

Milena Kamińska

THE LITTLE BRAVE BUNNY

Will we find a new home?



Illustrations
Magdalena Pochrząszcz

Once there was a small meadow and a beautiful, brown family of bunnies – the Mommy Bunny, the Daddy Bunny and the Little Bunny – Andriy. Other families of bunnies lived there too, and they lived a peaceful, happy life working together and playing.

Today, little Andriy and his parents got up very early. They had been planning that today, was the day they would sow sunflowers. They had been waiting for this day the entire winter. It was their family tradition. Every year they cultivated their land, sowed their seeds, waited for them to sprout and then finally they harvested. They enjoyed working together very much.



The family was eating breakfast, when their alert ears heard disturbing sounds. Mommy and Daddy started whispering. Little Bunny didn't understand what was happening.

– Unfortunately we will not sow sunflowers today – said the Mommy Bunny, worried.

– What's happening? What are these noises? – asked Little Bunny.

– Our meadow is in danger – said the Daddy Bunny in a trembling voice.

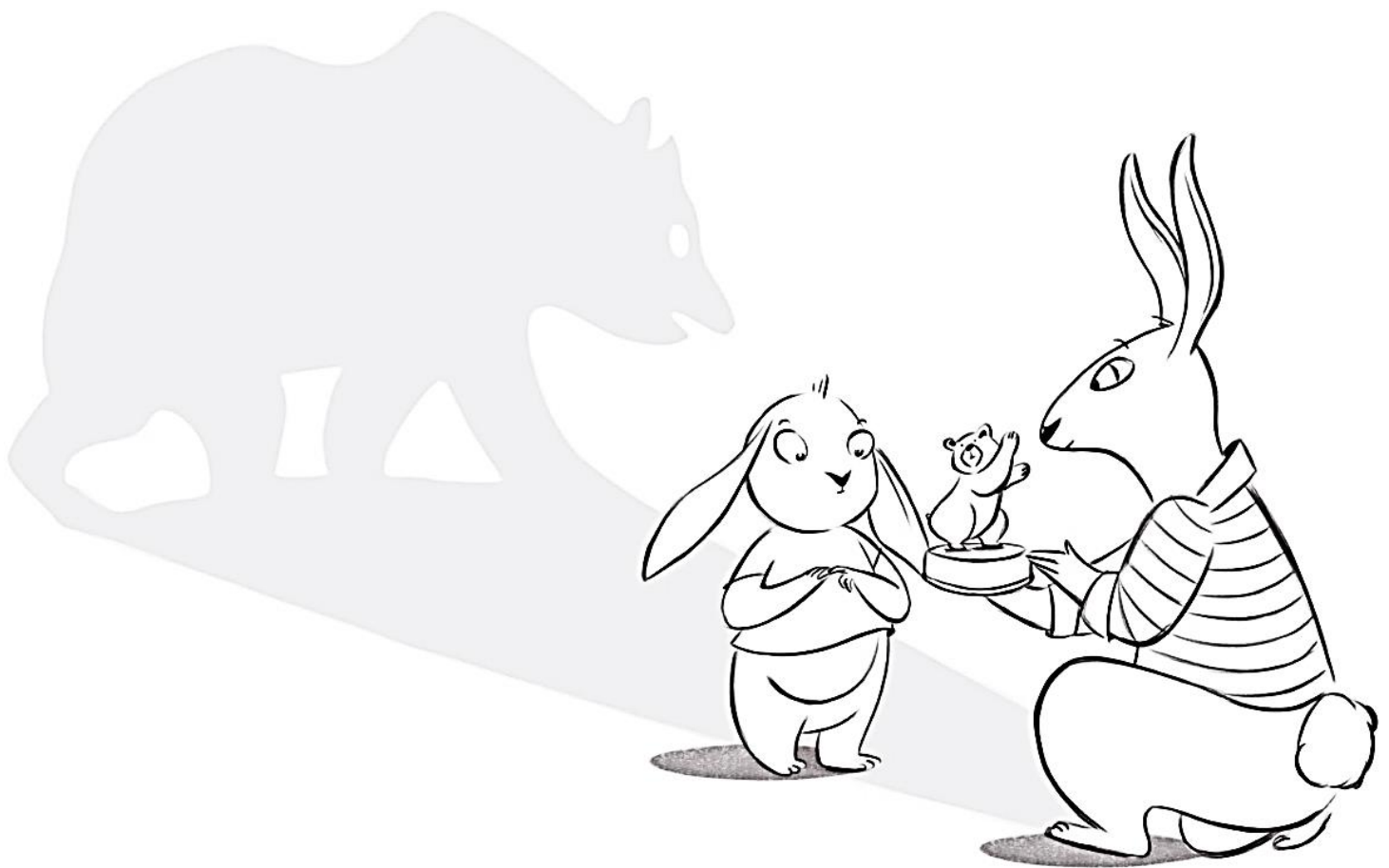
– Why? Why? – Little Bunny kept asking.



