

“The Story of the Bunny Who Didn’t

Want to Fall Asleep”

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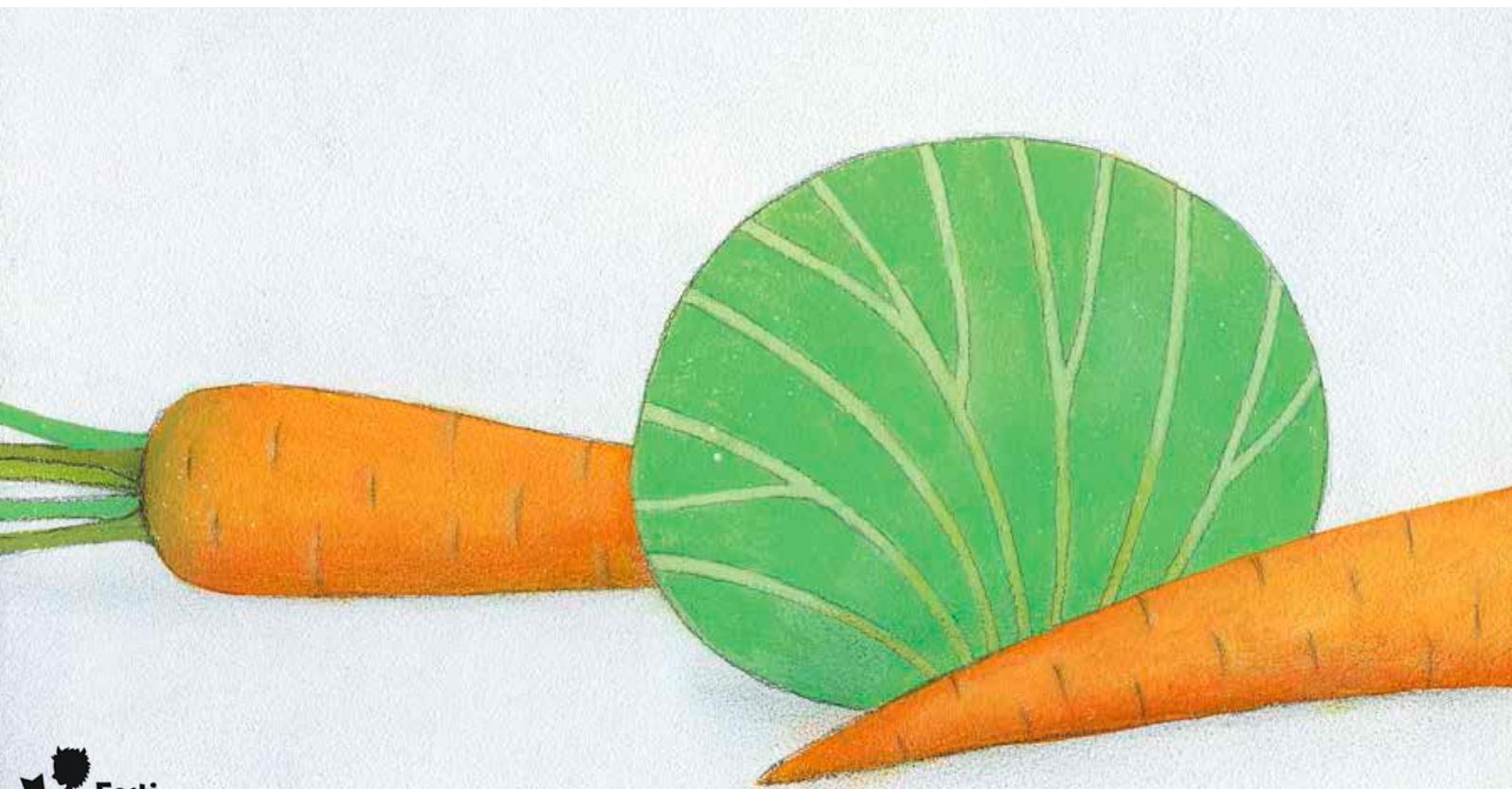
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Age: 3+

It’s night-time, and also the grey baby bunny’s bedtime. However, he just can’t seem to doze off, and keeps pushing the blanket away. The bunny’s mom becomes irritated before long. She threatens that Fox will come if he doesn’t fall asleep. Even so, the bunny stays naughty and refuses to duck under the covers. The more the mommy bunny scolds the boy, the more insolent he becomes. But then, he hears a mouse skittering in the corner ...



Reading sample

Once upon a time, there lived a gray baby bunny. He had black eyes and a stubby little white tail.

The bunny also had a mom. His mom also had black eyes and a little bigger stubby white tail.

The bunny hopped and frolicked around all day long, ate red and green cabbage, and sometimes a little cauliflower, too.

The bunny's mom also hopped and frolicked around. Not just for fun, though, but with a purpose. She foraged for food to feed her son and herself: never-ending cabbage and cabbage and cabbage, and occasionally rutabegas, too.

One night, the gray bunny didn't want to fall asleep. He pushed away his blanket and squeaked:

"I don't want to sleep! I want green cabbage. I don't want to sleep! I want red cabbage. I don't want to sleep! I want cauliflower, cauliflower, cauliflower, and a little bit of rutabega, too."

"Close your eyes," mommy-bunny said. "You'll get cabbage tomorrow, and you'll get rutabega tomorrow, too."

But the bunny didn't close his eyes. Instead, he kept squeaking:

"I want cauliflower, cauliflower, cauliflower, and rutabega, too – right now!"

