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# Merry Little Cotton-Tails



Laura Rountree Smith







MERRY LITTLE COTTON-TAILS

Books by  
**LAURA ROUNTREE  
SMITH**

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Bunny and Bear Book, The  
Bunny Boy and Grizzly Bear  
Bunny Bright-Eyes  
Bunny Cotton-Tail Junior  
Candy-Shop Cotton-Tails, The  
Children's Favorite Stories  
Circus Book, The  
Circus Cotton-Tails, The  
Cotton-Tail First Reader, The  
Cotton-Tail Primer, The  
Cotton-Tails in Toyland, The  
Drills and Plays for Patriotic Days  
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Hawk-Eye, An Indian Story Reader  
Language Lessons from Every Land  
Little Bear  
Little Eskimo  
Merry Little Cotton-Tails, The  
Mother Goose Stories  
Primary Song Book  
Roly-Poly Book, The  
Runaway Bunny, The  
Seventeen Little Bears  
Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes  
Tale of Bunny Cotton-Tail, The  
Three Little Cotton-Tails

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Published by  
**A. FLANAGAN COMPANY  
CHICAGO**

# MERRY LITTLE COTTON-TAILS

By

LAURA ROUNTREE SMITH

*ILLUSTRATED BY*

FRED STEARNS

1923

A. FLANAGAN COMPANY  
CHICAGO

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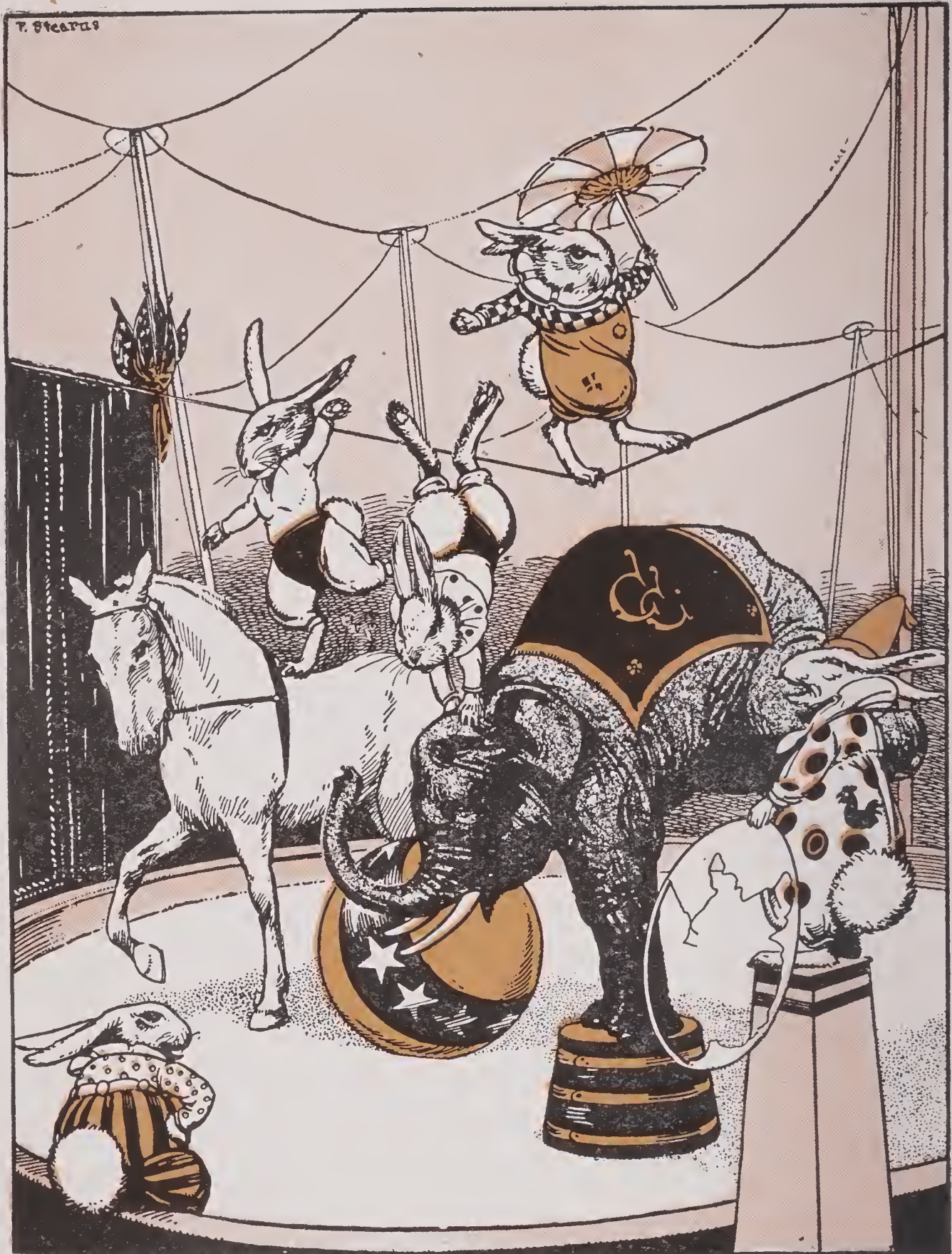
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*"The big show began" (Page 68)*

# Merry Little Cotton-Tails



## GRANDPA GRUMBLES' LETTER

One day Grandpa Grumbles was lonesome.

He opened his shutters and looked out of the window. Down the street he saw the postman coming.

The postman stopped at the gate and came up on the porch.

Now Grandpa Grumbles was a funny old bear. He always grumbled when the postman went past without stopping. To-day he grumbled when the postman stopped.

He said:

“Muddy feet on the porch and walk—  
And never a minute to stop and talk!”

Sure enough, the postman had not a minute to stop but went on down the street.

Just then Bushy-Tail, the fox, came limping along. He was pretending that he was lame.

Grandpa Grumbles said to him:

“Bushy-Tail, I’m feeling better;

You’re just in time to read my letter.”

So Bushy-Tail took the letter and read:

“Surprise Town.

The Moon of Strawberries.

Dear Grandpa Grumbles:

We are going to come to see you soon in the Moon of Strawberries and surprise you with our tricks. Be sure to open your shutters early tomorrow morning and look at the house next door. The next time we come, we shall be sure to surprise you.

Your friends,

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails.”

Grandpa Grumbles shook his green cotton Umbrella in the air and shouted fiercely:



*"The Merry Little Cotton-Tails"*

"This puts me in an awful fix!

I don't like surprises; I don't like tricks."

Bushy-Tail was scared and ran off down the road.

But the old cotton Umbrella said, "Why not wait until you see what the surprise is, Grandpa Grumbles?"

But Grandpa Grumbles was still cross.

Next day Grandpa Grumbles looked out of his window. He was so surprised that he stopped grumbling.

He was surprised to see smoke coming from the chimney of the house next door. The house had been empty. But now some one must be living there.

Grandpa Grumbles took his Umbrella and started over to the house next door.

The Umbrella asked him, "Now is it wise  
To go out looking for a surprise?"

But Grandpa Grumbles would not listen.

At this moment the Merry Little Cotton-Tails came tumbling out of the house. They came tumbling out of the back door and the front door. They came tumbling out of the front windows and the back windows. There were twenty-six of them.

They all ran to Grandpa Grumbles and danced around him in a ring.

Snubby Nose took his Umbrella. Tippy Toes stood on the porch and waved his paw, crying, "Hurrah!"

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails cried, "We have been traveling with a circus, Grandpa Grumbles. Do come with us and join the circus!"

Grandpa Grumbles said:

"With the postman I'd rather go,  
Sometimes fast, and sometimes slow."



*"Danced around him in a ring"*

Round and round danced the Merry Little Cotton-Tails. They were all around the house. Grandpa Grumbles saw them peeping out of the windows.

He was so surprised that he forgot to grumble.

All this time, the Umbrella was having a surprise of its own.

It said to Grandpa Grumbles:

“An Umbrella many strange sights can see;  
The Weather Vane’s making faces at me!”

## CIRCUS TRICKS

Next day Grandpa Grumbles awoke early again. He looked out of his window and saw Snubby Nose.

Snubby Nose was practicing his circus tricks. He was walking a tight rope. All the time he waved an open umbrella.

Grandpa Grumbles grew very excited and shook his green cotton Umbrella at Snubby Nose.

He shouted:





*"On a beautiful white horse"*

"I do not like such tricks at all!

Come down, sir, or you'll have a fall!"

Then he called all the other little Cotton-Tails to come and take Snubby Nose off the tight rope. They came tumbling out of the doors and the windows.

They said to Grandpa Grumbles:

"Snubby Nose likes to perform that way;

He's practicing for Circus Day."

Just then Tippy Toes came around the house, riding on a beautiful white horse.

He wore a red jacket, and his little cotton tail stuck out behind.

He shouted, "Who will put up the circus tent?"

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails looked at Grand-

pa Grumbles. So he thought they wanted him to put up the tent.

He said:

“It’s hard to put up tents, I’m told;  
For work like that I’m far too old!”

The little Cotton-Tails laughed and pulled him out into the back yard. There stood the circus tent ready to be put up.

In less than no time, the little Cotton-Tails had fastened the circus tent down at the corners. Grandpa Grumbles tried to help them. But he grumbled so much that he could not work fast.

When the tent was ready, the little Cotton-Tails cried, “Come into the tent, Grandpa Grumbles, and we will give you a ride on the merry-go-round.”

Grandpa Grumbles shouted, “I will not go into the tent. I will not ride on the merry-go-round.”

So the little Cotton-Tails got behind him and pushed him into the circus tent. There stood the merry-go-round with its ring of white horses.

The music began to play. The Merry Little

Cotton-Tails jumped on the horses. The merry-go-round began to turn. Round and round it went, faster and faster.

Grandpa Grumbles stood looking at it.

At last he said to himself, "That must be a lot of fun! I think I should like to ride on the merry-go-round."

Then he called to the Merry Little Cotton-Tails to stop the merry-go-round. But they could not stop it.

