

The Bunnies and the Owl

By Irene Thomas

A speckled brown bunny rabbit and his younger brother sat on the edge of a dark wood. For years they had been haunted by the howls of wolves who lived in the forest and resolved to test one another's bravery before coming of age, so they snuck away from their warren to the forest.

"It'll be fast! Just touch the old maple tree and run back!" one said to the other.

"I'm too scared. And you know these woods are teeming with wolves!"

"Ahem," an aged owl perched on the branch above interrupted. "Excuse me gentlemen. I couldn't help but overhear. I would strongly advise against your little dare. I have seen many youths such as yourselves scamper into these woods and never scamper out again."

"You're trying to scare us, so you can laugh at our cowardice," the elder bunny retorted. "And what's more, you are a coward yourself! Look how you safely sit on your branch just waiting for a meal to pass by! I will show you true bravery!"

"Very well, but don't say you haven't been warned!"

So, the elder bunny dashed in, touched the maple, and bounced safely back. "Go on scaredy! I did it, now in you go!"

The younger bunny timidly hopped into the dark silent wood. Suddenly, a growl came from behind a tree; before the bunny could touch the bark, a ferocious beast came racing out and snatched him up. Stunned with terror, the elder bunny tucked his tail and ran home.

The owl sighed to himself, "What a shame, if only they had listened." And he flew safely home.

Never confuse caution with cowardice.