



## The Rabbit's Tail.

Retold by Nicky Rafferty

Many years ago, when animals still talked, the rabbit looked very different. He had tiny ears, like a cat and a fine, long, bushy tail, which he admired greatly. Rabbit loved his tail so much that every day he would wander over to the river and blow kisses at its reflection. He sniggered, scornfully at the tails of other creatures until one day, tired of his cruel taunts and boasts, the animals wanted to teach him a lesson and Fox knew just how to do it.

Fox sat on the bank of the river with his tail in the water and Rabbit, wandering by to look at his reflection, saw him there.

“What are you doing, Fox, why have you put your tail in the river?”

“I’m fishing,” said Fox. “My tail is so thick and bushy that the fish get caught in it then I flip them out onto the bank and make myself a fine supper.”

“My tail is just as fine as yours, I’ll join you.” said Rabbit

And he sat alongside Fox. And they waited and waited and waited until finally Fox stood up and said,

“It’s not a good day for fishing, it seems, so I think I’ll go home”

“Well I’m not going home,” said Rabbit, “ I’m not a quitter. I’ll stay here and catch a feast.”

Rabbit stayed alone and waited and waited and waited until finally, his teeth began to chatter and he shivered with the cold.

He decided he would call it a night, too. He looked this way and that way and, sure that no one was around, he tried to get up.

“HPPP, HPPPP”





Rabbit looked around to see what the problem was.

“Huuh”

He was stuck. The river had frozen over and his tail was stuck in the ice. He tried to free himself but it was no good and Rabbit began to cry.

Bird, flying home, heard his sobs and flew closer.

“What is it Rabbit?”

“My tail is stuck in the ice and I cannot pull myself free, please help me.”

So Bird took hold of Rabbit’s two tiny ears and flapped her wings until she felt herself lifting up, but Rabbit called,

“Stop.”

His two small ears had stretched and as Bird released them they flopped down either side of his head and felt ridiculous.

“Oh my poor ears, but we can’t stop now.”

So Bird took hold again and flapped her wings hard. Suddenly, SNAP! Rabbit was free. He turned around to inspect the damage.

“Hah”

His tail had broken off and was still stuck in the ice. On his bottom was a little powder puff ball of a tail and poor Rabbit was so embarrassed that he began to dig a hole in the ground to hide himself away.

From that day, all rabbits have had long floppy ears, little powder puff tails and lived in holes in the ground.

