



Spring 2015

Finally! The long, snowy and cold winter was over and Springtime had come to Avon. Abigail, the little brown mouse who lived under the floorboards of the Pine Grove School house was looking forward to letting some fresh air into her home and doing some spring cleaning.

First she took a scarf to tie up her ears to keep her fur dust free. Then she put on her little pink calico apron. The first chore was to clean out all the ashes from the pot-belly stove that kept her warm all winter long. She scooped them out into a bucket, and then took them outside to spread in the garden. They would be good for the new plants. Some of the ashes she saved for when she would be making a batch of homemade soap outside in a big kettle.

Next Abigail decided to take her bed quilt and delicate linens over to the water spring that ran behind the farm across the road. She brought along some suds and off she went. She soaped up the quilt and then laid it at the water's edge to gently scrub with a brush. When she was all done, she found she didn't have the strength to pull the heavy, wet quilt up the shore. Oh my! So Abigail went in search of some friends who could come help.

She found Benjamin Bunny who now had a family of sixteen bunny kids. They all came to the spring and with all of their many teeth and muscles, were able to pull the quilt ashore to dry in the warm sunshine. To thank them for helping, Abigail invited Benjamin, his wife Pooky, and the children back to her home at the school house for some homemade carrot cookies and dandelion tea. After their snack, the bunny children played in the school yard as the school children were not there that day because it was a Sunday.

One of the bunny children named Orville, was a little bit too adventurous for his own good. He wandered away from the others exploring around the school house and he found trouble. The cover on the old water well was slightly off-center, just enough space for a small bunny to fall through. Ker-splash! Bunnies can't swim for long but luckily there were only a few inches of water in the well. Orville was terrified and began crying for his mother. At about the same time, everyone else realized that Orville was missing and started searching for him around the school yard. Then, as they got in the general area, Abigail with her keen sense of hearing immediately zeroed in on where the cries were coming from. She found Orville at the bottom of the well. Now the question was...how to get him out?

Abigail had an idea! She would take all of her bed linens and table cloths and tie them together, then lower them into the well. It worked! Orville was pulled up out of the well with the help of his parents, siblings and Abigail all pulling on the fabric rope. He was wet but unharmed and his mother gave him a big kiss after scolding him for venturing off on his own without letting a parent know.

Soon the bunny family bid Abigail good-bye as they needed to head back to their bunny hole to get ready for supper and bedtime. Abigail stayed outside for a little while longer, looking out across the field and admiring the sunset over the trees at Sunrise Farm. The lilacs near the school house were in bloom and the air was once again sweet with the fragrances of Springtime in Avon.