

EXHIBIT 8

DADRAB MUMRAB ITSI AND THEIR FRIENDS



By GREAT GRANDPA  
TURNBULL

Original

DADRAB MUMRAB DADRAB MUMRAB ITSIFRANDS.

THEIR FRIENDS.



DADRAB



ITSI



MUMRAB

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AND  
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Chapter One.

It was a sunny morning ! In fact the sun wore a huge smile this morning . Dadrab, the rabbit, felt good. He bounced out of his leafy bed in the underbrush , twitched his stumpy puff of a tail , wiggled his nose to find what good smells might be on the morning air. He stamped his feet and gave a little leap toward the sun . My , he felt good ! He looked back over his shoulder, Mumrab was still asleep and Itsi was snuggled down in his own little corner.

Every thing in the cosy rabbit den looked safe. Dadrab thought he would take a little hop round the nearby farm yard. Perhaps the small boy that lived at the farm might be up and around. Dadrab was very interested in the little boy. He never threw sticks or stones at Dadrab. He ran round quite a bit himself but when Dadrab and Mumrab and Itsi appeared, the little boy just sat still and watched them. Sometimes he would go running to his Mother or Dad, calling to them, " Come and see! Come and see !"

There was just one thing wrong, Dadrab knew that somewhere among the farm buildings there lived a small dog. He had heard people calling, " Pugwash, Pugwash! Come here! " That small dog was the bad dream of Dadrab's life. When least expected it came rushing round the corner, mouth open, and what an awful row of teeth that mouth held ! A fearful yapping noise came with Pugwash and usually Dadrab fled back to the bushes and crouched into any cover he could find, his ears laid back along his shoulders so that Pugwash would not see them twitching. He was always careful to lead Pugwash away from where Mumrab and Itsi were crouched down hiding, as still as still could be, because they too had heard the awful noise Pugwash made.

However on this bright and sunny morning, the yard looked all clear. Dadrab could hear a cowbell way down behind the barn . It rang 'Ding-a-ding' as the cow ate away at her breakfast of green grass.....GREEN GRASS !! Suddenly Dadrab felt

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hungry. He hopped down a little hill and began to nibble at some fresh young grass. It tasted so good, especially with nice cool dew on it. "Yum! Yum ! Yum !" Every once in a while between nibbles Dadrab would look up, twitch his ears back and forth, wiggle his nose, hop forward a little and then start nibbling at that delicious grass.

All of a sudden Dadrab heard something. That yappy Pugwash again! Dadrab started to hop away, very carefully, his ears twitching backwards and forwards. Horrors! What was THAT? Pugwash's yapping was suddenly drowned by a fearful roar. "BOW,WOW, WOW! WOOF ! BOW , WOW,WOW, WOW !" Then Dadrab saw the biggest dog he had ever seen and it was coming right over the hill, straight at Dadrab. Pugwash was tearing along behind. Dadrab didn't wait to see any more; he started running as fast as his legs would carry him. There was an old culvert just at the bottom of the hill. He and Mumrab had played hide and seek in there. If he could just get inside that culvert Dadrab was sure he would be safe. He ran so fast toward it he was almost out of breath. His ears lay flat along his back, his eyes were almost popping out of his head and those two dogs were right behind him. CONTINUED IN NEXT CHAPTER\*\*\*\*\*

Chapter Two.

In chapter one Dadrab was being chased by a big dog and Dadrab was running as hard as he could toward an culvert where he knew he would be safe from the dog. He was all but out of breath when he reached the open end of the culvert. He darted in panting and quivering . The strange dog and Pugwash were right behind him . The big dog stopped right at the end of the culvert and tried to squeeze his head in after Dadrab. But his shoulders stopped him. All he could do was bark and that he did, "Bow, wow, WOW! " Pugwash ran about behind him and barked too, " Yappity, Yappity, Yap, Yap!" trying to make up in noise what he lacked in size.

Dadrab was worried; what with all the noise and barking, he didn't know what was

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going to happen. To make matters worse when he and Mumrab had played in the old culvert it was open at both ends; they could see right through it. Now Dadrab could see nothing; what with that awful dog with his head in the one end and barking his lungs out. Dadrab was nearly crazy with fright. He hopped farther back in the culvert. Suddenly he smelled something. He had smelled it before. It made him feel rather sick. Anyway he was now sick with fright; what with the echo of that barking dog down the culvert. Dadrab scrouched down as low as he could. He was quivering all over. If only the other end of the culvert was open!

Suddenly Dadrab saw a little light away ahead of him. WHAT WAS THAT ? He could hear a scratching sound! He was sure he could hear something and that something was moving from the other end toward him. The smell grew stronger. Suddenly Dadrab knew what was moving toward him. It was Sukey Skunk! He lived under a granary on the farm. He must have come down to have a quiet cool nap in the culvert. No wonder the far end was dark. Sukey was nearly as big as Pugwash. In fact Sukey was a grandfather several times over. What was he going to do? Dadrab became more frightened than ever and flattened himself down as flat as he possibly could.

Sukey Skunk kept right on coming. He wasn't saying anything, just scuffling along. He did not seem to notice Dadrab. He just shuffled right over him and went a little further down the culvert: then he did a funny thing. He turned himself round and started to back towards that dog who was barking more furiously than ever, he too, recognized Sukey by his smell. The noise did not seem to bother Sukey at all, he just kept moving backwards. Suddenly he stopped and looked over his shoulder, back to where the big dog was crouched down with his head in the culvert.

Then Sukey Skunk did another funny thing. He curled his bushy tail over his back, took a few more backward steps, put his nose between his front feet and squirted two streams of a terrible smelling liquid right into the face of the barking dog! There was a moment of dead silence, then the culvert echoed to yowls of pain.

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Now where was Dadrab when all this was going on? No sooner had Sukey Skunk crawled over the top of him than Dadrab scooted for the far end of the culvert where he could see light now that Sukey had moved. Dadrab had just one rabbit idea and that was to get out of that place and away from those awful dogs and that still more awful smell. In fact the smell was so bad he could hardly breathe. He rushed out of the culvert and started up the hill towards home as fast as his legs could move. Halfway there, his rabbit curiosity got the better of him and he stopped for a moment to look back. He was simply amazed at what he saw. The big dog was rolling over and over on the ground, rubbing his face in the earth and wiping his head with his forepaws. Pugwash was yapping shrilly and taking the odd nip at the rear end of the bigger dog, "Yap, yipe! Let me in there ! Yap, yappy, yap! I'll show you, you big coward!" With that brave talk he too rushed to the end of the culvert only to come somersaulting back howling at the top of his lungs. \*\*\*To be continued\*\*\*

Chapter Three.

After Dadrab got out of the culvert and away from the awful smell of Sukey Skunk he fled home to his nest in the scrub. He was still terribly scared of the big strange dog who had chased him, and of Pugwash too; but he had seen them both rolling in the dust, whimpering and howling over their treatment from Sukey Skunk.

Dadrab hippety hopped to where he had left Mumrab and Itsi sleeping. They were not there ! Dadrab was puzzled: this had never happened before. He was never away very long at a time and his family was always there when he returned. He sat poke upright, his front feet hanging down. He twitched his ears back and forth and wiggled his nose. What could have happened ? He crouched down on all four feet and sniffed round his home; it smelled just like his family, he felt sure that Mumrab and Itsi had not been away for very long. It was strange : they had always been there before. He hopped round a bit, ears twitching and nose wriggling. He sat up and listened;

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he thought he heard something! Sure enough, he did! It came from away off; 'Thump, Thump, Thump, THUMP!' It was the rabbit signal for, "Here we are, here we are, HERE!" Dadrab hopped toward the sound, stopped, sat up and listened. Yes! There it was again. Nearer this time; he kept hopping and stopping to listen, following the sound with those twitching ears. Soon he came to an old tree lying in the brush. It had blown down sometime during a windstorm and was partly covered by the broken scrub it had crashed into when it fell.

Dadrab sat up and listened. "Thump, Thump, Thump - THUMP!" Quite near now. He stood up on his hind legs. There! Just over the top of the log he saw another pair of rabbit ears. They were twitching too! They looked just like Mumrab's ears. He hopped round the log and there they were; Mumrab with Itsu crouched down beside her. But there was something the matter; they did not seem at all glad to see him. In fact Mumrab's nose was twitching very fast just like it always did when she smelled something bad. Then she hopped away ignoring Dadrab altogether. This was funny! This had never happened before; after all he had been through, to have his family pay him no attention. He started to stamp with his hind feet. 'Stamp! THUD! Stamp, Stamp, Thud!' "What's the matter, what's the matter?" Mumrab paid no attention, just wiggled her nose. Dadrab was perplexed and worried too. While he was trying to think this all out, Itsu came slowly up to him and sniffed his fur his little nose wiggling like mad. Then he made a funny little rabbit face and hopped to his mother his nose still twitching. Mumrab and Itsu sat looking at Dadrab as if they had something to tell him but could'nt find rabbit words.