– Angry Bear wants to take our meadow from us – Daddy continued. – But we will not give it up that easily! – he added proudly.

– A bear? But all the bears I know from the books you read to me were nice and kind... – little Andriy wondered.

– Yes, son, most of the bears are good, but unfortunately not all of them... – Mommy Bunny was trying to explain it, as best as she could.



Little Bunny's parents decided that it would be best for him and the Mommy Bunny to look for shelter in a safe place.

Mommy Bunny asked her son to pack the most important things. They could only take items which would fit in Mommy's backpack and a small one which belonged to Little Bunny.

– We have a long road ahead, we cannot take all your toys but I am sure we will find room for your favourite cuddly toy – Little Bear – Mommy said with a concerned voice.

– And Daddy? Why isn't he going with us – Andriy asked, anxiously.

– Together with other daddies he will stay and protect our little home, our little garden and our meadow. Daddy is very brave! – said the Mommy Bunny.

– I'm scared... I'm worried about you, Daddy! – said Little Bunny.

– I know my son, it's normal that we are afraid in situations like this, but I promise that I will do whatever is in my power to save our home and our meadow – Daddy replied.

- I will miss you, Daddy – Little Bunny added.
- I will miss you and Mommy too. I love you very much and I will always be with you, no matter if we are together or apart
- Daddy replied. He was very moved.
- We love you too! – Bunny said.
- Take your Little Bear and cuddle it any time you feel like cuddling me, and I will feel it in my heart for sure – he added as he said goodbye.

Daddy gave them both a big hug and they went on their way.



They went on, as they didn't know where to go. They walked day and night. The weather wasn't always nice. Once the sun was shining, the other time it was very windy. When Little Bunny's feet were tired, the Mommy Bunny would pick him up and carry him as long as he needed. When they were very tired and hungry, they would take short breaks for something small to eat and a bit of sleep. Mommy packed some sandwiches for the road and they never tasted so good in Little Bunny's life.

During one of Bunny's naps, a little swallow flew to Mommy and sat on her paw. Mommy loved swallows very much because each year they would fly to the meadow and bring news of spring.



As they were walking, Mommy talked to her son about the situation. Little Bunny really wanted to know what was going to happen, where they would live now and when would they go back home.

– Son, I promise you that we will get back home as soon, as we can – said Mommy with a calm voice. – We have to believe and trust that we will go back and sow the sunflowers – she added.

– Mommy, I miss Daddy very much – Andriy kept repeating and his little bunny face was covered with tears.

– I know, my love, I miss him too, and I am sure he misses us – Mommy replied.

Little Bunny observed, that Mommy shed a few tears, too. He thought that he made her worry with his questions and his crying.