Grandpa Grumbles shook his green cotton Umbrella at it and shouted, "I want to ride! I want to ride!"

By and by the merry-go-round stopped with a jerk. Then it would not go at all.

It had broken down. The Merry Little Cotton-Tails tumbled off their horses and began to fix it.

Grandpa Grumbles went home, waving his Umbrella and grumbling every step of the way. He grumbled because he did not get a ride..

When he reached home, he said to his Umbrella, "I believe I will write a letter to Bunny and Susan

Cotton-Tail. I will ask them to come and visit me. I will tell them about the Merry Little Cotton-Tails.”

He looked all around his house, grumbling:

“Where are my paper, pen, and ink?  
Just where I put them, I can’t think.”

At last he found them. He sat down and began to write.

He told Bunny and Susan how lonesome he was. He asked them to visit him.

He wrote, “I am sure you will like the Merry Little Cotton-Tails. If you will come, I will give you a ride on the merry-go-round.”

Then he put a stamp on his letter and mailed it.

## BUNNY AND SUSAN GO VISITING

Bunny and Susan Cotton-Tail were in their little house. They sat by the fire. Bunny was reading by candlelight.

Susan said, “I hear a rap-a-tap-tap.”

Bunny took the candle and went to the door.



*"They sat by the fire"*

Susan said, "Do be careful, Bunny. Don't burn your paw."

Bunny could see no one at the door. But he found a letter in the letter box.

He said, "Oh, Susan, who could have written us a letter?"

Susan said, "Why not open the envelope and see?"

Bunny cried, "Now that is a very fine idea, Susan!"

So he opened the envelope and they read the letter. It was the one Grandpa Grumbles had written them.



*"He found a letter"*

When Bunny came to the part about the Merry Little Cotton-Tails, he said, "I should like to meet the Merry Little Cotton-Tails."

Susan said, "I never saw a merry-go-round. I think I should like to ride on one."

Then said Bunny, "Let us go on a visit to Grandpa Grumbles to-morrow. You write the letter, Susan, and tell him we will come."

Just then Susan began to wail and cry.

"Oh dear!" she cried. "I have lost my spectacles!"

Sure enough, Susan's spectacles were gone. Bunny and Susan looked upstairs and downstairs. But they could not find the spectacles.

By and by they opened their traveling bag.

There in the bag were Susan's lost spectacles.

Susan put them on. Then she wrote the letter to Grandpa Grumbles.

Suddenly Bunny went too near the candle and burned his paw. My, how he cried!

Susan said:

“When I get rich and have lots of money,  
We'll get us electric lights, dear Bunny.  
Electric lights are the safest of all,  
With a little button set in the wall.”

Next day Bunny and Susan awoke very early. They were going to visit Grandpa Grumbles.

Susan said, “I will make some cookies to take to Grandpa Grumbles.”

So she got out the rolling-pin and the cooky cutter. She got eggs and butter and sugar. Then she opened her book that had in it the rule for making cookies.

This was the rule:

This cooky rule's for all to use,  
And you may learn it if you choose.

One cup of sugar you should take,  
One cup of butter, like a cake;

One half a cup of sour milk, too,  
And mix them well; all good cooks do;

One pinch of soda and one egg;  
Now don't forget these things, I beg.

Use flour enough—a cup or so,  
Then cut the cookies from the dough.

Susan cut out the cookies. She cut some like circus animals and some like clowns.

She said, "Grandpa Grumbles likes cookies so well that we will fill a basket for him."

Bunny said, "I will take a wheelbarrow full of radishes."

Then Bunny packed his traveling bag and put on his tall hat. Susan wore her red sunbonnet.

So they started out together. Bunny wheeled the wheelbarrow full of radishes and Susan carried the basket of cookies.





*"The Merry Little Cotton-Tails took off their caps"*

As they went through the woods they had an adventure. They came upon the Merry Little Cotton-Tails standing all in a row.

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails took off their caps and made a bow to Bunny and Susan.

Just then Bushy-Tail went by. He did not look at the Merry Little Cotton-Tails. He did not seem to see Bunny and Susan.

He was saying to himself:

“To Grandpa Grumbles’ house I’m bound,  
To see his jolly merry-go-round.”

When he was out of sight, Bunny said to Susan, “I am glad Bushy-Tail is gone.”

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails still stood in a row and bowed. So Susan and Bunny bowed to them.

Then the little bunnies danced a merry dance, singing, “Come and ride on the merry-go-round!”

Then they danced away through the wood. Bunny and Susan went on to Grandpa Grumbles’ house.



## A RIDE ON THE MERRY-GO-ROUND

At the door of his house Grandpa Grumbles met his visitors.

Susan Cotton-Tail was carrying her basket of cookies. Bunny was wheeling his wheelbarrow full of radishes.

Grandpa Grumbles said, "I am glad to see you, Bunny and Susan. I was lonesome. Are those cookies and radishes for me?"

"They are all for you, Grandpa Grumbles," said Bunny and Susan.

Grandpa Grumbles was very pleased. He put the radishes into a large basket and set the basket of cookies on the pantry shelf.

Then Bunny said, "We met the Merry Little

Cotton-Tails on the road, Grandpa Grumbles. Just then Bushy-Tail passed us.”

“Aha!” cried Grandpa Grumbles. “Bushy-Tail must be up to one of his tricks!”

Then he put on his overcoat, saying, “We will go to Bushy-Tail’s den. We will find out what he is doing to the Merry Little Cotton-Tails. Climb into that wheelbarrow and I will wheel you.”

So Susan and Bunny climbed into the empty wheelbarrow. Grandpa Grumbles wheeled them to Bushy-Tail’s den.

“Bushy-Tail, come out!” shouted Grandpa Grumbles. “Where are the Merry Little Cotton-Tails?”

From inside his den, Bushy-Tail called, “How should I know? Don’t bother me!”

Grandpa Grumbles roared, “None of your tricks, sir! None of your tricks! Come out, sir!”

Then out came Bushy-Tail, beating a drum. Behind him marched the Merry Little Cotton-Tails.

“Let us all go home and ride on the merry-go-



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*"The little Cotton-Tails began to tumble off"*

round," they cried. "Come along, Bushy-Tail."

So they all went back to Grandpa Grumbles' house. There Bushy-Tail saw the basket of radishes Susan and Bunny had brought. His mouth watered for them.

Then he saw Susan's cookies and he wanted them even more than the radishes.

He went with Grandpa Grumbles and the little Cotton-Tails to the circus tents. He wound up the merry-go-round.

Then the music started. Grandpa Grumbles and Susan and Bunny and the twenty-six little Cotton-Tails rode on the merry-go-round. Bushy-Tail stood beside it and beat his drum.

Round and round went the merry-go-round, faster and faster.

"Stop it!" cried Grandpa Grumbles.

But Bushy-Tail had wound it up so that it would not stop. He pretended not to hear and went on beating his drum.

The merry-go-round went so fast that the little Cotton-Tails began to tumble off. Bunny lost

his hat. Grandpa Grumbles rolled off, head over heels.

“Bushy-Tail,” cried Susan Cotton-Tail, “will you stop it if I give you some cookies?”

That was just what Bushy-Tail wanted.

“Where are the cookies?” he shouted.

“On the pantry shelf,” called Susan.

Bushy-Tail stopped the merry-go-round so suddenly that it gave a jerk. Then all the rest of the little Cotton-Tails tumbled off.

But Bushy-Tail did not care. He seized Susan’s basket of cookies from the pantry shelf and ran home with them.

## BUNNY’S SORE PAW

Next morning Bunny’s paw hurt him very much. That was the paw he had burned in the candle flame.

“Poor Bunny!” said Susan. “Let me tie it up again.”

Grandpa Grumbles shouted, “Breakfast is



*"Bunny's paw hurt him very much"*

ready! Come down to breakfast. Maybe that will cure your sore paw!"

So Susan and Bunny went downstairs to breakfast. But Bunny could not eat a bite. His paw hurt him worse than ever.

While they were at breakfast the Merry Little Cotton-Tails came tumbling in at the windows.

They shouted, "Everyone get ready for the big parade!"

"Parade!" cried Bunny. "What parade?"

"Circus parade, of course!" shouted Snubby Nose. "Didn't you know that we bunnies belong to the circus?"

He was beating a drum; and my, what a noise he made!

"Hurrah! I want to see the circus parade!" cried Bunny.



For a minute he forgot all about his sore paw. He could think only of the circus and the big parade.

Then all the little Cotton-Tails shouted, "Let us invite Susan and Bunny and Grandpa Grumbles to join our parade."

This made Susan and Bunny and Grandpa Grumbles very happy. Bunny was so pleased that he cried, "Hurrah!" and waved his sore paw. That made it hurt again.

"Oh dear, oh dear!" he wailed.

"Never mind," said Grandpa Grumbles. "I will take you and Susan to the circus. That will cure your paw. I have plenty of money in my moneybags."

He got out his moneybags and began to count his money. All the little Cotton-Tails crowded around him.

They cried, "Give us a penny, Grandpa Grumbles. Give us each a penny!"

Grandpa Grumbles grumbled very hard indeed. He said:

“Of Cotton-Tails there are too many  
For me to give you each a penny;  
I’ll toss a handful in the air;  
Let every bunny grab his share!”

So he tossed up a handful of pennies and all the bunnies scrambled for them.

Then he put away all his moneybags but one. He took this to Susan Cotton-Tail and they whispered together.

At last Susan said, “Let us go right away.”

So Susan and Grandpa Grumbles took the moneybag and started off to town.