All of a sudden Dadrab knew what was the matter. Some of that awful smell that came from Sukey Skunk must have got on his fur! What to do; the smell of Sukey Skunk was so strong in his nose he could'nt smell it on his own fur. But he did smell it now. He sat thinking. Those dogs! When he last saw them rolling round in the dust they were rubbing themselves and especially their heads on the grass and in the dirt. Some rabbit must tell him this was what he had to do.

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the dirt. Some rabbit instinct told him that this was what he had to do .

Imagine the surprise of Mumrab and Itsu to see Dadrab suddenly start to roll in the rotten leaves and soil that lay round the fallen tree. He rolled over and over, rubbing his face with his front feet and kicking leaves and soil all over himself. He kept this up till he was almost tired out. Then he sat up, all covered with leaves and soil. He looked so funny that Mumrab and Itsu laughed the rabbit laugh and hopped over to him. They sniffed him all over, wiggled their noses and ears, then hopped along the side of the log and disappeared into a hole among the roots. Dadrab followed them and found they had made a new nest of leaves and grass down among the roots of the old fallen tree. Pugwash and Strange dog could never reach them there. Dadrab seemed to have gotten the smell of Sukey Skunk off himself, at least it was not so bad and he snuggled down in the new nest with Itsu between himself and Mumrab. There in rabbit talk he tried to explain all that had happened to him that morning and to warn Itsu about playing round the farm yard. \*\*\*To be continued.

Chapter Four .

## Itsu and the milk pails.

For some days Dadrab, Mumrab, and Itsu had stayed very close to their new home among the roots of the fallen tree. They managed to get enough to eat from green shoots and grass growing among the trees. Itsu was growing fast and he began to move farther and farther away from home. He actually got out to an open space once. There the grass was greener and the sunshine warm. He could see about too. By sitting poke upright on his long hind heels he could see down to the farm yard on the side of the hill.

He was curious about the farm yard . Funny noises came from there at times. He could hear noises like "Grunt , Grunt!" and occasionally a loud squeal. Once in a while a man would come across the yard with a pail and pour something over a fence

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and immediately there were loud squeals and shrieks .The man would stay watching for a minute then he would walk back to a big building and disappear. Sometimes a dog followed him; it was not a very large dog. One morning early, Itsi heard the man calling, 'Pugwash, Pugwash, Pugwash !' and the dog came running from somewhere in the yard and started jumping up at the man and dancing all round him. This puzzled Itsi; Dadrab had warned him about that dog and Mumrab had told him he had better keep well away from the yard, there was no telling what that Pugwash might do if he caught any of the rabbit family. So Itsi just sat and watched things for several days. There were so many interesting things for a small rabbit to see. One of the most interesting was when the sun was setting in the late afternoon. About that time someone a bit smaller than the man and dressed differently, came out of the house, went round a corner and came back carrying two or three large bright things that made a clattering sound and shone quite brightly in the setting sun. Sometimes a little boy followed this person. Sometimes Pugwash would come too and he would jump up at the boy and knock him over and pretend he was biting him. Itsi was very interested in the little boy. There were times when Itsi forgot Dadrab's and Mumrab's warning about Pugwash and he would creep a little closer to the farm yard so that he could see more of what was going on. He even forgot to nibble at the grass he became so curious.

One day Itsi saw something else. He was hopping through the brush wiggling his nose and ears when he suddenly came into an open space with a wall on one side of it. He kept looking at that wall for quite a while, then, what do you think he saw? Piled on a table by the wall was a whole pile of those bright silver things he had seen that short person carrying across the yard. Itsi decided he must be on the side of the house where that person found those bright things and that was where they were kept. Sure enough, as he was looking at them, all piled neatly upside

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down, the "Person ' came round the corner, picked up two of the 'things' in each hand, then called to someone, "Jim will you bring some more pails to the barn when you come?" So, that's what people call them, thought Itsi. "Pails' those are the things that make the noise when they bang together. Then his rabbit mind began new thoughts. It was such a nice spot out here behind that wall. The grass was green and sweet and the wall hid the sun; it was nice and cool. Itsi hopped hopped round and ate as much grass as he could hold then hippity hopped back into the trees to tell Dadrab and Mumrab all he had seen.

That night when the rabbits were home in their house under the roots of the old tree, Itsi, Dadrab and Mumrab all got together and Itsi told them all he had seen. Dadrab hopped close to Itsi, put his nose to Itsi's nose and told him about things round the farm yard that Dadrab knew but Itsi did not.

First of all he must never, never, venture out in the open behind that wall. It was the wall of a house and people lived inside that house. People kept dogs ; dogs liked to chase and kill rabbits, especially small rabbits . Sometimes people made their dogs chase rabbits when they came too near or even got into a garden. If ever Itsi heard a people person cry, 'Sickem ! Sickem !' he was to get to the brush as quickly as possible. He was not to wait for anything; just hit straight for the brush and the more tangly and thick the bushes the better. He was never to lose track of his way home to the place under the roots of the old tree; he was to be careful at all times never to let Pugwash, the dog, start chasing him. Dadrab told him that Pugwash relied on rabbit smell, or rabbit scent, as much as he did on his eyes and Itsi was to run as far as he could and jump as far as he could so that he would leave as little scent as possible for Pugwash to follow. Itsi pushed his little nose hard against Dadrab's nose to say he understood.

The next morning Dadrab and Mumrab watched Itsi hop off among the trees. They

## Chapter Four (Cont.)

knew he was growing up and would soon have to look after himself. Dadrab felt worried. He remembered the old culvert and what had happened in it. Pugwash was a bit stupid, but what about "Strange Dog?" And where was he? Mumrab came hopping up and rubbed against Dadrab and the two of them followed Itsu through the trees.

Itsu had breakfast in mind. The nicest breakfast he knew was in that lovely patch of green grass behind the house. He hopped straight for it. He remembered what Dadrab had said and every once in a while he would look back over the way he had come. He came to the clearing behind the house, stopped, sat up on his heels and looked all round. Wiggled his nose, no strange smells, waggled his ears, no strange sounds! All seemed well. He crouched down to nibble the delicious grass.

Then IT HAPPENED !

"Bow, Wow, Wow! Bow, Wow, Wow!" Itsu nearly jumped out of his skin! He was so frightened he forgot which way to run. He took a quick look behind him; there was Pugwash coming right for him! Itsu could even see Pugwash's glaring eyes. The little rabbit almost froze with fright. Then he took to his heels and made a dash for the house. The wall was right ahead of him. Pugwash right behind, was getting closer. Itsu saw that table of pails ahead of him and he made a flying rabbit leap and landed with a crash among the pails. It seemed to Pugwash that the small rabbit had wings. He didn't even see where he went, but he could smell rabbit. It must have gone under the table! Pugwash put on more speed and crashed into something with his shoulder and all the pails came crashing down, table and all. Pugwash had smashed into the one and only support of the table and the whole thing had crashed down on top of him. In his fright Pugwash gave a howl of terror. He made a wild scramble and rush to get away from all the noise. Something grabbed him by his front legs and around his neck and everything went dark. He felt himself being carried away. He howled and his howl nearly deafened him. He felt himself rolling. Faster-faster

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and faster! Then there was an awful jar and a loud 'bang'! Then silence, dead silence. Pugwash was scarcely breathing he was so frightened and scared. He was held tight by something but it was so dark he could 'nt see and he could hardly breathe.\*\* Continued in next Chapter (5).\*\*\*\*\*

## Chapter Five.

In our last installment of our story we left Pugwash caught by something that was holding his front legs and had him round the neck as well and he could 'nt see a thing.

Itsu had jumped on to a pile of pails and they had all come crashing down when Pugwash ran into the table prop. Dadrab and Mumrab sat at the edge of the yard, hidden by trees and watched in amazement at what went on. Dadrab looked at Mumrab and wiggled his nose. Mumrab just twitched her ears but her eyes were standing out like marbles. She was wondering what had happened to Itsu.

The man and woman came running round the house then stopped in amazement at what they saw. Pails were scattered everywhere. Some on their ends and some on their sides and a large milk can had rolled down the hill and had stopped against the concrete cattle trough. A cow had come to investigate and was standing looking at the milk can . A funny noise came from it and it rolled a little toward the cow. The cow whirled round and with her tail over her back rushed across the yard to the barn.

