

I'm not a bot



The velveteen rabbit

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The Rabbit asked if it hurt, and the Skin Horse said, sometimes, but not in the way others might think. "You don't mind being hurt when you're Real," he explained. Becoming Real takes time; it's a gradual process that doesn't happen all at once. The Skin Horse offered reassurance, "You become. It takes a long time." He shared his own story, saying the Boy's Uncle had made him Real many years ago, and it was a state that could not be taken back. The Rabbit sighed, yearning to become Real but worried about the physical changes that came with it – losing hair, eyes, and whiskers. He wished he could find a way to become Real without these discomforts. Nana, the nursery's ruler, was notorious for her "tidying up," which sent toys rushing into cupboards. The Rabbit didn't mind, as he always landed softly where thrown. That evening, the Boy searched for his china dog, but Nana was in a hurry and too busy to look. The Skin Horse watched, knowing that one day, he would be Real, and none of these things would matter, for being Real meant being understood and loved beyond playtime. So she opened the toy cupboard door, spotted the rabbit's absence, and snatched it back. "Here, take your old Bunny! He'll sleep with you!" She yanked the rabbit by one ear and plopped him into the boy's arms. That night and many nights after, the Velveteen Rabbit slept in the boy's bed. Initially, he found it rough due to the boy's tight hugs and occasional pushes under the pillow, which left the rabbit gasping for air. He also missed those moonlit hours in the nursery, talking with the Skin Horse. However, soon he grew fond of his new life, as the boy would chat with him, create tunnels under the bedclothes, and play games when Nana was away. When the boy drifted off to sleep, the rabbit snuggled close, dreaming with the boy's hands wrapped around him. As time passed, the little rabbit became extremely happy – so much so that he didn't notice his velveteen fur getting worn out, his tail coming undone, and his nose losing its pink color due to the boy's kisses. Spring arrived, and they spent long days in the garden, exploring together. The rabbit had wheelbarrow rides, picnics on the grass, and fairy huts built for him. Once, when the boy was called away suddenly, the rabbit got left outside until late at night, becoming wet and earthy from playing in the flower bed. Nana grumbled as she rubbed him off with her apron. "You must have your old Bunny! Fancy all that fuss over a toy!" The boy sat up and stretched out his hands. "Give me my Bunny! He's not just a toy – he's REAL!" When the rabbit heard this, he was thrilled, knowing the Skin Horse had spoken truthfully. He'd undergone nursery magic, becoming real instead of just a toy. That night, he was too happy to sleep, with so much love bubbling up in his heart that it almost burst. The next morning, Nana noticed a wise and beautiful expression on his button eyes, saying, "I declare if that old Bunny hasn't got quite a knowing expression!" Summer days arrived, bringing long evenings where the boy would take the rabbit to the nearby wood after tea. He made little nests for the rabbit before wandering off to pick flowers or play brigands among the trees. The bracken, a cozy spot for him, as he was a kind-hearted boy. One evening, while lying alone, watching ants at his velvet paws, he saw two new rabbits emerge from the tall bracken near him. They were like him but different; their seams didn't show and they changed shape easily. Their feet padded softly, and they twitched their noses as they approached. The little Rabbit stared hard to see the clockwork, which people who jump usually have. However, he couldn't find it. He was a new kind of rabbit. They stared back at him, their noses twitching. "Why don't you play with us?" one asked. "I don't feel like it," said the Rabbit, not wanting to explain his lack of clockwork. "It's easy!" said the furry rabbit, and he gave a big hop, standing on hind legs. The little Rabbit didn't believe him. "Can you hop like that?" he asked, but the other rabbits had sharp eyes, noticing the Velveteen Rabbit's back made from one piece. He sat still, hoping they wouldn't notice. "I don't want to!" he said again. But the wild rabbits laughed at his unusual shape. The little Rabbit denied having hind legs, but the other rabbit asked him to show them. He began to dance, getting dizzy, and said he'd rather sit still. He longed to jump like those rabbits, feeling a funny tickly sensation inside. Just as the strange rabbit stopped dancing, he exclaimed that the Velveteen Rabbit didn't smell right and wasn't real. "I am Real!" said the little Rabbit. "The Boy said so!" He nearly cried. The two new rabbits disappeared with the Boy's footsteps. "Come back and play with me!" called the little Rabbit, a whole heap of junk lay scattered behind the coop, where the gardener had been too busy digging up spuds and picking green peas to start a bonfire like he promised he would. That night, the young lad slept in another room, with his new bunny toy by his side - it was one fancy-looking rabbit, but the kid was too stoked about going to the beach the next day to give much thought to it. The seaside trip had him completely distracted, and as he drifted off to sleep, visions of sandcastles and seagulls dancing in his head. Meanwhile, down by the fowl-house, the little rabbit found