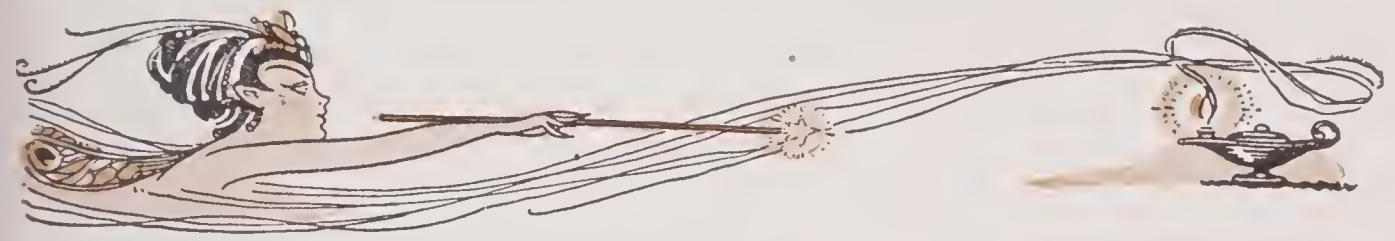
The Merry Little Cotton-Tails begged to go with them.

But Susan said, “No, you must stay at home.”

Now why do you suppose Susan and Grandpa Grumbles were going to town? They were going to buy Bunny a lamp.

“He is always burning himself by the candle flame,” said Susan.

“Perhaps he won’t burn himself so much with a lamp,” said Grandpa Grumbles.



## THE WONDERFUL LAMP

Susan and Grandpa Grumbles went merrily along to the lamp store. They looked at all the new lamps. Then they saw the strangest-looking lamp. There was nothing else like it in the store.

Susan bought it and they started home with it.

“Bunny will like it,” Susan said, “because it has such a queer shape and is carved so oddly.”

The lamp was very dusty. So she rubbed it with her bonnet strings.

All of a sudden, there stood a fairy in the path before Susan and Grandpa Grumbles. My, how astonished they were!

The fairy smiled at them and said:

“Any wish you think or say  
You shall have without delay.”

Grandpa Grumbles understood it all in a minute.

“Oho!” he cried. “We have bought Aladdin’s lamp. We can wish by it and our wishes will come true! Very well, I wish for an automobile big enough to take all the Merry Little Cotton-Tails riding.”

In a twinkling the fairy was gone. And a fine, big automobile stood there in the path before them.

“Get in, Susan,” cried Grandpa Grumbles. “We shall have a fine ride home.”

Susan got into the car and Grandpa Grumbles tried to start it. But he could not make it go.

He grumbled:

“What foolish animals we are!

We don’t know how to run a car!”

Susan now thought of the wonderful wishing lamp and gave it a good, hard rub. The fairy appeared.

Then Susan said, “Please send us old Grandpa Grizzly.”

Quick as a wink, up popped Grandpa Grizzly,



*"There stood a fairy in the path before Susan and Grandpa Grumbles"*

the oldest bear in the world. He wanted to know what was the matter.

Susan said:

“Grandpa Grizzly, do you know  
How to make a new car go?”

Grandpa Grizzly did not answer a word. He just sat down and took hold of the wheel.

Then they began to ride along so fast that Grandpa Grumbles lost his Umbrella. Next, the wind blew Susan’s sunbonnet away.

They had to stop to get the sunbonnet and Umbrella.

Then Grandpa Grizzly drove faster and faster and brought them home safe and sound.

Bunny Cotton-Tail was looking for them. He was much surprised to see Grandpa Grumbles’ new automobile. The Merry Little Cotton-Tails were so glad that they danced up and down.

Susan put the lamp on the table and said, “See the fine wishing lamp Grandpa Grumbles bought you, Bunny!”

Bunny said, "Oh, thank you, Grandpa Grumbles."

Then Grandpa Grumbles invited all the little Cotton-Tails and Bunny and Susan to ride with him in his automobile.

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails cried, "Hurrah!" and piled into the automobile.

Grandpa Grizzly drove the car and they had a merry ride.

## THE CIRCUS ANIMAL COOKIES

Bushy-Tail ran down the road with Susan Cotton-Tail's basket of cookies. They were the cookies he had taken when he had stopped the merry-go-round.

That bad fox said to himself, "I shall have a fine feast!"

Then he heard little voices coming from the basket.

They said, "Let's bite off his ear! Let's bite off his tail!"



*"They were all alive"*

Bushy-Tail was scared and set the basket down. Then off came the lid and the cookies came tumbling out of the basket, one by one. They were all alive!

Bushy-Tail thought he must be dreaming. He did not know that Susan had cut her cookies in the shapes of circus animals and people. There were clowns and trick horses and elephants.

They all ran along the road in front of Bushy-Tail. They ran so fast that he could not keep up with them.

When Bushy-Tail reached his den, they were there waiting for him. They began to pound and beat him.

Their little voices cried, "So you will take Susan Cotton-Tail's cookies, will you?"

The clown drummers beat their drums right in his ears. The noise was dreadful. The cooky





*"Began to pound and beat him"*

elephants stood in a row upon him and jumped up and down.

The other cookies pinched him until he cried, "Help, help!"

When he went to bed they beat him black and blue and he could not sleep.

Next day they made him eat cookies all day long. Wherever he went he found a plate of cookies before him. He had to eat them all. The circus cookies followed him everywhere and beat him until he ate the cookies.

By the time night came, he was tired and stiff and sore. He could scarcely get back to his den. By that time the circus cookies were gone.

He said to himself, "I never want to see another cooky as long as I live!"

He went to sleep, singing this little song:

“ ‘Tis true I play tricks now and then,  
But now I'll never steal again;  
And cookies I'll not even borrow;  
I've learned a lesson, to my sorrow!”

## GRANDPA GRUMBLES' CIRCUS

Early one morning the Merry Little Cotton-Tails were making a great noise. The noise awakened Grandpa Grumbles.

He went downstairs to see what was the matter. He grumbled every step of the way. He looked across at the house of the twenty-six little Cotton-Tails.

There they were practicing their circus tricks. Snubby Nose was walking the tight rope. Tippy Toes was jumping through a hoop.

“Well,” said Grandpa Grumbles to himself, “I might as well have a circus of my own. It wouldn’t make any more noise!”

He thought very hard for awhile.

Then he said, “If I bought a big show, we could all join it. I could take the tickets.”

At last he got out some of his moneybags and loaded them into the wheelbarrow. He put on his checkerboard coat and his checkerboard cap.



*"And away he went"*

He did not tell anyone why or where he was going.

"Grandpa Grumbles is going away!" shouted the Merry Little Cotton-Tails; and they all came tumbling over to say good-bye to him.

"How long shall you stay?" asked Susan and Bunny.

Grandpa Grumbles waved his checkerboard cap and shouted:

"How long shall I stay?  
I only can say  
I'm off and away  
For a year and a day."

And away he went. He was gone a year and a day, but the time passed quickly.

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails practiced their

tricks every day. One day Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes looked out of the window.

They cried:

“Grandpa Grumbles, I do declare,  
Is coming home with a Circus Bear!”

Sure enough, Grandpa Grumbles was coming home with a bear who danced and played the fife!

Marching down the road behind him were nine elephants and six camels. The elephants wore red blankets and the camels wore blankets of red and gold.

The animals went into the Cotton-Tails' circus tent and began to perform.

The bunnies cried, “Hurrah, hurrah! Oh, Grandpa Grumbles, are these animals yours?”

“Of course they are,” said Grandpa Grumbles. “I bought them for my circus. Everybody get ready for the big show!”

So all day long, the Merry Little Cotton-Tails rode on the elephants and camels and practiced their tricks.

The Circus Bear stood on his head; and then he danced. He danced so well that all the little Cotton-Tails begged him to teach them his dance.

He bowed to them and said:

“Your dancing, too, they say, is fine;

You teach me yours; I’ll teach you mine.”

He was a very polite bear, you see.

Everybody had a good time. Grandpa Grumbles was so happy that he forgot to grumble. He was sorry when night came and the circus came to an end.

“We will have a circus here every day,” he said.

## THE MEASLES

The next morning when Grandpa Grumbles woke up, he did not hear a sound. It made him lonesome to have everything so silent.

He said:

“I miss the noise. How quiet they keep!

Can the Cotton-Tails still be asleep?”

He found Bunny and Susan sleeping. So he went over to the house of the Merry Little Cotton-Tails. They were in their little beds and for once they were not merry.

They cried, "Oh dear, oh dear! We feel so bad that we want to stay in bed, Grandpa Grumbles!"

Grandpa Grumbles went home and woke Bunny and Susan. Then all three went over to see the Merry Little Cotton-Tails.

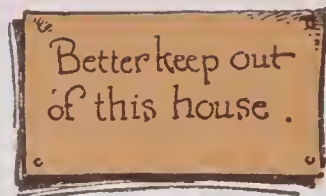
Susan Cotton-Tail looked wise as she peered over her spectacles and said:

"They are really ill, I fear;  
They must stay in bed, my dear."

Bunny said, "My fur and whiskers! What is the matter, Susan?"

Susan said, "Haven't you lived long enough to know measles when you see the signs? Bless my buttons! I know measles very well. No more circus for these bunnies for a long time!"

Said Grandpa Grumbles, "If this is true,  
My goodness, Susan, what shall we do?"



“We need a sign on the house to keep people out,” said Susan. “You may put it up, Grandpa Grumbles.”

So Grandpa Grumbles made a big red sign. He did not know how to spell the word “measles.” So he wrote on the red card, “Better keep out of this house.” Then he tacked it up on the house.

All this time, Bunny and Susan were taking care of the twenty-six little Cotton-Tails. They brought hot tea to the bunnies and gave them pills.

Susan said, “Don’t let them kick their covers off, Bunny. They must stay tucked up warm in bed or they will catch cold.”

The Cotton-Tails did not like to stay in bed. They wanted to be out practicing their circus tricks.

At last Grandpa Grumbles said, “I will tell them a story. That will keep them quiet.”

“Hurrah! Tell us a story, Grandpa Grumbles,” cried the twenty-six little Cotton-Tails.



So Grandpa Grumbles scratched around in his head for a story. Just then Bushy-Tail jumped in at the window.

“Don’t tell about cookies!” he shouted. “I am sick of cookies!”

Then Bunny said, “Please do not tell about candles or burned paws.”

Susan said, “Please do not tell about lost spectacles.”