The farmer and his wife went down to investigate. The milk can gave another bit of a roll and a hollow sound came out of it. Like someone in pain or very, very scared. They walked up to it and the man exclaimed, "Why, that's Pugwash's tail sticking out of there, and his hind legs! Here Maggie, you hold the bottom of the can and I'll try and pull him out." The woman clutched the bottom of the can and the man grabbed Pugwash by his tail and hind legs and pulled. Pugwash let out an

awful howl and braced himself with his shoulders against the opening of the can.

Now Dadrab's eyes were like marbles on top of his face and Mumrab was speechless. Never before in their rabbit lives had they seen anything like this. The man was now pulling as hard as he could and the woman was yelling that she couldn't hold the bottom of the can much longer and ~~the~~ man yelled back to "Hang on!" and Pugwash was howling like a demon inside.

Suddenly Pugwash gave up and went limp. He slid out of the can as easily as he had gone in. The man was pulling as hard as he dared and when Pugwash came out it was so sudden that the farmer sat down on the ground--hard. The woman did the same with the can on her lap. Pugwash took one look round, then blinded by the light, he rushed up the hill straight to where Dadrab and Mumrab were sitting. They lost not time in getting out of sight but not before Pugwash had seen them. Dadrab fled one way and Mumrab another. Pugwash didn't care where they went. The last time he had seen a rabbit it was almost at the end of his nose and then it took off like a bird and Pugwash had crashed into the table leg and then into the overturned milk can and his troubles had really begun. Now he was free of that smothering can and the first thing he saw was two more rabbits! Would they fly too? He didn't care a hoot; all he wanted to do was get in the shade of the trees and lie down and pant. He took his eyes off the trees for a moment to see if those rabbits could fly and he smashed into a tree. Half stunned he lay on the ground panting, so sick of rabbits he never wanted to see another as long as he lived.

Dadrab and Mumrab had fled deep into the forest. They stopped presently, almost out of breath. They sat side by side panting. Both were thinking the same thing. Where was Itsi? They had not seen or heard a thing, just an awful clatter and noise. Dadrab was getting really worried. He began to think of things about the farm that he had not told Itsi. But the little rabbit had just disappeared. Dadrab nudged Mumrab with his nose. Mumrab wagged her ears. Then they sat still for a

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## Chapter Five (Cont.)

little, while they got their breath back. They heard sounds of pails in the farm yard and then the farmer calling his cows. It was time Itsu was home. What had happened to him. It was growing dark and the two rabbits huddled together, alone for the first time since Itsu was born. When it became completely dark they crept back toward the yard. Dadrab was still scared of Pugwash and Strange Dog. Little by little they crept out to the edge of the trees. The moon was shining a little now and they could see the house. The table had been set back and all the pails were stacked on it. The two rabbits crept closer. They had got right out in the yard when they heard a noise. Sort of a scratching sound as if something was digging. They crept closer. Suddenly they took to their heels and hippity hopped back to the forest. There they turned round, looked at each other and back across the yard. They were taking no chances. But where was Itsu? Both rabbits were worried now. They wondered if Itsu had got back to the trees and perhaps got lost. He was really too big to get lost now. Something else must have happened to him. They settled down to wait. About midnight they crept out to the farm yard once more. They felt sure that Itsu must still be somewhere round there. They got quite close to the house. Even under the table where the pails were piled. Dadrab smelled something. It was Itsu's scent! He sniffed round and round but the scent was only in one spot - no where else. Just as he was wondering what had happened there was a scratching noise from inside the house and something rattled. The two rabbits, fearful that either Pugwash or Strange Dog might be awake, fled back to the trees. This time they went back to the den under the roots of Old Tree. They were very unhappy about Itsu but made up their rabbit minds that they would wait for daylight. There was too much chance that "Silent Shadow Owl" might be on the hunt and they knew that there was no rabbit in the whole forest that did not fear "Silent Shadow." He never barked like Pugwash, only sometimes sat on a rock, or a tree branch in the early morning and talked to himself, saying "Whooo, whoo, whoo, whoo, whoo."

Chapter Five (Cont.)

Even thinking about that sound made the rabbits shiver.

Dadrab and Mumrab were awake early. They nibbled some leaves of the forest grasses, scratched up and ate some green shoots. Then they settled down to wait. They were still very anxious about Itsu but they felt that if he could, he would come back to them. So the day passed and another night came. Still no Itsu. Dadrab and Mumrab crept out again and looked at the farm yard from the edge of the forest. No sign of anything moving there. So, very quietly, and with many stops to test the air for scents they came close to the house again. This time Dadrab smelled along the bottom of the boards. Around the corner he came to a board - a very wide board Dadrab thought; under the edge of that board he could smell rabbit scent - it was Itsu's scent! Dadrab scratched at one corner with his short forepaws while Mumrab watched for trouble. Dadrab stopped and listened, he thought he heard something! Sure enough he heard a scratching noise but it was on the other side of that big board. Just as he was going to scratch again, "Thump, Thump" went Mumrab's hind feet - 'Danger, Danger!' The two rabbits fled for their lives back to the trees. "What was it?" Dadrab asked Mumrab. "There was a light came in the wall just beside that big wide board! Look you can still see it!" Sure enough, just where the rabbits had been there was a window lit up and a small shadow passed back and forth between the light and the window. Then the light went out. \*\*\*\*\*To be continued\*\*\*\*\*

Chapter Six .

When we left the story of the rabbits last spring Itsu was missing after the pails were knocked off the table by Pugwash. Dadrab and Mumrab hunted all round the yard for Itsu but could find no sign of him. Then Dadrab discovered Itsu's scent. It came out from under a board at the back part of the farm house. That was the last part of Chapter five.

As we have left Itsu out of the story for quite a while, from now on we will

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find out what really happened to the little rabbit when all the pails went 'Crash!' Itsi hardly knew himself. He jumped so high to get away from Pugwash that he landed among all the milk pails just as Pugwash knocked the prop out from underneath the table.

Itsi felt himself tumbling down with the pails. He did not know what had become of Pugwash because for Itsi everything had gone black. It had been daylight, now it was as dark as any night. Itsi felt ground under his feet. He sniffed at his front feet. Sure enough he could smell earth. He tried to move but could only move a very little. He turned round and tried to move in the opposite direction. He was stopped again. He snuffed round him and could smell something odd. He had never smelled anything like that before. He put his nose to the ground and sniffed. He could smell fresh grass. Whichever way he tried he could only move a very little. He could not imagine what had happened; it was very confusing to little Itsi. He sat very quiet trying to think things out. He heard the farmer's wife talking, then Pugwash began to howl. It was a funny howl. It sounded as if Pugwash was inside something. Itsi tried pushing at the wall that was holding him. It felt smooth and hard to his feet. He sat down once more and tried to figure it all out.

As he sat thinking, pails started to rattle. He heard the farmer saying, "What in the world upset all those pails! Pugwash must have been chasing something, come and help me pick them up." Then a little boys voice, "Daddy I think there's something under this pail! There is! Come quick and listen!"

Itsi turned round once more in his dark prison. He sat up and placed his paws against that funny wall. But all they did was make a scratching sound. Again a little voice, "I hear something Daddy, I hear something under this pail!" Itsi felt his prison move a bit and saw daylight at his feet. The pail tipped up a little more and before Itsi knew what was happening a big rough hand reached under and

Chapter Six (Cont.)

and grabbed his front feet. Itsu struggled and tugged but it was no use; he was dragged from under the pail and another rough hand grabbed him by his ears and held him high off the ground. "Look what we have Wife, rabbit stew for tomorrow!" Itsu was so terribly frightened. He wished with all his little heart that he had not gone sneaking into the yard and had listened more closely to Dadrab and Mumrab. He kicked and struggled but the farmer kept tight hold of his ears. They were beginning to hurt. Itsu's eyes were popping out of his head with fright. He was sure the farmer was going to do something terrible with him. The little boy was dancing round calling to his mother, "Come look Mummy! Come look!" Then he came quite close. "Can I have it Daddy? It's just a small rabbit. I'd like it for a pet. Pugwash is always too rough for me to play with." Not waiting for his father's answer the little boy went running across the yard and was back in less than a minute, dragging a box with a wire front on it.

"Daddy can I keep the little rabbit in this old coop? Can I have it Mother? Can I have it? Mother hen has got all her chickens out of here now. It is quite empty. Can I have it?"

