

THE TALE OF THE FLOPSY BUNNIES



BEATRIX POTTER

The original and authorized edition

Project Gutenberg's The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies, by
Beatrix Potter

This eBook is for the use of anyone anywhere at no cost and
with
almost no restrictions whatsoever. You may copy it, give it
away or
re-use it under the terms of the Project Gutenberg License
included
with this eBook or online at www.gutenberg.net

Title: The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies

Author: Beatrix Potter

Release Date: November 30, 2004 [EBook #14220]

Language: English

*** START OF THIS PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE TALE OF THE
FLOPSY BUNNIES ***

Produced by Michael Ciesielski and the Online Distributed
Proofreading
Team.

THE TALE OF THE FLOPSY BUNNIES



BY
BEATRIX POTTER

F. WARNE & CO



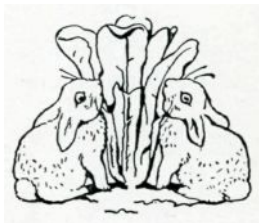


THE TALE OF THE FLOPSY BUNNIES

BY

BEATRIX POTTER

*Author of
The Tale of Peter Rabbit," &c.*



FREDERICK WARNE & CO., INC.

NEW YORK

1909

BY

FREDERICK WARNE & Co.

FOR ALL LITTLE FRIENDS
OF
MR. MCGREGOR & PETER & BENJAMIN





It is
said

that the effect of eating too much
lettuce is "soporific."

/ have never felt sleepy after eating
lettuces; but then / am not a rabbit.

They certainly had a very soporific
effect upon the Flopsy Bunnies!



When Benjamin Bunny grew up, he married his Cousin Flopsy. They had a large family, and they were very improvident and cheerful.

I do not remember the separate names of their children; they were generally

called the "Flopsy Bunnies."



As there was not always quite enough to eat,—Benjamin used to borrow cabbages from Flopsy's brother, Peter Rabbit, who kept a nursery garden.



Sometimes Peter Rabbit had no cabbages to spare.



When this happened, the Flopsy Bunnies went across the field to a rubbish heap, in the ditch outside Mr. McGregor's garden.

Mr. McGregor's rubbish heap was a mixture. There were jam pots and

paper bags, and mountains of chopped grass from the mowing machine (which always tasted oily), and some rotten vegetable marrows and an old boot or two. One day—oh joy!—there were a quantity of overgrown lettuces, which had "shot" into flower.



The Flopsy Bunnies simply stuffed
lettuces. By degrees, one after
another, they were overcome with
slumber, and lay down in the mown
grass.



Benjamin was not so much overcome

as his children. Before going to sleep he was sufficiently wide awake to put a paper bag over his head to keep off the flies.



The little Flopsy Bunnies slept delightfully in the warm sun. From the

lawn beyond the garden came the distant clacketty sound of the mowing machine. The bluebottles buzzed about the wall, and a little old mouse picked over the rubbish among the jam pots.

(I can tell you her name, she was called Thomasina Tittlemouse, a woodmouse with a long tail.)



She rustled across the paper bag, and awakened Benjamin Bunny.

The mouse apologized profusely, and said that she knew Peter Rabbit.



While she and Benjamin were talking, close under the wall, they heard a heavy tread above their heads; and suddenly Mr. McGregor emptied out a sackful of lawn mowings right upon the top of the sleeping Flopsy Bunnies!

Benjamin shrank down under his paper bag. The mouse hid in a jam pot.



The little rabbits smiled sweetly in their sleep under the shower of grass; they did not awake because the lettuces had been so soporific.

They dreamt that their mother Flopsy was tucking them up in a hay bed.

Mr. McGregor looked down after emptying his sack. He saw some funny little brown tips of ears sticking up through the lawn mowings. He stared at them for some time.



Presently a fly settled on one of them and it moved.

Mr. McGregor climbed down on to the rubbish heap—

"One, two, three, four! five! six leetle

rabbits!" said he as he dropped them into his sack. The Flopsy Bunnies dreamt that their mother was turning them over in bed. They stirred a little in their sleep, but still they did not wake up.



Mr. McGregor tied up the sack and left it on the wall.

He went to put away the mowing machine.



While he was gone, Mrs. Flopsy Bunny

(who had remained at home) came across the field.

She looked suspiciously at the sack and wondered where everybody was?



Then the mouse came out of her jam

pot, and Benjamin took the paper bag off his head, and they told the doleful tale.

Benjamin and Flopsy were in despair, they could not undo the string.