And the little Cotton-Tails wailed, “Don’t say a word about bunnies with the measles.”

Grandpa Grumbles looked very cross and said, “How can I say a word about anything when I am interrupted all the time?”

After that, everybody kept very still, while Grandpa Grumbles thought up his story. But before he could tell it, the doorbell rang. Then the telephone rang. Then the little Cotton-Tails all had to have a drink of water.

It was an hour before the house was still. By that time, Grandpa Grumbles had forgotten the story he was going to tell!

## PLAYING SANTA CLAUS

The little Cotton-Tails had the measles very hard and had to stay in bed for days and days. They did not like this at all, for it was almost Christmas.

Grandpa Grumbles came every day and told them stories of Santa Claus. Then they told him what they wanted for Christmas.

Snubby Nose said, "I want Santa Claus to bring me a big peppermint candy cane, striped red and white. And I want a whole wagon-load of toys! I can hardly wait for Santa Claus to come!"

Tippy Toes said:

"If I had a horn to toot,  
I could blow a fine salute."

Pink Ears cried:

"I can have no fun at all  
Unless he brings a rubber ball."

Bunny Boy said:

“I could have the finest lark,  
If he'd bring a Noah's Ark.”

Grandpa Grumbles scratched his head and thought very hard. Then he stole away home and got out his moneybags. He began to count his money, though he could not count straight to save his life.

“I have enough to fill every stocking,” he said aloud. “I'll buy all the best toys in the store. I'll go this very night.”

His green cotton Umbrella heard him and began to talk. It said, “Why do we have to go to-night? Can't we wait till to-morrow?”

Grandpa Grumbles growled, “Less noise, sir! You talk too much, sir! To-morrow is Christmas and then it will be too late.”

The Umbrella said, “If you are going to play Santa Claus, you should get a sack for the toys.”

So Grandpa Grumbles hunted around and found a big empty sack. Then he put on a big red coat and cap, both trimmed with fur. He took the sack upon his shoulder.

“Hurrah!” he cried. “Now I look just like Santa Claus.”

He put some moneybags in his pockets. He took his Umbrella and started out to visit the stores.

In the street he met a funny little fellow with a long feather in his cap.

“Good evening, Grandpa Grumbles,” said the little fellow with a polite bow. “I am Little Nutcracker. I see you are going to play Santa Claus to the Merry Little Cotton-Tails. Let me take you to the store in my sleigh.”

So Grandpa Grumbles rode to the store with him. They left the Umbrella in the sleigh and went into the store together.

Grandpa Grumbles put his moneybags on the counter and shouted:

“At buying presents I have no skill,  
Yet I have a row of stockings to fill!”

Then the clerk helped Grandpa Grumbles choose presents for each of the Cotton-Tails. Now and



*"He put dolls and other toys and candy into Grandpa Grumbles' sack"*

then Grandpa Grumbles counted them over on his fingers and thumbs, saying, "There's Snubby Nose and there's Pink Ears. And what shall I get Bun-ny and Susan?"

The clerk ran to this shelf and ran to that shelf. He put dolls and other toys and candy into Grandpa Grumbles' sack. The sack grew heavier and heavier.

He even remembered to buy candles for the Cotton-Tails' Christmas tree. Then at the last minute he thought of something to use in trimming the windows. So he shouted:

"Christmas time is far more jolly  
If we have a wreath of holly."

So the clerk put a wreath of holly in his pack.

All this time, Little Nutcracker was buying some presents for his own children and watching Grandpa Grumbles.

At last Little Nutcracker said, "Grandpa Grumbles, I know where you can find more rows of empty stockings to fill. They are the stockings of very



*"He filled it with toys"*

poor children. Will you play Santa Claus to them?"

Grandpa Grumbles had to grumble a little, so he said, "Too many poor! Too many empty stockings! Some one ought to fill them."

"I will show you where they are, Grandpa Grumbles," cried Little Nutcracker.

"All right," said Grandpa Grumbles.

Then he bought a load of toys and candy for the poor little children. Little Nutcracker helped him pack them into the sleigh.

Away they rode together. They stopped at a house where an empty stocking hung by the fire-

place. Grandpa Grumbles filled it with toys.

Then he and Little Nutcracker rode on. They filled many empty stockings that night.

At last Grandpa Grumbles went home. The Merry Little Cotton-Tails were in bed asleep. He filled all their stockings and trimmed the Christmas tree.

He grumbled to himself because he was so tired.

## CHRISTMAS MORNING

Early Christmas morning Grandpa Grumbles was awakened by a great noise. It was the green cotton Umbrella thumping and banging upstairs. The Umbrella was much excited.

It cried, "Come down, Grandpa Grumbles, and see what you got for Christmas. Such a big surprise!"

So Grandpa Grumbles followed the Umbrella downstairs. All the little Cotton-Tails came tumbling after him. They could scarcely wait to see their presents.



There by the Christmas tree was a new silk umbrella for Grandpa Grumbles from the Merry Little Cotton-Tails. It was indeed a big surprise!

All the little Cotton-Tails danced up and down, and shouted, "Merry Christmas!"

Grandpa Grumbles was so pleased that he gave them each a big bear's hug.

Everybody looked pleased except the green cotton Umbrella.

It said, "I am not sure that I shall like another umbrella!"

## THE TWO UMBRELLAS

Said the cotton Umbrella, "How do you do?  
Can you sail in the air? Are you magic, too?"  
Said the silk Umbrella, "Let me explain;  
I'm a common umbrella; I keep off the rain."

Said the cotton Umbrella, "You look so bright  
That I'm sure you could fly like the paper kite!"  
Said the silk Umbrella, "Let me explain;  
I can only open and shut again."

Said the cotton Umbrella, "You can't decline;  
Come, show me your tricks and I'll show mine!"  
Said the silk Umbrella, "Let me explain;  
I'm useful only in sunshine or rain!"

## GRANDPA GRUMBLES' UMBRELLAS

By and by Grandpa Grumbles' birthday came around. He was three hundred and nine years old! And what do you suppose?

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails gave him a new Umbrella. It was a Japanese Umbrella.

He already had two Umbrellas. There was the old cotton Umbrella; and there was the silk Umbrella the bunnies had given him for Christmas.

When the Japanese Umbrella saw Grandpa Grumbles, it began to talk.

It said:

"In Japan now, if you please,  
Children bow on bended knees,  
Leave their shoes outside the door,  
And read books back side before!"

“Dear me!” cried Grandpa Grumbles. “Now isn’t that interesting?”

The silk Umbrella was pleased to see the Japanese Umbrella, and said:

“Japanese Umbrella, how are you?  
I see your dress is gay and new!”

The Japanese Umbrella bowed very politely.

But the old cotton Umbrella scowled at it and said to Grandpa Grumbles:

“Too many strangers now I see;  
Far too many Umbrellas for me!”

Grandpa Grumbles thanked the Merry Little Cotton-Tails for their pretty birthday present. He said he had never seen anything so fine.

After they had gone, he shook his head and growled to himself:

“But whether I travel east or west,  
I like the old Umbrella best!”

This made the green cotton Umbrella very happy indeed. You see, it had been afraid that

Grandpa Grumbles would not take it along on his travels. It was afraid he might like the new Umbrellas best.



One day the old green cotton Umbrella was missing: Grandpa Grumbles could not find it anywhere. The Merry Little Cotton-Tails looked for it indoors and outdoors.

Just then Bushy-Tail came limping along, pretending to be lame. He was looking very sly. He asked what was the matter. The bunnies told him.

He said to Grandpa Grumbles:

“Your Umbrella I had to borrow;  
I will bring it back to-morrow!”

“Had to borrow it?” shouted Grandpa Grumbles. “Why did you have to borrow it?”

“I had a leak in the roof of my house,” said Bushy-Tail very sadly.

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails asked, “Did the Umbrella stop the leak in the roof?”

Bushy-Tail looked cross-eyed and said:

“I held the Umbrella over my head;  
I held the Umbrella open in bed.”

Then he ran off down the road as fast as he could. Grandpa Grumbles was angry. He shook his paws at Bushy-Tail.

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails cried, “We will run after Bushy-Tail and ask him to bring back your Umbrella.”

Just then Bunny and Susan Cotton-Tail came down the road and stopped at Grandpa Grumbles’ house.

“What do you think?” they cried. “We met the old Umbrella walking along the road. We were surprised to see it walk so well!”

At that very moment the old Umbrella came flying over their heads. It leaped to the ground and walked over to Grandpa Grumbles.

It said to Bunny and Susan:

“I walk, of course. What did you suppose?  
I walk and I fly and I open and close!”

“Where have you been, old Umbrella?” cried Grandpa Grumbles.

“Bushy-Tail tried to steal me,” said the Umbrella, “but I ran away from him. I don’t like that old fox!”

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails shouted, “Borrow! He said he borrowed you!”

And they laughed until they cried.

### ALL ABOARD!

Bunnies may have many tumbles,  
Riding with old Grandpa Grumbles,  
When that funny grumbling bear  
In his Umbrella takes the air.

Hark! the Cotton-Tails all shout,  
“All aboard! Now don’t fall out!”  
Through the trees the strong wind rumbles,  
When they ride with Grandpa Grumbles.



## GETTING READY FOR THE CIRCUS

By and by the Merry Little Cotton-Tails recovered from the measles. Christmas had passed and the holidays were over.

The bunnies began to plan for their circus.

They said, "We must give a big show and have a street parade."

Grandpa Grumbles asked, "Who will lead the parade?"

Just then Bushy-Tail came along and said, "I will lead the parade. I will beat the drum. I have beaten the drum in a circus before."

Grandpa Grumbles said, "Our circus should have a band. I will play the fife."

Susan and Bunny cried, "Let us ride on the band wagon."

