

●The Tale of Peter Rabbit ピーター・ラビット Potter, Beatrix

あらすじ

ビアトリクス・ポター最初の本で、ピーターと彼の家族が紹介された。  
ある日彼の母は森で遊んでいるピーターと彼の姉妹、フロプシー、モプシー、カトンテールを置いて市場へ出かける。母の言いつけを破ってピーターはマグレガーさんの農場へ忍び込んで、野菜を食べて、マグレガーさんに見つかり、追いまわされる。

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英文

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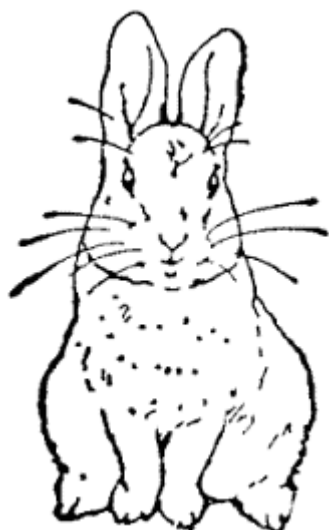
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THE TALE OF  
PETER RABBIT  
BY

BEATRIX POTTER



FREDERICK WARNE

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FREDERICK WARNE

First published 1902

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Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits, and their names were—

Flopsy,  
Mopsy,  
Cotton-tail,  
and Peter.



They lived  
with their  
Mother in  
a  
sand-bank  
,  
underneat  
h the root  
of a very  
big  
fir-tree.



'Now my dears,' said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, 'you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor's garden: your Father had an accident there; he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor.'



'Now run  
along, and  
don't get  
into  
mischief. I  
am going  
out.'



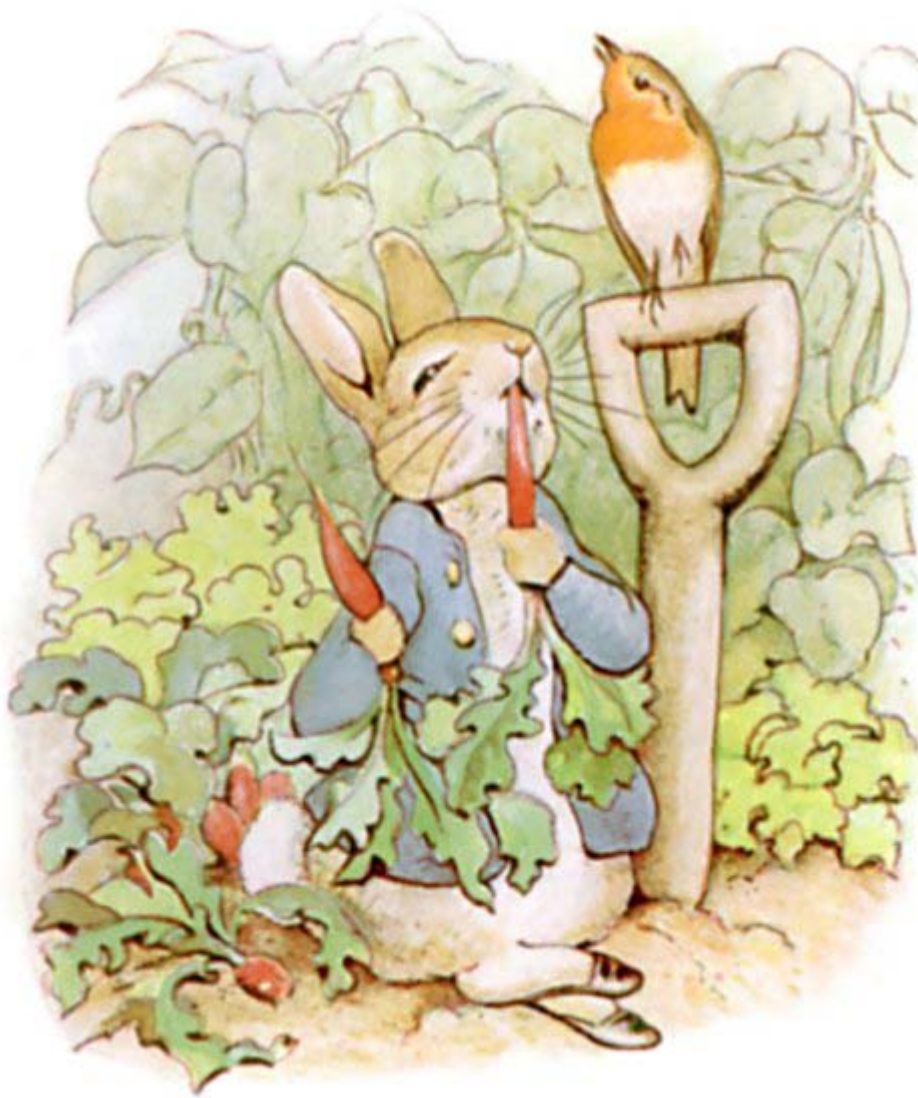
Then old Mrs. Rabbit took a basket and her umbrella, and went through the wood to the baker's. She bought a loaf of brown bread and five currant buns.