But Mrs. Tittlemouse was a resourceful person. She nibbled a hole in the bottom corner of the sack.



The little rabbits were pulled out and pinched to wake them.

Their parents stuffed the empty sack with three rotten vegetable marrows, an old blacking-brush and two decayed turnips.



Then they all hid under a bush and watched for Mr. McGregor.



Mr. McGregor came back and picked up the sack, and carried it off.

He carried it hanging down, as if it were rather heavy.

The Flopsy Bunnies followed at a safe

distance.



The watched him go into his house.

And then they crept up to the window
to listen.



Mr. McGregor threw down the sack on the stone floor in a way that would have been extremely painful to the Flopsy Bunnies, if they had happened to have been inside it.

They could hear him drag his chair on

the flags, and chuckle—

"One, two, three, four, five, six leetle rabbits!" said Mr. McGregor.



"Eh? What's that? What have they been spoiling now?" enquired Mrs.

McGregor.

"One, two, three, four, five, six leetle fat rabbits!" repeated Mr. McGregor, counting on his fingers—"one, two, three—"

"Don't you be silly; what do you mean, you silly old man?"

"In the sack! one, two, three, four, five, six!" replied Mr. McGregor.

(The youngest Flopsy Bunny got upon the window-sill.)



Mrs. McGregor took hold of the sack and felt it. She said she could feel six, but they must be *old* rabbits, because they were so hard and all different shapes.

"Not fit to eat; but the skins will do fine

to line my old cloak."

"Line your old cloak?" shouted Mr. McGregor—"I shall sell them and buy myself baccy!"

"Rabbit tobacco! I shall skin them and cut off their heads."



Mrs. McGregor untied the sack and put her hand inside.

When she felt the vegetables she became very very angry. She said that Mr. McGregor had "done it a purpose."



And Mr. McGregor was very angry too. One of the rotten marrows came flying through the kitchen window, and hit the youngest Flopsy Bunny.

It was rather hurt.



Then Benjamin and Flopsy thought that it was time to go home.



So Mr. McGregor did not get his tobacco, and Mrs. McGregor did not get her rabbit skins.

But next Christmas Thomasina Tittlemouse got a present of enough rabbit-wool to make herself a cloak and

The image shows a two-page spread from a children's book. The left page features several animals reading books: a mole at the top, a duck in the middle, and a rabbit at the bottom. The right page features a bee, a cat, a rabbit, and a bird, all reading books. There are also small illustrations of food and drink, such as a teapot and a pie, scattered around the animals. The animals are holding books with titles like 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit', 'The Tale of the Mole', 'The Tale of the Duck', 'The Tale of the Bee', 'The Tale of the Cat', 'The Tale of the Rabbit', and 'The Tale of the Bird'.

THE TALE OF THE FLOPSY BUNNIES

BY BEATRIX POTTER

F. WARNE & Co

End of Project Gutenberg's The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies,
by Beatrix Potter

*** END OF THIS PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK THE TALE OF THE
FLOPSY BUNNIES ***

***** This file should be named 14220-h.htm or 14220-h.zip

This and all associated files of various formats will be
found in:

<http://www.gutenberg.net/1/4/2/2/14220/>

Produced by Michael Ciesielski and the Online Distributed
Proofreading
Team.

Updated editions will replace the previous one--the old editions will be renamed.

Creating the works from public domain print editions means that no one owns a United States copyright in these works, so the Foundation (and you!) can copy and distribute it in the United States without permission and without paying copyright royalties. Special rules, set forth in the General Terms of Use part of this license, apply to copying and distributing Project Gutenberg-tm electronic works to protect the PROJECT GUTENBERG-tm concept and trademark. Project Gutenberg is a registered trademark, and may not be used if you charge for the eBooks, unless you receive specific permission. If you do not charge anything for copies of this eBook, complying with the rules is very easy. You may use this eBook for nearly any purpose such as creation of derivative works, reports, performances and research. They may be modified and printed and given away--you may do practically ANYTHING with public domain eBooks. Redistribution is subject to the trademark license, especially commercial redistribution.

*** START: FULL LICENSE ***

THE FULL PROJECT GUTENBERG LICENSE

PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE YOU DISTRIBUTE OR USE THIS WORK

To protect the Project Gutenberg-tm mission of promoting the free distribution of electronic works, by using or distributing this work (or any other work associated in any way with the phrase "Project Gutenberg"), you agree to comply with all the terms of the Full Project Gutenberg-tm License (available with this file or online at <http://gutenberg.net/license>).

