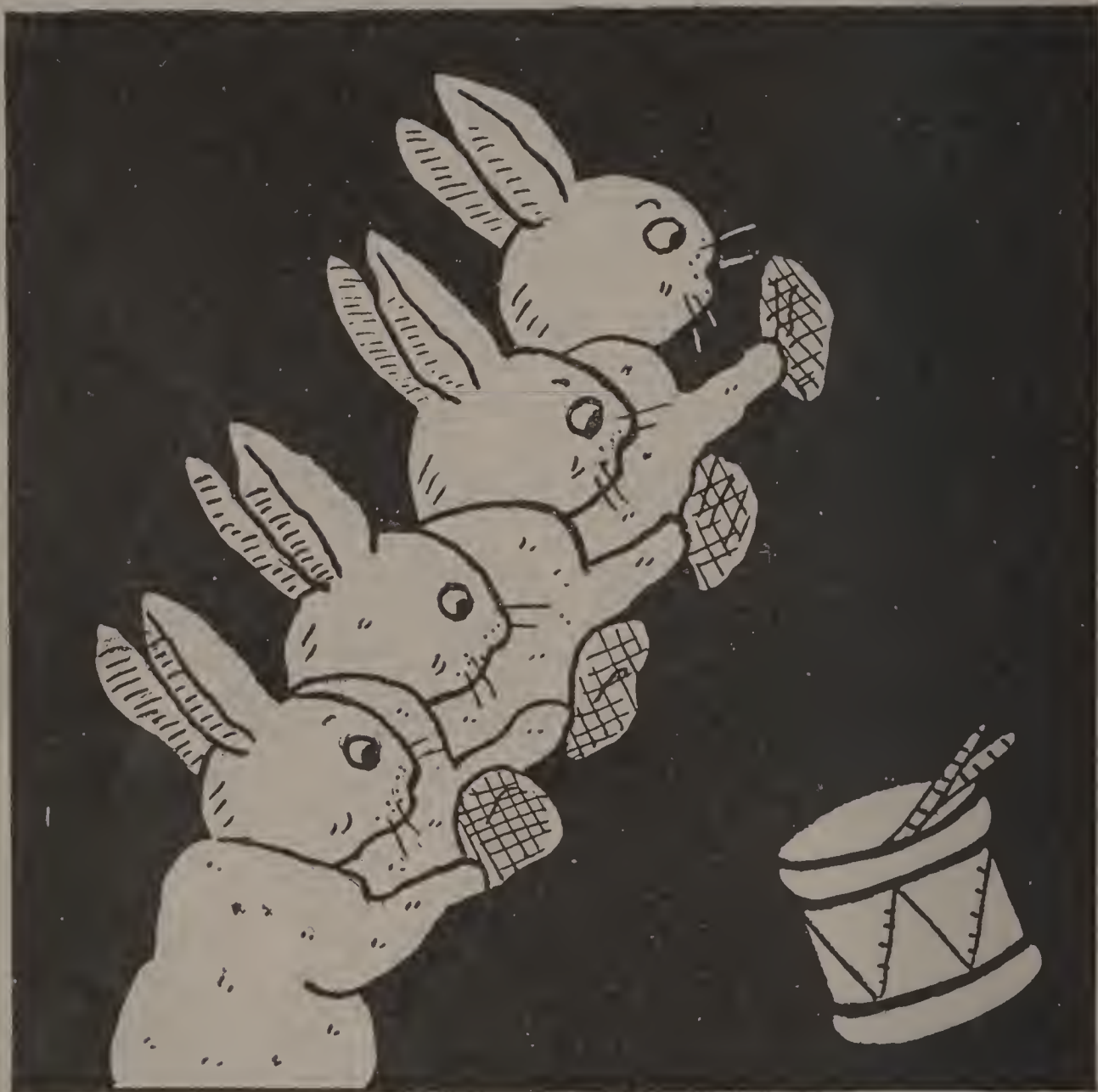
Next morning Grandpa Grumbles had a bad cold, and Susan said he must stay in bed. Then she put on her red sunbonnet and went out.

All the animals were leaning over

their fences, talking to their neighbors. One said, "Poor Grandpa Grumbles! he is getting old."

Another said, "Just think of his house being full of red pepper!"

So they talked, and when Susan came home she nodded her head very wisely. But she did not tell even Bunny Cotton-Tail what she was thinking about.



“Bushy-Tail has joined the band,”  
All the rabbits cry.  
So they wave their paws and shout,  
“Bushy-Tail, good-by!”

## CHAPTER X

ALL the good housewives among the animals got up very early next morning. They did not tell any one where they were going. They all carried buckets, and mops, and brooms.

“Are you going fishing?” Bunny Cotton-Tail asked Susan.