"I suppose so, you'll have to see to it that you look after the rabbit and feed it each day. Remember that you have other little chores to do as well. We had better let the boy have it Jim, he has to learn to be responsible for animals. What he said about Pugwash is quite true. The dog is pretty rough."

"All right," said his father, "Just remember you will have to hunt fresh feed for it twice a day, keep it's cage cleaned out and fresh water for it to drink. Rabbits get a lot of moisture from the grass they eat but not enough. Go put the coop in the back kitchen and come and get the rabbit. Just remember, it is going to take a bit of time and work looking after it. It is half grown now and won't tame easily. Away you go with that coop!"

"Gee! Thanks Dad and Mum. Thanks!" and the little boy headed for the shed



Chapter Six (Cont.)

Mumrab under the roots of the old tree. The little boy stood watching Itsu to see what he would do. But Itsu was too scared and tired to move. He just sat in the dark corner and shivered a little now and then. In fact he was so scared he was trembling. Anyway he could see out and that was much better than that dark horrid place that had tumbled on to of him. Somehow he was interested in the boy. He had not been rough with him like the man. In fact he had put Itsu into the coop very gently. And his hands were small and soft.

The boy bent down and said something to Itsu but of course Itsu did not understand, only the boy did not have a big rough voice like his father. Then the boy -- I think we had better call him Toby from now on -- then Toby carefully lifted the top of the coop and just as carefully reached his hand down to Itsu. The rabbit scrounged lower to the floor, flattened his ears between his shoulders and started to quiver all over. He was really frightened! Toby's hand touched the top of Itsu's head ever so gently and stroked it, then down along his ears and over his back. That felt good and Itsu stopped trembling. But he never moved at all. Toby stroked him a couple more times then put the top down and went out. Itsu crouched down and wondered what was going to happen next. With all that had happened to him he had forgotten about Pugwash. He closed his eyes, he was very unhappy and very tired. He even slept a little but had horrid dreams of Strange Dog chasing him across the yard.

While all this was taking place Pugwash was lying in the shade of some machinery in the yard. He was utterly exhausted. Never in all his life had anything like that happened to him before. The very thought of rolling down the yard hill with head and shoulders jammed into a milk can made him twitch in his sleep. Never before had he seen a rabbit that could fly! A rabbit like that could really make a dog's life miserable. Just dreaming about it made Pugwash uneasy. He got up, stretched himself, yawned, sat down and scratched an ear with one hind foot.

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Chapter Six (Cont.)

Then he thought he would go and see if there might be anything to eat at the house. He passed the old kitchen. The door stood open so he took a look inside. What was that old hen coop doing there? He had seen it out in the yard just a short while ago. He took a closer look. WHAT WAS THAT? It just couldn't be! A RABBIT! Hunched in the corner of the coop! Pugwash was thunderstruck. He sniffed the floor to find rabbit scent. None whatsoever. But he did smell Toby's scent. Things were getting funnier all the time. He very quietly went up to the coop and looked in. Sure enough there was a real live rabbit in there; Pugwash could smell it now. Itsu had been dreaming about being chased by Strange Dog. His dream was so real that he woke up with a start. Horror of all rabbit horrors! Right in front of his eyes was that big ugly face belonging to Pugwash. Itsu went frantic. He hopped from end to end of the coop, even tried to jump against the top. He knew that was the way Toby put him in. Pugwash just sat and stared. He licked his lips and whined and Itsu started to shiver all over with fright. Pugwash just sat looking and whining, changing from one front foot to the other. \*\*\*\*\*To Be Continued \*\*\*\*\*

Chapter Seven.

In Chapter six we left Itsu in the old chicken coop with Pugwash sitting looking at him through the wire. Just then the boy, Toby, came in and saw what was going on. "You get out of here Pugwash! Go on, GET! You have no business in here anyhow, now get!" Pugwash slunk out with his head hanging down. He felt bad, after all, weren't rabbits fair game for dogs? They were sure exciting to chase. Then Pugwash remembered what had happened to the milk pails and that the little rabbit in there could jump almost as high as he could, so he moved off and lay down in one of his old spots where he could see all that went on in the yard.

Meanwhile Toby had reached into Itsu's cage and was stroking his ears and

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rubbing his hand along the rabbit's back. That made Itsi feel good and he stopped trembling. Presently Toby went out but soon came back carrying a small shallow tin of water and some green grass and lettuce leaves. He put them in the cage in front of Itsi and the water he set in one corner. Then he stood back to watch and see what would happen. All Itsi did was twitch that little nose and pay no attention to the nice rabbit food Toby had given him. After a little while the boy went out and left Itsi alone. The rabbit made a small round ball of himself with his ears laid flat over his back. He was not going to sleep again, no sir, and wake up to see that horrible dog peeking in at him. But Pugwash was doing his own thing and had ceased to worry about rabbits or anything else. He was absolutely played out. What a day it had been! Soon he was snoring away, sound asleep. He suddenly woke up with a loud yelp. He had dreamed that a rabbit as large as Strange Dog was chasing him and he just could not run fast enough to get away from it. It was terrible! He got up and moved farther away, lay down and was soon fast asleep once more. He was very, very tired.

Itsi too, had wakened up. He felt very hungry and lonely. It was getting dark in his cage. He sat up and sniffed about him. That lovely looking green grass was right in front of him and some strange green things beside it. They had nice curly leaves and looked even better than the grass. Very carefully he hopped over and sniffed at the grass. He nibbled a little bit and did it ever taste good! He nibbled some more, his jaws working from side to side very fast and his little nose wiggling with excitement. Then he carefully sniffed at the stuff with the big leaves. It did not smell like the grass but it smelled nice and moist and Itsy was very thirsty. He took a very small nibble of that. It was something he had never tasted before. It was much nicer than the grass and so juicy. He took a good bite next time and ~~soon~~ was paying no attention at all to the grass.

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As he chewed his ears moved backward and forward to catch any strange noise in this strange place. They were still sore from the farmer using them to carry him but they were getting better every bite he took of that lovely lettuce. It was nice and moist and Itsu was thirsty.

While he was eating Itsu also kept his round eyes open. They were never still. He would take a bite then raise his head and chew while he watched round about with his eyes. It was getting pretty dark in the shed and Toby had closed the door when he went out. Itsu was still worried about Pugwash. Finally the little rabbit had enough to eat. He moved over to the corner where the water tin stood but just sniffed at it and did not drink. He had had enough water from the lettuce. He wished he had some old dry grass or leaves to cuddle down in, but there was just the hard floor of his cage. As he was wondering about all that had happened, the door of the shed, or back kitchen, opened and the little boy came in with an armful of dry grass and straw. He pushed this into Itsu's cage through the little door in the top. The rabbit had crouched down in a corner with all the commotion going on round him. Toby stroked his ears again and rubbed his back. With his supper and the stroking Itsu felt much better. When Toby left, the rabbit made a nest out of the straw and grass and went to sleep; but even while he slept his ears would waggle once in a while. Itsu was listening for any strange scary noise even while asleep.

When Toby came to see his pet in the morning Itsu was nowhere to be seen! The boy was worried. Could the rabbit have escaped in the night? Had someone come in and taken it out? He went close up to the cage and looked through the front. No Itsu to be seen. He opened the little door on top very quietly and peered down. No Itsu. He looked round the old kitchen, not a sign of the rabbit anywhere. Somebody must have come in the night and taken it out! Toby turned and ran into his mother's kitchen; his mother and father were just going to have breakfast. "Mummy, Daddy! someone has taken my rabbit! It's gone, clean gone. I looked everywhere and it's

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nowhere. Not in the old coop, not anywhere in the old kitchen, just clean gone!" The little boy looked as if he was about to cry. "Hold on a minute ,son," his father said, "How about the three of us going out to have a look . Come on Mother the breakfast will keep that long." The three went to the old kitchen, they were very quiet and made as little noise as possible. Toby's Dad went to the coop and peered down through the top and then through the front. His Mother looked in every corner of the room but no Itsi. "I don't see how that rabbit got out of here," she said."are you sure you shut the outside door Toby?" "Sure I'm sure, I came here when it was nearly dark and gave it some grass and lettuce and a little water, just like you told me Dad,I stroked it a bit and then went out and shut the door too. And I closed the little door on top of the coop. This morning it was just as I left it but no rabbit." Toby was near to tears again. His father was still looking in the coop,again,"You put an awful lot of hay and straw in there for one small rabbit." The farmer reached through the little top door and moved some of the hay and straw. "Look here,Toby, " he called,"Do you see what I see?" Toby looked in and there close into one corner was his rabbit; it had been all covered with straw and hay and had made a nice warm nest of it in that one corner. Itsi looked quite well after his sleep and was not nearly so frightened looking as the night before."Next time," said his Dad , " Look under the bed as well as on top eh? Come on let's have breakfast and you can feed your rabbit right after. " Toby was so happy he couldn't speak and he backed all the way to the door of the kitchen never once taking his eyes off the rabbit.