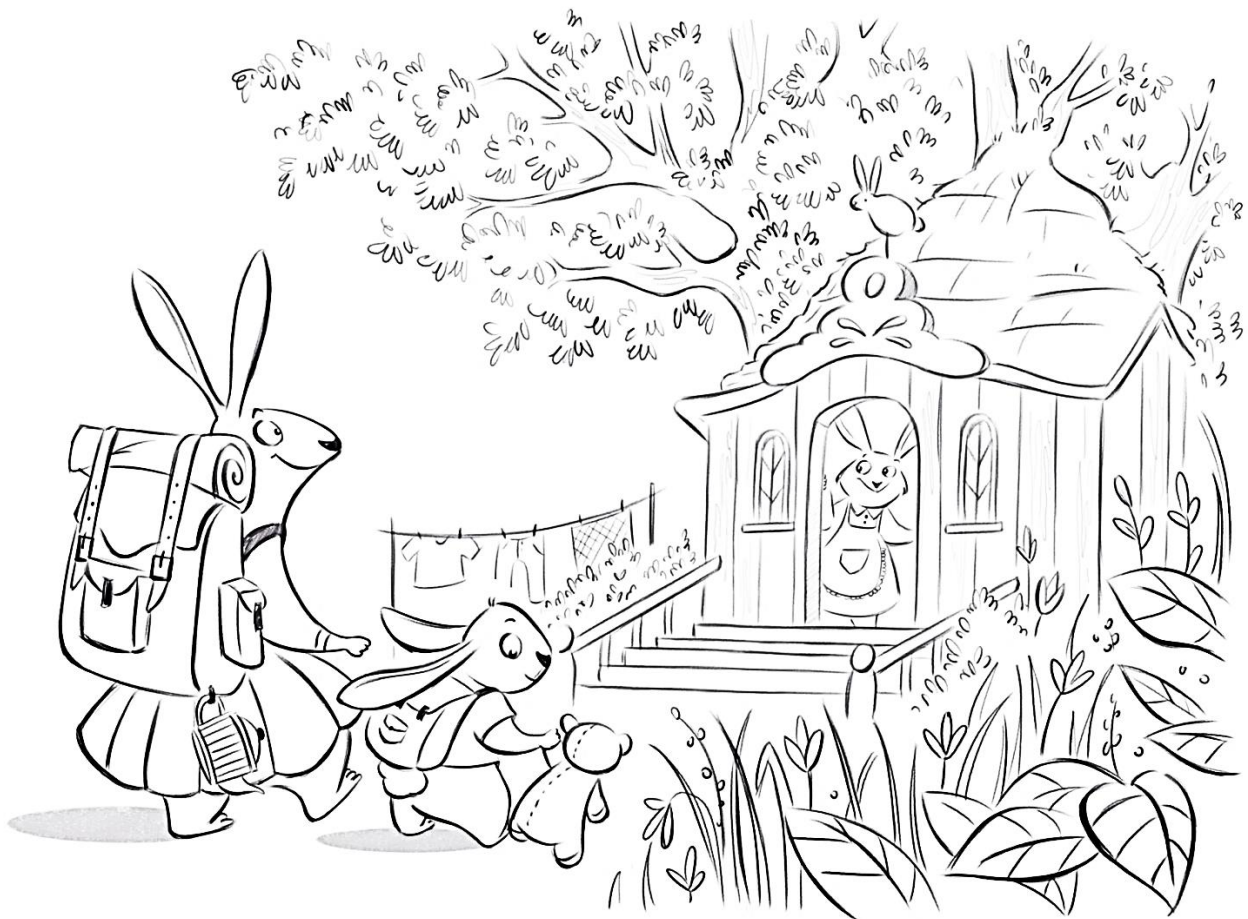
– I'm not going to cry any more, I promise – said Little Bunny in a low voice.

– Son, crying is a natural reaction both for small and big bunnies and you should not try to stop it – Mommy said. – You can cry any time you feel like it and I will give you a hug and do my best to help you – Mommy added lovingly.

At dawn their eyes saw a tiny, cozy home. “If the house is so colourful, there must be good creatures there” – Mommy thought. They approached it timidly and decided to knock.