Then, mommy-bunny said:

"If you don't fall asleep, then fox will come and grab your ears."

But the bunny said:

"I'm not afraid of fox, i'm not afraid of fox, i'm not afraid of fox at all. I'll fold my ears against my back."

Then, mommy-bunny became angry and said:

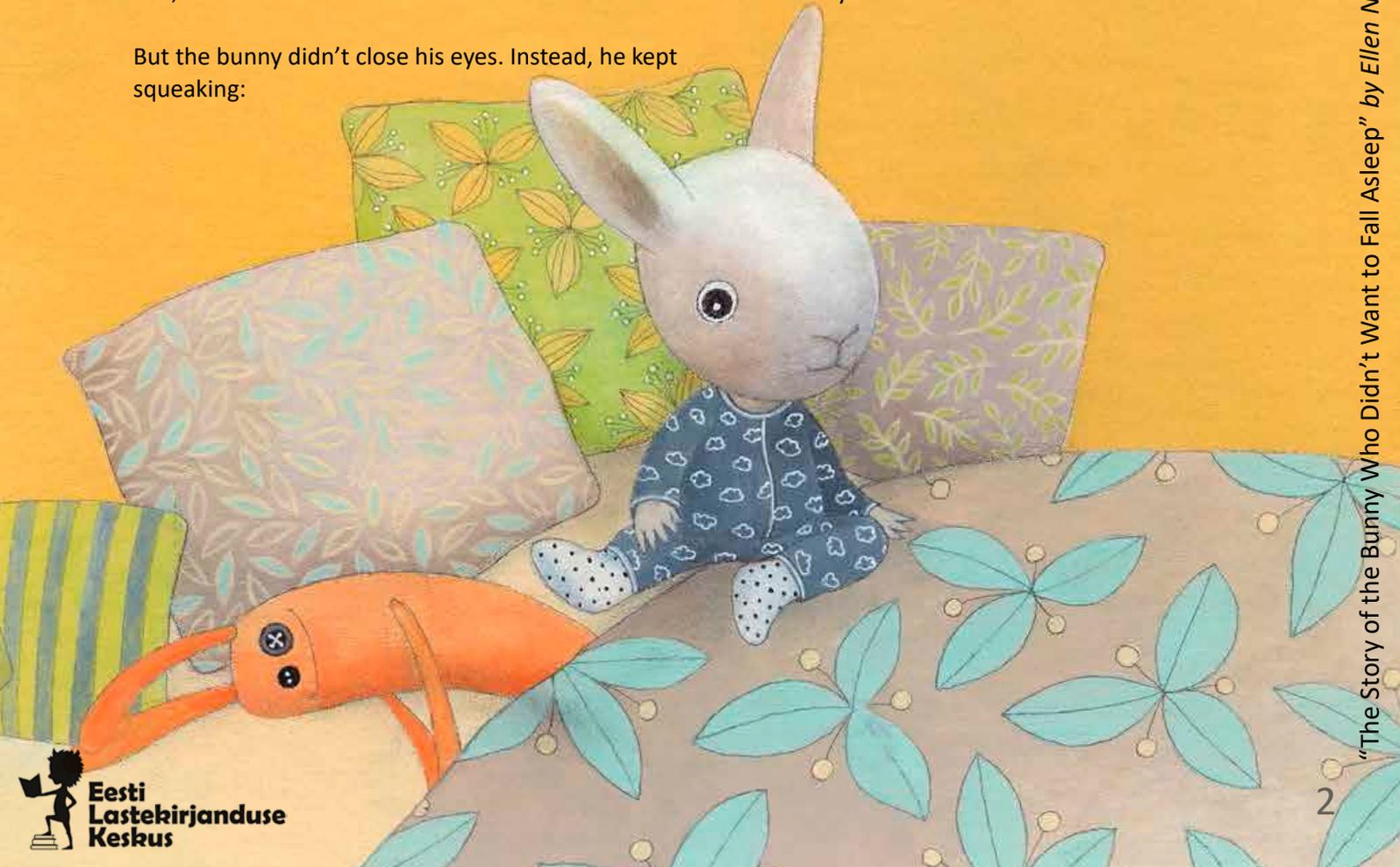
"Go to sleep right now. If you don't, then wolf will come and snatch your tail."

But bunny replied:

"I'm not afraid of wolf, i'm not afraid of wolf, i'm not afraid of wolf at all. If wolf comes, then i'll lift my tail and run into the other room."

Then, mommy-bunny became hopping mad and said:

"Go to sleep. If you don't, then bear will come and will scratch your back raw."



But bunny replied:

“I’m not afraid of bear, i’m not afraid of bear, i’m not afraid of bear or his claws at all. I’m not afraid of anybody.”

Mommy-bunny didn’t say another word. She simply went into the other room, leaving bunny gloating all on his own.

As soon as she had left, a little black mouse darted out from behind a corner and went:

“Peep-peep!”

Bunny was terrified and started to yell:

“Oh, i’m afraid of mouse, i’m afraid of mouse, i’m afraid of mouse! Mom, mom, i’m afraid of mouse!”

Then, mommy-bunny came back and the mouse ran away. Bunny closed his black eyes, pulled the blanket over his stubby white tail and over his ears, and fell asleep in an instant.

No one grabbed his ears.

No one snatched his tail.

No one scratched his back raw.

Bear didn’t come,

Wolf didn’t come,

And fox didn’t come, either.

All it took was a little black mouse.

Translated by Adam Cullen