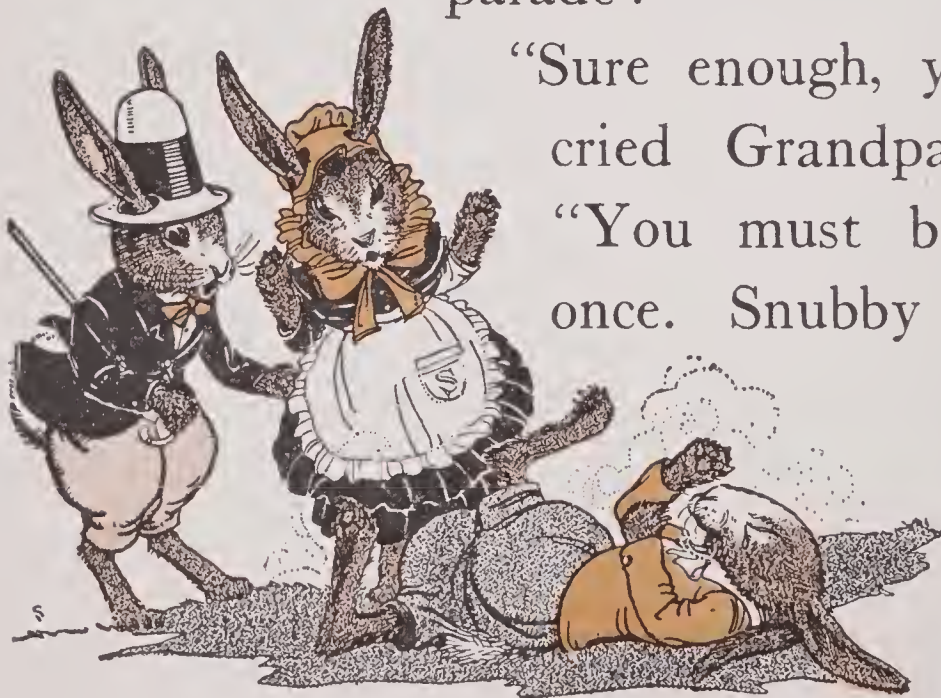
The elephants and other circus animals said nothing at all. But they were ready for the parade.

Just then Snubby Nose began to scream and howl.

“I want to lead the parade!” he howled. “Why may I not lead the parade?”

Grandpa Grumbles scowled at him and said, “Too much noise, sir! You’ll make us all deaf.”

Tippy Toes danced up to Grandpa Grumbles and said, “Oh, Grandpa Grumbles, shouldn’t all the Cotton-Tails have clown suits to wear in the parade?”



“Sure enough, you should!” cried Grandpa Grumbles.

“You must buy them at once. Snubby Nose, run to

the cellar and bring up one of my money-bags.”

*“Snubby Nose began to scream and howl”*





*"Bringing Grandpa Grumbles' bag of money"*

Snubby Nose stopped howling and ran to the cellar. He had already forgotten about leading the parade and could think of nothing but his new clown suit. Back he came, bringing Grandpa Grumbles' bag of money.

Grandpa Grumbles gave each little Cotton-Tail enough money to buy a clown suit. And away they went to town to get their suits.

Some of the suits were spotted, while others were striped or checked. A funny pointed cap went with each suit. My, but the little Cotton-Tails were proud of their suits!

They brought an extra clown suit for Grandpa Grumbles. At first he did not want to wear it. He said:

“I won’t try it on at all;  
’Twill be too large or else too small.”

But when the little Cotton-Tails begged him to try it on, he did. And it fitted very well. Grandpa Grumbles was pleased.

He said, “Now I am ready for the big parade.”

The circus animals began to come out of the tent for the parade. The elephants marched two and two. The little Cotton-Tails marched beside them. Bushy-Tail marched in front and beat his drum.

Then just as everyone was ready to start, Susan Cotton-Tail lost her glasses. Everyone hunted for them.

Bunny and Susan looked for them all over the house. Bunny lighted a candle and looked in the garret for them. Of course he burned his paw.

By the time Grandpa Grumbles and the little

Cotton-Tails had found Susan's glasses and bound up Bunny's burned paw, it was too late for the parade. So they all went to bed.

Next day it rained and there could be no parade.

"Come over to my house and we will have a candy pull." said Grandpa Grumbles to the Merry Little Cotton-Tails.

So they all came and they had a fine time. Susan made molasses candy and they all pulled it. She gave each bunny a ball of taffy to pull.

Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes put their balls together and pulled the taffy out in a long rope. They played it was a skipping rope.

They had a lot of fun until Snubby Nose got the sticky candy all over his paws and his tail. Susan and Grandpa Grumbles had to wash him in hot water to get it off. And my, but he screamed and howled!



## THE BIG PARADE

Next morning the little Cotton-Tails were up bright and early, for the sun was shining. All around the circus tents everyone was as busy as could be.

“This is the day of the big parade. Everyone get into line!” shouted Grandpa Grumbles.

So the Merry Little Cotton-Tails took their places. Bushy-Tail began to beat his drum and and the circus animals began to march.

Suddenly Grandpa Grumbles stopped right in the middle of the road. He was so excited that he almost burst out his clown suit.

“Where is my green cotton Umbrella?” he shouted. “I have left it behind. We must go back for it!”

The twenty-six little Cotton-Tails dropped



Fred Stearns

*"The twenty-six little Cotton-Tails dropped down in the road"*

down in the road and screamed and wailed at the top of their voices. They did not want to go back. Yet back they went with the rest of the parade.

Everyone hunted a long time for the lost Umbrella, but nobody found it.

Then what do you suppose? There was the biggest thumping and bumping on Grandpa Grumbles' front steps. And in walked the green cotton Umbrella as coolly as you please!

Grandpa Grumbles cried, "Oh, there you are! Were you out for a walk?"

The Umbrella said, "Yes, Grandpa Grumbles, I went to take a look at the weather. The silk Umbrella teased me until I took it with me. It is no good at walking. It is only a common umbrella—used to keep off the rain. I had to drag it home. I don't think much of that Umbrella, Grandpa Grumbles!"

Everyone was glad the green cotton Umbrella was found. Now the big parade could start. This time nothing happened to stop it.

All the animals scrambled into their places. The



F. Stearns

*"The Cotton-Tail band marched first"*

Cotton-Tail band marched first. Grandpa Grumbles played the fife and Bushy-Tail played the drum.

Next came the elephants, the camels, the horses, and the animal wagons, and then the Cotton-Tail clowns. Some of the Cotton-Tails rode the elephants. Others carried gay banners. It was a fine sight.

The parade went through all the streets of the town, and all the people came out and cheered. Then the animals marched back to the circus tent, and the big show began.

Bushy-Tail stood at the door, beating his drum and taking tickets.

Inside, the Cotton-Tail band played for the animals to march into the ring.

Snubby Nose walked the tight rope and balanced an umbrella in his paw. Pink Ears stood on her front paws on the elephant's head.

Then the white trick horse trotted into the ring with Bunny Boy on its back. It danced around while Bunny Boy stood on its back and did tricks.



Tippy Toes was a very funny clown. He jumped through a hoop.

It was the finest circus the animals had ever seen. They all went home happy.

My, but they were tired! Grandpa Grumbles was so tired that he went straight to bed.

## HOME AGAIN

Next morning Grandpa Grumbles was up a little late.

He went downstairs, calling, "Good morning, Susan. Good morning, Bunny."

Nobody answered him. The house was silent. Then he looked out of the window for the Merry Little Cotton-Tails. The house next door was empty and the tent was gone.

Grandpa Grumbles began to scold, saying:

"I don't like to be still as a mouse;  
I don't like it so quiet in my house!"

Then he looked for Bunny and Susan. All he

found was a note from them. It said they had grown homesick and had gone home.

Grandpa Grumbles found another note from the Merry Little Cotton-Tails. They said they had gone traveling with the circus.

Grandpa Grumbles growled to himself, "It is too lonesome for me to stay here alone. I will pack up my moneybags and go on a visit to Bunny and Susan."

So he packed his moneybags and took his green cotton Umbrella. And off he started to the house of Bunny and Susan.

All this time, Bunny and Susan were safe and happy in their own little house.

Bunny said over and over again, "I am glad to be at home once more. Aren't you, Susan?"

Susan said she was glad, too. As night came, she lighted a candle and put it in the window.

She said, "Perhaps Grandpa Grumbles will call. This candle will show him the way."

Bunny said, "Perhaps the Merry Little Cotton-Tails will call, too."



*"The house of Bunny and Susan"*

Soon Bunny and Susan heard a patter, patter, patter outside the house. Suddenly the Merry Little Cotton-Tails came tumbling in at the doors and the windows.

Snubby Nose shouted, "We've come to visit you, Susan."

Tippy Toes cried, "We're glad to see you safe at home. We came to visit you. We are tired of going with the circus."

Then all the Merry Little Cotton-Tails danced a jig. They were so funny that Susan and Bunny laughed until they cried.

"Now if Grandpa Grumbles would only come!" said Susan.

Then what do you suppose? That very minute, in walked Grandpa Grumbles! How they all shouted!

He was really very glad to see the Cotton-Tails. But he was tired and felt like grumbling.

So he growled:

“I only came to have a bunny  
Help me count my bags of money!”

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails shouted, “We will help you count your money, Grandpa Grumbles.”

But Grandpa Grumbles only shook his head.

“Too many bunnies! Too many bunnies!” he grumbled.

Susan gave him a nice seat by the open fire. Then she put the teakettle on to boil. She made tea for everyone, and all had a merry time.

By and by Susan sent the Merry Little Cotton-Tails to bed. They all went but Snubby Nose. He did not want to go to bed.

“I will help Grandpa Grumbles count his



*"Snubby Nose counted the money in each bag"*

money," said this clever little bunny. "Somebody must help Grandpa Grumbles!"

So Susan said he might stay up for awhile.

Then she and Bunny sat on the sofa beside the fireplace and watched Grandpa Grumbles count his money. He spread his moneybags out on the floor. Snubby Nose counted the money in each bag.

All the time Grandpa Grumbles counted, too, saying over and over to himself:

"My counting is a little queer;  
Sometimes it's not quite straight, I fear.  
And then again, it's sometimes slow;  
The figures get ahead, you know!  
And though I try with all my might,  
I cannot count those figures right!"