Section 1. General Terms of Use and Redistributing Project Gutenberg-tm electronic works

1.A. By reading or using any part of this Project Gutenberg-tm electronic work, you indicate that you have read, understand, agree to and accept all the terms of this license and intellectual property (trademark/copyright) agreement. If you do not agree to abide by all the terms of this agreement, you must cease using and return or destroy all copies of Project Gutenberg-tm electronic works in your possession. If you paid a fee for obtaining a copy of or access to a Project Gutenberg-tm electronic work and you do not agree to be bound by the terms of this agreement, you may obtain a refund from the person or entity to whom you paid the fee as set forth in paragraph 1.E.8.

1.B. "Project Gutenberg" is a registered trademark. It may only be used on or associated in any way with an electronic work by people who agree to be bound by the terms of this agreement. There are a few things that you can do with most Project Gutenberg-tm electronic works even without complying with the full terms of this agreement. See paragraph 1.C below. There are a lot of things you can do with Project Gutenberg-tm electronic works if you follow the terms of this agreement and help preserve free future access to Project Gutenberg-tm electronic works. See paragraph 1.E below.

1.C. The Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation ("the Foundation" or PGLAF), owns a compilation copyright in the collection of Project Gutenberg-tm electronic works. Nearly all the individual works in the collection are in the public domain in the United States. If an individual work is in the public domain in the United States and you are located in the United States, we do not claim a right to prevent you from copying, distributing, performing, displaying or creating derivative works based on the work as long as all references to Project Gutenberg are removed. Of course, we hope that you will support the Project Gutenberg-tm mission of promoting free access to electronic works by freely sharing Project Gutenberg-tm works in compliance with the terms of

this agreement for keeping the Project Gutenberg-tm name associated with the work. You can easily comply with the terms of this agreement by keeping this work in the same format with its attached full Project Gutenberg-tm License when you share it without charge with others.

1.D. The copyright laws of the place where you are located also govern what you can do with this work. Copyright laws in most countries are in a constant state of change. If you are outside the United States, check the laws of your country in addition to the terms of this agreement before downloading, copying, displaying, performing, distributing or creating derivative works based on this work or any other Project Gutenberg-tm work. The Foundation makes no representations concerning the copyright status of any work in any country outside the United States.

1.E. Unless you have removed all references to Project Gutenberg:

1.E.1. The following sentence, with active links to, or other immediate access to, the full Project Gutenberg-tm License must appear prominently whenever any copy of a Project Gutenberg-tm work (any work on which the phrase "Project Gutenberg" appears, or with which the phrase "Project Gutenberg" is associated) is accessed, displayed,

performed, viewed,
copied or distributed:

This eBook is for the use of anyone anywhere at no cost and with almost no restrictions whatsoever. You may copy it, give it away or re-use it under the terms of the Project Gutenberg License included with this eBook or online at www.gutenberg.net

1.E.2. If an individual Project Gutenberg-tm electronic work is derived from the public domain (does not contain a notice indicating that it is posted with permission of the copyright holder), the work can be copied and distributed to anyone in the United States without paying any fees or charges. If you are redistributing or providing access to a work with the phrase "Project Gutenberg" associated with or appearing on the work, you must comply either with the requirements of paragraphs 1.E.1 through 1.E.7 or obtain permission for the use of the work and the Project Gutenberg-tm trademark as set forth in paragraphs 1.E.8 or 1.E.9.

1.E.3. If an individual Project Gutenberg-tm electronic work is posted with the permission of the copyright holder, your use and distribution must comply with both paragraphs 1.E.1 through 1.E.7 and any additional terms imposed by the copyright holder. Additional terms will be linked to the Project Gutenberg-tm License for all works posted

with the
permission of the copyright holder found at the beginning
of this work.

1.E.4. Do not unlink or detach or remove the full Project
Gutenberg-tm
License terms from this work, or any files containing a
part of this
work or any other work associated with Project Gutenberg-
tm.

1.E.5. Do not copy, display, perform, distribute or
redistribute this
electronic work, or any part of this electronic work,
without
prominently displaying the sentence set forth in paragraph
1.E.1 with
active links or immediate access to the full terms of the
Project
Gutenberg-tm License.

1.E.6. You may convert to and distribute this work in any
binary,
compressed, marked up, nonproprietary or proprietary form,
including any
word processing or hypertext form. However, if you provide
access to or
distribute copies of a Project Gutenberg-tm work in a
format other than
"Plain Vanilla ASCII" or other format used in the official
version
posted on the official Project Gutenberg-tm web site
(www.gutenberg.net),
you must, at no additional cost, fee or expense to the
user, provide a
copy, a means of exporting a copy, or a means of obtaining
a copy upon
request, of the work in its original "Plain Vanilla ASCII"
or other

form. Any alternate format must include the full Project Gutenberg-tm License as specified in paragraph 1.E.1.