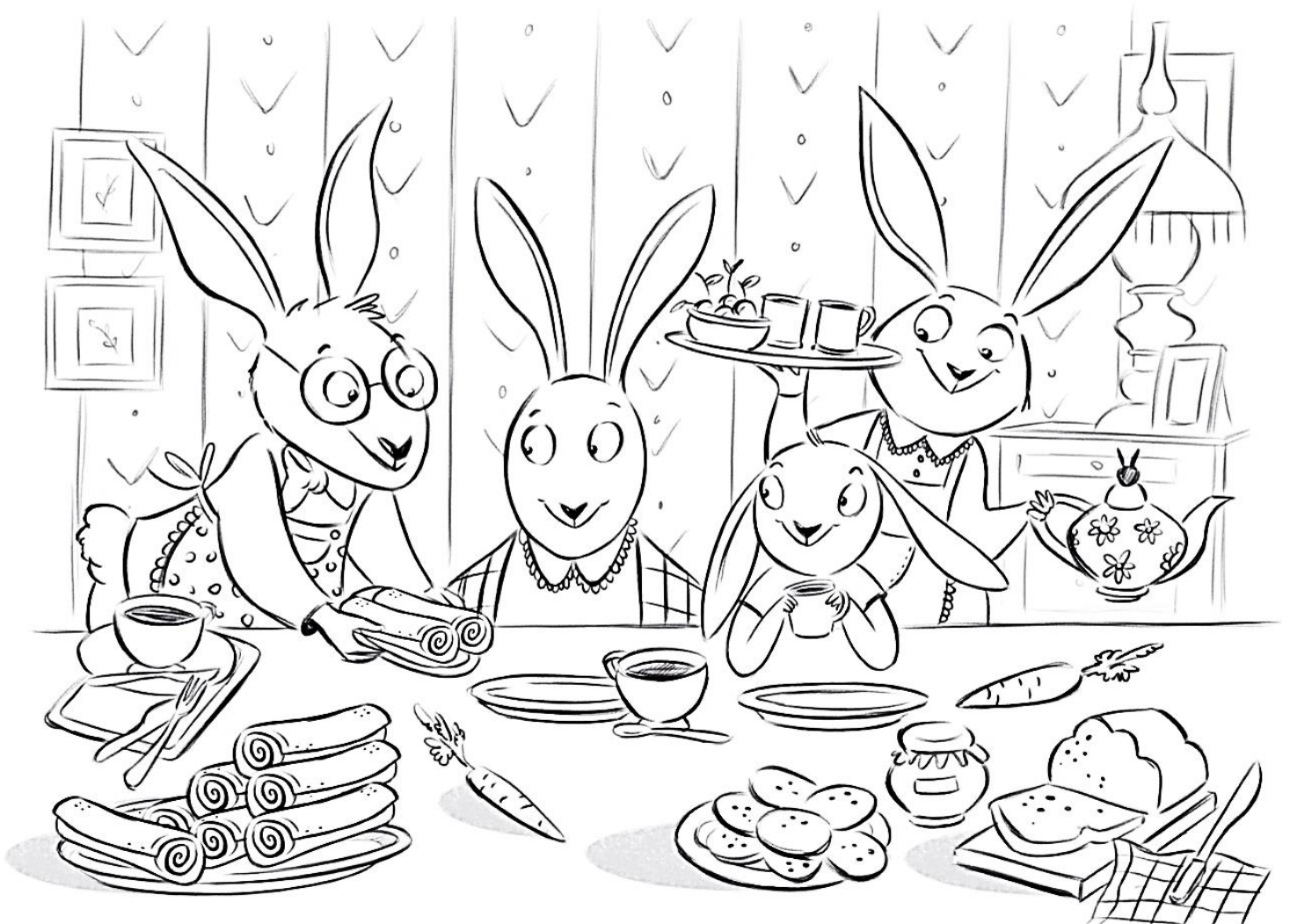
– Knock, knock! – Mommy knocked hesitantly and took a few steps back. She had no idea if anyone would open the door, and even if they did, would they even let them in for a moment to get warm and eat something?