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails and Grandpa Grumbles visited Bunny and Susan for a week.

They all rested. They told stories. They played games. Then the Cotton-Tails and Grandpa Grumbles went home.

They were ready for more adventures. They all went traveling for a year and a day.



*"Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes"*

## SNUBBY NOSE AND TIPPY TOES

Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes  
Are dancing as you see;  
Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes  
Are merry company.

Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes  
Are bowing now to you;  
Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes  
Say, "How do you do?"

Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes  
Sing a little song;  
Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes,  
Dancing all day long.

## DANCING AWAY

Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes liked to dance so well that they said one day to each other, "Let us leave the Merry Little Cotton-Tails to-day and dance away."

Where were they going, do you suppose,  
Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes?

Snubby Nose said:

"I want to travel to the west;  
I really think that road is best."

Tippy Toes sang:

"I do not care now in the least,  
But still I'll travel toward the east."

Snubby Nose stood with his little nose pointing north. He said:

"Right is east and left is west;  
Take the road you like the best."

So Snubby Nose went west and Tippy Toes went east.



They danced away on the tips of their toes, singing:

“Who’ll meet again, do you suppose?  
Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes.”

## A BUNNY IN A SNOWDRIFT

Bunny Cotton-Tail grew old and gray.

As he and Susan sat by the fire one winter evening, he said:

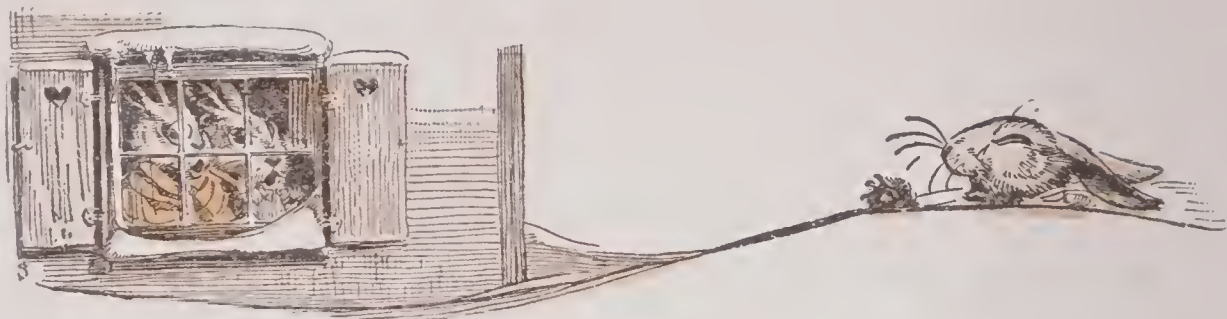
“I’m old and take so many tumbles,  
I’m almost like Old Grandpa Grumbles.”

Susan said:

“I’m young as ever, I declare;  
How I enjoy my rocking-chair!”

Susan said, “You do not look old to me, Bunny. Read me the news.”

Bunny Cotton-Tail read all the news from the Cotton-Tail newspaper. He read by firelight and candlelight, because he said electric light hurt his old eyes.



*"Saw a little bunny"*

Susan went on rocking to and fro, knitting some warm socks for Bunny.

Before they knew it, they were nid-nid-nodding.

By and by they woke up with a jerk, and Bunny said:

“When the night is chilly, I never tire  
Of warming my paws by the blazing fire.”

Susan said, “What a long time it is since we have had any visitors!”

Just then they heard a sound.

“Can it be the Snow-man?” asked Susan.

“Can it be Grandpa Grumbles?” asked Bunny.

Bunny and Susan went to the window to look out. They looked out of the window and saw a little bunny. He was in a snowdrift.

He cried, “Get me out! Get me out!”



*"He cried while Susan sang to him"*

Bunny ran for a snow shovel, and Susan ran for the wheelbarrow.

They shoveled the little fellow out of the snow.

"Who is it?" said Bunny. "Who do you suppose?"

Said Susan, "It's dear little Snubby Nose."

Snubby Nose cried:

"I am cold, as you would suppose,

From the tip of my nose to my tiny toes."



*"Talked to the Snow-man"*

"Hurry, hurry," said Susan. "We will give the little fellow a hot bath."

"Hurry, hurry," said Bunny. "He must stop crying."

Now Snubby Nose cried for an hour and five minutes! He cried all through his nice warm bath. He cried while Susan sang to him! He cried while Bunny gave him a bag of candy!

Suddenly he looked out of the window. He saw the Snow-man.

Then he began to laugh. He laughed so hard the tears rolled down his checks.

He said, "What a funny old Snow-man that is!"  
He went out and talked to the Snow-man.

## THE BROKEN NOSE

Bunny Cotton-Tail said, "Who will our next visitor be?"

Susan said, "I wish Grandpa Grumbles would come next."

Just at that minute they heard a great noise and a thump—thump—thump.

Here came Grandpa Grumbles with his green cotton Umbrella.

He came in shaking off the snow and grumbling.

He said, "Good evening, everyone,  
I'll have to get my grumbling done;  
I often grumble just for fun;  
Good evening now to everyone."

The green cotton Umbrella stood in the corner and stared very hard at Snubby Nose.

At last it said, "Funny-looking nose! Don't you think so, Grandpa Grumbles?"

It was not a very polite thing to say. But

Snubby Nose really did have the ugliest little nose in the world.

Grandpa Grumbles was not listening to the Umbrella.

He was saying, "I had a dreadful time getting here. I fell into a snowdrift and got very wet!"

This made Snubby Nose remember his own tumble into the snowdrift. He began to cry again. Susan had to put him to bed.

Then Grandpa Grumbles' head went nid-nodding and he was soon asleep. Bunny and Susan fell asleep, too, by the fire. Snubby Nose fell asleep upstairs in his wee bed. He began to walk in his sleep. He did not know he was walking in his sleep.

Poor Snubby Nose fell downstairs and broke his nose. He woke Grandpa Grumbles and Bunny and Susan.

"Help! help!" cried Bunny.

"Help! help!" cried Susan. "Bring the camphor. Bring the doctor!"

Grandpa Grumbles woke up and shouted:



*"There stood Doctor Cotton-Tail"*

"Oh, sir, you have too many tumbles!  
You disturb old Grandpa Grumbles."

At this very minute a rap-a-tap was heard on the door. There on the doorstep stood Doctor Cotton-Tail.

He said:

"I'll stop a minute, that is all;  
I'm on my way to make a call;  
And perhaps if no one cares,  
I'll take a nap upon the stairs!"

Doctor Cotton-Tail set the poor little nose. Snubby Nose cried and howled.

Doctor Cotton-Tail said:

“I was going to visit—whom do you suppose?  
Come, guess for a minute, Snubby Nose.”

Just then Susan began to sneeze and made a great noise, and Bunny burned his whiskers in the candle. So Snubby Nose had no time to guess where Doctor Cotton-Tail was going.

Grandpa Grumbles cried:

“Such a noise I never heard!  
Cotton-Tails, you are absurd.”

Then Doctor Cotton-Tail saw Grandpa Grumbles.

Said Grandpa Grumbles, “It appears  
I’ve not seen you for years and years.”

This made them all laugh, for Grandpa Grumbles and Doctor Cotton-Tail often met.

The funny old fellows stood and talked for a long time.

No one could guess where Doctor Cotton-Tail was going.

So by and by he said:





*"It appears I've not seen you for years and years"*

“You never can guess now, I suppose;  
I was going to call on Tippy Toes.”

Snubby Nose said, “I left him going east while I went west. What has happened to Tippy Toes?”

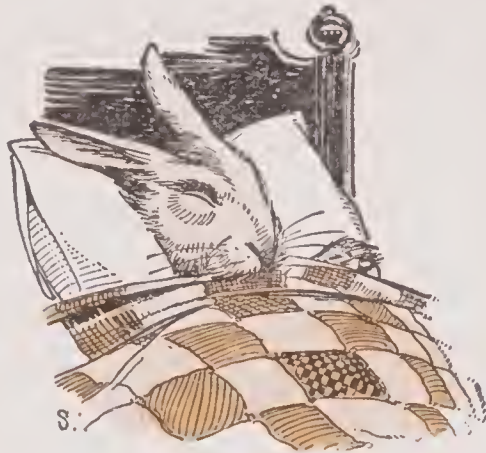
Then Grandpa Grumbles went off with Doctor Cotton-Tail.

Bunny and Susan said, “Doctor Cotton-Tail did not tell us what was the matter with Tippy Toes. We must ask him.”

## THE SICK BUNNY

“Tippy Toes,” the doctor said,  
“You must spend the day in bed;  
You’ve a cold in your head.”  
That is what the doctor said.

Tippy says, “I’ll try to do  
What the doctor tells me to;  
But, oh dear! It makes me blue,  
Doing what he tells me to!”



*"Tippy Toes is snug in bed"*

Tippy Toes is snug in bed;  
See the pillow at his head;  
See the pretty checkered spread!  
Tippy Toes is snug in bed.

## GOING ON A VISIT

One day Tippy Toes said to his mother, "I want to go and visit Bunny and Susan Cotton-Tail. May I pack my traveling bag?"

His mother said, "You may pack your traveling bag. You may visit Bunny and Susan. But you should wear your overshoes."

Tippy Toes said, "Mother, do I have to wear my overshoes?"

His mother said:

“Dear Tippy Toes, I hope you’ll try  
Always to keep your feet quite dry.  
As sure as you’re one of my little Rabbits,  
I hope you’ll form some healthy habits.”

So Tippy Toes put on his overshoes and went tripping down the road. He called back:

“To form health habits I will try;  
Mother dear, good-bye, good-bye.”

His mother called:

“You mustn’t go yet, dear Tippy Toes;  
Who’ll wash dishes, do you suppose?”

Tippy Toes had forgotten to wash the dishes. He came back, of course, and began to wash dishes and plates very fast.

Tippy Toes washed them all and put them in neat piles on the table.