Susan laughed and shook her head.

Bunny Cotton-Tail Jr. said: “You look as though you were going to join a circus.”

All day long the housewives passed Bunny Cotton-Tail’s house, and they all seemed to be in a



great hurry. Some of the children went with their mothers.

Where do you suppose the animals were going?

They were going to clean house for Grandpa Grumbles. They went to his house and swept and mopped the floor and washed and scrubbed all day.

"No wonder he grumbles!" said Susan. "No one can see through these dirty windows."

Just then little Pink-Ears set up a shout. She had gone up to the garret, and there she saw a great big grab-bag hanging on a nail.

Her mother ran up, and she said

to Pink-Ears: "You must not touch it! You must wait until you are invited to grab!"

Pink-Ears said, "I wish we might grab now!" And even after they had all gone downstairs again she kept teasing to grab.

I don't know what they would have done with Pink-Ears if Grandpa Grumbles himself had not come hobbling in. Bunny Cotton-Tail was with him. Grandpa looked surprised.

"I am glad to see my friends," he said. Then he sat down on the sofa and cried:

"Whew! how clean the floors look! Whew! how clean the windows are!"

"My fur and whiskers!" Bunny Cotton-Tail said, "your house does look clean!"

Then Pink-Ears cried: "Oh, Grandpa, may we grab from your old grab-bag?"

Grandpa Grumbles laughed and chuckled and said:

"Up to the garret as fast as your legs can carry you!" And every one went up.

"Susan shall grab first," said Grandpa Grumbles.

Susan put in her paw and drew out a long case.

"Open it!" everybody cried. "Open it and see what is inside!"

Susan opened the case and drew out a wonderful pair of spectacles. She put them on and said:

"I feel forty years younger! Now I can see as well as anybody. Thank you, Grandpa Grumbles, thank you!"

Grandpa Grumbles said, "Pink-Ears may grab next."

Pink-Ears put in her paw and drew out a little cabbage made of candy. She made her prettiest bow and said, "Thank you, Grandpa dear!"

"Teddy Boy and Teddy Girl may grab together," said Grandpa Grumbles. They grabbed and each got a pretty little cap. They put on the caps and went dancing around the garret.

So the animals kept on grabbing and every one got a present. Then it was time to go home, and all the animals went away happy. Grandpa Grumbles called after them:

“Thank you for the surprise party, and my nice clean house!”

Bunny Cotton-Tail stayed at Grandpa's and they had a long talk. At last Bunny said:

“I have been wondering all day what we could do with Bushy-Tail. Really, something must be done with Bushy-Tail.”

Grandpa Grumbles shook his head.

“I have been thinking about it all day, too,” he said.



Just then Grandpa and Bunny heard music. They ran to the door, and what do you think they saw? A circus procession was coming along, right through the woods. There were black horses and white horses, and little ponies, and camels, and elephants. And there was a clown, too! He was singing a song.

At that moment Bushy-Tail came along, all out of breath, and he ran up on the doorstep where Grandpa Grumbles and Bunny Cotton-Tail stood.

Just then the fat old gentleman who owned the circus looked up and the clown stopped singing. The

horses stopped prancing, too. In fact, the whole procession stopped right in front of Grandpa Grumbles's house.

The fat old gentleman stepped up to Grandpa Grumbles and said:

"Beg pardon, but that is a fine-looking fox. Can he do any tricks?"

Then Bunny Cotton-Tail laughed until his sides nearly split, and Grandpa Grumbles nodded.

Bushy-Tail stood on his head and jumped up in the air. He grabbed Grandpa Grumbles's old green cotton umbrella and held it over his head, and went prancing about as though he were a fine lady.

Then he grabbed the fat gentleman's cap and ran along beside the band wagon and said, "Pennies, please."

Then the fat old gentleman and all the people in the procession laughed until they cried.

The fat old gentleman said, "He will do!"

It seems the fox that belonged to the circus had died and the fat gentleman wanted a fox to travel with them.

"No pleasure to show goods. If you see anything you don't want, ask for it!" shouted Bushy-Tail.

The fat old gentleman was so

pleased at this that he offered to pay one hundred dollars for Bushy-Tail.

But Grandpa Grumbles explained that Bushy-Tail did not belong to anybody, and that all the other animals would be glad to get rid of him.

So the fat gentleman put his money back into his pocket and Bushy-Tail ran and jumped up into the band wagon.

Bushy-Tail began to beat time with his tail. One of the drummers gave him a little drum and Bushy-Tail beat that.

"He is perfectly tame," shouted

Grandpa Grumbles, "but he has no manners!"

"Be careful or he will play tricks on you!" called Bunny Cotton-Tail.