Flopsy,  
Mopsy, and  
Cotton-tail,  
who were good  
little  
bunnies, went  
down the lane  
to gather  
blackberries  
:



But Peter, who was very naughty, ran straight away to Mr. McGregor's garden, and squeezed under the gate!



First he ate  
some  
lettuces and  
some French  
beans; and  
then he ate  
some  
radishes;



And then, feeling rather sick, he went to look for some parsley.



But round the end of a cucumber frame, whom should he meet but Mr. McGregor!



Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, 'Stop thief!'



Peter was most dreadfully frightened; he rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate.

He lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe amongst the potatoes.



After losing them, he ran on four legs and went faster, so that I think he might have got away altogether if he had not unfortunately run into a gooseberry net, and got caught by the large buttons on his jacket. It was a blue jacket with brass buttons, quite new.



Peter gave himself up for lost, and shed big tears; but his sobs were overheard by some friendly sparrows, who flew to him in great excitement, and implored him to exert himself.



Mr. McGregor  
came up with  
a sieve,  
which he  
intended to  
pop upon the  
top of  
Peter; but  
Peter  
wriggled out  
just in  
time,  
leaving his  
jacket  
behind him.



And rushed into the  
tool-shed, and  
jumped into a can. It  
would have been a  
beautiful thing to  
hide in, if it had not  
had so much water in  
it.



Mr. McGregor was quite sure that Peter was somewhere in the tool-shed, perhaps hidden underneath a flower-pot. He began to turn them over carefully, looking under each.

Presently Peter sneezed—'Kertyschoo!' Mr. McGregor was after him in no time.



And tried to  
put his foot  
upon Peter,  
who jumped  
out of a  
window,  
upsetting  
three  
plants. The  
window was  
too small for  
Mr.  
McGregor,  
and he was  
tired of  
running  
after Peter.  
He went back  
to his work.



Peter sat down to rest; he was out of breath and trembling with fright, and he had not the least idea which way to go. Also he was very damp with sitting in that can.

After a time he began to wander about, going lippity-lippity-not very fast, and looking all round.