The Kitchen Clock said:

“His work is done, and away he goes;  
Hurrah! hurrah for Tippy Toes!”

Then he started on his journey to visit Bunny



*"Tippy Toes washed them all"*

and Susan. He carried his traveling bag, and sang:

“If I had four-and-twenty wishes,  
I’d never, never wash the dishes;  
Now this is what I really mean:  
I’d simply wish those dishes clean!”

He went along until he came to the house of Bunny and Susan. They came out to meet him. They were very glad to see him.

They said, “You must make us a long visit, Tippy Toes.”

## A BUCKET OF WATER

One day Tippy Toes danced down to the well to get a bucket of water for Susan Cotton-Tail.

He sang to himself:

“Who put poor Pussy in the well?

How one could do it, I can't tell.”

Just then he met old Grandpa Grumbles.

Grandpa Grumbles said:

“A cat has nine lives, I've heard tell,

Who says, ‘Poor Pussy in the well’?”

Tippy Toes said, “I love to read about poor Pussy in Mother Goose.”

Grandpa Grumbles said, “I love to read about:

‘The old oaken bucket,

The iron-bound bucket,

The moss-covered bucket,

Which hung in the well.’”

All this time Susan Cotton-Tail was waiting for a bucket of water. She rang a tea bell and said:



*“To get a bucket of water”*

“Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,  
Goes my little bell;  
Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,  
Who is at the well?”

She said to herself, “Dear me, what a long time Tippy Toes takes! I wonder what is the matter.”

She put on her spectacles and went hopping along to the well. She saw Tippy Toes and Grandpa Grumbles at the well.

Susan pushed her spectacles up on her forehead and said:

“Without some water, I don’t see  
How I can make my Bunny’s tea.”



*"Pushed her spectacles up on her forehead"*

Just then they all set up a shout, for they saw Bunny Cotton-Tail coming. He had grown tired of waiting and had come to find Susan.

He said:

"Some stories I could tell  
About the fox and goat in the well!"

Then they all told stories and had a good time. It was evening when they got home.

Grandpa Grumbles said:

"I notice every afternoon  
That evening seems to come too soon."

Then they all laughed, for they had been at the well all day.



## BUSHY-TAIL'S MISTAKE

One day Tippy Toes went walking through the woods. He saw Bushy-Tail, the fox, sitting on a log.

Bushy-Tail laughed until his red tongue hung out of his mouth.

He said:

“I like to see where a bunny goes;

Are you out for a walk, dear Snubby Nose?”

Tippy Toes said to himself, “That’s funny. He thinks I am Snubby Nose.”

Then he bowed politely and said aloud:

“Bushy-Tail, if you are my friend,

Just show me the way to the rainbow’s end.”

Bushy-Tail laughed again and said:

“You have fine manners, as everyone knows;

And where did you learn them, dear Snubby

Nose?”

Just then Grandpa Grumbles and Doctor Cot-



F. Stearns

*"He saw Bushy-Tail sitting on a log"*

ton-Tail came walking slowly through the woods. Grandpa Grumbles was saying:

“I like to walk in the woods when it snows;  
Well, if there isn’t dear little Snubby Nose!”

Tippy Toes made them a fine bow and hurried on his way.

He laughed to himself to think they all took him for Snubby Nose.

Now Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes looked so much alike that they might have been twins. But Snubby Nose had very bad manners, while Tippy Toes was a polite little Bunny.

“What a funny mistake for Bushy-Tail and old Grandpa Grumbles to make!” cried Tippy Toes.

## SNUBBY NOSE AND THE MIRROR

Snubby Nose, Snubby Nose,  
Dancing up and down;  
Snubby Nose, Snubby Nose,  
Acting like a clown;



*"Funny little Snubby Nose"*

To the mirror now he goes,  
Funny little Snubby Nose!

Snubby Nose, Snubby Nose,  
Dancing all the day;  
Snubby Nose, Snubby Nose,  
Full of fun and play;  
And the mirror laughs to see  
Snubby dance so merrily.

## BUSHY-TAIL'S TRICKS

One day Bushy-Tail said to himself, "The Cotton-Tail family are so happy, I will play a trick on them."

So he sat down and thought a long time. He could not think what trick to play on Bunny and Susan Cotton-Tail.

Bushy-Tail thought all day and all night. At last he thought of a fine way to tease the Cotton-Tails.

He trotted through the woods. He went straight to the home of the Cotton-Tails. He did not go in by the door or the windows. He climbed up on the roof.

He switched his long tail to and fro, saying:

"The Cotton-Tails are in a fix,  
For Bushy-Tail is playing tricks."

He poked his tail down the chimney and switched it around.

Then soot began to come down the chimney. It covered the floor.

“Dear me! What is the matter?” asked Bunny and Susan Cotton-Tail.

Bushy-Tail was sweeping the chimney with his long tail!

Tippy Toes saw that something must be done. So he ran out of the house and called to Bushy-Tail on the roof.

“That is a fine trick you played, Bushy-Tail,” he said. “Come down and let us dance together.”

Bushy-Tail was pleased. He came down from the roof and began to dance with Tippy Toes. To and fro they danced in the snow.

Soon Grandpa Grumbles came along. He went into the house to see Bunny and Susan.

He saw soot all over the house. There was soot on the carpet and chairs and tables.

Grandpa Grumbles said, “My, what a dirty house! Tippy Toes and I will clean it for you, Susan.”

Susan cried, “Bless my buttons, Grandpa



Fred Stearns

*"Called to Bushy-Tail on the roof"*

Grumbles! Will you? How very kind you are!"

So Grandpa Grumbles got a big broom and went to work. Tippy Toes stopped dancing and got his broom.

As he worked he sang:

“Little broom, little broom,  
Help me sweep the pretty room;  
Little broom, little broom.  
We’ll be tidy soon.

In the corners let us go,  
Sweeping all the dust, you know;  
Little broom, little broom,  
We’ll be tidy soon.”

## SNUBBY NOSE RETURNS

One day Bunny and Susan Cotton-Tail looked out of their house and saw someone coming down the road.

“Who can it be?” asked Susan.

“It looks like Tippy Toes,” said Bunny.





*"They threw their arms around each other"*

But it wasn't Tippy Toes, for he was right there with Bunny and Susan.

"Then it must be Snubby Nose!" cried Susan Cotton-Tail.

Sure enough, it was Snubby Nose. He had come back from his journey. He had come straight to the Cotton-Tail house.

Tippy Toes ran out of the house to meet him. They threw their arms around each other. My, but they were glad to see each other!

"Did you have a fine journey, Snubby?" asked Tippy Toes.

"Yes," said Snubby Nose. "But I got very lonesome for you, Tippy. I came back to see you."

## A JOLLY RIDE

Grandpa Grumbles said:

“Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes,  
I’m lonesome as can be;  
Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes,  
I’ll take you home with me.”

Tippy Toes cried, “Hurrah! May we go sailing home with you in your Umbrella, Grandpa Grumbles?”

“Of course you may,” said Grandpa Grumbles.

Snubby Nose cried and howled, and said, “I don’t want to go home with you, Grandpa Grumbles. I want to stay with Bunny and Susan.”

Grandpa Grumbles said, “No excuses, sir! Come into the Umbrella!”

So they all got into the Umbrella and sailed away. Grandpa Grumbles laughed when Snubby Nose would not sit still.

He said:



*“They got into the Umbrella and sailed away”*

“He will have a heavy fall  
If he tumbles out—that’s all!”

Tippy Toes said, “Do be careful, Snubby Nose.”  
Snubby Nose jumped around in the Umbrella  
and said:

“Ha! ha! ha! who cares for tumbles?  
Answer me, old Grandpa Grumbles!”

## NEW VISITORS

While Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes and Grandpa Grumbles were sailing away, Bunny and Susan were at home alone.

Bunny said:

“We shall have no visitors to-day,  
For they all have sailed away!”

Susan said:

“I quite agree with what you say,  
We shall have no visitors to-day.”

Then Bunny and Susan had a surprise.

The Seventeen Little Bears came tumbling in at the doors and windows!

They cried:

“We’re Circus Bears, and we’ll visit you;  
Bunny and Susan, how do you do?”

Bunny and Susan said, “How long have you been Circus Bears?”

The Seventeen Little Bears said:



*“Each bear was sound asleep”*

“Our circus tricks are very new;  
Bunny and Susan, how do you do?”

Then all the little bears went upstairs to bed.  
Before very long each bear was sound asleep.

Next day the Seventeen Little Bears woke  
early. They went pitter-patter down the stairs.

They made the fire and set the table. They put  
two quarts of water on to boil. When the water  
boiled they put in two tablespoonfuls of coffee.  
They let it boil twenty minutes.

They cut nineteen slices of bread.

Then they called:

“Oh, Bunny and Susan, are you able  
To come down to the breakfast table?”

Or shall we bring a breakfast tray,  
So you may eat in bed to-day?"

Bunny and Susan said:

"We feel as though we had no cares;  
Thank you, Seventeen Little Bears."

They said they would eat their breakfast at the table. They thought the Seventeen Little Bears were clever to learn to get breakfast.

After breakfast the Seventeen Little Bears began to slide down the banisters. One little bear fell on his head, and two little bears tumbled on their noses.

Another little bear just turned a somersault. He sat and laughed as the others slid down the banisters.

Bunny and Susan said, "Why do you slide down the banisters? Bring the camphor! Bring the smelling salts! Are you hurt?"

Bunny said:

"Why cry about a little fall?

You are not hurt much, after all!



*"The Seventeen Little Bears began to slide down the banisters"*

'Tis foolish for a bear to grumble  
Because he takes a little tumble!"

The Seventeen Little Bears said:

"We like to do our circus tricks;  
But will you not our bruises fix?"

### AN EXCITING RIDE

The Seventeen Little Bears said, "Come, let us ride in the merry-go-round."

Bunny and Susan were glad to ride.

Bushy-Tail said, "I will wind up the merry-go-round. I will start the music."

They began to ride round and round. They went faster and faster.

The Seventeen Little Bears said, "The wind whistles in our ears."