After a little while, Mrs. Bunny opened the door. Little Andriy noticed her fur was grey and her smile was radiant. They said, “hello” and Mommy and Mrs. Bunny started to talk. Little Bunny didn’t understand much of what they were talking about. Mrs. Bunny spoke in a similar, but different language at the same time. Luckily, the Mommy Bunny knew a few words in that language because she had learnt some as a little girl.



– Please, come inside, you must be very tired – Mrs. Bunny said. – We are in the middle of breakfast and I hope you can join us! – she added and showed them to the kitchen.

The house was very warm and nice, and most of all, safe. The kitchen smelled of freshly fried pancakes which Mr. Bunny just finished making. Everything looked as if they were waiting for them, but they had no idea they were coming... Bunnies sat at the table, hesitantly. The table was full of goodies – pancakes with carrot marmalade, wheat cookies and hot tea with strawberry juice.



– Help yourselves, the pancakes are still warm and the warm tea with juice will help you get warm – Mr. Bunny said.

– Thank you very much – Mommy replied and she helped herself to a pancake.

– Mommy, are you sure these are pancakes? – Andriy asked.

– Yes, son, they’re just a little different than the ones we make at home, but they’re really very tasty – Mommy explained.

– Please try some, and if you don’t like them, you don’t have to eat any – Mommy added with a smile on her face.

Little Bunny was very hungry. He decided to trust Mommy and give the pancakes a chance.

– Mmmmmhmmm, they’re so yummy! – Andriy said and smiled lightly.

During their meal together, the adults talked a lot about the situation. Little Andriy’s Mommy wondered what they should do next.

– Our home is tiny but we will all fit and you can stay with us as long as you want to – Mrs. Bunny said.

– We will share all our supplies with you – Mr. Bunny added.

– You are such good bunnies.... – the Mommy Bunny said with a trembling voice. – I hope we will be able to go home soon and then we will invite you to our meadow – she added.

In the meantime, little Andriy focused on toys he could see in the distance. For a moment, he wondered why adults would have toys. – Maybe there are some little bunnies here too? – he thought.



At some point, doors opened. Little Bunny cuddled up to his Mommy.

– Don't worry, it must be our son, Alexander. He was playing in the backyard.

Little Alexander's Mommy explained to her son that their guests had to leave their meadow because it was too dangerous for them to stay there. She added that they would stay together for a while and they would do a lot of things together. Alexander didn't mind at all.

Little Andriy beamed at the sight of him. Alexander smiled gently and stretched out his paw towards his new friend. They said hello and started talking and playing. They didn't always understand everything but then they would use gestures and drawings. It turned out they both loved to draw. This way Andriy told Alexander about his home, the meadow, toys, clothes, and – most importantly – Daddy and Friends. He also drew the field of sunflowers that they never managed to sow. Alexander drew a heart on the paper.



– Can I play with your toys? – Andriy asked and pointed at one of the cars.

Alexander agreed that his new friend could play with his toys. He had plenty of toys to share.

Evening has come. Mrs. Bunny prepared a comfortable place to sleep for Andriy and his Mommy.

– It's time to go to sleep, Honey – said the Mommy Bunny.