1.E.7. Do not charge a fee for access to, viewing, displaying, performing, copying or distributing any Project Gutenberg-tm works unless you comply with paragraph 1.E.8 or 1.E.9.

1.E.8. You may charge a reasonable fee for copies of or providing access to or distributing Project Gutenberg-tm electronic works provided that

- You pay a royalty fee of 20% of the gross profits you derive from the use of Project Gutenberg-tm works calculated using the method you already use to calculate your applicable taxes. The fee is owed to the owner of the Project Gutenberg-tm trademark, but he has agreed to donate royalties under this paragraph to the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation. Royalty payments must be paid within 60 days following each date on which you prepare (or are legally required to prepare) your periodic tax returns. Royalty payments should be clearly marked as such and sent to the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation at the address specified in Section 4, "Information about donations to the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation."

- You provide a full refund of any money paid by a user who

notifies
you in writing (or by e-mail) within 30 days of receipt
that s/he
does not agree to the terms of the full Project Gutenberg-
tm
License. You must require such a user to return or
destroy all copies of the works possessed in a physical
medium
and discontinue all use of and all access to other copies
of
Project Gutenberg-tm works.

- You provide, in accordance with paragraph 1.F.3, a full
refund of any
money paid for a work or a replacement copy, if a defect in
the
electronic work is discovered and reported to you within 90
days
of receipt of the work.

- You comply with all other terms of this agreement for
free
distribution of Project Gutenberg-tm works.

1.E.9. If you wish to charge a fee or distribute a Project
Gutenberg-tm
electronic work or group of works on different terms than
are set
forth in this agreement, you must obtain permission in
writing from
both the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation and
Michael
Hart, the owner of the Project Gutenberg-tm trademark.
Contact the
Foundation as set forth in Section 3 below.

1.F.

1.F.1. Project Gutenberg volunteers and employees expend

considerable effort to identify, do copyright research on, transcribe and proofread public domain works in creating the Project Gutenberg-tm collection. Despite these efforts, Project Gutenberg-tm electronic works, and the medium on which they may be stored, may contain "Defects," such as, but not limited to, incomplete, inaccurate or corrupt data, transcription errors, a copyright or other intellectual property infringement, a defective or damaged disk or other medium, a computer virus, or computer codes that damage or cannot be read by your equipment.

1.F.2. LIMITED WARRANTY, DISCLAIMER OF DAMAGES - Except for the "Right of Replacement or Refund" described in paragraph 1.F.3, the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation, the owner of the Project Gutenberg-tm trademark, and any other party distributing a Project Gutenberg-tm electronic work under this agreement, disclaim all liability to you for damages, costs and expenses, including legal fees. YOU AGREE THAT YOU HAVE NO REMEDIES FOR NEGLIGENCE, STRICT LIABILITY, BREACH OF WARRANTY OR BREACH OF CONTRACT EXCEPT THOSE PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH F3. YOU AGREE THAT THE FOUNDATION, THE TRADEMARK OWNER, AND ANY DISTRIBUTOR UNDER THIS AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE LIABLE TO YOU FOR ACTUAL, DIRECT, INDIRECT, CONSEQUENTIAL, PUNITIVE OR

INCIDENTAL DAMAGES EVEN IF YOU GIVE NOTICE OF THE
POSSIBILITY OF SUCH
DAMAGE.

1.F.3. LIMITED RIGHT OF REPLACEMENT OR REFUND - If you discover a defect in this electronic work within 90 days of receiving it, you can receive a refund of the money (if any) you paid for it by sending a written explanation to the person you received the work from. If you received the work on a physical medium, you must return the medium with your written explanation. The person or entity that provided you with the defective work may elect to provide a replacement copy in lieu of a refund. If you received the work electronically, the person or entity providing it to you may choose to give you a second opportunity to receive the work electronically in lieu of a refund. If the second copy is also defective, you may demand a refund in writing without further opportunities to fix the problem.

1.F.4. Except for the limited right of replacement or refund set forth in paragraph 1.F.3, this work is provided to you 'AS-IS' WITH NO OTHER WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PURPOSE.