Bunny said, "My fur and whiskers! Shall we never stop?"

Susan said, "Bless my buttons! We go faster and faster. Bushy-Tail, please stop the merry-go-round!"





*"The merry-go-round"*

Bushy-Tail said, "I will stop the merry-go-round if I may have Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes to visit me."

Bunny and Susan said, "They may visit you. But they are not here. They are visiting Grandpa Grumbles."

So Bushy-Tail stopped the merry-go-round. Then he ran away.

He did not wait to say good-bye. He went off to find Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes.

He said to himself:

"I'll steal them, that is what I'll do!  
I want some company, it's true,  
Perhaps I'd like to eat them, too!"

Bunny Cotton-Tail said, "Susan, let us send

Grandpa Grumbles word that Bushy-Tail is on the way. He may be up to mischief.”

Susan said:

“I’ll send him word without delay  
That Bushy-Tail is on his way.”

### A VISIT FROM BUSHY-TAIL

Bushy-Tail came to Grandpa Grumbles’ house and peeped in at the window.

There he saw Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes playing games.

He said:

“I think I have a hungry habit;  
I should like to eat a rabbit.”

Tippy Toes laughed, and danced to and fro.  
Snubby Nose cried:

“Don’t come in at the window, don’t come in at  
the door,  
Don’t come down the chimney; for you’ve tried  
that before.”



*"Peeped in at the window"*

Bushy-Tail said, "I will come down the chimney and eat you up."

Then Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes built a fire and the smoke came out of the chimney in puffs. It made Bushy-Tail cough and choke.

He said, "I don't want to come down the chimney or in at the door, or at the window. I don't want to eat you up. I was only teasing!"

Snubby Nose said, "All the same, I am glad the windows are locked."

Tippy Toes said, "All the same, I am glad all the doors are fastened."

Bushy-Tail kept scolding:

"I could eat you if I chose,  
Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes."



*"He fell into the lake"*

At that very moment, Grandpa Grumbles came sailing along in his Umbrella. He saw Bushy-Tail trying to get into the house. He was a wise old bear.

He called to Bushy-Tail:

"Bushy-Tail, come take a ride,  
There's room for you and me inside."

Bushy-Tail saw that Snubby Nose and Tippy

Toes would not let him in. So he jumped into the Umbrella and rode away with Grandpa Grumbles, over houses and woods and streams.

Soon they came to a lake, and the Umbrella began to drop downward toward the water.

Bushy-Tail shouted, "Look out, Grandpa Grumbles. We shall drop into the lake!"

Grandpa Grumbles pretended not to hear. But he smiled to himself.

The Umbrella dropped lower and lower. Bushy-Tail grew more scared every minute. He jumped around in the Umbrella until he fell into the lake.

Away sailed Grandpa Grumbles alone in the Umbrella.

Bushy-Tail had to swim to shore. He felt very cross.

He said to himself, "I don't like to ride in Grandpa Grumbles' Umbrella!"



*"The Cotton-Tail house"*

## WHERE IS BUSHY-TAIL?

Sometimes Grandpa Grumbles pretended he was deaf. He did this when somebody asked him a question he did not want to answer.

When he came to the Cotton-Tail house in his Umbrella, Bunny and Susan asked, "Grandpa Grumbles, where did you leave Bushy-Tail today?"

Grandpa Grumbles sat down by the fire and said:

"Speak a little louder, dear,  
Speak distinctly, so I can hear."



*"Grandpa Grumbles sat down by the fire"*

Then Bunny shouted into his right ear, and Susan shouted into his left ear. Still Grandpa Grumbles pretended he did not hear.

I suppose the Cotton-Tails would be wondering yet what had become of Bushy-Tail, if the Umbrella had not spoken.

The Umbrella said:

“I’m always awake; I make no mistake;  
Bushy-Tail fell into the lake.  
But Bushy-Tail will swim to shore;  
I know this and plenty more.”

### A LESSON IN MANNERS

One day the Merry Little Cotton-Tails came again to visit Bunny and Susan.

They all sat down to the table to dinner. Suddenly, to their surprise, the Thank-You Bunny jumped in at the window.

He said:

“Manners at table, manners at table,  
Practice them, if you are able.  
When any food is passed to you,  
Say ‘Thank you,’ as polite folk do.”

Now you know what a careless little bunny Snubby Nose was. He always forgot to be polite. So when the sugar bowl was passed to him, he never said, “Thank you” at all.

And what do you suppose happened? When





*“It sailed away in the air”*

he tried to snatch the sugar bowl, it sailed away in the air!

Snubby Nose screamed and howled. He tried to catch the sugar bowl. But it would not let him.

Then Bunny Cotton-Tail said:

“Snubby Nose, Snubby Nose,  
Have a care, have a care,  
Or all your food will sail  
Away up in the air!”

This scared Snubby Nose. He wrinkled his funny little nose and thought very hard.

At last he said:

“To say ‘Thank you,’ I am able,  
For sugar passed me at the table.”

Then the sugar bowl came sailing back and stood beside his plate. It let him take some sugar.

All the Merry Little Cotton-Tails cried, “Hurrah, hurrah!”

## SKATING AND SLEIGHING

The Seventeen Little Bears put on their seventeen little pairs of skates and went out to skate on the ice.

But what do you suppose? They skated where the ice was thin; and splash! Away they went into the cold water.

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails were skating near by.

They cried, “Help, help! Who will help the Seventeen Little Bears?”

Just then Doctor Cotton-Tail came by in his sleigh.

He shouted:



*"They helped them into the sleigh"*

“What did you say? What did you say?  
There’s room for seventeen in my sleigh!”

Then all the little Cotton-Tails cried, “Hurrah!  
Hurrah for Doctor Cotton-Tail’s sleigh!”

Doctor Cotton-Tail shouted, “Hurry, hurry!  
Get the Seventeen Little Bears out of the water.  
We will rub them dry and tuck them up in my  
sleigh.”

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails and Doctor Cotton-Tail pulled the Seventeen Little Bears out of the water. They rubbed the bears dry and helped them into the sleigh.

Then Doctor Cotton-Tail shouted, “All aboard!”

My, what a sleigh full it was! How the sleigh bells rang!

Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes hung on behind, as there was no room for them in the sleigh.

They all sang:

“Hurrah for the sleigh! Hurrah for the sleigh!  
We’re off and away, off and away.”



*"They had to stay in the house"*

## TELLING STORIES

The Seventeen Little Bears caught cold when they fell into the water. Their colds lasted seventeen days. All that time they had to stay in the house.

Bunny and Susan and the Merry Little Cotton-Tails took turns telling them stories.

Bunny told how he had read by candlelight and burned his paw.

Susan told about how Bushy-Tail had stolen her pies.

Then the Merry Little Cotton-Tails recited one hundred and six rhymes from Mother Goose.



*“Susan told about how Bushy-Tail had stolen her pies”*

At that minute Grandpa Grumbles came sailing in at the window in his Umbrella.

The Seventeen Little Bears ran to him and cried:

“Tell us a story in song or rhyme;  
Tell us something new this time.”

So Grandpa Grumbles took a chair by the fire, and began, “Once upon a time I had a toy shop.”

“Drums!” cried the first little bear.

Then Grandpa Grumbles shook his Umbrella. Out of its folds came a beautiful red drum for the first little bear.

“Tops!” shouted the second little bear.

Again Grandpa Grumbles shook his Umbrella. Out came a top for the second little bear.

So it went on. Every toy that was called for came out of the green cotton Umbrella. There was a tin horn for the smallest bear.

There were toys for the Seventeen Little Bears and toys for the Merry Little Cotton-Tails.

The Seventeen Little Bears said, “That is the best story we have ever heard. That is a fine way to tell a story!”

Grandpa Grumbles said:

“With you I always have such fun,  
I’ll never get my grumbling done.”

Without another word he sailed out of the window. He left the smallest bear riding a wooden horse and playing Yankee Doodle on his tin horn.



*"Garden days have come"*

## PLANTING THE GARDEN

Bring the rake and bring the hoe,  
 Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes;  
 Garden days have come, you know,  
 Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes.

Plant the seed in even rows,  
 Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes;  
 In the sun and rain it grows,  
 Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes.

Bring the rake and hoe again,  
 Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes;  
 Plant in sunshine and in rain,  
 Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes.





*"Packed their little traveling bags"*

## THE BUNNIES' CIRCUS

One day Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes packed their little traveling bags and said good-bye to Grandpa Grumbles.

They were going home. They started off through the woods.

Suddenly they heard the noise of a drum. They peeped out through the trees. They saw a circus parade marching along the road.

Snubby Nose cried:

“The Circus Cotton-Tails I see;  
They are just as merry as can be.”

Tippy Toes cried:

“The Circus Cotton-Tails won’t mind  
If we travel on behind!”

Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes took up their traveling bags and joined the Circus Cotton-Tails. Soon Bunny and Susan joined the circus, too. Then Grandpa Grumbles joined.

The Merry Little Cotton-Tails played in the band. Grandpa Grumbles played the fife.

He wore a clown suit and said:

“I never had so much fun in my life,  
I have stopped grumbling to play the fife!”

Bushy-Tail made a good drummer. The banners waved, and

They played and played, they played and played,  
A year and a day in the big parade.

Suddenly they stopped still.



*"They peeped out through the trees"*

Bushy-Tail said, "We forgot to say good-bye to the animals in the woods!"

They turned around and saw all the animals following them.

Then they shouted to the animals, "Come on and join the circus, too."

Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes wore their little clown suits. Each one rode an elephant.

Snubby Nose and Tippy Toes and all the other Merry Little Cotton-Tails sang:

"Right foot, left foot! On we go.

The big parade! The circus show!

March, little Cotton-Tails, march with pride!

Right foot, left foot, side by side."

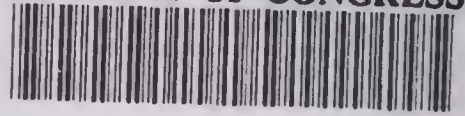
Then they all marched away together.







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