After breakfast the little boy lost no time in going back to see what his pet was doing.He took it some fresh grass and a little more lettuce. Itsi was sitting at the front of his cage. He hopped to the back as soon as Tony came in but came to the front very cautiously and did not seem nearly so scared. He started to nibble at the grass right away but as soon as Toby showed him the lettuce Itsi

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went right for that. Right then lettuce was really his favorite.

So the days went by and the rabbit became tamer all the time. Toby cut a hole in the wire in front of the cage and made a little door for it. One day he left it open and went out but peeked through a crack of the outside door to see what Itsi would do. He paid no attention for a while and Toby got a little tired of watching. Just as he was going to close the door and go away to do something else, he saw Itsi hop out through his little door and across the old floor towards the crack of light Toby made when he held the outside door open so that he could see in. The boy opened the door just wide enough to let him slip inside and Itsi scuttled back to his cage, through the little front door, back into a corner. He sat there wiggling his ears. This was a new adventure for the rabbit and one that he enjoyed. He did not get much room to scamper round inside that old cage and his adventure into the old kitchen was really interesting. A few days later Toby left Itsi's front door open for several hours and the rabbit had a great time hopping round the old kitchen. He discovered a crack low down along one wall. To be sure it was a small crack but when Itsi put his little nose down to it he could smell the fresh outside air and did it ever smell good. He spent quite a while sniffing along that crack and wished he could get outside and romp like he used to do. Then something happened that made Itsi change his mind very suddenly. He was sniffing along that interesting crack one afternoon and tried with one small front foot to scratch at it. To his surprise the crack became larger! He scratched some more and made a little larger hole. He put his nose down to get a good breath of that lovely fresh air when another nose appeared at the other side of the hole. A round black nose much bigger than Itsi's. A fearful "Snooof!" filled the room and Itsi nearly fell down in terror. Another "SNOOF!" Itsi did not wait, he had had enough. He dashed back to his cage, in through the little front door and back into a corner as far as he could squeeze. He crouched there quivering all over while that "something" outside snuffed and

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snoofed along the crack. Whatever it was it started to dig and scratch at the wall. Then it started to bite at the boards with it's teeth. That made a still more terrifying noise and Itsi didn't know what to do. He wished the little boy would come. The rabbit was sure Toby would stop whatever was digging and biting out there. But the digging and scratching got worse if anything. Then there was a loud "WHACK" and Toby's voice, "You get out of there Pugwash!" Another whack and a howl. Itsi felt better when he heard Toby's voice but he wondered what would happen if Pugwash came back.

The boy came into the room, reached into the cage and petted Itsi. The rabbit soon became more quiet and began to hop round as if nothing had happened. But he did not come out of the cage again. Pugwash had really scared him. Toby was really mad at Pugwash; he was worried too because the dog was busy making quite a hole in the old wall and his father had told him that sometimes rabbits just up and died of fright.

Toby had forgotten that when Pugwash was a puppy he had made just as much fuss over him as he was now doing over the rabbit. He did not think for a moment that Pugwash might be jealous; though not as big as some dogs, he had grown big enough to be pretty rough when he played with anyone and Pugwash had always had a happy time playing with Toby when both boy and dog were smaller. Toby was beginning to think that Itsi was going to be more of a responsibility than he had thought. Then he had an idea. He left the old kitchen carefully closing the door, tight, after him and hunted up his mother who was doing her morning work round the house.

"Mother! Pugwash was after the rabbit. He was chewing a hole right through the outside wall when I saw him; a big hole! The old wall is all rotten near the ground. You and Daddy said that if I kept the rabbit I'd have to look after it. I can do that all right in the daytime, but what about at night? Pugwash will come back again, I know he will!"

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Chapter Seven (Cont.)

"Well, Toby you have got a problem. Did you ever stop to think that Pugwash might be jealous of the rabbit? Remember when Pugwash was small how much you used to play with him? You were always together, and sometimes you were pretty rough. Now the "Puppy" has grown to a dog. He does not realize that puppies grow faster than little boys and now he plays roughly and doesn't know that either. Since you got the rabbit you never play with Pugwash any more. I think Pugwash is showing you that he is jealous of the rabbit."

"Mother, I wonder if I made a little house for the rabbit just for the night and put it in that, could I keep it in a corner of the kitchen, here, just for the night. Could I, Mum? That way Pugwash cannot get at him at night, please could I?"

His mother smiled at the anxious little boy. "I'll tell you what, you make the box first and I'll talk to Daddy about it when he comes in for dinner, then we'll see what can be done."

"Gee, thanks Mum, I'll do it right now," and Toby was off like a shot. He looked in at Itsi and made sure he was all right then he hunted round the yard for some scraps of lumber, a saw, a hammer and some nails. When he had got together all the things he thought he would need he suddenly remembered the hole that Pugwash had made in the wall. He ran round to make sure Pugwash was not there again. All was quiet, no sign of the dog. The boy took one of his boards and put it over the hole in the wall and nailed it there. "That will fix Mr. Pugwash" he thought, "Just let him try to get in there now!" Then he went to work making a small box for Itsi. He made it good and strong with a small door at the top. There was plenty of room in it for two rabbits but not too heavy to carry. As he was finishing it his father came in to dinner. He stopped to see what Toby was doing.

"What have you got there Son?" "Pugwash was trying to get through the wall to get at the rabbit and I'm making a small cage for him at night if you and Mother will let me keep it in the kitchen or my room. I'll put him in it each night and I can easily carry it. That'll fix old Pugwash. See the hole he made," and the little

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boy showed his father the hole in the old wall. "I asked Mum about keeping it in the kitchen and she said she would ask you. What do you say Dad? Can I do that please?" The father looked at his earnest little son. "Well, perhaps you could if it's all right with your mother. But you must not keep him in there longer than overnight, he needs more exercise than just being in there. Try it for a night or two eh? we will see what happens."

"Oh thank you Dad, thank you! I've almost got it finished and if it's all right with Mum I'll try it tonight." The father smiled and ruffled the boy's hair. He was remembering when he was young and had a few pets and some of the trouble he had keeping wild things caged round the house.

That night Toby took Itsi out of his cage in the old kitchen and carefully put him in the small box he had made for him. It too, had slats on the front so that the rabbit could see out. Toby put the small cage in one corner of his Mother's kitchen. There was a window opposite just over a small table. From where his small cage stood Itsi could look up and out the window. He could see the top of a tree and the leaves waving in the wind. This was much better than the other place thought the rabbit. More like the bush where he had lived with Dadrab and Mumrab. He could see a tree in here. He felt much more comfortable too. There were interesting smells here that made his little nose wiggle.

Presently the boy came over, reached in the box, petted Itsi, said "Good night little rabbit!" and went to his own bed. As he was going upstairs he thought to himself, "Perhaps tomorrow night Mum and Dad will let me take him up to sleep in my room."

Toby's Mother and Father soon went to bed too. They turned off the light and the kitchen was dark but moonlight shone through the window and Itsi felt quite at home. He must have gone to sleep for quite a while when some little noise wakened him. The moon was still shining in the room. But what Itsi saw was terrible!

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We left Itsu in his little cage in the farm kitchen. He had gone to sleep and was wakened by something terrible looking in the window. It was the face of a great big ugly dog. A far bigger and more ugly face than either Pugwash's or Strange Dog's. It was a horrible snarly looking face! Two glaring eyes were looking right down at Itsu and the rabbit was certain that the dog was going to jump right through the window. Itsu wished he was any place but where he was. The window had been left open for the night and there was only a screen between that ugly dog and the kitchen table.