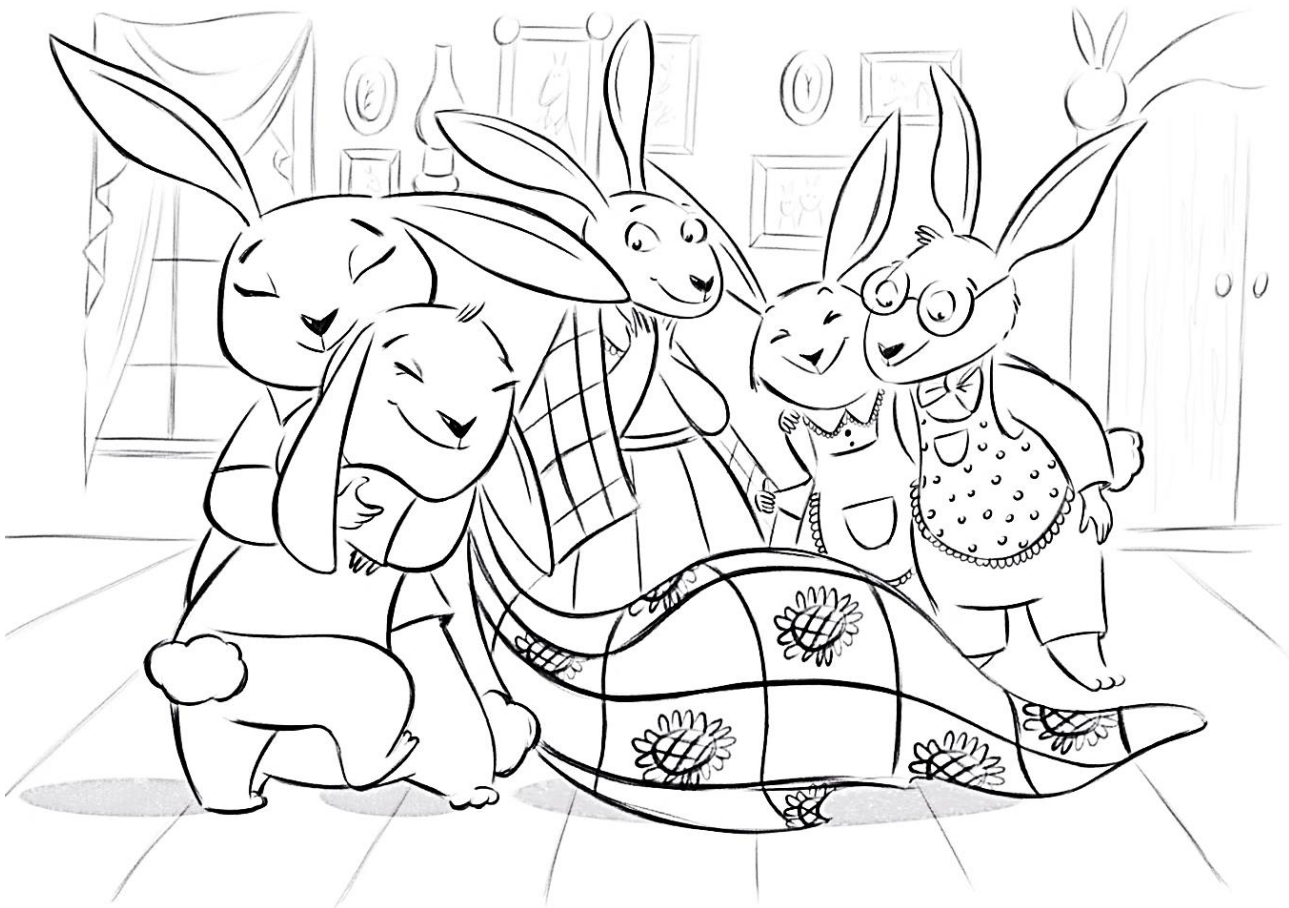
All of the sudden Andriy felt sad, and neither Mommy nor Alexander's parents seemed to understand why. Little Alexander, seeing his friend's face, went to his bed and took the blanket. – Please, take my blanket, it is very soft – said Alexander, smiling. – You need it more than I do, and I will be sleeping under my other blanket which is very warm, too – he added.

Andriy looked at Alexander and gave him a big hug.

– You are a true friend – said little Andriy with gratitude.

This entire situation really moved the parents, who all wiped the tears running down their faces.

– You raised your son really well – the Mommy Bunny said.



Andriy went to his new bed smiling and covered himself up with a soft blanket. He had one just like this at home.

– I am very proud of you and I am happy you’re getting along with your new friend, even though you speak different languages. – Mommy said.

– We have our own special language of friendship, we don’t need words – sleepy Bunny replied.

– Goodnight son – Mommy said and kissed Bunny tenderly on the forehead.

– Goodnight Mommy – Bunny replied.

– Goodnight Daddy – he added and gave Little Bear the biggest hug he could...