Then the circus procession moved on, and Bushy-Tail rode away in the band wagon, in very grand style.

When the last of the procession was out of sight Grandpa Grumbles and Bunny Cotton-Tail sat down on the doorstep and laughed until they cried.





“Well,” said Grandpa, “I really believe we have gotten rid of Bushy-Tail at last!”

“Yes,” said Bunny Cotton-Tail. “And now I must go home and tell Susan what has happened.”

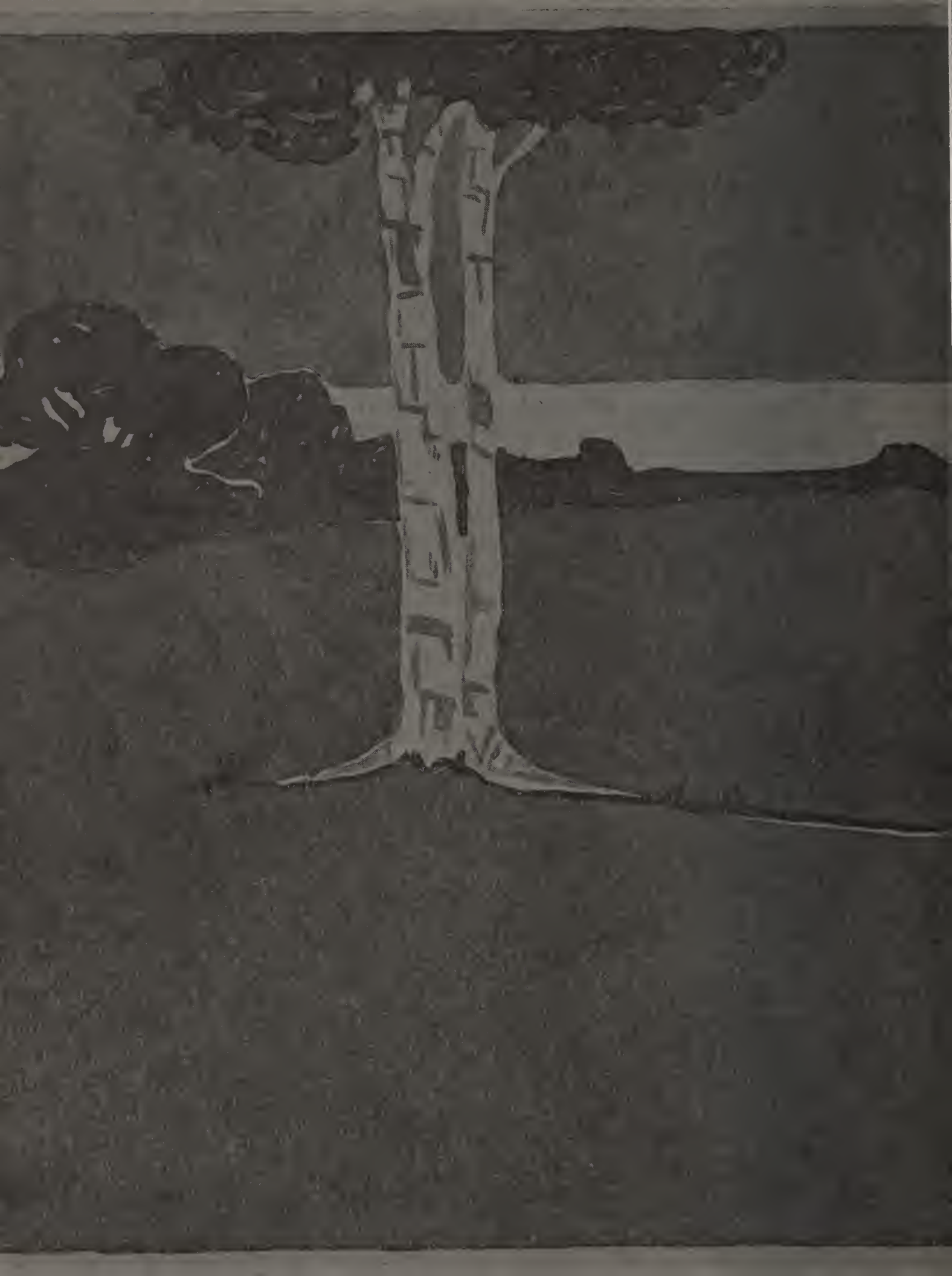
Bunny went home and told Susan and Susan ran out and told all the neighbors. They all talked and talked about what had happened.

And for all I know, the animals in the woods are talking about it yet.



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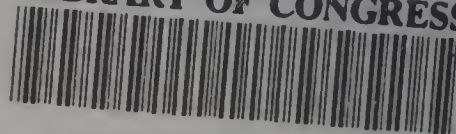








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