Suddenly there was loud barking and snarling from outside and the head in the window disappeared. Then there were howls and snarls, yapping and more growls and snarls. Itsu's eyes were like marbles and all but dropping out of his head. This was a fearful place he had got himself into. There just was no peace for long anywhere. Some of the noise outside sounded like Pugwash yapping, some of it was like nothing the rabbit had heard before. There were snarls, growls and still more yapping. Then Itsu heard another sound; it was the farmer's voice and it was very loud and rough and seemed to come from up above the kitchen. "Hey! what goes on down there! Hey Toby! There's something after your rabbit!" If anything the uproar outside grew worse. The sounds drowned all other noises. The farmer came rushing into the kitchen in his nightshirt and bare feet. Toby came running down and he was crying. He was terribly scared that something had got his rabbit. Then the farmer's wife came running in with a brown paper bag. "Here Jim," she called to her husband, "Here is a bag of pepper, give those dogs a good dose of it. Remember how we broke up the last fight they had!" Her husband grabbed the bag of pepper, flung open the door and rushed out. The uproar ceased as suddenly as it had begun; then it began once more but with a different sound, there was still some snarling but a lot of coughing and sneezing mixed with it. The farmer was sneezing too, almost as hard as the dogs. He came hurrying in to the house. "Where's my shotgun? There's a big rough

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Chapter Eight (Cont.)

dog out there I have never seen before, he would have been right at me if I had'n't had that pepper, he's a nasty looking brute!" By this time Toby's father had located his gun and was off out the door before either his wife or Toby could say anything. In a few seconds there were two loud bangs! They were followed by a wild howl and a crash as if something big had smashed into a wire fence. Then the farmer's voice rose above all else. He was really yelling at something. There was another bang! Then the little boy and his mother could hear the farmer laughing. There were no more sounds of a dog fight. Toby's father was still laughing when he came in. "That big brute of a dog is sure gun shy. I didn't aim to hit him, just scare him a bit. He took off like he had wings. He ran smack into that old page wire fence we had for the pig so I just fired that last shot to help him out. He won't ever come back, not the rate he left here. Good job it was moonlight. There were three dogs in that fight and Puwash was doing his best to beat up on the other two."

It was a long time till Toby went to sleep after they had all gone back to bed. He was worried about his rabbit alone downstairs. As for Itsu, he hardly slept at all for the rest of the night. He really did not understand what all the noise was about but he had not forgotten the big rough dog-face that peered through the window screen at him. However by the morning he was quite ready for his breakfast when Toby came to feed him. When the farmer came in to breakfast he remarked that Puwash sure looked as if he had been through the mill, his ears had been chewed and he was limping on one hind leg. Toby worried about Itsu. The next night he asked if he could take the rabbit up to his room when he went to bed. "As long as you keep him in that smaller box. No letting him run round the room, remember," his mother answered.

For the next few days life went on as usual round the farm and the home. Toby finally got tired of carrying Itsu up to bed every night and left him down in the kitchen corner again. Itsu was really growing now and kept Toby busy gathering food. He was also getting out of the big cage once in a while and began running round the old kitchen. One day he saw a chance to slip into the kitchen where Toby's mother was doing some cooking. This room was a most interesting place to the rabbit. There were all sorts of things going on. It was much more interesting in the daytime than at night when everything was quiet. Itsu slipped in very quietly and hippity hopped over to a corner out of the way. He sat so quiet for such a long time that Toby's mother went about her work in and out of the kitchen without ever seeing the rabbit. Itsu was watching what went on with the greatest of interest. He could hardly sit still when he saw the woman open the door of a big white box

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Chapter Eight (Cont.)

and take out a big bunch of lettuce. She took it over to a table and started to cut it in pieces with a knife. A little piece fell on the floor. Itsu was getting very hungry just watching. He looked at that little piece of lettuce for quite a while. Then he slowly and carefully crept out across the floor and under the table. From there he crept toward that tempting bit of lettuce. He grabbed it in his mouth and went back under the table where he sat nibbling away and enjoying every bite.

Toby's mother had noticed that lettuce fall off the table. Now she was through making her salad and bent down to pick it up. It wasn't there! She looked round the floor, it wasn't there either. "Oh well, she thought, when I sweep I'll get it with the broom," and she went on doing something else. Itsu had finished the lettuce and as the woman's feet had come pretty near him while he was under the table, some instinct told him he had better get back to his cage. He waited a few more minutes then when the woman was at the far end of the kitchen Itsu hopped quietly back to the old room, through the partly open door and into his cage. The woman was still wondering about the missing piece of lettuce. It was very slippery stuff to step on and she glanced round the floor once more. "What was that?" She was sure she had seen something move in the doorway to the "out-kitchen," as the family called the old room. Then she noticed the partly open door. She walked over and peered in, nothing there except Itsu; apparently asleep in his cage. She was still sure she had seen something in her kitchen but went back to work and did not think much more about it.

Itsu was beginning to feel at home. more and more he was forgetting about Dadrab and Mumrab and all the wonderful things to be seen and experienced outside. Toby played with him a lot and at times let him run round in his mother's kitchen while the family was in the room. Itsu watched what went on with great interest. He always looked for another bit of lettuce, he never seemed to get enough of that even if Toby brought him all the scraps from the table. The family was always

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Chapter Eight (Cont.)

careful to see that the rabbit was back in the out kitchen when no one was round. Itsu discovered that at mealtime there were always a few crumbs or little scraps that fell on the floor. He nibbled all those up- if they tasted good- and kept his eyes open for more. There were times when too when Toby would quietly reach a bit of raw carrot down to him. Itsu loved carrots almost as much as lettuce and they had a sweeter taste. He soon got the habit of sitting beside Toby's feet on the floor. He kept very quiet and very watchful and sure enough there was always something good to eat that the little boy passed down to him. Toby's mother and father seemed not to mind although they did tell Toby he was not to feed the rabbit at the table.

One day Itsu had a bad fright. The family was all having dinner. Itsu was on the floor beside Toby when Pugwash came trotting in through the open kitchen door ! For a second or two Itsu was stiff with terror. His one thought was, 'My cage!' he scampered toward the old kitchen as fast as his legs would carry him. He was trying to run so hard that his feet skidded on the smooth floor and he fell on his chin. He was up and off like a flash but was sure he could see and feel Pugwash right behind him. He dashed to the old room and into his cage, he was quivering in every muscle. He was sure that Pugwash was going to treat him just as Itsu had seen him treating an old rag out in the yard. Pugwash had shaken that rag around until little pieces of it flew off. The rabbit had seen all this through a little crack in the old kitchen wall. Itsu could see a lot of things from that crack when he got up close to it. He could even see the outline of the trees where Dadrab and Mumrab lived. He had all but forgotten about them since Toby made a pet of him. He was sure that Pugwash was going to get him one of these days and yet Pugwash had never tried to get at him again through the old wall,

And what about Pugwash all this time? He did not even bother chasing Itsu. He just sat down on the floor and looked at Toby as much as to say, 'So! You're feeding that rabbit the scraps you used to give me, how come? The rabbit is not

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Chapter Eight (Cont.)

worth my notice. It does'nt come and play with you like I used to do; how about some scraps for me?' He stretched himself on the floor with his head between his paws, his eyes fixed on Toby.

Toby's father and mother had seen all that happened and were still laughing at the way Itsi had vanished out of the room. "I'll bet it will be a week of Sundays till your rabbit comes in here while Pugwash is round, Son. He went out of here like someone had spilled scalding water on him! I think Pugwash is a lot wiser than you think. You had better keep an eye on your rabbit. Pugwash is just going to keep it so scared that one of these days it will take off and be into the bush again. Pugwash was always your pet and now he sees you making a pet out of the rabbit. Dogs are smart. Pugwash knows that if he really hurt the rabbit he will have lost you for a friend; he is really fond of you. He has it all figured out; you just watch he will keep the rabbit so nervous that it will escape out one of these days and be gone. Pugwash has been watching it in and around this room. He knows it is here but I don't think he will actually hurt it. He will just get rid of it his own way."

Was Toby's father right? The next chapter will tell you.

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Chapter Nine.

Itsu was sleeping in the kitchen all the time now. Toby would come down in the morning and Itsu would hop out of his little cage and follow the boy round the house. Itsu liked dry oat meal and when Toby put a saucer on the floor with oatmeal in it, the rabbit would hop to the dish and start eating and would not stop till the dish was empty. Down would go Itsu's head and he would fill his mouth full of oatmeal then raise his head and chew away at it, his jaws moving so fast and his nose wiggling the same way. Pugwash had his breakfast too, over by the kitchen stove, it was also oatmeal, much more than Itsu got and it was mixed with milk and scraps left over from the table. Pugwash never bothered Itsu any more, not even trying to chase the rabbit away from its breakfast. In fact Itsu had lost his fear of Pugwash and hopped round the floor almost under the dog's nose. But the rabbit kept watching Pugwash from time to time and never got close enough to let Pugwash grab him.

