

Spring 2013

When we last read about Abigail, the Pine Grove School House mouse, she was nestling in for the long winter under the floorboards of the schoolhouse. Now that winter is over, we find Abigail joyously scouting out the bright green leaves of the vegetables in the garden at nearby Cold Spring Farm. Abigail knows it is far too early in the season to pull up any carrots or radishes as they have not yet had time to mature. But she absolutely cannot resist the temptation of the lettuce leaves! Oh how gloriously sweet they taste! As Abigail is munching away, she hears something else nearby munching as well. She peers around a small stone to see a brown baby bunny rabbit. Oh how big it's eyes are; it's pink lined ears are alert to danger while it's nose twitches to sense threatening odors. But the bunny did not fear Abigail. Being very curious, Abigail approached the bunny to say hello. The bunny did not answer. So Abigail tried a different approach. She said her name was Abigail and she lived nearby and remarked on how lovely the garden was shaping up to be this year. The bunny still remained silent. So Abigail persisted-she talked about how nice the sun felt warming her fur after the cold winter and about her family and about her plans to make a stunning bonnet to wear for the bonnet parade. Just then the bunny hesitantly began to speak. And, as she did, Abigail noticed something odd. When the bunny opened her mouth to speak, she had only one front tooth instead of two! Abigail said, 'oh that's why you are shy'. The bunny said that her name was Button because whenever people saw her in their yards, they would say she was cute as a button. Abigail and Button became friends because Abigail looked past this tiny flaw to see the nice bunny that Button was.

All of a sudden Button's nose twitched and her ears stood straight up. Button yelled – 'Predator!!!' – and told Abigail to skedaddle. But Abigail just froze in place as her whiskers detected no danger. Then she heard a faint rustling sound. It was close! Abigail turned around to see a garter snake right behind her. Oh my! The snake had just awakened from winter hibernation and was quite hungry. Abigail thought quickly as she knew she could not outrun the snake's lightning fast striking ability. Just as the snake opened its mouth to swallow Abigail whole, pinafore and all, Abigail grabbed a small nearby twig and shoved it vertically into the snake's mouth so he couldn't close it. Poor snake – lucky Abigail!!

The sun was beginning to set and it was time for a tired Abigail to return home. She plucked some beet leaves and put them into her basket to make a nice salad back at home safe under the floorboards of the little schoolhouse. It was quite a day and Abigail was happy she met a new friend, Button the bunny.