himself feeling quite lonely. He had wriggled free from his sack and was peeking out at the raspberry thicket, its dense foliage like a jungle gym where he used to play with the boy on sunny afternoons. Memories of those carefree days in the garden swirled through his mind - the fairy houses among the flowers, the quiet evenings in the woods when the ants would scurry across his paws, and that magical day when he realized he was truly Real. The Skin Horse's words echoed in his mind: what's the point of being loved and losing one's beauty if it all comes to an end like this? A single tear rolled down his nose and fell to the ground. That's when something unexpected happened - a flower began to grow from the spot where the tear landed, its leaves shimmering with emerald green color, and in the center of those leaves, a golden cup-shaped blossom unfolded. Out stepped a fairy, the most lovely one he'd ever seen, her dress woven from pearls and dewdrops, flowers entwined in her hair and around her neck. She swept up the little rabbit in her arms and kissed him on his velvety nose, saying "Little Rabbit, don't you know who I am?" The rabbit looked up at her face - it seemed familiar, but he couldn't quite place where from. Because he loved you, now you will be real to everyone. At last! She held the little rabbit close in her arms and flew with him into the wood where it was light because the moon had risen. The forest was beautiful and the fronts of the bracken shone like frosted silver. In the open glade between the tree-trunks, the wild rabbits danced with their shadows on the velvet grass but stopped dancing when they saw the fairy who said she brought him a new playfellow he must be kind to him and teach him everything in rabbit land because he lived there forever. She kissed the little rabbit again put him down on the grass run and play little rabbit she said but the little rabbit sat still for a moment remembered about his hind legs and didn't want them to see that he was made of one piece when fairy kissed him last time she changed him altogether he found hind legs soft brown fur twitching ears whiskers brushing grass and gave one leap joy of using those hind legs was so great he went springing about turf jumping sideways whirling round like others stopped to look for fairy when at last did she had gone he was real rabbit at home with others autumn winter and spring boy played in the wood behind house while playing two rabbits crept out from bracken one brown one spotted under fur both were familiar one looked just like his old bunny lost when had scarlet fever The Velveteen Rabbit, written by Margery Williams, tells the heartwarming story of a stuffed rabbit's journey to become real through the love of its owner. Originally published in Harper's Bazaar in 1921, the book features illustrations from Williams' daughter Pamela Bianco and has since been republished numerous times. The Velveteen Rabbit was Williams' first children's book and has received various accolades, including the IRA/CBC Children's Choice award. According to a 2007 poll by the National Education Association, the book ranked #28 on the "Teachers' Top 100 Books for Children". The story revolves around a young boy who receives a velveteen rabbit as a gift and initially neglects it in favor of newer toys. However, when he truly loves the rabbit, it becomes real, and they share magical experiences together. As time passes, the rabbit grows old but remains happy, eventually becoming one of the "real" rabbits in the forest. The book's themes of love, friendship, and the transformative power of imagination have captivated readers for generations. The Velveteen Rabbit has been adapted numerous times over the years, showcasing its enduring popularity. In 1976, Rankin/Bass's Easter special borrowed from the book's plot, introducing a toy bunny as the Easter Bunny. The Enchanted Musical Playhouse series followed in 1984, featuring Marie Osmond and songs by the Sherman Brothers. Two animated adaptations emerged in 1995, one narrated by Christopher Plummer and the other produced by Hanna-Barbers Australia. In the late 2000s, several live-action/animated feature films were released, including ones from Horse Fly Studios and Feature Films for Families. The latter was marred by controversy over telemarketing practices. Other notable adaptations include a clay-animated film in 2003 and a musical adaptation at Windsor Function Centre in 2013. Recent years have seen continued creative reinterpretations of the classic tale, with online storytelling sessions by Cat & Hutch and Atlantic Theater Company's production at The Linda Gross Theater in 2015. ODC/Dance has also performed narrated contemporary dance adaptations in the San Francisco Bay Area for several holiday seasons. Most recently, Magic Light Pictures released a 40-minute Christmas special on Apple TV+ in 2023. Storybook Studio starts production on new animated film adaptation of John Patrick's book The production company Storybook Studio is currently working on a brand new animated film based off the childrens story written by Margery Williams. The movie will feature narration from Gabi Smedra and star child actor Hudson Edwards as the Velveteen Rabbit. Due to some complications in production, the initial release date of 2022 has been postponed to Easter in 2026 instead. The Velveteen Rabbit public domain audiobook is available at LibriVox

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