

# **The Rabbit and the Lamb**



**Jane MEADOW**

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In a bright, sunny meadow, a rabbit with soft warm-brown fur and a sky-blue neck scarf hopped through the tall grass. His long ears stood up straight, and his fluffy white tail bobbed behind him. "What a perfect day for an adventure!" he said, his whiskers twitching. The meadow was full of buzzing bees and dancing butterflies, and the rabbit felt happy all over.



Suddenly, the rabbit heard a tiny, gentle sound. "Baa... baa..." He peeked around a bush and saw a little lamb with creamy-white fleece and a yellow ribbon bow around her neck. Her pink face looked shy and sweet. "Hello," said the rabbit kindly. "I'm Rabbit. Would you like to explore the meadow with me?" The lamb's big brown eyes lit up, and she nodded.



The lamb's name was Lamb, and she was new to the meadow. "I don't know many friends here," she said softly. Rabbit smiled. "Well, now you know me!" They walked together through the grass, and Rabbit showed Lamb where the sweetest clover grew. Lamb laughed when a butterfly landed on her nose. "This meadow is wonderful," she said, "especially with a friend like you."



Each day, Rabbit and Lamb met in the meadow. They played hide-and-seek behind the tall grass and shared juicy berries from the bushes. Rabbit told funny stories, and Lamb giggled until her woolly sides shook. "You always make me laugh," said Lamb. Rabbit's dark eyes sparkled. "That's what friends are for!" They promised to meet again the next day, and the next, and the next.



One warm afternoon, while exploring a new part of the meadow, they found an old apple tree. Its branches spread wide like welcoming arms, and its trunk was thick and knobby. "Look at this tree!" said Rabbit, hopping closer. "It's so big and shady." Lamb trotted over and touched the bark with her nose. "It feels friendly," she said. "Like a special place just for us."



Rabbit looked around and had an idea. "Let's make a cozy resting place under the tree!" he said. "Somewhere we can rest when the sun is hot." Lamb's eyes sparkled. "I'd love that!" she bleated. "We can work together!" They looked at the empty space beneath the branches. It was a little dusty and bare, but it had good soft earth. "We can make it perfect," said Rabbit.



Rabbit knew just what to do. "I'll gather soft grass to make a comfy floor," he said. He hopped away and found patches of the softest, greenest grass. Carefully, he pulled up little tufts and carried them back in his paws. Lamb watched and smiled. "You're so good at finding soft things," she said. Rabbit's tail wiggled with pride as he laid the grass in a neat pile.



Lamb wanted to help too. "What can I do?" she asked. Rabbit thought for a moment. "We need something cool for the top of our shelter," he said. "Maybe big leaves?" Lamb nodded eagerly. She trotted to a spot where large, cool leaves grew low. She carefully picked them and carried them back in her mouth. Her yellow ribbon bounced as she walked. "These will be perfect!" said Rabbit.



Back and forth they went, each bringing what they could. Rabbit gathered more grass, and Lamb carried more leaves. They worked side by side, and soon the bare spot began to look cozy. "This is fun!" said Lamb, dropping a leaf. "Working together makes it easy," agreed Rabbit. They laughed when a leaf floated down onto Rabbit's head like a little hat. Their pile of grass and leaves grew bigger and bigger.



As they worked, other meadow animals peeked out to see what was happening. A little mouse asked, "Can we help too?" Rabbit and Lamb said yes! The mouse brought tiny twigs, and a bird flew down with a soft feather. Everyone wanted to be part of the kind project. "Friendship is like this," said Lamb. "The more we share, the more we have." The shelter was taking shape.



At last, the little shelter was ready. Rabbit arranged the soft grass just right, and Lamb placed the cool leaves on top to make a shady roof. It looked like a tiny green house under the apple tree. "We did it!" cheered Rabbit, hopping up and down. Lamb clapped her hooves. "It's beautiful!" she said. They stood back and admired their work, feeling proud and happy.



Rabbit and Lamb crawled inside the shelter and sat close together. The soft grass felt wonderful under their paws, and the cool leaves rustled gently above. "Ahhh," sighed Rabbit. "This is the coziest place in the whole meadow." Lamb rested her pink nose on her hooves. "And we made it together," she said. A little breeze came by, and they both felt peaceful and calm.



As they rested, they talked about their favorite parts of the day. "I liked when you laughed at the leaf on my head," said Rabbit. "I liked when you shared your grass with me," said Lamb. They smiled at each other. "You know," said Rabbit, "helping each other makes everything better." Lamb nodded. "And being kind is easy when you're with a friend." They promised to take care of their shelter every day.



From that day on, Rabbit and Lamb met under the apple tree every afternoon. They kept their shelter tidy, bringing fresh grass and leaves when needed. Sometimes they shared a crunchy apple from the tree. "Friendship grows when we share," said Rabbit. "And when we help each other," added Lamb. They knew they could always count on each other, and that made each day sunny and sweet.



Other animals came to visit their cozy spot, and Rabbit and Lamb welcomed everyone. They taught the little mouse how to weave grass, and the bird sang a happy song. "Our kindness spreads," said Lamb. "Like seeds in the wind," said Rabbit. They learned that a small act of sharing can make a big difference, and their meadow became the friendliest place of all.



And so, beneath the old apple tree, Rabbit and Lamb found something special. They found that friendship is built one kind act at a time. With soft grass, cool leaves, and lots of laughter, they made a home for their hearts. Every day they shared and helped, and their friendship grew stronger and stronger. The meadow was happy, and so were they.