Toby began to feel a lot better about his pets. He remembered what his father had said about the dog being jealous and tried to divide his attention equally between the two. Itsu had almost forgotten about Dadrab and Mumrab. There was a while when the rabbits came back at night and sniffed along the crack at the bottom of the old kitchen wall. They could smell Itsu and were sure he was in there somewhere. One night they got a real surprise. They heard something inside the wall and it was also sniffing along the crack. Dadrab put his nose down and gave a deep 's-n-i-f-f,' sure enough he could smell Itsu. Dadrab got so excited that Mumrab came and sniffed too. Sure enough she too smelled Itsu. Dadrab started digging along the crack with his forefeet and Mumrab started digging too. They quite forgot where they were with all the excitement. Pugwash had been sleeping on the other side of the house; he had been dreaming that he was chasing a squirrel and it had run up a tall tree and was sitting there chattering at him. He was so mad at that squirrel that he woke up. There was no squirrel around but he could hear an odd scratching sound and

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it sounded somewhere around the other side of the house. Pugwash got up and went to investigate. It was dark and he could not see very well but the scratching noise was quite near. Then a night breeze brought him the scent of rabbit. He crouched down and very quietly crept toward the sound. All of a sudden Dadrab sensed that there was danger near, he could smell dog ! He gave two thumps with his back feet to warn Mumrab and ran towards the forest as fast as his feet would take him. Mumrab followed close behind . They knew Dadrab had nearly caught them, in fact was catching up on them because they could hear him panting. Trees were right ahead of them and they dashed into their shelter and under some low thick scrub, out the other side and away to their den under the roots of the Old Tree. Pugwash got as far as the scrub patch and there he found he could not follow the rabbits any farther so in the dim light of the night he trotted back to the house puffing and panting, stopping just for a moment to sniff the rabbit scent along the old wall. That was the last time Dadrab and Mumrab ever came near the house. They knew Itsu was in there but they also felt there was no chance of ever getting him out, not with Pugwash outside and sleeping so lightly.

When Itsu had heard Dadrab and Mumrab scratching outside the wall he had hopped over to the crack and sniffed along it. Sure enough he could smell Dadrab and Mumrab. He tried scratching on the floor but the rabbits outside were too busy digging to hear him. Then Itsu heard Dadrab give those two thumps . They were two loud thumps and that meant real danger and the little rabbit scuttled back to his cage and did not move out of it till morning. That was the last time for a long while that Itsu was to be close to his parents. Not long after that he slept in Toby's room and then in his little box in the farm kitchen and gradually the rabbit den under the roots of The Old Tree faded from Itsu's memory and he hardly thought about Dadrab and Mumrab at all.

Itsu was getting to be quite a big rabbit. Toby looked after his pet well and

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gave it plenty of food and kept it's cage clean . Itsi had the run of the kitchen and quite often the farmers wife would give him a celery stalk or a cabbage root and perhaps the end of a large carrot. This last Itsi liked best of oall .It was sweet and crisp and nice and crunchy. There was always something going on in the kitchen to interest the rabbit. Although the door to the outside was often opened Itsi never tried to slip out. He was scared what would happen out there. That dog fight had really scared him , he felt safe in the kitchen . He knew Toby liked him and was always ready to play with him. Sometimes the boy and the rabbit would play hide and seek around the room and there were times when Pugwash joined in too and things got so noisy that the farmers wife would stamp her foot and pretend to hit them with her broom. Once Pugwash slid across the floor and banged into a cabinet. A plate of carrots fell off a shelf and when Pugwash had been sent outside in disgrace the carrots had been picked up and put away back on the shelf. All but one. Later Itsi was hopping round and found it under a corner of the cabinet. He quietly got it in his mouth and crept under the kitchen table. He ate the whole carrot, even nibbling the crumbs off the floor .

It had been spring when Itsi had been caught and taken in the house as Toby's pet. At first Itsi had wanted to escape outside and enjoy the rich fresh grass that grew all round the farm yard; Toby always brought him plenty of green grass but it was not the same as getting it for himself and he also missed the fresh young roots that Dadrab dug up for him in the woods. There were times when Itsi felt a longing just to get out and scamper round with other small rabbits and animals. Hopping round the rooms of the farmhouse was getting tiresome. At night when he slept in the kitchen he sometimes woke up and could see the moon shining through the little window over the table. The rabbit was a little frightened by the moonlight. He remembered seeing the face of that awful dog glaring in at him. Still, that was quite a time ago now and the dog had never returned. Itsi began to wonder what he could see if

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he could get up on the table top and look out the window when the moon was shining.

One bright moonlight night Itsi woke up and crept out of his little cage and very softly across the floor to the table. He stopped beside a chair, then hopped up on the seat. That was an easy hop for Itsi and from the chair to the table top was easier still. Itsi sat very still and listened. He could hear nothing. Everyone in the house was asleep upstairs. He gave a little hop or two towards the window and found that he could look out over much of the yard. The bright moonlight made some dark shadows that reminded Itsi of the inside of the milk pail. He could see nothing in those shadows. It was so interesting that the rabbit sat on the table for some time just looking. The window was half open and there was a nice soft night breeze blowing through the kitchen. The breeze was so enticing that Itsi crept up quite close and poked his nose underneath the window. His nose only went out a little way and it was stopped by something soft and rough. But the air still kept coming in and the little breeze ruffled Itsi's hair. It felt so good and fresh! The rabbit kept looking. Then a movement out in the yard caught his attention. There was a small black animal crossing the yard. It was black with white stripes along its back and it was moving in short hops. It had a tail almost as long as its body and the tail was almost brushing the ground. Itsi suddenly caught a smell on the little breeze. It smelled just like Dadrab did when he got into the old culvert with Sukey Skunk. It was Sukey, Itsi was certain of that he could never forget that smell. The rabbit watched Sukey for some minutes. The skunk was in no hurry, it stopped once or twice and dug up some root or other in the yard, then rambled off to an old building and disappeared underneath it. Itsi sat very quiet. He was thinking rabbit thoughts. Someone upstairs coughed. Itsi forgot he was on top of the table and made a rush to get back to his cage. He went clean over the edge of the table and landed with a thump on the floor. He made for his cage and he had no breath to run but he got to the cage and sat there

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panting and his little heart hammering his ribs. There was no more noise from upstairs and Itsi snuggled down and was soon asleep.

The moon was still bright the next night and again Itsi got up and sneaked over to the table. This time he did not get on the chair seat. He stayed a little way from the table, did a couple of hops ending in a jump and he was up on the table. He went right over to the window and sat there looking out to see what might be going on in the yard. This time he saw a dark brown, small animal come out of a pile of wood and start towards the building where Sukey Skunk had gone the night before. It was almost to the building when a shadow swept across the yard, swooped down and before Itsi could blink his eyes it had skimmed across the ground and snatched up the small brown animal and was away up and over the trees. The rabbit did not know what it was that had happened but he felt that whatever took the little animal might be quite able to do the same with him. He sat very still thinking rabbit thoughts, while Silent Shadow the Owl made a good meal of the barn rat he had caught.

Itsi thought he had better go back to his cage, that thing might just see him in the window and come after him; this time he was more careful about getting off the table top. As he was just about to jump down the moonlight in the kitchen was shining on the kitchen cupboard and on a shelf about half way up there stood a lovely plate of fresh carrots. Itsi suddenly felt terribly hungry. He jumped off the table as quietly as he could and hopped over to the cupboard. It had a little shelf on the front of it where the farmer's wife set dishes. It was quite clear. Itsi gave another jump and landed on that, from there if he stood on his hind legs he could just reach the shelf where the carrot dish stood. Very carefully he reached up. He put his front feet against a shelf, stretched himself as far on his hind legs as he could and he could just reach a piece of that tempting carrot. He hooked both front feet on the edge of the shelf and tried to pull himself a wee bit higher. Then everything happened at once. Something in the cupboard gave way and shelf and dishes came

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crashing down on top of Itsu. The noise was terrible! The rabbit never waited, he was really terrified and made a wild dash for the table and the window. Some natural instinct urged him to get out of that room as quickly as possible. The window was half open as it was the night before . Itsu made the top of the table in one bound and never stopped. Out through the window he went forgetting completely the rough material that he felt with his nose the night before. It was a screen made of wire but the wire was old and rather rotten. Itsu's head went right through it and he landed on the ground outside the kitchen head over heels and with the old screen, frame and all, fast round his neck. To Be Continued.