1.F.5. Some states do not allow disclaimers of certain implied warranties or the exclusion or limitation of certain types

of damages.
If any disclaimer or limitation set forth in this agreement violates the law of the state applicable to this agreement, the agreement shall be interpreted to make the maximum disclaimer or limitation permitted by the applicable state law. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this agreement shall not void the remaining provisions.

1.F.6. INDEMNITY - You agree to indemnify and hold the Foundation, the trademark owner, any agent or employee of the Foundation, anyone providing copies of Project Gutenberg-tm electronic works in accordance with this agreement, and any volunteers associated with the production, promotion and distribution of Project Gutenberg-tm electronic works, harmless from all liability, costs and expenses, including legal fees, that arise directly or indirectly from any of the following which you do or cause to occur: (a) distribution of this or any Project Gutenberg-tm work, (b) alteration, modification, or additions or deletions to any Project Gutenberg-tm work, and (c) any Defect you cause.

Section 2. Information about the Mission of Project Gutenberg-tm

Project Gutenberg-tm is synonymous with the free distribution of electronic works in formats readable by the widest variety of computers

including obsolete, old, middle-aged and new computers. It exists because of the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and donations from people in all walks of life.

Volunteers and financial support to provide volunteers with the assistance they need, is critical to reaching Project Gutenberg-tm's goals and ensuring that the Project Gutenberg-tm collection will remain freely available for generations to come. In 2001, the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation was created to provide a secure and permanent future for Project Gutenberg-tm and future generations. To learn more about the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation and how your efforts and donations can help, see Sections 3 and 4 and the Foundation web page at <http://www.pgla.org>.

Section 3. Information about the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation

The Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation is a non profit 501(c)(3) educational corporation organized under the laws of the state of Mississippi and granted tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service. The Foundation's EIN or federal tax identification number is 64-6221541. Its 501(c)(3) letter is posted at <http://pglaf.org/fundraising>. Contributions to the Project

Gutenberg
Literary Archive Foundation are tax deductible to the full
extent
permitted by U.S. federal laws and your state's laws.

The Foundation's principal office is located at 4557 Melan
Dr. S.
Fairbanks, AK, 99712., but its volunteers and employees are
scattered
throughout numerous locations. Its business office is
located at
809 North 1500 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84116, (801) 596-
1887, email
business@pglaf.org. Email contact links and up to date
contact
information can be found at the Foundation's web site and
official
page at <http://pglaf.org>

For additional contact information:
Dr. Gregory B. Newby
Chief Executive and Director
gbnewby@pglaf.org

Section 4. Information about Donations to the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation

Project Gutenberg-tm depends upon and cannot survive
without wide
spread public support and donations to carry out its
mission of
increasing the number of public domain and licensed works
that can be
freely distributed in machine readable form accessible by
the widest
array of equipment including outdated equipment. Many small
donations
(\$1 to \$5,000) are particularly important to maintaining

tax exempt
status with the IRS.

The Foundation is committed to complying with the laws regulating charities and charitable donations in all 50 states of the United States. Compliance requirements are not uniform and it takes a considerable effort, much paperwork and many fees to meet and keep up with these requirements. We do not solicit donations in locations where we have not received written confirmation of compliance. To SEND DONATIONS or determine the status of compliance for any particular state visit <http://pglaf.org>

While we cannot and do not solicit contributions from states where we have not met the solicitation requirements, we know of no prohibition against accepting unsolicited donations from donors in such states who approach us with offers to donate.

International donations are gratefully accepted, but we cannot make any statements concerning tax treatment of donations received from outside the United States. U.S. laws alone swamp our small staff.

Please check the Project Gutenberg Web pages for current donation methods and addresses. Donations are accepted in a number of other ways including including checks, online payments and credit

card
donations. To donate, please visit: <http://pglaf.org/donate>

Section 5. General Information About Project Gutenberg-tm
electronic
works.

Professor Michael S. Hart is the originator of the Project
Gutenberg-tm
concept of a library of electronic works that could be
freely shared
with anyone. For thirty years, he produced and distributed
Project
Gutenberg-tm eBooks with only a loose network of volunteer
support.

Project Gutenberg-tm eBooks are often created from several
printed
editions, all of which are confirmed as Public Domain in
the U.S.
unless a copyright notice is included. Thus, we do not
necessarily
keep eBooks in compliance with any particular paper
edition.

Most people start at our Web site which has the main PG
search facility:

<http://www.gutenberg.net>

This Web site includes information about Project Gutenberg-tm,
including how to make donations to the Project Gutenberg
Literary
Archive Foundation, how to help produce our new eBooks, and
how to
subscribe to our email newsletter to hear about new eBooks.