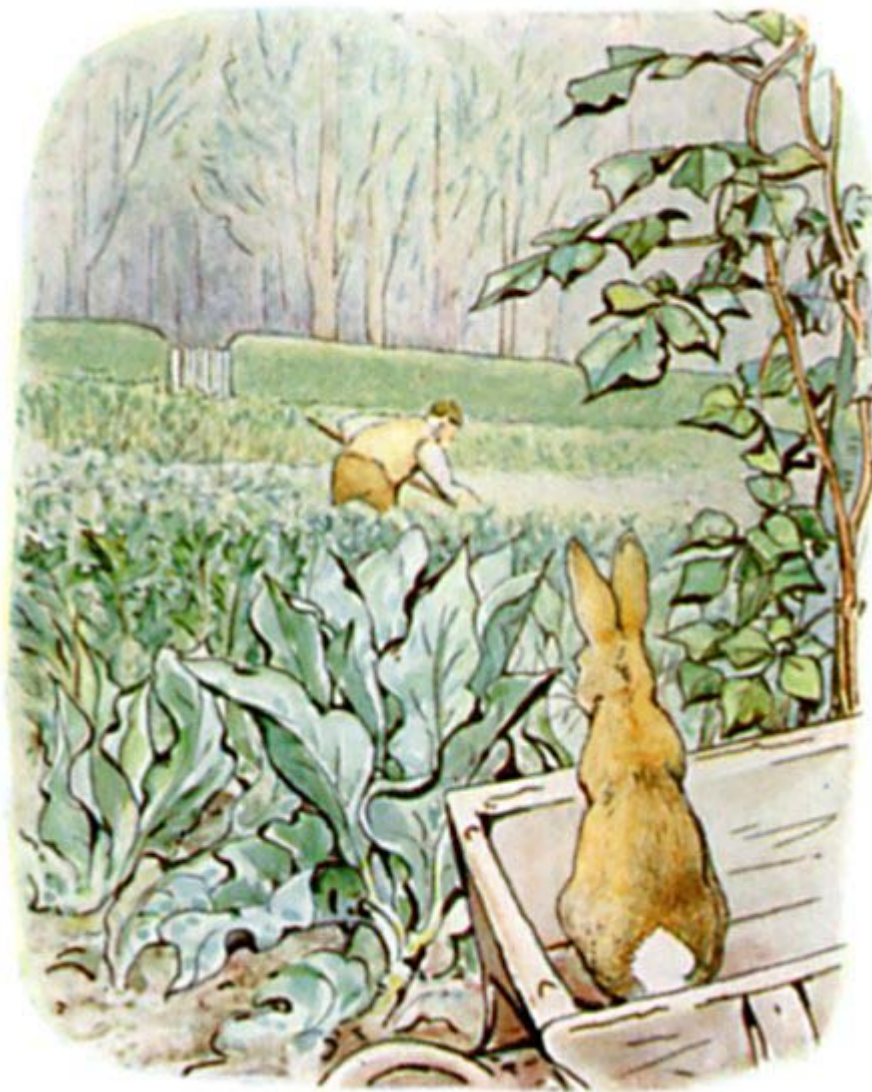


He found a door in a wall; but it was locked, and there was no room for a fat little rabbit to squeeze underneath.

An old mouse was running in and out over the stone doorstep, carrying peas and beans to her family in the wood. Peter asked her the way to the gate, but she had such a large pea in her mouth that she could not answer. She only shook her head at him. Peter began to cry.



Then he tried to find his way straight across the garden, but he became more and more puzzled. Presently, he came to a pond where Mr. McGregor filled his water-cans. A white cat was staring at some gold-fish, she sat very, very still, but now and then the tip of her tail twitched as if it were alive. Peter thought it best to go away without speaking to her; he had heard about cats from his cousin, little Benjamin Bunny.



He went back towards the tool-shed, but suddenly, quite close to him, he heard the noise of a hoe-scr-r-ritch, scratch, scratch, scritch. Peter scuttered underneath the bushes. But presently, as nothing happened, he came out, and climbed upon a wheelbarrow and peeped over. The first thing he saw was Mr. McGregor hoeing onions. His back was turned towards Peter, and beyond him was the gate!



Peter got down very quietly off the wheelbarrow; and started running as fast as he could go, along a straight walk behind some black-currant bushes.

Mr. McGregor caught sight of him at the corner, but Peter did not care. He slipped underneath the gate, and was safe at last in the wood outside the garden.



Mr. McGregor hung up the little jacket and the shoes for a scare-crow to frighten the blackbirds.

Peter never stopped running or looked behind him till he got home to the big fir-tree.



He was so tired that he flopped down upon the nice soft sand on the floor of the rabbit-hole and shut his eyes. His mother was busy cooking; she wondered what he had done with his clothes. It was the second little jacket and pair of shoes that Peter had lost in a fortnight!



I am sorry to say  
that Peter was  
not very well  
during the  
evening.

His mother put  
him to bed, and  
made some  
camomile tea;  
and she gave a  
dose of it to  
Peter!

'One  
table-spoonful  
to be taken at  
bed-time.'



But Flopsy,  
Mopsy, and  
Cotton-tail  
had bread and  
milk and  
blackberries  
for supper.

THE END

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