

# Rabbit Tales: A Bunch of Bunny Books

## *A Bulletin Dozen Booklist*

**W**alk into a store that carries children's merchandise these days and you'll likely see Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit emblazoned on clothing, strollers, bibs, linens, and yes, even actual books (picture books, cloth books, board books, and bath books)! It's a bit ironic that Peter and Co. have ended up symbolizing the gentler side of childhood, considering that many of Potter's literary critters, Peter included, were not so very well behaved (check out her *The Story of a Fierce Bad Rabbit* for further proof of this). While book-dwelling bunnies can certainly be cute and cuddly, they can also be obstreperous, pesky, optimistic, spooky, strange, silly, adventurous, clever, and glamorous. Here is a burrow full of books about all kinds of bunnies, perfect to use for biding the time until the Big Guy shows up with the candy, for tucking into Easter baskets, or simply for welcoming spring.



—Jeannette Hulick  
April 2004

# THE BULLETIN

OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The *Bulletin* Dozen is a monthly theme-based booklist available from the *Bulletin's* website. Since we're awfully fond of bakers here at the *Bulletin*, we thought we'd adopt their philosophy of generosity and throw in an extra one or two when we have them to offer—so don't expect an even dozen.

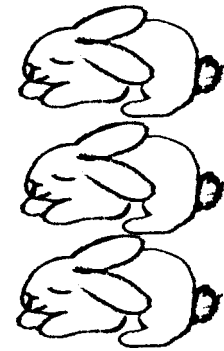
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**Duvall, Deborah L., ad.** *How Rabbit Lost His Tail: A Traditional Cherokee Legend*; illus. by **Murv Jacob**. University of New Mexico, 2003. Gr. 2-4 Rabbit, or Ji-Stu, as he's known among the Cherokee, is proud of his long silky tail, until Otter shows up with his superior fur coat. When jealous Ji-Stu steals Otter's coat for himself, he ends up losing his own best feature. (BCCB 1/2004)

**Fleming, Candace.** *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*; illus. by **G. Brian Karas**. Schwartz/Atheneum, 2002. 4-7 yrs A trio of naughty, sweater-clad rabbits repeatedly invade the garden of the increasingly frustrated Mr. McGreely, who goes to great lengths (fences, moats, padlocks, etc.) to keep the hungry critters out—will he succeed? (BCCB 3/02)

**Glori, Debi.** *Flora's Surprise!*; written and illus. by **Debi Glori**. Orchard, 2003. 4-7 yrs Little bunny Flora is the youngest of a family of gardening bunnies. While her other family members plant seeds, Flora plants a brick, hoping to grow a house. Though her siblings scoff, Flora triumphs—though not in the way you might expect. (BCCB 3/03)

**Harris, Joel Chandler.** *The Tales of Uncle Remus: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit*; retold by **Julius Lester**; illus. by **Jerry Pinkney**. Dial, 1987. Gr. 5-up Bugs may be a “wascally wabbit,” but never was there a bunny so clever and tricky as Brer Rabbit. Lester's version is clear and very funny, told in “modified contemporary southern black English.”

**Holub, Joan.** *Why Do Rabbits Hop?: And Other Questions about Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, and Gerbils*; illus. by **Anna DiVito** and with photographs. Dial, 2003. Gr. 2-4

A question-and-answer format and plenty of illustrations (many of them photos) make this title a good-to-browse introduction to the habits and characteristics of rabbits and other small pets. (BCCB 3/03)

**Howe, James.** *Bunnicula: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery*; by **Deborah and James Howe**; illus. by **Alan Daniel**. Atheneum, 1979. Gr. 4-6 Everyone knows that bunnies are adorable, harmless little critters. Or are they? Harold the dog and Chester the cat begin to have their doubts after their family adopts a stray black-and-white bunny with peculiar fang-like teeth. (BCCB 7/79)

**Jennings, Richard.** *Orwell's Luck*. Lorraine/Houghton, 2000. Gr. 5-7 When a girl finds an injured rabbit in her yard, she takes him in and names him Orwell. But Orwell is apparently no ordinary rabbit, as the girl finds out when he begins sending her secret messages through the horoscope section of her daily newspaper. (BCCB 11/00)

**Lee, Ho Baek.** *While We Were Out*; written and illus. by **Ho Baek Lee**. Kane/Miller, 2003. 3-6 yrs A family's pet bunny takes advantage of their overnight absence to explore such forbidden pleasures as pigging out in front of the TV, playing dressup, and inline skating down the hall in this playful and charming picture book. (BCCB 3/03)

**Loomis, Christine.** *Scuba Bunnies*; illus. by **Ora Eitan**. Putnam, 2004. 3-5 yrs Jaunty and adventurous little bunnies explore the ocean's depths before returning home to “Mamas [who] welcome/ Bunnies back.../ Hug them, dry them/ Fix a snack.” Little ones who prefer space exploration to deep sea diving will like Loomis's Astro Bunnies (BCCB 2/01). (BCCB 2/04)

**Ward, Helen, ad.** *The Hare and the Tortoise: A Fable from Aesop*; ad. and illus. by **Helen Ward**. Millbrook, 1999. 4-8 yrs Beautifully and realistically rendered animal characters done in watercolor and ink and streamlined, lively language make this version of the often-told fable a first-place winner. (BCCB 6/99)

**Wells, Rosemary.** *First Tomato; Moss Pillows; The Island Light*; written and illus. by **Rosemary Wells**. Dial, 1992. 3-6 yrs Had a really bad day? So have little bunnies Claire, Felix, and Robert. The perfect remedy for just such a day is a trip to the magical Bunny Planet, ruled over by benevolent bunny Queen Janet in this trio of humorous and reassuring books, where “the day that should have been” takes place instead. (BCCB 12/92)

**Wells, Rosemary.** *Ruby's Beauty Shop*; written and illus. by **Rosemary Wells**. Viking, 2002. 4-6 yrs Bunny sibling duo Max and Ruby (along with Ruby's friend, Louise) play “extreme makeover,” using Louise's “Deluxe Beauty Kit,” with very, er, colorful results. (BCCB 11/02)

**Williams, Sue.** *Dinnertime!*; illus. by **Kerry Argent**. Harcourt, 2002. 3-6 yrs “Run fat rabbits, run, run, run!” Six plump and careless little bunnies evade the clutches of a hungry fox in this picture book; snappy rhymes, repetition, and a clever twist at the end will make it a favorite read-aloud. (BCCB 4/02)