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Itsi had landed on the ground with a hard thump . With his fright and the bump he had lost his breath completely. He did not know where he was but just lay panting. Presently he started to struggle, then he found that his feet and head were tangled in the screen , he could not move. Just like Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby he was stuck. He heard a movement beside him and he managed to move his head to see what it was. There sitting only a foot away from him was Pugwash! Itsi wished with all his little heart that he was back in the house in his own little cage. He was too frightened now to even try to move. It was bright moonlight and Itsi could see Pugwash quite clearly. He was just sitting looking steadily at the rabbit. There were other things around the yard that night too. Silent Shadow, the owl, from his perch back in the woods with his very, very keen hearing had heard the noise coming from the open window of the kitchen so he flew down to investigate. He flew so quietly that Pugwash never heard him as he passed overhead. The Owl had never before seen such a sight. He flew round the yard once more and looked more closely. This time he saw Itsi all tangled up in the screen. He did not look as if he was alive. He saw Pugwash too. Now Silent Shadow was quite capable of swooping down on a rabbit , or Brownie the ground hog, but Pugwash was a different animal .The owl flew back to the woods and perched on a tree where he could watch the farm yard and all that went on around it.

While all this was taking place in the farm yard the farmer and his wife and Toby had been wakened by the noise of the crash in the kitchen. Toby was sure that something had happened to his rabbit and he was first down to see. There were all kinds of things spread about on the kitchen floor. Plates , dishes, small pots, a broken jar of fruit, another of honey. Some of the plates and cups had been broken and a plate of carrots had been scattered all through the mess. Toby stood with his eyes popping; he had never in all his life seen such a mess in his mother's kitchen. What could have happened! Then the boy thought of his pet. He looked round but Itsi was not in his little cage. Just then his mother and father came into the room and

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they too were dumfounded. "What in the world has happened here?" said Toby's father, "And where in the world is the rabbit?" They began looking round the kitchen but there was no sign of Itsi. Suddenly Toby's mother exclaimed, "Look at the window, the screen has gone out of it! That's where your Rabbit went Toby; see look on the table he's been up there. There are sticky tracks of honey right across it." The boy was on top of the table in a flash and looking out of the window, "Oh! Mother, Dad, Itsi is on the ground just below the window and he is all mixed up in the screen ! I t-h-i-n-k h-e-'s dead. He's not moving at all and Pugwash is out there a-n-d, a-n-d oh,oh," and Toby began to cry. "Hey stop that!", his father said. "You're too big a boy to cry, and your rabbit might not be dead; let's go out and see."

Itsi was not moving a muscle. Pugwash was lying on the ground with his head on his front paws. His nose was about two feet away from the tangle of wire and rabbit. He was not taking his eyes from Itsi for a second. When the people came round the house Itsi made another attempt to get out of the mess he was in and Pugwash got to his feet but he still kept watching the rabbit. Toby and his father picked up screen and rabbit and started to try and get Itsi loose. The rabbit's head had gone right through the screen and it's hind legs were all mixed up in the tangle of wire and wood.

"Here , you hold your rabbit behind his front legs , I'll try and get his feet out of the wire and his head out of that hole he made." Itsi was not even trying to struggle now, he was terribly frightened of all that had happened. As Toby and his father started to try and get the rabbit loose and Toby's mother tried to help. Pugwash sat and watched them all. Itsi just let himself go all loose as if he was dead and Toby started to worry again. "I think he is dead Daddy, he is not moving at all and he is all limp , and the boy gave a snuffle. "Itsi is not dead, he is just playing 'Possum,' animals do that you know, when they get very scared. You're holding him a bit tight perhaps, just feel him carefully and I am sure you will feel his heart

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beating." Toby tried and sure enough he felt a little 'thump', 'thump', 'thump.' With a little more trying they got the rabbit loose and the boy took him in his arms and started to carry him to the house. "Thanks Dad, thanks ever so much !" "That's fine son, he'll be all right soon. Put him back in his little cage and you'll have to help your mother clean up the kitchen in the morning. Be sure and close the rabbit in for the night, it must have been trying to do something in the kitchen through the night."

Toby was stroking Itsi as he carried him to the house. All of a sudden the rabbit gave a struggle and before Toby could hold it Itsi was out of his arms, on the ground and was heading for the woods as fast as he could go and Pugwash was right after him. Now Toby was speechless with fright himself. Pugwash looked as if he meant to catch that rabbit and was losing no time about it! Both Toby and his father tried to call Pugwash back with no luck. Then something else happened!

Silent Shadow had been watching all that went on in the yard from his tree in the woods. In the bright moonlight he saw the rabbit jump out of Toby's arms and start running across the yard and then he saw Pugwash take after it and chase it. Now Silent Shadow left his tree and started across the yard too. He was sure he could catch Itsi before Pugwash. The owl liked nothing better than warm freshly killed rabbit and Mother Owl back in their nest in the woods had three small growing owls to feed and this was too good a chance to miss.

Itsi knew that Pugwash was after him and he ran for the woods as fast as he could go. Rabbit's eyes are so placed in its head that they can see almost in every direction. It seemed such a long way to those woods for Itsi and he was becoming breathless too. Suddenly he felt, rather than saw something floating along over the top of him. He remembered Silent Shadow and the rat a few nights before. By instinct he started to zig zag as he ran but the owl was up to those rabbit tricks and he

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thrust out his claws and swooped down on the rabbit. In the meantime Pugwash had been gaining on Itsi. Pugwash did not really want to catch Itsi but had been looking for the chance to get the rabbit alone and chase it clean off the farm. He was really jealous of that furry nuisance that took up so much of Toby's attention . Pugwash saw the owl about the same time as Itsi saw it. The dog had seen that old owl chase, catch and kill chickens in the yard and when he was a puppy running round with Toby the owl had even tried to get him but Toby scared it away. Well here was a chance to get an old score evened up. Pugwash was just near enough the owl and the rabbit that it gave him his chance and just as the owl swooped down on Itsi, Pugwash made a flying jump at the owl. Silent Shadow felt something grab him by the feathers on his behind and he forgot the rabbit completely. He soared upward at the same speed that he dove downwards and Pugwash was left standing on the ground shaking his head trying to get rid of a mouthful of feathers. He wiped his face on the grass, took a look round for Itsi but the rabbit was away off into the woods heading for the rabbit den under the roots of the old tree. Pugwash trotted back to the house and found Toby and his mother and father waiting for him. They had been watching everything that went on between the rabbit , the dog and the bird. Toby was sorry that his pet had got away but his father said it was a good thing Itsi was back among the trees where he belonged before he got too used to being looked after by the family. As long as Itsi was safe Toby felt a little that way too, and they all went back to bed and left the kitchen mess till the morning.

Itsi kept running through the woods and at last found the old rabbit home under the roots of Old Tree. Dadrab and Mumrab were not there. Itsi smelled round but their scent was stale. They had not been there for quite some time. The rabbit felt quite at home and safe from owls and Pugwash. He never did know that Pugwash did not mean to hurt him. He knew he could look after himself in the morning, and he sugged down in the dry grass of the den and went to sleep. He was really tired out.

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When Itsi woke up in the morning the sun was shining through the trees. He did not know where he was. Then he remembered all that had happened through the night and how he had come back to the old den among the roots. It all seemed like a horrid nightmare but he was back in the old rabbit home and that felt good. He wondered a bit about where Dadrab and Mumrab had got to but did not think about it for very long. He was hungry and he crept outside to see what there might be to eat. He snuffed round among old roots and finally found a patch of grass that had delicious roots that he could dig up.

Dadrab and Mumrab had been out during the night and had heard some of the noise round the farm yard. Had heard people talking and Toby and his Father trying to call Pugwash back. The rabbits had changed their den again and were much farther in the woods. The morning after the noise in the farm yard they moved out to the edge of the woods to see what they could see around the yard. There was nothing stirring there and they wandered slowly about nibbling at grass and scratching for roots. Suddenly Dadrab put his nose close to the ground and sniffed. Then he got quite excited and jumped here and there sniffing all the time. Mumrab looked up from where she had been nibbling at some green shoots of willow and hopped over to see what was making Dadrab so excited. She sniffed too and was as excited as Dadrab. They had found Itsi's scent. They forgot all about eating and followed the scent into the woods and right back to the Old Tree with the rabbit den under the roots. Just a little way from the tree there was Itsi busy nibbling his breakfast. They hopped over to him. Itsi was so busy eating that he did not notice them right away, when he did they gave him such a fright that he dashed under the roots of the tree and sat there peering out at them. Then he came slowly out and hopped up to Dadrab and Mumrab. They sniffed him all over. He smelled kind of funny. It was Itsi's scent, they were sure of that but he also had a honey smell about him. Presently all three rabbits hopped away into the woods and Dadrab and Mumrab showed Itsi their new home under some big rocks and that is where we leave them for just now. THE END.